

The Gold Coast Leader.

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THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Last Saturday witnessed two sad deaths, a sister to Mrs Minnow and the Gunnsils under operation, and the wife of Mr Peter Smith from child-birth: our sincere sympathies to the bereaved.

There was Children's Service at the Jubilee Memorial Chapel on Sunday last for the Juvenile Templars of the Good Templars (English Section) the Juveniles of the three Lodges meeting together.

At the close of the Service medals were distributed to the successful competitors of the "Home of Conquerors" and "Ark of Safety" Temples of the Lodge No 1 in the Singing and Recitation Competition through the kindness of their Superintendent (Bro Coker).

At the Wesley Chapel on Sunday last Rev Bartrop (Chairman of the District) preached in the morning and Rev Stanhope in the evening.

The Anniversary of the Foresters, takes place on the 22nd of this month.

Last week Friday when the Fantee was in, the sea was very bad and had nearly done some mischief again.

Mrs A. J. E. Bucknor left here last Saturday by the *Burutu* for Lagos.

Two prisoners died last Monday one of whom was the poor fellow whose fall from the roof of the New Court House we reported last week.

AGRICULTURAL AND MACHINERY EXHIBITION IN WEST AFRICA.—An exhibition of agricultural products, implements, and machinery is to be held at Lagos, West Africa, on the 10th and 11th (inst.)... Sir William Macgregor, (the Governor) has just cabled for 300 hens, which are of the ordinary kind... and will be presented by His Excellency to the various chiefs attending the exhibition when the show is over.

The local Chamber of Commerce, has just through Sir Alfred Jones presented a silver plate to Colonel F. P. Henstock "in recognition of his services in connection with the recent mutiny at Cape Coast Castle..."

THE OLDEST MAN ALIVE.—Manuel del Valle, of Mento Park, (San Francisco) is said to be the oldest living man who has satisfactorily proved the exact date of his birth. This old fellow has a signed certificate, which affirms that he has reached the age of 158 years; but notwithstanding the burden of all these years, he is still able to move about his dwelling... Old Manuel has neither smoked nor drunk during the course of his long life, and his custom is to take a walk every day; and to sit in the sun as much as possible. His chief nourishment is broth. *Evening Post.*

N.B. Correspondence from Bismarke Quartey, and "A Friend," crowded out this week, as well as News from Chama and Tarkwa.

In our last week's News Column Mr. W. H. Bisey should read *Byenn*.

SEKUNDI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Per s/s "Jebba" on the 23rd inst., the three renowned European ladies who have been playing the best part of the scandal programme here during the last few months of their visit, sailed for England. Their passages home, we understand were provided by the Government.

A broad daylight robbery at Bray's House behind the Bank premises took place on Friday the 23rd ult.; a never daring enterprise as this had ever been undertaken—but in spite of his genius, the ruffian was captured.

The Annual Collectors of the District Extension Fund were entertained at tea at the Wesleyan Chapel on Friday night, after which Collectors' Cards were distributed to them.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Due to the recent rain-falls the lagoon *Atafua* is well swollen up. Consequently those tiny insects known as mosquitoes have increased and are multiplying in great numbers, and are as pestilent as ever, especially at nights. It is absolutely necessary that the D.C. recommends strongly the improvements on the Lagoon which will no doubt tend to abate the increase of these most annoying creatures.

Before the dawn of last Sunday morning the members of the *Salvation Army* went round the town with Songs, though no preaching followed. Salt Pond as a town has got the taste of initiating Societies and clubs that last within a space of time, and after that disappears mysteriously. The fact

is that there are no good pillars in the persons of patriotic scholars who make it their ambition to interest themselves in things ecclesiastical or political. You will invariably detect them indulging in such amusements as ball-parties, bad companies, carousings in streets at night and many other perpetrations disgraceful to us as a people in the extreme. Some of the 'scholars' exhibit themselves as gentlemen who had never been to school before, where they had been taught what it is to attend the House of Prayer. Would not Father T. B. Crestail graciously stir up himself and do something for the Community? The mass of the young educated people of the town are disgracing it, and are setting bad examples to the posterity by their actions, particularly the young lads now at school. They delight and take unfathomable pleasure on being bantered—*Asus-wu/ta*.

WINNEBAH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Since my last I have had no time to give a chronicle of the events of the past few weeks. The most notable is the settlement of the dispute between the two companies which has been productive of riots of late.

On the assembly of the principal members concerned likewise the Omanhin and his Councillors and a few Townsmen, the D. C. took the opportunity to disabuse the people's minds and refute the statement made in your issue of the 10th as regards people visiting him in the night. The enquiry assisted by three prominent residents began immediately. To sum up the whole, there was nothing of importance disclosed; the whole quarrel centered on the whistle of which the public is fully cognizant, the D.C. endeavoured to draw out any grievances they might entertain against the Omanhin or any of the Ahfafa, but there was nothing of any moment brought forward. The unanimous finding of the Committee was that the No 1 Company had no right in using the whistle which is an indisputable emblem of the No 2 Company and they were prohibited accordingly for future reference I may also state the No 2 Company were likewise prohibited from using a kind of the identical whistle referred to, the final settlement and exchanging of drinks was referred to the Omanhin which was done on Saturday.

On Monday morning the Town was thrown into commotion by the indiscriminate arrests of the people for the riot of August last, the same for which a number of men are in prison at Accra to-day and several were fined, and the same which brought the possibility for peace which was restored only two days previous, by noon on Monday every native of Winnebah and strangers too that could be seen and who had not been previously fined for the said riot, had been arrested, men out fishing were watched on the beach to be collared as they landed. "Hungry and thirsty their soul faints in them" and yet they dared not land; at this stage the Omanhin and his Headmen sent a telegram to His Excellency begging for a discontinuance of the arrests and pardon for the people, by reason of the fact that sufficient have been punished; the merchants also called impromptu meeting and sent telegram to His Excellency on the same lines adding that the indiscriminate arrests frightened trades people and hampered business. In the afternoon of the day following a demonstration very befitting the occasion was made by the women of the Town but a very disorderly one, the result was immediate release of the prisoners on bail and to the joy and delight of every body they were pardoned the next morning on the case being called for hearing, the thanks of the people are indisputably due to the Omanhin and the merchants for the prompt action taken.

For many years Winnebah possessed a resident Doctor but since the annexation of Ashanti, the Government have been unable to spare any of them for the District; the presence of so much sickness in Town obliges me to humbly suggest that in lieu of a properly qualified medical man the authorities might send us first class Dispensers instead of the grade of Dispensers generally stationed here. I am of the opinion that they must often find themselves in an awkward predicament when they meet a case beyond their skill in asking for only a first class Dispenser we are not asking for much, we have a few resident white-men here and their health must be considered.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Murphy D.C. has been in charge of this District since the absence of Mr. A. Foulkes to Accra in the interest of the Odonkor case now under investigation at the Supreme Court, Accra.

For the 'Public welfare' His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan has been pleased to appoint the Attorney General, A. Willoughby Osborne Esq. to be the special Commissioner to institute an Enquiry into "(1) The Relations now and heretofore existing between Amitei, Ohin of Dom, Thomas Harrison Odonkor, Ohin of Kpong and the subordinate Abiafu of Eastern Krobo and Emmanuel Mate Kole Omanhin of Eastern Krobo, and (2) the conduct of the said Abiafu Amitei and Thomas Harrison Odonkor since the 1st. of May last." *Government Gazette No. 34, Sept. 1903.*

This Inquiry is to be held at the Government Sanatorium at Aburi by the direction of His Excellency the Governor. It is expected to take place immediately after the Odonkor case is disposed of.

The dead body of one of the Kpong School boys, a servant of Mr. Badoo of B.M. Factory, was found adrift on the River Volta towards the Customs landing place on Friday the 23rd Oct: about noon. It was picked up and conveyed to Griffith Hill.

Mr. Garb of Swanzy's Store No. 2 at Adinkra, Kpong had his lower lip bitten off by one Crepec man who obstructed the door of the store for nothing and when forced to clear off committed the crime. They were both led away to Akuse on the 23rd October.

Kpong is still without a single street lamp whereas Akuse, a smaller commercial Town, dependent on Kpong has enough. At Kpong all the mercantile Firms at Akuse are represented. We have more frequent burglaries committed, houses set on fire &c. all helped on by the darkness of night. Are the Authorities indifferent because the people would neither apply for nor complain? We believe the Government see and know well enough what ought to be done without the Public crying for it.

News reaches us from up-River that Supervisor Campbell had a narrow escape from drowning with his crew in the rapids. Their boat capsized and there was much loss sustained. The Volta River at this time of the year becomes actually dangerous.

How far this Town (Kpong) can do without a Sanitary Officer or Inspector of Nuisance one has but to walk up to Adinkra Market to see for himself. Manyakpowuno and Somanya Markets are no exceptions.

Mr. J. B. Nelson Jnr. M.E. passed to Akuse through Kpong on Wednesday the 21st. Oct. from the scene of Odonkor's arrest, in order to give evidence on a certain point in that murder case.

A small pox patient was discovered in the house of a certain man in Kpong. The offender was tried at the Ohin's Court on the 24th. Oct. and fined £3. The patient was immediately ordered out of town. If the Ohin would be equally zealous about the cleaning of the town we shall feel blessed indeed.

An elephant of extraordinary size, having 4 tusks—3 smaller ones about 3 feet in length and weighing about 25lbs each, with one larger carried by four men weighing about 120lbs, was killed by Yao Denteh, a hunter, at British Choinch, Crepec a little distance from Mount Basampa about 3 days' journey from Kpong. This happened only last week and the tusks may now be seen at the house of Ohin Omi Quami of that place.

These huge animals are said to be plentiful in that region. In that neighbourhood is the famous elephant hunter Mr. E. Odonkor the cousin of Ohin Odonkor of Kpong.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Government Gazette No. 33 publishes an Ordinance entitled "The Native Chiefs Ordinance 1903." We have had the painful pleasure of reading this and all that rigmarole of legal phraseology and technicalities amount to this: "We (the Government) must have the power to elect and entool or destool your Amanhin and Abiafu: we must have our own men—men after our own heart to sit on your stools." And when the Authorities have such a power over our native Rulers, we leave the Country to imagine where we shall be. This is every way a very serious matter and we appeal to the country to rise up to a man, to oppose such iniquitous Bill. We consider this Bill not to be less iniquitous and ruinous respecting the rights of the People than Maxwell's *Lands Bill*. We want the People to look at it in that light, which is exactly what it is, in fact here is another way of getting what the Lands Bill failed to get. In the name then of all that is dear and sacred to us as a People, we would appeal to the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society to take the matter in right earnest and IMMEDIATELY.

Can Sir Matthew Nathan be serious in seeking

to pass such a Bill, from all that we read about him as a Colonial Governor.' Here is perhaps another instance where we have a conscientious West African Governor, yielding to do a thing if only to be in accord with the system now prevailing in the Crown Colonies. Let our Amanhin and Abiafu beware! Already a bird whispers in our ear that some of them have been coaxed to allow themselves to be placed under the Ordinance because they will then be provided with handcuffs and prisons to rule their subjects by, subjects who before this were submissive to them but this very Government has trained to be unruly. How can Sir Matthew seek to pass such a Bill just on the eve of his departure from our midst? What name is he seeking to leave with us? Where is the necessity for such a Bill if the Government wish us to believe, that they do not seek to interfere with our customs, laws and RIGHTS?

For the information of the Public we hope to publish the ordinance in question. We foresaw this, when we read the Governor's address to the Ashanti Kings (Amanhin) and Chiefs (Abiafu), men of their own choice. We warned our Amanhin then, we appealed to the Aborigines Society also, and how far we were justified in doing so, the Ordinance now before us is our witness. We reprint in this issue our article headed *Sir Matthew Nathan to the Ashanti Kings and Chiefs* which appeared in our issue of Aug. 2 (No. 6) last year. Let the article be read again in the light of what is now transpiring. We call special attention also to the following articles bearing on the same subject, in Nos. 3 and 5, extracts from which will appear with the Ordinance, now being sought to be made a law in the country. We would most respectfully ask Sir Matthew Nathan, the President of the Aborigines Society and our AMANHIN AND ABIAFU to give them a careful and impartial perusal, and then—

In appealing to the Aborigines Society we want it to consider what steps it proposes taking on such eventful subject, fraught with all that is good and evil, as the occasion may be used. We find the Society intends recommending certain amendments to be made and when amended will of course be passed. This is what the Society thinks and no doubt it is with the best intentions for the People that such a thought crosses its mind, but we venture to say, it knows also that the People cannot for a moment entertain the idea. They do not want the Bill to be amended for them; they do not want any such Bill amended or otherwise. They say 'We must elect, entool and destool our Rulers according to our law and custom, and present them to His Britannic Majesty's Representative as has hitherto been done and been considered sufficient by, and satisfactory to the Government itself.

For they have never known nor recognised, neither can they now recognise without an infringement upon their rights and privileges any such confirmation or veto by His Majesty's Government as it is contemplated by the Bill under review or even by the discussion that took place at the meeting of the Society above referred to, & we are surprised that the native members of that Society could have allowed themselves to be so influenced by any suggestions or arguments from any other or others who are other than native members of that Society, "for the majority of us are far too inured to such foxy legislation which have succeeded in eliminating most of the Aboriginal rights, to be deceived thereby" as *Scrutiner* puts it.

We are prepared to believe that Sir Matthew seeks to pass the Bill with the best intentions: take the case of the last paragraph we have referred to, dealing on the deposition of Johnphia and Yewan: the former is to-day having a lawsuit with the Sekundi people over his deposition, and concerning the latter, we call to mind what took place the other day at the Elmina Assizes before Mr. Justice Purcell: probably if such a law had been in existence none of these things would have happened assuming that the Government should legislate on matters purely native. Such a law then may be taken as a help to the People.

But there is another side to the question, which we shall do well to consider, and which we think should lead to the abrogation of the law, if non-interference with our native laws, customs and manners, is really and truly the desire of the Government, the oppressiveness of the Crown Colony System, notwithstanding, a system which if existed at all, has shown itself in its true colours during the last few years. Let us allow Sir Matthew has made the law with good intentions: he means well. But there may be another Pharaoh who may not know Joseph: there may be a Governor who may not show so much interest in native laws and customs, and taking the Ordinance as he would find it, work ruin in the Country: "the Governor may if satisfied..." with the election "confirm same..." in the hands of such an autocrat work enough mischief.

And so with "the deposition," if the Ohin happens to be a favourite "in Court" as some of them now make it a point to be, he will always feel himself secure on his stool, and oppress his people to his heart's content. Let us say, the Ordinance may be amended as it is and passed: if we do, let

us also remember, that it is possible for any future Governor of the Protectorate "in Council" to amend and re-amend the Bill till it becomes a dreadful weapon in his hands. Where shall we be then? We do not know what has happened constitutionally, making it illegal or improper for our present day Judges to decide cases before them on matters, native, by consulting only qualified persons as their predecessors before them did. There is this also to be remembered, in matters of this kind seeing the Governor cannot be everywhere, there are his chief Agents, the District Commissioners in whose districts the Amanhin and Abiafu may be, and who apart from their Reports, can write "private and confidential letters." What baneful influence cannot some of these little governors have on the future Governors-in-Chief? Therefore we say, the Ordinance as it stands or amended, is not necessary, and since we are a Protectorate, respecting the laws of 'our Masters' they should in turn respect ours, by not entertaining in their law Courts any deposed Omanhin or Ohin, who has been deposed by his subjects according to the Native law, manner and customs. The suggestion may be crude as it stands but why may not the "Governor in Council" seek to work on such lines instead of lines as laid out in the Ordinance in question?

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited. Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned.

A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper. Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, NOVEMBER 7, 1903.

COMMENTS ON THE GOVERNOR'S MEMORANDUM ON THE SANITATION OF CAPE COAST.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT.

V.

The Medical Officer of Health's Report also appended to the Governor's Memo. has many truly useful recommendations which the town will be all the better for should they be adopted. There's no doubt, that Dr. Barker has been very assiduous in his onerous work: through sunshine and rain, he has pursued his work with the dogged persistency in seeing carried out what rightly or wrongly he has planned for the gangs placed under him, and there can be nothing truer than what he says that "the town in the main streets and Beach, is certainly much cleaner." But why "in the main streets and beach" only? What about "the alleys between houses, so blocked up, that there can be no free air entry" according to the Doctor himself? These lanes are hotheds of disease, and if special attention be not directed to them, as we have written before, what little has been done will be all lost, for that has been the case before, in the days of MERCER and LAWSON.

The Doctor's suggestions as to how casks containing water should be protected should not be lost sight of: special attention should be given to it, as it would prevent a good deal of the "abuses" to officers complained about, as well as serve to do away with a large number of casks and barrels left about, which are good for nothing but fuel: the Assiet. Eginet's suggestion also, as to the collecting of water from the many corrugated iron roofs is a capital one and strikes us that if carried out will supply a great desideratum; but we hope the recommendation that "all the possible sources for wells" should be acquired and "made Governmental" will not be approved of by His Excellency for more reasons than one.

That "the people must have water" as the Report says, is true. We have asked and still ask for it and now that we have got it said by a responsible officer of the crown, we hope THE PEOPLE will have good water—sufficient and free—for daily requirements; and we long for the "scheme for improving the wells at Kotokuraba" for they sadly need improvements as any one who takes a walk there will see, especially those, at Abum, where the stench is killing, to use a mild (!) word.

We sincerely hope that His Excellency will not yield to the recommendation that a European Sanitary Inspector be brought here. We can't afford the luxury and we are in a position to say, there is no need for one here although we are but laymen. If the responsible heads of the department who, by the way, ought to be fairly educated men will only be made to know their duties: if they are to have the advantage of attending lectures on sanitation such as we hear is being done at Lagos we believe it would go a long way to bring about the desired end, instead of placing men, wholly ignorant of the real nature of their work, and totally incapable of exer-

cising any discretion in the matter.

The extract from the Secretary of State's dispatch of 30th January last with which His Excellency closes his report appeals to us on the subject of Municipal Government.

This all important matter will have our attention in our next issue.

DR. HAYFORD'S LETTER.

A REPLY.

We are not quite sure if after all we should reply to the learned Doctor's letter which appeared in our issue before last. We would not willingly disappoint our readers, but at the same time we are bound to respect the organ of which we are the recognised directors, feeling the responsibility that lies upon us, as such. But as reply we should, especially as the Doctor "pauses for a reply," we shall do so, as briefly as we can and that for three reasons. First, want of space—and here we would remark that we have been exceptionally kind to the learned Doctor (although we say it ourselves) in giving him two whole columns and a half on a small sheet of paper like ours, which has, in our opinion more important, because more beneficial matters—to deal with than the doctor's "facts" and "extenuating circumstances." Secondly, for want of what to reply to, seeing, Thirdly, the learned Doctor has replied his own queries to us, for us, perhaps unconsciously but so, all the more welcome and appreciative.

Of the Doctor's "famous Arab proverb, perhaps not generally known," we opine, that the little said of it, the better, for after him though, one certainly has not to go far to classify him, under it, but "of the moral application of the above—more anon."

It is a pity that Dr. Hayford could not keep up to his own invitation, viz: that we should "calmly and dispassionately analyse" the subject matter of his letter. It is evident on the very face of the explanatory letter by which he endeavours, nay strives to "mitigate the grievous offence with which himself and colleagues are charged" that he wrote in anything but a "calm and dispassionate" spirit. If he had "calmly and dispassionately" read our article in question, and as "calmly and dispassionately" think of his reply, assuming one was called for, and as "calmly and dispassionately" written that reply, we are sure he could not have arrived at the conclusion that "the above," that is all that he himself had written above "purports to show" (as certainly it does), what my colleagues and myself on the Town Committee have not done," (the italics are the doctor's not ours).

But to the Doctor's questions and his own replies to them for us, for which we are thankful to him.

Q. (1) Where are your data " &c. &c."

A. "The data on which His Excellency based his...remarks on the alleged delinquency of the members of the Aborigines Section serving on the Town Committee and from which you took your text"—Ah! The Doctor knows our data then—wherefore then ask?

Q. (2) Wherein has our conduct been so disgraceful as stated &c. &c.?

A. The Doctor admits that himself and colleagues—"leading professional independent men"—(we only say some of them) had not the grace to "drop a line" to the President of the Town Committee when he or they are confronted with the common fact that no thing dead or alive, as no person, not even a ghost, "professional, independent" or otherwise "can be at two places at one and the same time." An ordinary letter or note to the right person stating why the Doctor or any of his colleagues could not attend the meeting they had undertaken to attend, or discharged the duties they had accepted to discharge on behalf of their Townsmen who had done them the honour of electing them, would have made it impossible for the Committee to have laid before His Excellency the Minutes upon which he was bound to found his "data", and which "data" we are found fault with in following. We repeat that for the Governor to be compelled to make the remarks he did respecting the attendance of the Representatives of our own choice, is a disgrace to us, say the Doctor what he will.

Q. (3) In what respects have three leading, professional independent men...failed to co-operate with the Government. &c. &c.

A. The laboured explanation, rather relating of the extenuating circumstances of the Doctor is a sufficient reply.

Q. (4) Wherein have we merited at your hands the stigma of mere 'pretenders' to represent our people when we have not sufficient interest in them " &c. &c." Ah! Doctor we know when Doctors have real interest in their patients.

On finding that circumstances could not permit of the Doctor and his colleagues' attending to their duties as they knew was expected of them, why did not he or they intimate it to the Aborigines Society from whom they were elected, that at least, during their temporary and to do justice to the Doctor let us say necessary absence others, equally eligible

and competent though not "professional" or perhaps "independent" might have been asked to take their place in the meantime? Does Dr. Hayford know, that this co-operation with the Government is really about the first opportunity we have had at least in our days to make known to our friends here and abroad our willingness efficiency and readiness to undertake, almost anything that tends or will tend to the progress and development of our country? We believe—that if he does, he will understand that we are not mere fault finders, but rather that because we find that such state of things as we complain about would serve to retard our progress, and serve to strengthen the contention on the other side that even up to date we are not sufficiently ripe to take any responsible part in the Government of our own country that has led or led us to make the remarks which appeared in our issue before last. As to

Q. (5) We can assure the Doctor that we were ourselves surprised that His Excellency was pleased to take any notice of us in his Memo., ourselves and Sir Matthew Nathan not having been "friends" perhaps because of the Crown Colony System, since we began our journalistic career. We never courted what the Doctor is pleased to designate a "complimentary description." So, although we are pleased to find that notice has been taken of us by His Excellency we take the liberty to remind the Doctor that the "complimentary description" he refers to, is made by him "in the Dictionary of whose administration the word 'trifle' is unknown"

And so we take leave of the learned Doctor and say au revoir, thanking him for confirming what we wrote namely that himself and colleagues have not done what was expected of them, for himself concludes his letter under reply by saying "the above purports to show what my colleagues and myself on the Town Committee have not done" (the italics are the Doctor's). Exactly, Quite right, Doctor that's just what we said and say now, all your "facts" and "extenuating circumstances which might mitigate the grievous offence with which you are charged" notwithstanding, for it clearly shows a want of that very continuous and active co-operation" His Excellency writes about, and which we say has not been shown by our Representatives on the Committee.

SIR MATTHEW NATHAN TO THE ASHANTI KINGS AND CHIEFS.

FROM THE "GOLD COAST LEADER," AUG. 2 1902.

IN our issue of the 12th ultimo in which we first wrote under the above heading we ventured to say that the declarations made to the Ashanti kings and chiefs by His Excellency which we quoted were not intended only for them "but might be taken as equally intended for all the kings and chiefs with whom the Governor has to do." Our words have turned out true, they have been confirmed by His Excellency himself though perhaps unwittingly, particularly in his letter to Aka Ayima, King of Beyin (styled by the Government Head-chief of Appolonia) dated from the Government House, Accra, 6th November 1901.

Speaking to the Ashantis His Excellency said "I will support the power of the native chiefs who have been duly elected in accordance with native custom, and whose election I have recognised on the recommendation of the Resident."

Writing to the King of Beyin he says, "I have decided.....to recognise you now, and subsequently your properly elected successors, as Head-chief and Head-chiefs of Appolonia."

The recognition therefore of our kings and Chiefs As such by the Government is now being sought to be made a real and necessary factor in the Protectorate. We would like to know how and when the Government came to acquire such a right. With the people of the Gold Coast Colony, a king or chief duly elected and entooled in accordance with native custom, is a king or a chief to all intents and purposes till disenstooled at the request and consent of the people. Whether the Government recognises him or not the People do not care. They have never asked nor do they now look to the Government to elect; or select their kings or chiefs for them. They elect and entool them according to native customary law. They notify the Government of their entoolment for political reasons but whether the Government recognises them or not, it does not do away with their being *ipso facto* kings (or chiefs) to their people and country. It is not the recognition by the Government that makes or constitutes a king a king, or a chief a chief—it is his being the right man by descent, the chosen and accepted one of his people, who had therefore, placed him on the stool of his ancestors with the time honoured ceremonies. Their solemn determined election may be rejected and the man they detest may be appointed by another choice, and placed on the stool by order of the Government but such selection or election and entoolment would be null and void according to native customary law. The right of the people to choose as well as their right to adhere to their choice is as clear and at least as indisputable

as that of English voters who have duly and legally voted their Representative to the House of Commons. We fail to see where the sanctioning, the recommendation by Residents or District Commissioners or approval or disapproval by Governors come in. There is a wide distance between the negative power of rejecting one man, and the positive power of appointing another. The right of election is of the very essence of our constitution, if we may be pardoned to call our mode of government by that name, and if the Government have no right, and will therefore, not interfere with the election and entoolment of our kings and chiefs, we do not see how they can possibly kick at a person rightly entooled because Mr. Resident or Commissioner does not recommend him, or His Excellency does not sanction his entoolment.

Sir Matthew Nathan says to the King of Beyin, "I have decided to recognise you now, and subsequently your properly elected successors." If recognition by the Government depends upon the propriety of the election of a king or a chief there would be nothing to fear. We are ourselves very jealous about having the right man on a stool. What we want to know is whether Government flag, a Government cane and a given sum of money from the Government are now or in future to be considered adjuncts (necessary or unnecessary) in the constitution of a native king or chief in this Colony, but we have not done with this matter yet.

SCRUTINEER

I have a rooted objection to the occupation *generale* of the Wesleyan Methodist pulpits on Sabbath days by some local preachers. I am at sea to understand why Sunday Services should not be undertaken by trained preachers generally, assisted by long-standing and well qualified local preachers occasionally. The proclivity of some of these local preachers is to select a text from the Scriptures and deviate thousands of miles away from the proper subject, giving during the course of their journey (or voyage if you please) the history of the offences they may have justly or unjustly received, their household affairs, their business affairs, the conflicts that may have arisen between themselves and friends or foes, criticisms that their actions would have rightly purchased for them, and generally salvos of insinuations and insinuations. In the local Church of this denomination these manifestations are on the ascendant. If the pulpits they must occupy why should not the trained ministers give them private lectures on how to preach the Word of God without reference to personal affairs, personal woes, and without seeking to pose as Martyrs in the pulpit. I do not object to hearing any man ventilating his grievances imaginary or real, but these should be better reserved for other public assemblies than this, where the audience would have an equal opportunity of replying to the outpourings of these much persecuted, much sinned against and most innocuous of mankind. But in fairness to the much tormented local preacher I must add that even the trained minister is addicted to that practice though in very rare case.

In common with the members of the staff, I have come in for more reproach, scathing denunciations and turbulent abuses from the pulpit, households, notabilities and legal counsel, than we can bear.

From the pulpit, from household the inmates whose actions could not bear light and who are extremely dangerous to the Country, in notabilities, men who posing as patriots are but vigilant adders ruining the Country, performing the informants. But he is an invulnerable Gethazite who thinks he can face the bitter enemies of his Country without scars. We take all these as essential to our existence, as praises, as blessings, when we turn behind and behold our people abiding almost in peace, and that the Gold Coast smiles and bids us "Go on, do what you could." Let me hope, though, that the world is not coming to an end (as a Methodist clergyman was pleased to prophesy the other day) because I take the liberty of expatiating on these unseemly tendencies.

Yours faithfully,—Arroo.

"GOLD COAST NATIVE INSTITUTIONS."

BY REV. ATTOR AHUMA.

(Continued from No. 71.)

The Appendices are invaluable and help to elucidate many points in the book. In pages 337-340 is reproduced the full text of the famous "Constitution of the Fanti Confederation" which although promulgated with the noblest of intentions was nipped in the bud by an Administrator with plenty of zeal, but not according to local knowledge. The 47 Articles of the Constitution demonstrate the existence at the time of a very high order of prophetic vision and a wonderful grasp of the trend of events. Referring to this epoch-making movement in his "History of the Gold Coast," Lieutenant Colonel Ellis says "Although the ostensible leaders of the Confederation were still the Kings of Arbra and

Mankassim the management fell into the hands of a few semi-educated natives and Malatto who engaged in it as a political speculation by which they might gain money or power or both." Against this adverse criticism we are pleased to set the judgment of a higher Authority. His Excellency Mr. Pope Hennessy in a despatch under date the 29th of October, 1872, stated "my inquiries on the spot... convinced me that the educated natives have contrasted favourably as a body with the European residents. I was certainly impressed favourably by their tone and manner in their several interviews with me."

As the phoenix always rises from its ashes with strength renewed, so does the Gold Coast and the Natives as a rule obtain all they want, if they wait long enough. Crush them to-day they appear to-morrow in various directions and with redoubled energy—hence the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society and its offsprings the Fanti National Education Scheme (p. 340) and the proposed Fanti Public Schools Limited which are but the re-seeding of the perian germs that encrusted the 19th Century confederation.

We regret to differ with the Author in an important point. In page 145 Mr. Hayford writes "There will never be anything like genuine Christianity in the Gold Coast and in the Hinterland till the Missionaries have begun from the beginning to build up a national Church on scientific lines &c."

This seems to us to be too sweeping and is all the more remarkable since throughout the book Mr. Hayford evinces a genius for discrimination and accurate statement of facts. No doubt what he means by "genuine Christianity" is the religion of the New Testament—sometimes described as the Christianity of Christ—i. e. Christianity in its naked simplicity without the odium theologium of recalcitrant propagandists who treat with contempt and taboo everything racy of the soil as necessary evils to be combated and replaced by foreign importations. Whilst we are of decided opinion that the Gospel would wind its widening way with spontaneous success when it is not portrayed as a glittering sword "come to destroy the law or the prophets," we are far from holding that there has not been or that there is no "genuine Christianity" on the Gold Coast. We go further to maintain its existence in spite of any false teaching that may be honestly levelled at the churches and for the very reason given by Mr. Hayford in p. 81.

"Whatever the Gold Coastman becomes in the struggle for existence whatever position he attains he generally remains a Gold Coastman who loves his country dearly. He may adopt European culture European tastes, European Comforts and amenities, but take him all in all, he remains at heart a Gold Coastman." It would be easy to show how conscientiously the Gold Coast convert adheres to and observes the institutions and customs of his country in so far as they do not conflict with the principles of "genuine Christianity" whatever may be the ill-digested decrees of synods and congresses, but—enough.

Henceforth excessive modesty almost bordering upon criminal reticence has been the stumbling block of Fantiand. We welcome therefore with pardonable pride all efforts to assert our rights in permanent literary form. The institutions so cleverly handled in the volume of this book, we must own have a tendency towards absorption and collectivism; our native system of Government is centripetal; and it is for these reasons we must accept with readiness all healthy influences from without. Western education and civilisation are the only factors that will enable us to realise our individuality and it is in the combination of enlightened communities we may hope for the unfolding of the Old System which the Author calls the New Civilization.

GOVERNOR NATHAN.

(OPTIMUS MAXIMUSQUE.)

BY MEDICUS.

"Beware of epithets! Beware of distinguishing adjectives." These were the first two ejaculatory sentences of a sermon I had the pleasure of sitting under not very long ago in the City Temple, London, by the late Doctor Parker the great preacher of that well known place of worship.

The text consisted of only one word, and the sentences above cited were hurled out in his characteristically theatrical style that it seems to have made a lasting impression.

That man, this woman, and it is all right. But directly one goes out of his way to apply adjectives such as, that good man; that great man, and the whole world is at arms against him for his authority, for his data, for his criterion. But when the individual is so daring as to employ such adjectives in the superlative degree—well, talk of upsetting a nest of hornets upon one's head, that's not in it. The strangest part of the human economy is, that it seems to brook better—to tolerate less apologetically bad adjectives than good ones, about other

individuals. Still for all that as some substantives as for example the substantive "Worker" may fairly be classified as auto-adjectival, so do some people appear to be born with their adjectives, good or bad, incorporated—inherent in them.

I have watched and followed with great interest the various notices on His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan in the different periodicals since his appointment to the Governorship of Hong Kong; and I have been forcibly struck with the inadequateness of their description, and the meagreness of their references to the "Worker." But to be charitable, this, I believe, has been due to the difficulty naturally attendant upon such an undertaking.

For obvious reasons in order to write with anything like good grace, certain conditions must obtain—conditions unique in themselves, and which may be briefly summarised as follows:—

1. The writer must be a party not beholden to the Government in general and the Governor in particular in any way. He must be a man of independent position, and of unbiased opinion.

2. He must neither be a recipient of nor expecting any special favours.

3. He must be in a position to look at things, from purely a popular point of view, in other words he must be non-official incentively.

4. He must have absolutely no ulterior object in view; but must write purely and simply as the spirit moves him.

5. And lastly the subject of the notice himself must be above any necessity for such notice; in fact he must be in a position to afford to do without any such notice.

These being a few of the conditions necessary to a qualification to write and write plainly about the Head of the Executive, I can, I say, understand why anything like a full fair play, and authentic narration of the Governor's several and laudable acts and deeds, has not been forthcoming from any of his numerous admirers.

But there is one general principle of a national character which ought to actuate and which really necessitates as full a notice of his work as possible by us among whom he has been working, and that is Downing Street itself has convinced us of its appreciation of his work and worth by the great honour so deservedly conferred upon him, in his new appointment, as it were leaving it with us to demonstrate, that we are as a nation, as a people, not too thick-skinned to realize that a "greater than John" has been among us. That we are not too dull to differentiate between "cheese and chalk"—that even the Fantis can tell what is what, and know when they have a good thing.

Nor can such record do any one any harm. It certainly can do His Excellency himself no material good—that I admit, for he has already made his own bed at the Colonial Office—a good old fashioned feather bed too, it is, and he goes to lie on it. But all the same he is flesh and blood and cannot pretend to live above human approbation, particularly that of a people immediately over whom he has been ruling for "vox populi vox Dei." His successor also following his steps an adopting his methods, will know what to expect.

There are several prominent characteristics of Governor Nathan which irresistibly appeal to one, and in which he may be truly said to be the best and the greatest."

I will briefly enumerate a few of these, and try to dilate on one or two if time and space permit.

1. The Governor is extraordinarily painstaking.

2. His love and memory for minutes is nothing short of phenomenal.

His sense of fair play and justice cannot be excelled.

4. His willingness to weigh the pros and cons of a given question, and readiness to yield to conviction was never so marked in any of his predecessors.

5. His courteous civility to all classes of people alike is unparalleled. In brief he is no respecter of persons.

6. His father-like disposition towards his people never over indulgent—always striking at the root of every question, and ever ready to discuss practical issues involved—with the benefit of his scientific training at their disposal is unquestionable.

7. And the most important. His avowed determination to co-operate with responsible citizens and particularly with the representative body of the people is the most admirable trait of his administration.

Nobody who has even casually been following the "modus operandi" of His Excellency's administration will fail to recognize that it is indelibly stamped with the above characteristics.

Any body who has had the privilege of reading and studying the Governor's various correspondences with the Aborigines Protection Society on the important matters of the native laws and customs affecting the entoolment of native Kings and Chiefs must, perforce be impressed that we have been blessed with a Governor (and perhaps not recognized the fact till now too late) of no ordinary mental and intellectual calibre.

His famous Memorandum on Cape Coast Sanitation, are now the household words. The keen insight with every detail displayed; the careful consideration and approval of, where necessary and practicable, of every scheme proposed for the betterment of sanitation at this place; and where impracticable the kind and polite manner in which he differs and proposes an alternative; in brief the full grasp of the subject matter of his various correspondences with the Society are all nothing short of marvellous. (To be continued.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

THE COLONIAL HOSPITAL AND ITS PATIENTS.

Sir,—Following up my letter which appeared in your issue of the 17th ult. under the above heading which has probably caused the publication of the Hospital Rules on the subject in your esteemed contemporary I must say that before attempting to write on the matter I had read the Rules made by the late Dr. Easton Chief Medical Officer in 1893.

My intention in making no reference in that letter about the changes at the present time was not from any ill feelings against any one but to see that things are done in the right way as they used to be; the possibility is, some one no doubt may be misleading the present medical officer in charge of the Hospital thus taking him away from the practice that has been going on ever since the issue of the Rules. When I said before "I leave the matter at present," I thought that was sufficient to corroborate the saying that "word to the wise is enough" but I see it has not been so in this instance and to follow the matter in detail I may probably be doing harm to some one or be wasting my own time.

To be brief I quote the following rules for the information of your readers, the most important part of the Rules guiding medical men in Government Hospitals viz:—

2. The term "Pauper" as herein employed shall include all Mechanics, Fishermen, Boatmen, Servants, Labourers and the daily-wage earning classes generally.

3. Where it is definitely known however to the Surgeon, that one of the above named Classes of persons has sufficiently means to admit of his paying a fee, the applicant should be requested to pay to the Surgeon a fee proportionate to his means.

4. If one of the above Classes requests a Surgeon to visit him at his home, he will, of course, be regarded by the Surgeon as a private Patient and be liable to be charged a certain fee for each visit; such fee shall be proportionate to the Patient's means.

The public entertain no "misapprehension of any kind whatever nor does the writer in any respect, as to the notion that treatment should be given free to everybody." Since the Rules came into force several medical officers have been stationed here in charge of this very Hospital who had followed these rules yet there was no room for any complaint.

The definition of the term Paupers mentioned in the rules is so plain that it does not need another Comment from me, and those who in the opinion of the Medical officer can afford to pay are expected to pay a proportionate fee according to their means; this is no new thing under the sun as it is intended to cover the cost of medicines and nothing else as shown by a Pauper or servant admitted as in door patient paying 1/- per diem for maintenance and treatment but when this proportionate fees according to one's means come in as a burden to every body as an out door patient irrespective of circumstances (who go to the Hospital for treatment not as private patient I say it does not come under the right measuring of that term: surely a mechanic, labourer, servant, Boatmen fisherman and daily wage earning class of persons paying fees as high as guineas and so on cannot be the thing, except these are termed private patients and come under that head.

May I therefore ask how many Paupers are being treated free to-day and how many are paying proportionate to their means which in the opinion of the Doctor may be fair to himself in accordance to these rules? Why should he refuse to give treatment to the pauper patients not as private patients until they have been made to pay fees ranging from 2/6 to one guinea. Take for instance the case of that School boy who was wounded by a burglar and the wounded prisoners in the Acroma-Braibia riot paying 2 guineas each and 4 guineas for operation on one who subsequently died how were the fees paid by these treated? One cannot understand the reason why when patients calling at the Hospital should allow any other classifications contrary to the rules. We all know what a private consultation means and such patients as a rule do not pass through the Hospital but call on the Doctor personally.

Thus the public are evidently under misapprehension as perfectly so because of the changes and the notion that medical treatment at the Hospital is free to every body should be wrong as none but Paupers only should be treated free of charge.

This is a matter of public interest and free from malice and prejudice and should be viewed in that respect only. I leave the matter once more.

Yours truly,—A PATRIOT.

Cape Coast, Sept. 29.

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The Gold Coast Leader.

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CHANGE OF NAME.

I the undersigned beg to inform the Public that from and after this date I have changed my name hitherto known as James Quanson Ashong to that as appears at foot and that all document executed with the former name will still hold good.

JAMES HENRY QUARSHIE.

Axim, 21st. day of October 1903.

GENERAL NEWS.

The local celebrations of the King's Birth-day, a report of which appears elsewhere, passed off with éclat last Monday.

Mr. Awooner Renner returned from Axim by the *Sobo* on the same day.

By the same steamer Mr. Bonso Bruce, with Mr. C. J. Bannerman's Mother and friends left for Accra.

"What win I, if I gain the thing I seek?
A dream, a breath, a froth of fleeting joy.
What buys a minute's mirth to wait a week?
Or sells eternity to get a toy?"

On the motion of the Acting Colonial Secretary Bills intituled "An Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and depositions of chiefs according to native custom" and "An Ordinance for the registration of persons employed by holders of Concessions" have been read for the first time (September 22nd).

We are pleased to find Mr. Justice Smith well enough to return to his duties. He presided at the Assizes which began last Monday.

Dr. W. A. Murray, Deputy Principal Medical Officer has been transferred to Accra, and is now acting as the P. M. O.

Mr. A. W. Thompson who has been away for some years as a District Commissioner has returned home on furlough from Dixcove this week with his family.

One of the strangest Schools in the world has been established in Philadelphia by a woman. It is a school for parrots, where the birds are taught to speak by a phonograph.

In Dutch Guiana the women carry upon their persons all the family savings in the shape of heavy bracelets, anklets, necklaces, and even crowns of Gold and silver.

The Singing Band had a pic-nic at Abrubonko last Tuesday.

It is with regret, says the *Argus*, that we announce the death... of Miss Mary Ann Swanzy, daughter of the late Mr. James Swanzy, of the Gold Coast Colony. The deceased Lady, who was ninety-two years of age, was the sister of Messrs. Francis and Andrew Swanzy, the two brothers whose names survive in the title of the Firm.

From the same source we learn, that "it is notified in the *London Gazette* that the King has given directions for the appointment of Mr. James Muir to be an Unofficial Member of the legislative council of the Gold Coast Colony."

What can be Governor Nathan's difficulty in appointing natives for the Council? With the exception of Mr. Sarbah all his appointments have been European, some of whom hardly see the Council Chamber again after they had been there to take the oath.

At present Mr. Sarbah is the only native and these Europeans who are in reality semi-official members are there to represent the interests of the Natives! The man Muir we have nothing against, (and we sincerely hope he shall follow the wake of the other Swanzy men he had succeeded) but it is the policy of filling the Council Chamber with Europeans that we are against.

And if they can only do as the other Europeans in the Sister Colonies on the Council, do! But not on the Gold Coast. All eyes are on the Honourable James Muir as the Representative of the People.

Dr. E. James Hayford is gone up to Axim.

JELLA COFFEE.

On the arrival of His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan K.C.M.G., R.E., at Jellah Coffee on his way to Kwitta on the 29th Oct. last Chief Cornelius Tay Agbozo, as a mark of respect ordered a salutation of four guns. It was a day never to be forgotten here. Communicated.

"THE BETTER WORLD."

A story possessing a grim kind of humour comes from the Congo. Two blacks were condemned to death by hanging for acts of cannibalism and were led out to execution. The responsible official, by means of an interpreter, exhorted them to meet their fate with courage, because if they did so they would soon be conducted to a "better world." No signs of fear were visible as the two natives went to their death. In one case the body, after hanging five minutes, was taken down after the doctor had certified that life was extinct; and the remains, covered with a flag, were carried by some natives to the burial ground. On arrival at the place of sepulture the "corpse" sat up, much to the terror of the pall-bearers, who fled in all directions. The officials came upon the scene and found the "deceased" seated on a tombstone and declaiming loudly that he was hungry. A mess of native corn was offered him, but he disdainfully rejected it on the ground that in a "better world" superior food should be served. The "deceased," who, strange to say, did not seem to recognise that he was still on this planet, was taken back to prison, where he died a few days later—whether from disgust at not receiving better treatment in a "better world" is not stated.—*Evening Post*.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

OUTWARDS.

Due at Cape Coast.

Carl Wörmann Gold Coast Service	Nov. 9
Egwanga Opobo Service	" 11
*Tarquah Lagos Express Service	" 14
Accra Brass Service	" 15
Alberville Congo Boat	" 20
Batanga Opobo Service	" 25
*Alex. Wörmann C. Acc. Service	" 25
Coomassie S. W. Service	" 28

HOMEWARDS.

Lucie Wörmann C. Acc. Service	Nov. 11
Sokoto S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 13
Eleo Wörmann C. Acc. Service	" 14
Biafra Brass Service	" 15
Philippeville Congo Boat	" 19
Akabo Lagos Express Service	" 20
Bornu S. C. Express Service No. 2.	" 27

* With mails and passengers only.

DIXCOVE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr. George Oliver Cromwell, which took place on Wednesday the 4th instant at 10.30 p.m., after four days' illness; on the next evening his remains were taken to the Wesleyan Church from thence to the Wesleyan Cemetery followed by a large number of sympathising friends; Rev. Elias Butler officiated. His son Mr. Joseph Oriol Cromwell and the other friends have our sympathies.

The D. C. Mr. Thompson who has been here with us for over eight years left on the 4th instant by the s.s. "Teneriffe" on leave for Cape Coast and a Mr. Ennis is now here; we wish Mr. Thompson a speedy return.

A riot took place here on the 27th ult.

The town looks little cleaner now.

The s.s. "Sekundi" which called here on the 25th ultimo landed seven European passengers for the Axim Mines Ltd. (Kayankor).

TARKWA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

We regret to report the death of Mr. J. J. Mitchel the Assistant Manager of the Gold Coast Machinery & Trading Co. which took place last Saturday evening. His remains were entered the following morning in the European Cemetery before the largest concourse of Europeans ever met together at this place. D. C. M. Furley read the burial service—the deceased we understand was laid up by fever only last Wednesday and death was never anticipated until Saturday morning when he became worse and died in the evening. About a fortnight before, Mr. Mitchel was brought before the court at Sekundi by the General Manager Mr. Penny for an order of the court compelling him to submit his accounts which had been in arrears for 2 months. The matter was settled out of court.

A Miss———the newly European nurse for

the Abosso Gold Mines also died last Tuesday morning and was buried in the afternoon the D.C. performing the services.

From Adja Bippo news reaches us of an accident in one of the mining shafts, resulting in the death of a Mr. William Gilpin, the chief Mining Foreman—the usual Inquest was held and verdict was accordingly entered for death through an accident.

Mr. Hyde, a European and Loco. Foreman in the employ of the Railway Company had been sent to the Elmina Gaol as a debtor prisoner under warrant issued at the instance of the Tarkwa (G.C.) Trading Co. Ltd.

Lawyer Moses Williams of Axim is in town.

CHAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Trade is distressingly dull and everything is at a standstill.

The Annual Collector's Tea meeting came off successfully on the 20th ult.

Last Thursday the 22nd. ult. the marriage of Mr. Robert Narkwa to Jemima Acquahbua came off successfully at the Wesley Chapel Rev. Mr. Sackey tying the knot. We heartily wish Mr. and Mrs. Narkwa all conjugal happiness.

Sergeant J. W. Duff has been transferred to Sekondi.

Sometime last week the body of a man who was said to have been shot by a neighbour at Antu (a village about three miles from Chama) was conveyed to Town in the middle of the night.

We would once more respectfully suggest that the authorities establish a Money Order and Parcel post transactions in connection with this office, as the Public are greatly inconvenienced by despatching bearers to Sekondi for their Parcels etc.

We hope the P. M. G. at Accra would see for himself the advisability of acquiescing with our request. If these two suggestions of ours prove abortive the D. P. M. at Sekondi may arrange for our parcels being conveyed down and duty collected here.

We have noticed that the Policemen in town are not sufficient to meet any disturbance that may break out: instance last year's collision between the Appa's and Bentsir's which but for the judicious intervention of Mr. Dadzie the Customs Officer things would have assumed a most distressing aspect. The Commissioner of Police might take the hint with advantage and increase the force.

May we respectfully solicit the Authorities to provide Chama with a Dispenser? This will be to the safety of the European resident, as well as the natives.

The Good Templars in town are doing and have done a noble work.

The Sanitation this way is anything but fair. The thoroughfares present such an untidy appearance that the recent deaths might be attributed to them. More scavengers should be employed.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

An inquest was held on the 1st. inst. on the body of a woman named Oduadu, brought down from Afrangua, who was said to have committed suicide during the night of the 30th. ultimo.

Superintendent Whyte of the local Police Force and a Mr. Appiah (alias Kwamin Yammie) were put on their trial on the 1st. inst., charged with receiving bribes to the amount of Forty-two pounds, from Kwamin Asumadu and the Ohin of Okyisua who were lately brought down from the above places under the charge of practising extortion.

A united Evangelical meeting was held at Abonku on the 1st. inst. by the Wesleyan Body with good results.

A C C R A.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The cry of the day in every commercial circle is "Trade is dull." But the question is who is particularly responsible? We would unhesitatingly reply the Government who had manifested such a fanatical zeal in the play of punitive expeditions in the Hinterland, (greatly to the waste of our revenue also). Of course those concerned have had their affections realised—honours, ribbons and clasps; the rights and customs of the natives (poor people, who cannot produce and manipulate maxims and Long Toms) have been crushed down also. It is a curious revelation, this British civilization.

We must also partially attribute the dullness of trade to our local Chamber of Commerce. We fully remember the by-gone days when the Chamber working hand in hand (without any colour prejudice) with the native merchants and traders, things were extremely dissimilar to what we see now.

The oldest Firm in town is Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy, whose former representatives, Messrs. C. W. Barnett (late) W. Waters, G. Leach and R.

E. Jones took the keenest interest in their employees, and how far their business worked we know.

Mr. Muir, the present Chief Agent is a man very energetic and one in the true type of the Agents named above; and we therefore leave the matter in his Firm's hands.

We would take, for instance, the Cotton Industry that has been engaging the attention of the Lagos and Sierra Leone Governors; and how fast asleep we here are!

We once again strike the soliciting note that the streets leading to the Korley lagoon on the north (the quarries) south and west require and need some lamps. Our idea of calling attention now and again to this has been demonstrated in the accident of the murder which was committed, sometime ago. We however deeply regret that the authorities have not seen their way to do so.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We publish the Bill on Native Chiefs now wending its way through the Legislative Council to-day: at this moment, there is not a single native unofficial member, Mr Sarbah the only one left, being in Europe. We believe the Council is allowed four unofficial members. Now, as Ordinance-making must be the forte and hobby of a West African Governor probably through no fault of his, why may not the native element be fairly represented on the Council? The Sister Colonies seem to have recognised this, as shown by the number of native unofficial members which is always on their Council. If the number of unofficial members is limited to four, considering the fact, that the native population is by far the majority in the country, to say nothing of the fact, that nearly all the laws which the Council seeks to pass affect them directly and indirectly, why may not three of these unofficial members be native and the other one to represent the European element.

In these days the European unofficial member is as good as an official member, and he is generally away from the Colony. To say the least, we consider this fair if the object of appointing these unofficial members is to assist the Government in making laws for the People, and if in making these laws, the peculiarities, customs and laws of the People are to be taken into consideration. There are some of our European friends who make a boast of their many years' experience on the coast, but these at best are Europeans still and cannot know and see things as duly qualified Natives. And what makes matters worse, if this European unofficial member, happens to be one of a few years' standing in the country, he generally assumes so much airs and knowledge of the People, that he usually proves himself worse than the official member on the Council who may always be vaunting with his many years' experience in the Colony. This class of officials you will invariably find misleading the Government, for in the generality of cases, their so-called many years experience are local and often honey-combed with prejudice and spite. It will be well for the Colonial Governor who seeks to be a true Empire-builder, and a faithful and sincere servant of John Bull to think impartially on these things. A good name is rather to be chosen than—

One word more on the Bill we publish to-day in addition to what we wrote in last week's issue. It may be allowed that this Bill leaves us the right to elect (enstool) and depose our Rulers: this is right enough, we have got to do this, if the institution must remain (though show it is to be). But the Government must confirm our action. WHY? How does the necessity of this come in, if the person elected and enstooled is to rule over his own People who elected and enstooled him. And what will be the position of a "Chief" duly elected and enstooled, but whom the Government somehow or other refuses to confirm his enstoolment? Or one, deposed by us in due form but whose deposition the Government refuses to confirm? What will be his position, and what ours? We leave it with wiser heads to tell us.

What is it to be with Sir Matthew Nathan's administration? There are the Maxwellian administration with its Lands Bill and the Hodgsonian with its Golden Stool, is it to be the Nathanian administration and its Onslaught on Native Institutions? But His Excellency has of late shown a very strong wish to carry out the desire of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria to co-operate with the People, that we can hardly believe what we see and hear. We know that he is ready and willing to be advised by the Aborigines Society on matters native, and we believe that he sees with Sir WILLIAM MACGREGOR of Lagos, that to be a successful West African Administrator, you must reign through and by the "Chiefs." Much responsibility then lies on the Aborigines Society and our Amanhin and Ahinju but so far what have these been doing then at this crisis, when Ordinance after Ordinance affecting our native institutions with astounding rapidity passes

before "the Governor in Council"?

The Gazette No. 39 just to hand also publishes another Ordinance bearing on the position of our Amanhin and Ahinju, far more iniquitous than even the one we publish this week. We really wonder at all this, and that all this should happen at this time. When we read all that is said of our Governor, "Medicus" including, we do not know which to wonder at most the Man or the Policy laid down for him to pursue: but a man should be "a man for a' that."

Some weeks ago *Winnabah* made it out that she has no Medical officer. *Anamaboe* has been waiting at this. *Chama* too has said the same thing, and no doubt other equally important places may say the same. Is there a dearth of Medical men, most important and indispensable officials? And yet we are flooded with innumerable officials under our "economical administration" some of whom hardly know what they have got to do, but receive their salary all the same. The late Sir William Maxwell saw unnecessarily so many officials in the Colony and he was doing his best to put down their number. We begrudge no one his luck, but we must think of the Country and what such a system serves.

"Trade is dull" this is still the repeated, familiar refrain with which "our Chamber" must be acquainted, to say nothing of its practical demonstration: it must have. How often have the members of the "Chamber" discussed the ways and means to get out of this situation or perhaps other things far more important engage their attention at their meetings.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Our Subscribers will please note that it is necessary that some attention be paid on the receipt of our Notice informing them of the time their subscriptions expire otherwise without hearing from them we take it that they do not wish to continue same, and stop their supplies thereby.

THE MANAGER

THANKS FOR SYMPATHY.

Mr. and Mrs. Fearon and their relatives beg to return their sincere thanks to all those who have, by telegrams letters or calls consoled with them on the death of Mrs. Christiana Davies, in Sierra Leone.

Mr. Peter Egbert Smith on behalf of himself and his families returns his very sincere thanks to all kind friends, who by personal calls, letters, telegrams or otherwise have sympathized with them during their recent bereavement on the death of his beloved wife Kate Smith on the 31st. October.

IN MEMORIAM.

CHEETHAM. In memory of Napoleon (James Barnes, Cheetham) who entered into his rest at Stanleyville, Congo Free State on the 12th of July 1903.
"Pity the Stranger, in a strange land."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited. Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned.

A non-de-plume or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, NOVEMBER 14, 1903.

[Our leading Article intended for this week, which is mainly a reply to the leading Article in our contemporary the Aborigines of the 7th inst., unavoidably held over this week, it appears in our next.]

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

Monday the 9th being the King's Birthday was a gala day, and every one went heartily into the enjoyment and rejoicings of the day. We doubt if even London could have enjoyed the day better. The day was kept as a complete holiday: an improvement on last year's as some offices were opened then. At 6 in the morning there were pealings of bell; decorations were seen everywhere, Fort William as usual looking at its best. All [the Fife and Drum Bands in Town were heard irring with each other to see which could make the greatest noise, and the Gold Coast Regiment, the Police and the Volunteers were as hard put as they could possibly be. At 12 p.m. the usual salute of guns were fired at Fort William; but the most important feature of the day was the Grand Athletic sports under the management of the City Club. Although the gathering on such occasions is always large, it was unusually so this time: the Grand Stand was

tried to its utmost capacity, and one could hardly believe his eyes at the number of spectators on the grounds. The games were thoroughly enjoyed, and the Club could not have managed things better. Cape Coast Brass Band, discoursed some splendid music on the Stand: this Band is fast competing with the Albert Band: it has improved remarkably well under the management of Mr. H. Lusaidoo. Renner's Amagic Band was also there and later on the Amanful set also graced the Sports with its presence. We regret that want of space would not allow our giving a detail account of the Sports; everything passed off successively, thanks to the energetic efforts of the Secretaries Messrs. White and Fearon and the members of the City Club. With Umpires, Judges, Starters and Clerks all hard at work justice must have been done to all the competitors, and prizes were distributed to the successful ones by Mrs. White, the wife of our Junior D. C. With Ball parties in the evening, here and there, the day closed. It appears that the D.C. (Mr. O'Brien) spared no pains to see the day passes off pleasantly and in this he succeeded having been well supported by the inhabitants of the Town—White and Black.

LONG LIVE THE KING.

SCRUTINEER.

A MALEFICENT NATHANIAN AXE UNDER THE ROOT OF NATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

The more carefully one studies the History of the Gold Coast Protectorate, especially with the literary aids of such able authorities as JOHN MENSAB SARBAH, CASELY HAYFORD, and C. P. LUCAS, the more is one convinced of the inconsistency of probity and fairplay that have been and are still being practised by the British Government in their dealing with the Native of this Country, and more also in the unwarranted tendency of intermeddling with the rights and Institutions of the Natives. A cankerous and adroit hand has been perpetually at sport with these time-honoured establishments, and it is unquestionably high time that the patriotic natives of the Gold Coast rise and put a definite stop to these uncalled-for and arbitrary encroachments on our rights.

What is the History of the Gold Coast? The gist and brief of it is that sometime in the Seventeenth century certain Europeans, comprising Englishmen, traded to the Gold Coast; and (to quote Lucas, in his *Historical Geography of the British Colonies Vol. III.* pp. 199-200). "They had forts and trading establishments, for which they paid ground-rents to the natives; but their authority as rulers did not in most cases extend beyond the lines of the forts and the walls of the factories. ...this system...which implied trade and nothing more was most fully developed....A row of isolated forts and factories lined the water's edge, but they had no territory or territorial rights attached to them. These forts, which originally were built by and belonged to different European peoples, having all been formerly ceded to Great Britain, and the ground-rents having been forfeited or having lapsed in course of time, the soil on which they stand is British territory; but outside them, the large area of country, which is commonly included under the name of the Gold Coast, and which for all practical purposes is in the position of a British dependency, is, strictly speaking not a Colony but a Protectorate...most of the treaties, which have been made with native chiefs and have been ratified by the Home Government, have been treaties involving British protection and jurisdiction, but not actual cession of territory. *The natives recognise the authorities of the Queen of England and her representatives the Governor of the Gold Coast, but as being their guardian and referee rather than as the owner of their lands.*" (Italics my own).

The above is penned, and authoritatively too, in the plainest English and with no ambiguity of expression about it that even the most reckless can read and understand. It very clearly and most authoritatively defines our connections with Great Britain. This unique Dependency of Great Britain was neither conquered, ceded or purchased, the term *rent, rudi, vici*, can never be applied to it, and if justice and honesty had prevailed with our British guardians, more indulgence should have been allowed us than even the Indian Empire which was secured with so much loss of blood. Surely if our progenitors who, in their goodness of heart, allowed the seventeenth century English Merchants a room near their hearth, had foreseen the very kind treatment they would mete to their posterity in after years they would have hesitated in befriending them, and left events to evolve themselves.

The humane and impartial energy and the purity in spirit that actuated an upright, discerning sympathetic, unprejudiced, and immensely disinterested and gentlemanly, George Maclean in maintaining the rights and institutions of the natives so

sorely lacking in his numerous Successors they have been intentionally and spitefully disregarded unmoulded, and means have been sought to send them to rack and ruin. And now Sir Matthew Nathan arrives on the scene and loses no opportunity to demonstrate his ardent desire to make a rift in our time-honoured and harmless institutions. So devoted is our estimable Governor, to the interests of the *simpletons* inhabiting the Gold Coast, that he seems to think our *Amanhin* and *Ahinfu* are mere superfluous nuisances who should be done away with. So disinteresting(?) is he in everything effecting us that to more deeply inculcate in us this beneficial lesson, he took upon himself to summarily dismiss Ohin Faibir and destool him without our knowledge. He now asserts that having a profounder knowledge, and probably more experience also, in men and things here, at least, than ourselves and his predecessors, we should relegate to him the prerogative of *confirming or rejecting* the men we may think eligible to administer our affairs in accordance with our native customary laws. But we most respectfully and loyally ask, ought not our excellent Guardian-Governor to have previously consulted us before taking that all important initiative? Such zeal and assiduity had better be reserved for Hong-Kong than for us. *They are extremely bewildering to our senses.*

The "Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and depositions of Ahinfu according to native Customs," that I referred to a fortnight ago is the most iniquitous insidious and interfering piece of legislation nicely worded that could be devised. It aims directly at our Native Institutions, namely the electing and enstoolment of our rulers. Governor Nathan has at last, given away unwittingly his extreme hatred towards the ranks of our *Amanhin* and *Ahinfu*. Let me respectfully and patriotically open the eyes of my people, and particularly our mouthpiece the Gold Coast Aborigines Society, to this fact. *This Ordinance is devised as a means to an end; and the end in view is to abolish our ancient ranks or positions of Amanhin and Ahinfu, which being abolished means the murder and burial of all things native.* Understand this, if you are a real lover of your home and country. "The Governor may, "IF SATISFIED"—that the election has been in accordance with native custom confirm same"... Please note the words I have emphasized—"if satisfied!" But *'if not satisfied'*, I ask, who on this Gold Coast under its irresponsible constitution, could have the privilege, not to say moral courage, to force a Governor to give out even his reasons for being dissatisfied, not to say forcing him to confirm an election, when through an aberration or erratic turn of mind, he refuses to confirm one though it has been done according to native customs.

The native rulers are in no way impediments in the way but on the other hand take a great deal of interest in the Government of the Country. In comparison, they govern us with far much better result to our comfort and happiness than the Central Government with its myriads of overpaid and underworked officials. Large tracts of the district are governed by them with much more prosperity than we who are directly under the nose of blatant official pomposity, for example, places like *Dowin, Wassaw, Appolonia, Abura, Abakrampa* &c. The real sentiment that is plainly visible in the Bill is malevolence towards the positions of our respected heads, pure malice, malice, malice! The very idea of the Omanhin of England our guardian assuming to himself, through his representative the Governor of the Gold Coast, the prerogative of *confirming or rejecting*, parties hereditarily eligible for and therefore elected as our heads is offensively repugnant to native and we should think, foreign idea, for the matter of that. I am inclined to believe that Sir Matthew Nathan has not been an ardent student of the Gold Coast History as he should, for if he had he would not have ventured to initiate or approve of such absurd legislation so rebellious against the spirit and letter of the former treaties and bonds with us by Great Britain. This Bill is as iniquitous as the famous "Land Bill," and the patriots of the ABORIGINES SOCIETY should see to it, relying on the support of their Countrymen. The wolf is at the door, and we must not lie easy within.

Yours faithfully,—ATROO.

GOVERNOR NATHAN.

(OPTIMUS MAXIMUSQUE)

BY MEDICUS.

Continued from No 72.

Talking of the Governor's memory for minutiae, reminds one forcibly of a little incident which happened in connection with some concession leases in which the writer was interested.

It was on the occasion of His Excellency's first visit to Cape Coast, and on the very eve of his leaving for Sekondi. The writer had occasion to

apply to the Governor for leave to prospect certain properties in Ashanti, and to ask for an interview.

Within two hours of despatching my letter the Governor's reply came granting the interview. At the interview he not only granted me my request but kindly promised to write to the Resident to give me every possible assistance in the matter. When about six weeks after I got up to Kumasi I understood from the Resident that His Excellency had already written to him about my coming up and asked him to do all he could to help me, and that weeks before I myself could get there. Could a Governor be more kind to, and willing to help a native?

But the most striking part has as yet to come. Two or three months after going through the necessary formalities and securing the properties, imagine my surprise at receiving an official letter which had been forwarded to me in England, signed, I believe, by the Private Secretary and calling my attention to the fact that instead of the figures 2½ x 4 miles which ought to have been written on the face of the plans attached to the leases to represent 10 square miles, we had by mistake put down 5 x 4 which of course meant twenty square miles, and that I must have it rectified at once in order not to invalidate my leases.

I may explain, that for the moment the Resident and myself reckoning that 2½ x 2 miles equalled five square miles had, inadvertently concluded that the double of those figures viz. 5 x 4 miles would be 10 square miles which the Governor rightly pointed out was incorrect.

On my return to the Coast, I went up to Kumasi and there were already waiting at the Residency two letters from the Head quarters calling attention to the same error. Of course I had it rectified at once and transmitted copies to Accra.

But evidently before the papers could be placed before His Excellency, he left by the "Albertville" for England. I happened at this time to be on a visit at Axim. I was one of the gentlemen who went off to the steamer to wish His Excellency "Bon Voyage." Even on board the steamer—and a fast boat too—he interviewed the gentleman *one by one*. Upon being called in, the Governor asked me in his usually kind manner, with that peculiar smile at once dignified and gentle—"So you are at Axim, so and so." "Yes, Governor, on a short visit to some friends" I answered. "What can I do for you" he further enquired. "Nothing thanks Governor" I only came off to pay your Excellency my respects," I replied. "Thanks he said. A few moments pause and then rolled out in rich deep base voice, and in as nice a manner as possible, "you know, so and so, you have not yet rectified that error in your Ashanti Leases we wrote you about sometime ago; I fear it may invalidate your Leases."

I felt simply startled, astonished, charmed, and full of admiration, for the man. I felt I was before a hero worthy of my worship; and could only with the greatest difficulty refrain from exclaiming, "Governor you are a wonderful man." I have recounted this little incident to scores of people, and no one reflecting on the man's position, his onerous responsibilities, his concern in matters of infinitely greater importance, has considered such memory for minutiae anything less than phenomenal.

I could cite dozens of instances but enough has been said.

In his famous Memorandum on Cape Coast Sanitation, a work in which he seems to have taken great personal interest, he made no less than twenty distinct references to the Aborigines Protection Society and to the Sanitary Section of that Body—the representatives of the people, whose operations he graciously endorsed, whose opinion he respects and frankly seeks after, and with which Society, it is evidently his intention to cooperate with such heartiness as has never been known in the annals of the Constitutional History of the Gold Coast Colony.

Could there be a trait of character in a ruler for which he could be more beloved by his people than this?

Instance the prompt and ready manner, without any cavil, equivocation, or any mental reservation, which he acceded to the memorial of the principal inhabitants of Cape Coast against the intended Smallpox Hospital.

The Governor had already been strongly advised differently by his medical officers in regard to that building, and basing his argument upon their advice he had informed the Aborigines Sanitary Committee what his decided opinion was in reference thereto. But as soon as a more convincing proof to the contrary was forthcoming, mark the magnanimity—the greatness of soul—of the man. He frankly states, in the 42nd paragraph of his second Memorandum, his case in a nutshell, and winds up "Since then a petition based on a report prepared

WANTED. Two Smart Learners able to read and write for this Office. Liberal terms offered. Apply to THE MANAGER.

by Dr. E. J. Hayford and signed by all the leading Citizens, has been presented to the Governor against, the new building being employed for the purpose for which it was erected; and statesman-like he adds "And its appropriation to other purposes is under consideration."

Before many days were over, he had, as we had understand, issued orders to all the D. C's. directing the building of small pox hospitals on exactly the lines laid down in Dr. Hayford's report.

That we are on the point of losing the "best and the greatest" Governor we have ever had, my countrymen, is too evident to admit of multiplicity of arguments or citation of instances.

We cannot but lament Sir Matthew Nathan's untimely removal from us. As the natural outcome of his excellent qualities he has been nominated by the "Powers that be" for a greater sphere of usefulness, for which we cannot but heartily congratulate him.

The prayer of the whole Fanti nation, nay, of the whole Colony follows our beloved Governor.

"Oh that he had been spared to us another year or two!" is the sincere ejaculation of every responsible citizen.

And as we look forward to the arrival among us of his successor in office we cannot but add "and may the mantle of Elijah fall on Elisha."

A BILL

INTITULED

An Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and depositions of chiefs according to native custom. [1903.]

Whereas it is expedient to facilitate the proof of the election and deposition of native chiefs in accordance with native custom;

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows;—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Native Chiefs Ordinance, 1903."

2. In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires,

"Chief" includes a head chief who is not subordinate in his ordinary jurisdiction to any other chief, and the Chiefs known as Ohen, Ohene, Manche and Amagah.

3. (1) Any chief elected in accordance with native custom may apply to the Governor for confirmation of his election, and the Governor may, if satisfied that the election has been in accordance with native custom, confirm the same by writing under his hand, and thereupon such chief shall be deemed in all Courts of the Colony to have been lawfully elected.

(2) This section shall apply as well to chiefs elected before as after the commencement of this Ordinance.

(1) Any chief deposed from his office in accordance with native custom and whose deposition shall be confirmed by the Governor by writing under his hand shall be deemed in Courts of the Colony to have been lawfully deposed.

(2) This section shall apply to every chief whether his election has been confirmed under the preceding section or not.

5. A statement signed by the Colonial Secretary declaring that any chief has been elected or deposed, shall, without proof of signature, be conclusive evidence that the election or deposition of such chief as the case may be was in accordance with native custom, and has been confirmed by the Governor.

6. And whereas the Governor is satisfied that Kwo Johnphia late chief of Dutch Sekundi and Kobina Yewan late head chief of British Kommenda have lately been deposed in accordance with native custom and the deposition of each of them has been confirmed by the Governor it is hereby declared that the said Kwo Johnphia and Kobina Yewan have been lawfully deposed from the Stools of Dutch Sekundi and British Kommenda respectfully.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The great distance between us necessarily throws our correspondence behind time. For instance observations on the rising of the River and the Launches appeared when the River was quite full and the Launches had made several successful trips to Kpong. Others respecting full tide appeared when the River was at low tide. To avoid misapprehension we should have dates with each correspondence.

We have since learnt that quarrels at Larteh alluded to in the "Leader" of Oct. 24, No. 70 arose not from the entombment but from the election of a successor to their stool. More anon.

It is the Basel Missionaries who occupy Anum and not the Bremen who are at Pekyi two hours' distance off Anum.

The Cemetery a few yards from Mr. Lomotey's new building full of weeds hiding the grave from

view, is not worth the name. It is too near the Town or rather the Town is getting too near it. A better place for the burial of our dead is highly desirable.

Both the Wesleyan and Basel Mission graveyards are equally inadequate and neglected. The grounds too are rocky, and interment seldom; for the Addas have a national antipathy to burying their dead anywhere than in the Celestial city.

Kpong is rising to political and commercial importance; but Sanitation is totally neglected. To say that public refuse is accumulated in private yards and in some parts of the streets, that no latrines are provided for a place accommodating hundreds of strangers pouring in every day apart from her own inhabitants, speaks for itself.

Akuse is ahead from Sanitary point of view, European residents there enjoy an average good health. Here we have scavengers and a competent Colonial Surgeon to boot.

New stores of B. M. F. and a two storied house for Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy have added to the attractiveness of Dukplame St., Sierra Leone St. has also had some additional stores in a fine row. But the Aku Lagoon will ever remain a poison to Akuse. It wants a bridge over it or a drainage to empty its foul waters into the Volta. Should the waters of the Volta come in at all, it will not be the stagnant, weedy and rotten. It will rather facilitate shipment and landing of cargo.

The assaulter of Mr. Garb was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment with a fine of £3.

All look in vain to the Local Paper for a Report of the proceedings of the Odonko murder (?) case. Will not the Accra Correspondent indulge us in that?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

Sir!—In his lonely condition of one who commands the powers of penetration, your Elmina Correspondents certainly had an eye to offering a warning to the responsible men of that town when he concluded his observations in your impression No. 60 in the following words;—

"I can almost forecast what is going to happen should the existing native political Government and political disorder be not remedied at once. The Colonial Government will be compelled to elect one who, to their opinion, is qualified and capable of tackling the mutinous crowd of fortune-hunters &c. &c. &c."

This is an apt exemplification of what you were forced to take notice of in one of your recent Editorials when you honestly remarked to the effect that it is characteristic of us to wait until we are "whipped" into doing things for ourselves before we awake to their necessity.

Now Sir, I am troubled not a little about the manner in which those responsible are in the state of things in Elmina in that, while a prudent and discrete community, well up to the necessities of a state, would allow no scruples in their way to take due cognizance of this warning and time measures with a view to the judicious assumption of such methods as will ensure safety and sound advantageous native Government, sad experience teaches me to expect very little patriotic dutifulness from a people who have very often been known to scorn an honest opinion on the simple grounds of the same emanating from a youngman who, from their own showing, has no guns to fight with. I here refer to the king-makers—the Chief, Captains in the various Companies and other principalities, defining these so as to include some of the educated classes. There seems to be a tendency on their part to ignore the fact that the opinion of the rising generation is the most potent factor of a state, and that the circumstances under which we find ourselves preclude the possibility of gaining anything from fighting our battles with weapons of destruction.

At the root of every institution which, in its general application, fails to satisfy the purpose for which it was intended, there is always something radically wrong; and before any changes could be effected with advantage the foundation itself must be touched, or more outward alterations and substitutions have no power of effecting any appreciable result. He would therefore be a staunch enemy to the Country who would take sides against the prevailing opinion and one which has been very generously offered in these columns, that the fault in our native administration lies in the time-worn, old-fashioned and untwentieth century system of putting illiterate men on our stools. Originally, our forefathers could not help adopting that policy and there certainly was an excuse for electing their kings from the uneducated class; but in these later days of wide education and intellectual expansion among the people, there is hardly any justification for its continuance. I do not wish to be understood to condemn the system owing to any marked lack of administrative abilities on the part of these privileged individuals. It is true there have been; and are men from this class of rulers who, in trying occasions, been known to manifest wonderful and peculiar abilities. My contention is rather that, given education on proper lines these very men would have done far more than anything they have been able to achieve for the good of the Country and Race.

The various gigantic national problems before which

we are seemingly impotent which may all more or less be traced to this one prevalent cause, and we cannot expect that they will be satisfactorily solved whilst the cause which gave them birth remains untouched. Vain are all the disenstooling of one Omanhin and the electing of another. Vain are the numerous complaints against the Government. We shall have ourselves to blame in the future unless we adopt new methods in our political life.

I feel it therefore incumbent upon me as a patriotic though insignificant Son of Elmina to proffer as my most sanguine opinion that the best thing to do would hardly be to wait until the Government is obliged to step in and relegate to itself the exclusive right of nominating our future Amanhin or of sanctioning or vetoing the appointment thereof. Instead of this, it becomes representative and responsible men of Elmina to assiduously set themselves the task of remedying the existing state of things.

As a step in the right, I would honestly subscribe my testimony to, and recommend the policy suggested by Mr. Attoo in your issue of the 29th August to the effect that the principal men in each town should lose no time in starting to elect the future Amanhin and Ahinhu "who should be subjected to a rigorous and efficient training both intellectually and politically."

It is my firm opinion that if we had got men of cultured minds and sound education at the head of our national institutions, the British Government would be bound to place our rulers on the same category with the Indian Rajahs and the treatment accorded to the Amanhin and Ahinhu in the various places comprised in the Empire would be extended to us; because the force that would then be put in the field will be too strong to be resisted. In that happy consummation, there would also be seen Amanhin and Ahinhu exhibiting a lively interest in such momentous questions as the agricultural, industry, compulsory Education for the masses and that most necessary but now sadly neglected matter of Female Education.

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The Gold Coast Leader.

VOL. II.
No. 74.

CAPE COAST, WEST AFRICA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1903.

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WINNEBAH: Correspondence to hand.

"The silence often of pure innocence
Persuades when speaking fails."

"For the first time" says Sir Matthew Nathan in his official Report for 1902, "a return of Europeans resident in the Colony has been obtained with some approach to accuracy." Their number is put down to 1,830, of which 286 are officials 373 for Mercantile Firms, and 96 for Missionaries: the rest for the Gold Coast Railway and Mining Companies.

The Public Debt of the Colony at December 31 is made up to £2,082,717. 18. 3.

The Report as published in the West African Journals, makes an interesting reading.

OHIN FAIBIR.

We understand that this ill-used Ohin is still in Town, away from his people who report says, are strongly desirous to have him back. From all account we find, this Ohin has done nothing worthy of the treatment that is called destoolment which was in no way in accordance with our native customs and law, which makes it easier for those concerned to see him righted. We further understand that his case is taken up by the Aborigines Society and some lawyers, and we believe these have to represent matters to the Head of the Executive, who with a precedent or two before us, will, no doubt, see that justice is done to this much ill-used Ohin. We are watching the trend of events.

OHIN KWAMIN GHARMIE.

By S's & A's.

There passed away a few days ago a notable figure known to the Abanta world as Ohin Kwamin Ghannin of Yebubin. He was a great litigant but was always successful and this from the time of Judge MacLeod.

There are many fine amusing stories told of the late Ohin and several Judges of the Colony. Ohin Gharmie was shrewd and honest, far seeing and especially able to deal with native Abinfa and Amanbin. He became a terror in the Axim District after he had brought down to Chama all the

Abinfa of Axim for seizing his ancestral papers and the famous "grease pot"—His funeral was attended by a guard of police: the company drawn of Upper Town turned out. The form of burial became an interesting question and at last, the celebrated "law" Chief was laid at rest in the Government cemetery, Axim. His custom is not yet concluded. Axim, Nov. 1.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

OUTWARDS.

	Due at Cape Coast.
Carl Wermann Gold Coast Service	Nov. 9
Egwanga Opobo Service	" 11
*Tarquah Lagos Express Service	" 14
Accra Brass Service	" 15
*Albertville Congo Boat	" 20
*Oron S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 21
*Alex. Wermann C. Acc. Service	" 25
Warri Opobo Service	" 25
*Nigeria Lagos Express Service	" 28
Coomassie S. W. Service	" 28
Batanga Opobo Service	" 29
*Olenda S. C. Express Service No. 2.	Dec. 5
Nyanga Opobo Service	" 9
Loanda Brass Service	" 13
Benin S. W. Service	" 26

HOMEWARDS.

Lucie Wermann C. Acc. Service	Nov. 11
Sokoto S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 13
Elio Wermann C. Acc. Service	" 14
Biafra Brass Service	" 15
Philippeville Congo Boat	" 19
Akabo Lagos Express Service	" 20
Bornu S. C. Express Service No. 2.	" 27
Dahomy Brass Service	" 29
Tarquah Lagos Express Service	Dec. 4
Albertville Congo Boat	" 10
Sekondi S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 11

* With mails and passengers only.

ATTUABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Axim Customs have come and gone, and during the celebrations many respectful citizens took the opportunity of making presents to the Omanhin.

In view of the coming Synod we suggest that to ensure proper management of Circuit work, one assistant missionary be stationed here to take charge over Attuaboe Beyin and Half Assinee. In fact Appolonia ought to be made into a separate Circuit instead of being placed under the supervision of Axim. The condition of the Schools in this district is very deplorable, and some visitors ought to be appointed to visit them as is done in other places.

The street lamps that have been the subject of frequent complaints have not been sent up yet. Who is responsible for this

DIXCOVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Philbrick D. C. visited the Laing Memorial School on the 19th ult.

We sorely need a Town Bell here as we said in your issue No. 47 of 16th May last instead of the soundless rusty Iron Rod which passes for a Town Bell.

We have complained and still complain of our Latrines: this is giving us a great deal of sickness from its offensive smell.

We need a Medical officer here and we respectfully ask Mr. Ennis to make an application for one.

Ohin Kwesi Agyinana and some of his headmen have been fined £55. at the D.C.'s court most of them have paid their shares of £10 each.

The sports held in honour of the King's Birthday on the last presided over by Mr. J. J. Ennis the D. C., passed off most successfully: there were races of all description, tag of war for Boys and one for old men, running for little children &c.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

We regret to announce the death of old James Ashinney the father of Mr. A. W. Ashinney of J. J. Fischer & Co. of Cape Coast and Mr. A. Ashinney

by Dr. E. J. Hayford and signed by all the leading Citizens, has been presented to the Governor against, the new building being employed for the purpose for which it was erected; and statesman-like he adds "And its appropriation to other purposes is under consideration."

Before many days were over, he had, as we had understand, issued orders to all the D. C.'s directing the building of small pox hospitals on exactly the lines laid down in Dr. Hayford's report.

That we are on the point of losing the "best and the greatest" Governor we have ever had, my countrymen, is too evident to admit of multiplicity of arguments or citation of instances.

We cannot but lament Sir Matthew Nathan's untimely removal from us. As the natural outcome of his excellent qualities he has been nominated by the "Powers that be" for a greater sphere of usefulness, for which we cannot but heartily congratulate him.

The prayer of the whole Fanti nation, nay, of the whole Colony follows our beloved Governor. "Oh that he had been spared to us another year or two" is the sincere ejaculation of every responsible citizen.

And as we look forward to the arrival among us of his successor in office we cannot but add "and may the mantle of Elijah fall on Elisha."

A BILL INTITULED

An Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and depositions of chiefs according to native custom. [1903]

Whereas it is expedient to facilitate the proof of the election and deposition of native chiefs in accordance with native custom;

Be it therefore enacted by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows,—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as "The Native Chiefs Ordinance, 1903."

2. In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires,

"Chief" includes a head chief who is not subordinate in his ordinary jurisdiction to any other chief, and the Chiefs known as Ohen, Ohene, Manche and Amagah.

3. (1) Any chief elected in accordance with native custom may apply to the Governor for confirmation of his election, and the Governor may, if satisfied that the election has been in accordance with native custom, confirm the same by writing under his hand, and thereupon such chief shall be deemed in all Courts of the Colony to have been lawfully elected.

(2) This section shall apply as well to chiefs elected before as after the commencement of this Ordinance.

(1) Any chief deposed from his office in accordance with native custom and whose deposition shall be confirmed by the Governor by writing under his hand shall be deemed in Courts of the Colony to have been lawfully deposed.

(2) This section shall apply to every chief whether his election has been confirmed under the preceding section or not.

4. A statement signed by the Colonial Secretary declaring that any chief has been elected or deposed, shall, without proof of signature, be conclusive evidence that the election or deposition of such chief as the case may be was in accordance with native custom, and has been confirmed by the Governor.

5. And whereas the Governor is satisfied that Kwow Johnpua late chief of Dutch Sekundi and Kobana Yewan late headchief of British Kommenda have lately been deposed in accordance with native custom and the deposition of each of them has been confirmed by the Governor it is hereby declared that the said Kwow Johnpua and Kobana Yewan have been lawfully deposed from the Stools of Dutch Sekundi and British Kommenda respectively.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The great distance between us necessarily throws our correspondence behind time. For instance observations on the rising of the River and the Launches appeared when the River was quite full and the Launches had made several successful trips to Kpong, others respecting fall tide appeared when the River was at low tide. To avoid misapprehension we should have dates with each correspondence.

We have since learnt that quarrels at Larteh alluded to in the "Leader" of Oct. 24, No. 70 arose not from the *entombment* but from the *election* of a successor to their stool. More anon.

It is the Basel Missionaries who occupy Anum and not the Bremen who are at Pekyi two hours' distance off Anum.

The Cemetery a few yards from Mr. Lomotey's new building full of weeds hiding the grave from

view, is not worth the name. It is too near the Town or rather the Town is getting too near it. A better place for the burial of our dead is highly desirable.

Both the Wesleyan and Basel Mission graveyards are equally inadequate and neglected. The grounds too are rocky, and interment seldom; for the Addas have a national antipathy to burying their dead anywhere than in the Celestial city.

Kpong is rising to political and commercial importance, but Sanitation is totally neglected. To say that public refuse is accumulated in private yards and in some parts of the streets, that no latrines are provided for a place accommodating hundreds of strangers pouring in every day apart from her own inhabitants, speaks for itself.

Akuse is ahead from Sanitary point of view, European residents there enjoy an average good health. Here we have scavengers and a competent Colonial Surgeon to boot.

New stores of B. M. F. and a two storied house for Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy have added to the attractiveness of Dukplame St., Sierra Leone St. has also had some additional stores in a fine row. But the Aku Lagoon will ever remain a poison to Akuse. It wants a bridge over it or a drainage to empty its foul waters into the Volta. Should the waters of the Volta come in at all, it will not be the stagnant, weedy and rotten. It will rather facilitate shipment and landing of cargo.

The assaulter of Mr. Garb was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment with a fine of £3.

All look in vain to the Local Paper for a Report of the proceedings of the Odonko murder (?) case. Will not the Accra Correspondent indulge us in that?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed at least must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

Sir!—In his lonely condition of one who commands the powers of penetration, your Elmina Correspondent certainly had an eye to offering a warning to the responsible men of that town when he concluded his observations in your issue No. 69 in the following words:—

"I can almost forecast what is going to happen should the existing native political Government and political disorder be not remedied at once. The Colonial Government will be compelled to elect one who, to their opinion, is qualified and capable of tackling the mutinous crowd of fortune-hunters &c. &c. &c."

This is an apt exemplification of what you were forced to take notice of in one of your recent Editorials when you honestly remarked to the effect that it is characteristic of us to wait until we are "whipped" into doing things for ourselves before we awake to their necessity.

Now Sir, I am troubled not a little about the manner in which those responsible are in the state of things in Elmina in that, while a prudent and discrete community, well up to the necessities of a state, would allow no scruples in their way to take due cognizance of this warning and time measures with a view to the judicious assumption of such methods as will ensure safety and sound advantageous native Government, sad experience teaches me to expect very little patriotic dutifulness from a people who have very often been known to scorn an honest opinion on the simple grounds of the same emanating from a young man who, from their own showing, has no guns to fight with. I here refer to the king-makers—the Chief, Captains in the various Companies and other principalities, defining these so as to include some of the educated classes. There seems to be a tendency on their part to ignore the fact that the opinion of the rising generation is the most potent factor of a state, and that the circumstances under which we find ourselves preclude the possibility of gaining anything from fighting our battles with weapons of destruction.

At the root of every institution which, in its general application, fails to satisfy the purpose for which it was intended, there is always something radically wrong; and before any changes could be effected with advantage the foundation itself must be touched, or more outward alterations and substitutions have no power of effecting any appreciable result. He would therefore be a staunch enemy to the Country who would take sides against the prevailing opinion and one which has been very generously offered in these columns, that the fault in our native administration lies in the time-worn, old-fashioned and untwentieth century system of putting illiterate men on our stools. Originally, our forefathers could not help adopting that policy and there certainly was an excuse for electing their kings from the uneducated class; but in these later days of wide education and intellectual expansion among the people, there is hardly any justification for its continuance. I do not wish to be understood to condemn the system owing to any marked lack of administrative abilities on the part of these privileged individuals. It is true there have been and are men from this class of rulers who, in trying occasions, been known to manifest wonderful and peculiar abilities. My contention is rather that, given education on proper lines these very men would have done far more than anything they have been able to achieve for the good of the Country and Race.

The various gigantic national problems before which

we are seemingly impotent which may all more or less be traced to this one prevalent cause, and we cannot expect that they will be satisfactorily solved whilst the cause which gave them birth remains untouched. Vain are all the disesteeming of one Omanhin and the electing of another. Vain are the numerous complaints against the Government. We shall have ourselves to blame in the future unless we adopt new methods in our political life.

I feel it therefore incumbent upon me as a patriotic though insignificant Son of Elmina to proffer as my most sanguine opinion that the best thing to do would hardly be to wait until the Government is obliged to step in and relegate to itself the exclusive right of nominating our future Amanhin or of sanctioning or vetoing the appointment thereof. Instead of this, it becomes representative and responsible men of Elmina to assiduously set themselves the task of remedying the existing state of things.

As a step in the right, I would honestly subscribe my testimony to, and recommend the policy suggested by Mr. Attoo in your issue of the 29th August to the effect that the principal men in each town should lose no time in starting to elect the future Amanhin and Ahnifu "who should be subjected to a rigorous and efficient training both intellectually and politically."

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WINNEBAH: Correspondence to hand.

"The silence often of pure innocence Persuades when speaking fails."

"For the first time" says Sir Matthew Nathan in his official Report for 1902, "a return of Europeans resident in the Colony has been obtained with some approach to accuracy." Their number is put down to 1,830, of which 286 are officials 373 for Mercantile Firms, and 96 for Missionaries: the rest for the Gold Coast Railway and Mining Companies.

The Public Debt of the Colony at December 31 is made up to £2,082,717. 18. 3.

The Report as published in the West African Journals, makes an interesting reading.

OHIN FAIBIR.

We understand that this ill-used Ohin is still in Town, away from his people who report says, are strongly desirous to have him back. From all account we find, this Ohin has done nothing worthy of the treatment that is called destoolment which was in no way in accordance with our native customs and law, which makes it easier for those concerned to see him righted. We further understand that his case is taken up by the Aborigines Society and some lawyers, and we believe these have to represent matters to the Head of the Executive, who with a precedent or two before us, will, no doubt, see that justice is done to this much ill-used Ohin. We are watching the trend of events.

OHIN KWAMIN GHARMIE.

By S's & A's.

There passed away a few days ago a notable figure known to the Abanta world as Ohin Kwamin Ghannin of Yebubin. He was a gree' litigant but was always successful and this from the time of Judge MacLeod.

There are many fine amusing stories told of the late Ohin and several Judges of the Colony. Ohin Gharmie was shrewd and honest, far seeing and especially able to deal with native Ahinfa and Amanhin. He became a terror in the Axim District after he had brought down to Chama all the

Ahinfa of Axim for seizing his ancestral papers and the famous "grease pot—His funeral was at tend ed" by a guard of police. the company drum of Upper Town turned out. The form of burial became an interesting question and at last, the celebrated "law" Chief was laid at rest in the Government cemetery, Axim. His custom is not yet concluded. Axim, Nov. 1.

MOVEMENTS OF STEAMERS.

OUTWARDS.

	Due at Cape Coast
Carl Wermann Gold Coast Service	Nov. 9
Egwanga Opobo Service	" 11
*Tarquah Lagos Express Service	" 14
Accra Brass Service	" 15
*Albertville Congo Boat	" 20
*Oron S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 21
*Alex. Wermann C. Acc. Service	" 25
Warri Opobo Service	" 25
*Nigeria Lagos Express Service	" 28
Coomassie S. W. Service	" 28
Batanga Opobo Service	" 29
*Olenda S. C. Express Service No. 2.	Dec. 5
Nyanga Opobo Service	" 9
Loanda Brass Service	" 13
Benin S. W. Service	" 26

HOMEWARDS.

Lucie Wermann C. Acc. Service	Nov. 11
Sokoto S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 13
Eleo Wermann C. Acc. Service	" 14
Biafra Brass Service	" 15
Philippeville Congo Boat	" 19
Akabo Lagos Express Service	" 20
Bornu S. C. Express Service No. 2.	" 27
Dahomy Brass Service	" 29
Tarquah Lagos Express Service	Dec. 4
Albertville Congo Boat	" 10
Sekondi S. C. Express Service No. 1.	" 11

*With mails and passengers only.

ATTUABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

The *Kintua* Customs have come and gone, and during the celebrations many respectful citizens took the opportunity of making presents to the Omanhin.

In view of the coming Synod we suggest that to ensure proper management of Circuit work, one assistant missionary be stationed here to take charge over Attuaboe Beyin and Half Assines. In fact Appoloma ought to be made into a separate Circuit instead of being placed under the supervision of Axim. The condition of the Schools in this district is very deplorable, and some visitors ought to be appointed to visit them as is done in other places.

The street lamps that have been the subject of frequent complaints have not been sent up yet. Who is responsible for this

INXCOVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

Mr. Philbrick D. C. visited the Laing Memorial School on the 19th ult.

We sorely need a Town Bell here as we said in your issue No. 47 of 16th May last instead of the soundless rusty Iron Rod which passes for a Town Bell.

We have complained and still complain of our Latrine: this is giving us a great deal of sickness from its offensive smell.

We need a Medical officer here and we respectfully ask Mr. Ennis to make an application for one.

Ohin Kwesi Agyman and some of his headmen have been fined £55 at the D.C.'s court most of them have paid their shares of £10 each.

The sports held in honour of the King's Birthday on the last presided over by Mr. J. J. Ennis the D. C., passed off most successfully there were races of all description, tug of war for boys and one for old men, running for little children &c.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

We regret to announce the death of old James Akinney the father of Mr. A. W. Akinney of J. J. Fischer & Co. of Cape Coast and Mr. R. Akinney

of F. & A. Swansy of Addah, that occurred on the 5th inst. His remains were interred the next day in the Egypt Churoyard. Among the numerous personages present were Amonoo V and his *Ainfa*; the Omasahin brought with him two of his State Umbrellas for the occasion. Rev. J. B. Anaman of Anamaboe performed the burial rites, and the Anamaboe Singing Band and Rockson's Infantry Brass Band from here were in attendance. The deceased is said to have been about ninety years of age.

Rev. Josiah Hayford preached here on the Sunday morning of the 8th instant and Rev. C. E. Barnes in the evening.

One Mr. Amuah riding the other day nearly caused a serious accident by running over a little child; a little injury was, however, done. Bicycle riders ought to exercise great cautiousness in riding through the streets of the town. We find many of them ride without the least regard for the life and limb of others, doing it evidently for a show.

At Narkwa on the 2nd inst. Mr. S. H. Yawson was installed to the stool of Idan, the founder of Narkwa as an Ohin.

The ceremony having been gone through at the capital (Narkwa Idan Kukudu) the whole family repaired and paraded the beach Town with their new Ohin who was placed on the shoulder of six men.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

The King's Birthday was spent here at the possible best. According to the programmes placarded there were athletic sports, Balls &c. on the 9th inst. The Europeans in town including Messrs. P. A. Shaw, E. Davidson and Paul Meyer, gave a dinner on that day. Perhaps after this they would make a movement in getting the produce brought to this town instead of being purchased at Mankessim and Ayanmashin.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

F. Ronald Campbell Esq. of the Volta Preventive Service arrived at Kpong from "up River" on the 31st ultimo and soon after fell ill; but under Dr. Papafo's treatment, we are glad to find him convalescent. It is natural that the late accident of drowning from which, by hard struggle and kind Providence he narrowly escaped, an indisposition would follow. There is more danger connected with travels on the Volta than outsiders can imagine. But His Excellency himself being aware of that, it is hoped that all precautions shall be taken to preserve the lives of those Officers whose calling obliges them to travel on the River in all seasons.

A Life Belt, a better constructed boat and a Branch Dispensary in the interior are necessities to which immediate attention is required.

Mr. Murphy D.C. having left for Aburi, Dr. Quartey-Papafo is the Acting District Commissioner.

We are thankful to note that Money Orders are now to be obtained at Akuse.—A boon to this District.

Mr. J. Ash, Foreman of Telegraphs, has been here and engaged in repairing the Telegraph lines which of late had often been interrupted to the inconvenience of the Public. We wonder how we managed to do comfortably without the telegraphs in the past! We can hardly do without it now for a single day.

Mr. Hansen, Post and telegraph Clerk left this station on transfer last month. Mr. A. S. Teye is now in charge.

Mantse Mate Kolo of E. Croboe had grand reception and a regal entry into Odumase last Sunday the 9th inst.

Many of the witnesses subpoenaed to the Enquiry Court at Aburi, have returned, the Enquiry was closed on Saturday the 7th instant.

Dr. Papafo left for Akuse on the 10th instant. We are inclined to believe that Mr. Campbell is near himself again.

The Rev. Mr. Awe of the Basel Mission Nkonya station, Kratche District arrived here with his family on the 7th and proceeded on to Akropong on the 9th. The Rev. gentleman had seen a good deal of the interview. He had itinerated the 105 villages composing the German and British Kratches and some part of Salaga. Most of the inhabitants are still in the primitive state knowing nothing of christianity. Here is a large Room for Missionary Enterprise. It is arranged to cede the Basel Mission Stations in those regions to the Bremen or North German Mission.

Too often one is alarmed with a bugal sound of "Present... arms!" &c. &c. and the approach of a Regiment of Soldiers and so forth. In this long run it turns out to be some Crepees in Military Uniform with Band and drums &c. just received from Europe by order through one or other of the

Firms at Akuse. It has become a custom throughout Akwapim, Croboe and Crepee down to Nkonya and Pandon for every village to possess a Band set. This is demoralizing the rising generation in these parts of the Protectorate. We ask what right have these ignorant people to wear the King's Uniform drag a military officer's sword behind, sound bugal alarm and make useless noise? They are neither in the king's service nor are they Volunteers. Not a single one of them knows how to discharge a Rifle, what is the use of Government tolerating such idlers to mock His Majesty's Soldiers.

I know of some Mantse-mei who are much against such innovations. For it impoverishes the financial state of these villages. The Merchant is ready to order the Lord Mayor's robes for a scavenger just for the 200 % profit. Should these things continue?

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY was commemorated at Kpong on Monday the 9th inst. in the following unique way:—

At 10.30 a.m. there was a special Divine Service held at the Plange Memorial Chapel by the Wesleyans the Rev. E. Bruce officiating. A practical address was delivered based on Rom. xiii vs. 1. The Rev. gentleman in course of his address under the head of submission to "the Powers that be" emphasized the duty of Reverence and Obedience to the Positions as institutions of God for our own good. That obedience involves a conscientious paying of duty or customs and dwelt at length on the enormity of smuggling as (I) Rebellion against God and—an infringement of the Rules of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (II). As a cheat to the community, spoiling the trade of other Loyal subjects who pay and (III) As enemy against the political protection we enjoy. On the whole the Audience was led to a sense of their duty to the Government and Native Potentates, and smuggling was unmasked in all its hideous forms as left no room in the hearers mind to entertain any good feeling against smuggling and the smuggler. The National Anthem was sung in conclusion.

In the evening at 7 o'clock many flocked to the Chapel. At 8 o'clock precisely the gate was opened for entertainment by J. C. Crabbe Esq. Inspector of Preventive services and Travelling Commissioner who operated on a Magic Lantern; and Mr. H. M. Berkley District Supervisor R. V. P. S. operated on a Gramophone. Tickets were sold for 1/-, 6d. and 3d. On the Reserve seats were present Messrs. W. L. Van Lare, J. T. Clegg, Hy Clauzy of "Regis aine" merchants; also Messrs. J. Ash Foreman of Telegraphs, F. Schauer, Engineer with others. The Chapel was crowded. From the clapping and uproars and "Encores" it was evident that the spectators enjoyed the scenes and music.

The Picture of His Imperial Majesty King Edward VII, excited great interest. Rev. Bruce gave a short lecture on it assuring the people that "the son of a good mother can not fail to be a good man" and that whereas our Fathers had a "Victoria the good" we may have our "Edward the good," then rebounded "God save the King" in a hearty way. Representations of some engagements in the famous Boer War, A Japanese mother and child, (Here it was announced that Japan was presently at war with Russia) A cannibal, A man in act of swinging, some Passengers on board the s/s "Sekoto" including Mr. Crabbe the operator with the Captain, Animals of the Zoo and sparkling colours of the Rainbow were all applauded.

The Gramophone also played an important part:—A speech about "The Doctor" in the presence of Dr. Papafo, when the Parson remarked "Here is one backbiting a man under his immediate hearing; he is not aware the Doctor is so near!" The congregation burst into an uproarous laughter. Some distinct Bugle and file Marches, solos by a lady's voice in the "Phone" and a Hymn were among many others which interested the Audience not a little. The scholars of the Wesleyans Day and Sunday Schools also rendered songs in English and GA respectively, and the lusty singing of "God save the King" brought a most happy entertainment to a close.

The Parson having announced that Mr. Crabbe generously passed the proceeds to the Church Funds a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Crabbe and his Colleague Mr. Berkley to which Mr. Crabbe responded briefly and eloquently.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We read with much relief the closing paragraphs of the last issue of our contemporary the *Gold Coast Aborigines* against Sir Samuel Rowe's "Native Jurisdiction Ordinance" of 1883. With regards to this our contemporary says, no doubt having Sir Matthew Nathan's also in view, about which we have been writing for the past few weeks: "There must be something underneath all this great movement for a wholesale conversion of the position of our Amanhin. We shall watch and pay special

attention to this matter." (Italic ours). In this we are at one with our esteemed contemporary. Here we must say our honoured Society cannot be too lively in dealing with this momentous question.

It was in 1883 when Sir Samuel thought best to dip his hand in our native administration affairs in passing that most iniquitous Ordinance, and no doubt he must have thought then and possibly some of our own people then also thought so with him, that in passing such an ordinance, he was doing something that would go to help our Native Rulers: those of us who knew Governor Rowe, and saw how he moved amongst us, will remember that there must have been certain things which commended themselves to him, in the way in which they moved, and so perhaps we shall not be far from right to say, he must have passed his Ordinance with the best intentions.

But what have we found 20 years hence? Why, this: "now advantage is taken of" clauses of his Ordinance, "without waiting for, and having despaired of" the applications of our Amanhin. Only twenty years hence, within the living memory of a good many of us do we find this: and so we argue that it may be, it will be the same with Sir Matthew's Bill, which we are asked to believe is being passed with the best intentions. We do not doubt this, of a man who has shown as much interest in our native institutions, of the man as depicted to us by MEDICUS. But will it be a few years hence, especially if we read the times aright? Our contention is this, whether with good or bad intentions, NO INTERFERENCE WITH OUR NATIVE INSTITUTIONS. No one regrets the fact more than we do, that "this great movement for a wholesale conversion of the position of our Amanhin," should show its true colour so glaringly, just on the eve of Sir Matthew's departure "to a far serener clime." But what is more, we fail to see the necessity of such interference and the advantages which may accrue from it.

We cannot therefore comprehend this "great movement," considering the mutual understanding between the Powers that be, and the People as to the position each bears towards the other, as set forth by treaties, despatches &c. from Downing St. from the beginning: it seems that those very documents form the data on which "a conversion of the position of our Amanhin," is being worked and is this British? But no greater or more powerful Nation, if History is reliable has oppressed any country with impunity, and Might may beat Right, but this will not deter us from seeking our rights. Unless there is a policy laid down for our Administrators to pursue in the internal affairs of this Country, to which some of them may fall victims, the actions or doings of some of these are not only incompatible with their personal characteristics, but are altogether inexplicable to us, for who, for example, would have thought, that FAIBIR's case would have happened in GOVERNOR NATHAN's administration, or enquiry like the one just closed at Aburi would have been instituted.

Nay, it would be more in accordance with British traditions, more in consonance with their national principles and pronouncements to leave us alone with our native laws, manners and customs than to seek to tamper with our native institutions so ruthlessly. But why should the Government devote less attention to such pressing subjects as the building of wharves, the cleaning of the Towns (for with all deference to all that has appeared in the local and foreign papers, there is a good deal yet to be done) the more economical way, in dealing with the revenue of the Country, the encouraging of the cotton industry let us say, and of agriculture, and a thousand other things bearing directly on the position it has assumed in the country, than to seek to dabble in affairs which do not practically concern them? Verily there is something wrong somewhere. Give the People their rights, give their Rulers their rights to them, recognise their position, leave them to themselves, and mind yours, let there be a hearty and true co-operation and all will go well with your administration amongst People who have their laws, manners customs and idiosyncracies, peculiar to themselves: this has been the opinion of all devoted, true, thinking, and statesmanlike servants of the Empire in her Colonies.

The Cape Coast Chamber of Commerce (Aborigines Society) have our hearty congratulations so far in taking up the matter of the Spirit License (Amendment) Ordinance 1903, and we hope something will come out of the steps they have taken or intend taking. As we have said before the action of the European Chamber of Commerce on the Ordinance has been a matter of much surprise, to us and they will do well to reconsider their decision thereon, if not in the interest of the Public at all events in the interest of their Principals.

Was our contemporary the *West African Mail* on heading the artists from his Native Correspondent in one of his Nov. numbers "A Growl... serious?"

It does not seem that the Notice we published from the local launders, a few weeks ago, commends itself to the Public: Mr. Quartey's letter we published last week is one of many that have come to our office.

MARIE LEEZCINSKO, the wife of LOUIS XV once said, "It is better to listen to those who cry to us from afar, 'Relieve our misery,' than to those who whisper in our ears 'Increase our fortune.'" And so say we to the British Public, and to the philanthropists over there, and to the West African Journals in England.

It has been said that "A country generally has the Government that it deserves," if so, we ask do we deserve ours? Let the British Merchant, letting alone the official, and the seeker after the gold in the land, say.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Our Subscribers will please note that it is necessary that some attention be paid on the receipt of our Notice informing them of the time their subscriptions expire otherwise without hearing from them we take it that they do not wish to continue same, and stop their supplies thereby. THE MANAGER.

WANTED. Two Smart Learners able to read and write for this Office. Liberal terms offered. Apply to THE MANAGER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited. Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned. A non-de-plume or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper. Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith. Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday. Rejected communications cannot be returned. Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader. CAPE COAST, NOVEMBER 21, 1903.

THE ABORIGINES SOCIETY AND THE NATIVE CHIEFS ORDINANCE.

We very much regret that so soon after and on so vital and essential a question as the Bill we published in our last issue we find ourselves compelled from our point of view and as far as our knowledge of the sentiments, character and aspirations of our people go, as is commonly known to both the Black and White at home and abroad—to differ radically, if not really to cross swords with our contemporary the *Gold Coast Aborigines*.

Any native of this Colony who has read or heard interpreted to him the leading article of our contemporary, in its issue of the 7th inst. must, nay couldn't but have exclaimed, Truly, wonders never cease in this world! Who could have thought that the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society to whom is "entrusted the safeguarding of the rights and liberties of the Kings and chiefs (Amanhin and Ahinfa) and people of the Gold Coast and the members of which Society so long as it exists are solemnly pledged to jealously watch and unflinchingly and in all honourable ways protect those rights and liberties" (vide leading article above referred to) should have so far betrayed the trust committed to her charge, on her own admission, and that so shamefacedly?

Charitably inclined we can but think and say our contemporary could not have read the Bill it professes to expound.

Our contemporary is entirely wrong in saying that it is only natural that our people, are at first sight suspicious of the underlying motives of the Bill. Underlying motives? Why should there be any underlying motives, if justice, fairplay and honesty is intended? Underlying motives suggest a sense of injustice—some hidden, not-wanted-to-be-known aim, and wherever that is found, it means one thing and one only— injustice, duplicity, wishing or endeavouring-to-get backstairs to that which one cannot attain to honestly and above board. If after at all, the remnants of the Aborigines Society is the sort, or of the quality described, rather whose views are so advocated by the Editorial under review then we make bold to say, the sooner the Society is done away with, the better for the Fatherland for she has ceased to be the Protector of the Rights of the People, she has betrayed her trust, the trust as

she herself states to "safeguard the rights and liberties of our Rulers and their People," for if such has been the construction put on the Lands Bill, and such the utterly futile, view tenably forced explanation of that Bill by the *Methodist Times* (the G. C. A. of those days), there would be no necessity for all this fulsome, misconstrued and wholly wrong reading to be mild, of a Bill that really strikes at the root of the very rights and liberties of our Amanhin (kings) and Ahinfa (chiefs) and consequently of the people, their hereditary subjects.

Our contemporary says:—"If we read the Bill carefully we shall not fail to find that so long as the chief is enstooled or destooled 'In accordance with native custom' the Governor is bound to confirm the same." But the Bill expressly states that the Governor confirms or not only when satisfied...if satisfied... this is what our contemporary understands to mean, "is bound to," "cannot but confirm."

You may "in accordance with native law" enstool or destool a thousand kings and chiefs, in and out, but if the Governor does not "confirm" them in one or the other because he is not "satisfied" some how or other with the purely native customary law of the People—which is not "repugnant to natural justice equity and good conscience" you have enstooled or destooled in vain, says the Ordinance. Take Ohin Faibir's case for instance if the G. C. A's contention or explanation be correct are we then to expect the Governor to return Ohin Faibir to his stool because his election was in accordance with native custom but his destoolment by the Government was and is not—his people still crying for him, wishing to see him occupy his old place? The Aborigines Society sent a petition to Governor Nathan about this distoolment not being in accordance with native custom and asked for the Ohin's recognition by the Government as before, but the Governor refused point blank to restore him to his people or recognise him as their own elected and enstooled Ohin, in accordance with native custom and we ask what is the present position of the Aborigines Society with reference to Ohin Faibir's case, from the standpoint advocated by our contemporary in her leading article under review? Enstooled in accordance with native custom and not distooled in accordance with native custom does our contemporary say that whether the Governor is satisfied or not he "is bound to confirm," that is to restore Ohin Faibir? We pray it may be so.

Enstooled in accordance with native custom and not destooled in accordance with native custom—but by order of the Governor when his subjects cry for, and recognise him as their chief, is Ohin Faibir, an Ohin or not an Ohin in accordance with native custom?

This is a real case, not an imaginary one and we call upon our contemporary for a reply: at the same time taking the liberty to remind her that she has after receiving Governor Nathan's point blank refusal to recognise this very Ohin, again undertaken to see him restored to his stool. *Verb sap.*

When is an Ohin, not an Ohin in accordance with native custom? When is a Ohin, an Ohin in accordance with the "Native Chiefs Ordinance, 1903?"

But the Ordinance is even worse than what our contemporary would not have us believe to be for according to sub sec. 2 of sec. 3 even our Amanhin and Ahinfa already elected and enstooled years and years gone by are to go for confirmation at Christiansborg Castle. These are the Amanhin and Ahinfa who have been recognised and dealt with as such to all intents and purposes by all the courts at the Colony and some of whom have even been favourably mentioned in despatches by Sir Matthew Nathan himself as also by his predecessors long years before him, and well honoured by the then and now ruling Sovereign as such. Shall our esteemed contemporary tell us what the position of an Omanhin (for there were Amanhin in those days) or Ohin of the above description who has not sought for "confirmation" from Christiansborg Castle because his stool had been known and recognised by the late Good Queen Victoria and now by Her Gracious son King Edward VII? For "mark you" the Bill applies to chiefs elected before as well as after it—it knows no king or chief enstooled or destooled before it. In other words there

has been no king or chief, and there shall be no king or chief in this whole Colony who never was, is or shall be "confined" as under or by the "Native Chiefs Ordinance 1903."

Can any one—white or black conceive of a greater absurdity than this in the face of all the Archives at Victoriaborg or Christiansborg Castle, as well the law Courts of the Colony, to say nothing of the Archives (Gold Coast) at Downing Street?

And this is the Bill, the Ordinance that the only Body of men—the A. R. P. Society—the members of which are solemnly pledged to jealously watch and unflinchingly and in all honourable ways protect our rights and liberties" feel "satisfied with" and "convinced" that is meant for good! "Let us remember the Preamble," says our contemporary. "It is not 'An Ordinance to empower the Governor to confirm the election or destoolment of a king or chief but an 'Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and deposition of chiefs according to native custom' and in order that the kings and chiefs already enstooled as well as those to be hereafter enstooled may be effectively, once for all protected from the whims of any capricious judge, (for be it remembered judges have large powers) the Bill is made both retrospective and prospective." Now we fear we are too dull to see much more to appreciate the distinction our contemporary seeks to draw between An Ordinance to empower &c. and An Ordinance to facilitate &c. as quoted above. We believe no one will enjoy this in particular and the whole article in general than Sir Matthew Nathan himself and he who framed the Bill. If this is a fair specimen of how the Executive of the G. C. A. R. P. Society understands and construes Government Gazettes or Ordinances, not to say argue on them, pro and con, then to say the least, there is no necessity for the existence of that Society. As for the plea that the Ordinance seeks to protect our kings and chiefs, we can only say, none, but our contemporary can be of that opinion and goodness only knows how it came by it. Protect the kings and chiefs indeed! After this unique reasoning, we won't call it argument—of our contemporary it can hardly surprise us by anything more it may say on the matter. Well, all we would say for the present is, we are positively certain—although we may not be standing on the Watch Tower, "that when the PEOPLE who elect, enstool and destool their Amanhin and Ahinfa as has been and still is their right to do came to know of this Ordinance they will rise up to a man, as in days not long gone by, when the Gold Coast Aborigines Society was not in existence, and without any "danger" or "self-advertisement" prove to the world once more, that Mountains may be reduced to Molehills.

SCRUTINEER.

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE GOLD COAST ABORIGINES RIGHTS PROTECTION SOCIETY AND THE NATIVE CHIEFS ORDINANCE 1903.

I was really stunned when I read the startling and quite unexpected and withal amazing opinion of the Executive of this Society with regard to the above Ordinance, that was the subject of a leading article in the issue of their organ of the 7th inst. namely that, "we make bold to say that any fears regarding the motive which prompted this enactment are groundless.....and it is, we think (though they not believe) to prevent...recurrence of such proceedings," that is the carrying of Amanhin and Ahinfa before Judges, "that the Bill was conceived and brought forth." This implies without much explanation that the Society's Executive have more concern for such outrageous proceedings, and "the whims of any capricious judges" than the momentarily momentous question at issue, namely the RIGHT OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE WITH OR HAVE SOMETHING AT ALL TO DO WITH THE ELECTIONS and depositions of native Amanhin and Ahinfa. It is very sorely to be regretted that our Executive did not consider and seriously also the momentous question at issue involving serious revolutions in our domestic administration and leave alone "outrageous proceedings" and "the whims of...Capricious Judges." "For be it remembered" that even Judges are not above the law but can be reasonably brought to the ways of Sobriety when they stray into those of "capricious and outrageous proceedings." I refer to the decision as startling quite unexpected and withal amazing because it is absolutely at variance with public opinion. Neither the Potentates nor their

subjects with the British Government to intermeddle with their domestic government. In fact all the preceding Governors or Guardians, as we should call them, have, neither of them in his time thought proper or legitimate to initiate such legislation.

Instead of our leaders exercising due discretion in a matter so vitally affecting the immemorial order of our Native Institutions, taking as a monition the case of FALINIA before ever coming to be "satisfied or convinced" that the GOVERNOR was conscientiously endeavouring to do right, and convening a representative or a popular meeting as is occasionally done on the decision of important matters to discuss it, they took upon themselves to be so influenced by... suggestions or arguments from... others who are other than natives" of the soil, as was referred to under our last Editorial. The honesty of these gentlemen I have always placed under suspicion, not only from the manifestations I sometimes see of them, but from the fact that *the fat man knoweth not what the lean thinketh*. When the fiat went out to admit all other than natives into the Society I had my dire suspicions and the culmination of affairs has amply confirmed the suspicions. I have always understood the simple designation, "Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society," to mean an institution for the protection of the rights of the aboriginal natives of the Gold Coast, and I could understand the congruity of the step taken in enrolling therein all sorts and conditions of Negroes if it had been instead of the above designation an "African Aborigines Rights Protection Society" or some such name excepting "to calm" and satiate the cravings of a clique of "designing and self-advertising persons" who would feign supplant us in this land of Havillah if it were possible, I can draw no other conclusion.

Not only "at first sight are" "our people suspicious of the underlying motives" of such Bill, but at second and third "sights" they have invariably found out "that enactments of such a nature" have "step by step, silently and by insidious processes... interfered with, curtailed and smothered" "the rights and liberties of our Kings and Chiefs... until now they stand almost bare, left at the mercy of any capricious official dressed in a little brief authority." Solid experience has taught us to rely on the aphorism—*When the Fox preaches beware of your geese*, and our Fox always preaches with a vengeance. The hand-writing has written on the wall, it is our business, irrespective of the ill-digested decision of our Executive, to entreat for its expunction or we shall soon expect our old Fox expatiating on his sermon to the elicitation of heaving sighs from our breast. It is due to "such instances of humiliation and surprise and disappointment" that such pieces of skimbie-scamble legislation are always viewed by us with utter disapprobation, although they do not seem to have come to such a pass as to 'satisfy or convince' our Executive to share the opinion of the great majority of their kith and kin. "Dressed in a little brief authority" by former Treaties and Bonds entered into with our forefathers, the British Government this lawless and treaty-disregarding Guardian of ours, which trades so aliphoddy on 'sufferances' and 'usages' regardless of fairplay, has, during these latter days, arrogantly assumed such a wonderful size devouring and breaking into pieces our RIGHTS and INSTITUTIONS, and stamping the residue with its feet, like the beast in the Seer Daniel's vision. It is this unnecessary and unjustified meddling with domestic affairs of "our independent Rulers, whom Judges under the style and title of Assessors were formerly sent out to assist, and who had a seat on the Bench with the Judges," that we have been, and shall ever continue, protesting against, as long as the mind can conceive and the hand can put to paper, notwithstanding the weird conclusions of certain luminaries who may here or hereafter imagine them to be the making of "mountains out of molehills."

But do we make "mountains out of molehills?" We witness the sanguinivorous aptitude of the Government for waging fruitless Punitive Expeditions, and at our cost too, and we hiss. We note the ardent desire for the expansion of territory without the capability of successfully maintaining those already in possession, and we murmur. We evidence the overcrowding of the Governmental Lazaretto with patients all suffering from the common disease of poverty, though the number is unquestionably more than could be reasonably afforded by the available therapeutic appliances, and we who yield the curative appliances ejaculate. We notice that our coffers which were formerly full of gold have been steadily and sturdily wrecked and the contents spent in questionable 'expeditions,' 'bonuses,' 'travelling allowances,' monstrous salaries and host of other fraudulent, prodigal waste, simply because it is taxation without representation, with the consequent kicking of our bodies and souls as we are "left at the mercy of any capricious officials"—and we protest. At last

Themis has set in and laws aiming at the abrogation of native laws and customs have been freely passed in the Council Chamber without regard being paid whether they are in consonant or conflict with them,—and we again protest. Consider carefully such an innocently phrased law as the Public Lands Ordinance 1876 (perhaps "made both retrospective and prospective") and the last interpretation that was put on it by the estimable Commissioner Peregrine, namely that as certain lands "cannot be acquired by arrangement as the purchasers (?) have asked exorbitant sums, these sites will therefore have to be acquired under the Public Lands Ordinance." If indulging in and protesting against these arbitrary perpetrations exposes one to be charged with that terse and sapid reprobation of the world of enigmatical maxims, we readily and unhesitatingly acquiesce.

Far be it from me to impugn the intelligence of the Executive but let me respectfully submit to them that the word "facilitate" as referred to in the Preamble of the Bill is quite synonymous with the word "empower" as far as the meaning of the Bill goes. The Governor requires a law to facilitate that is "to empower" him to assign to himself the prerogative of confirming or vetoing the elections and depositions, according to the inclination of his temperament. That is the very motive underlying the Bill. Without such legal facility or in other words, without some such power, he could not, of course, do so. And to ask us to "remember" that "it is not an Ordinance to empower the Governor to confirm the election or destoolment of a king" (the office of a king is not owned in the Bill, please) "or Chief but an Ordinance to facilitate the proof of elections and depositions of Chiefs" &c. while there is not a particle of difference between the meaning of the word "facilitate" as expressed here and the word "empower," is surely to give great cause of suspicion over one's intelligence, and the less said of this the better. "If we read the Bill carefully we shall not fail to find that" there is no provision in it binding "the Governor... to confirm" "the chief... enstooled or destooled in accordance with native custom," and no provision therein authorizing the Executive or any sane being "to make bold to" arrive at such a rash presumption. My belief is that the Executive having had the honour of being consulted by His Excellency on a Bill vitally touching the natives of the soil, were determined to return the compliment by siding with the Bill, the interests of their constituents affected by the Bill being a matter of secondary consideration. On the other hand I cannot believe that His Excellency consulted them with a view of fascinating them in that way, except I am told that he is not a full-blooded Briton. I repeat that the Executive have got no grounds and therefore no right to presume "that so long as the Chief is enstooled or destooled in accordance with native custom the Governor is bound to confirm the same" in the absence of any provision to that effect.

This is the first time, since its existence, that our Executive have committed an egregious mistake, and may not this occur again. Let us hope that "so long as the Society" to which "is entrusted the safe-guarding of the rights and liberties of the kings and chiefs and people of the Gold Coast... exists," "its members" will more "jealously watch and unflinchingly and in all honourable ways protect those rights and liberties" more earnestly than on this occasion. And before "they feel bound to give every helping hand" to the Government they must first be "satisfied or convinced" and they should always carry the opinion of the country with them. Let us further hope that as they "are solemnly pledged... in the past; so in the future" to sound the alarm-bell "without fear," they will not only aim at the admirable and onerous duty of calming "the fears of these whom designing and self-advertising persons would frighten into making Mountains out molehills," but to further-more incalculating in us the useful lesson of making molehills out of mountains.

Finally I earnestly pray that His Excellency may carefully consider this piece of legislation and cause it to be shelved as it is obviously quite uncalled for. His Excellency should repose in the reservation pursued by his predecessors without harm to any one, with regard to this affair, and we do not see why he should be eager to memorize himself by this. He may give the matter a serious thought, and so avert all heart-burning for we are deeply jealous of our native laws, customs and institutions, notwithstanding the unfortunate and pigeon-hearted opinion of our own Executive Committee.

Yours faithfully,—ATTOO.

A MISSIONARY AND THE I. O. G. T.

Sometime in July last, a branch of the American Good Templary was instituted here through the efforts of Bro. John Arthur S. D. R. W. G. T. On the death of Bro. W. A. J. Antony the D. D. R. W. G. T. of the Gold Coast the Lodge turned out with a funeral march as a memorial and mark

of respect; at the lodge room the Lodge Deputy Mr. E. Annan Brew gave an impressive address setting forth in a brief manner the worth of the late gentleman, and Mr. Asare performed the funeral ceremonies. Previous to this, Mr. Asare had had an interview with Rev. Ellenberger the European Wesleyan Missionary here with a view of informing him of the local institution of the lodge as also of obtaining permission for the young members to join; so far permission was obtained, but after the funeral memorial and after the Lord's Supper one Sunday he took the opportunity of asking his members to withdraw from the Lodge threatening to excommunicate all who will remain in it, on the ground of our having turned out with a "Band." The matter has been submitted by the Lodge Deputy here to Mr. Arthur at Accra for investigation with a view of obtaining permission for the Church members to enroll. One wonders and cannot understand the strange conduct and fanaticism of this missionary which affords proofs of the queer and strange inclination of the Missionaries on the Mountains who try to oppose civilization and still wish Africa to be in the dark so that they may have the opportunity of posing as gods and make their words to be like the laws of the "Medes and Persians which alter not." On looking to the treatment given to Rev. Quayson one would know how curiously the Society's work is managed at Aburi.

We have a catechist here who is plainly unqualified for the post, and who does nothing than interpreting the sermons of Rev. Ellenberger. Members are left uncared for and consequently there are scandals about

Aburi, 10/11/03.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

Sir:—Two things have been engaging my attention to write you about.

1. There is a Wangara man in town who is suffering from leprosy, and lying at the Ashanti Road. The eruptions on his body are so much and have developed to such a stage that it gives an offensive smell to the passengers proceeding that way, and also to the resident of that locality. One day the D. C. Mr. Harper and Dr. Ralph happened to visit that quarter and saw him. A few days afterwards he was ordered to be removed and placed in a hut purposely built for him under the instructions of the medical officer, near the mouth of the Atafua just opposite the Court House and Commissioner's quarters. I am afraid the keeping up of that poor leper in that centre will endanger the public health, particularly people in the immediate neighbourhood. He ought to be removed to the outskirts, about a mile further from the town. I call the close attention of the authorities to this serious matter.

2. The supply of unwholesome meat to the public by the Hausa butchers in this town is another which has been engaging my attention. The practice is to exchange animals seized with itches and other diseases for healthy ones which have been inspected by a doctor or dispenser before slaughtering. It is done in this way. A butcher presents for a doctor or dispenser's inspection so many healthy animals intended for the slaughter immediately afterwards, he passes to his premises exchanges those for diseased ones, takes to the slaughterhouse and offers them to the public. But why on earth cannot the doctor or dispenser betake himself to the market place and spend a few hours there in examining the animals and having them slaughtered in his presence? I hope the medical officer will see to this and have this evil practice stopped.

I am,—E. K.

Saltpond, 25/10/03.

GOLD COAST GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

Dear Mr. Editor:—Kindly spare me a space in your valuable columns to point out the irregular and unbusiness-like manner in which the Traffic Department of this line is managed now-a-days, in contrast to the rough and stormy days of the construction party. When the Station master Mr. A. H. Edwards was here the business of this department was conducted in a fair way, but since the advent of the Lines official things have been at sizes and sevens in the sight of the public. They obstinately refused to pay Mr. Edwards reasonably, and he effected his resignation and left the job. His post is now being filled by a European drawing £300 a year with an assistant. And now these gentlemen are there as mere figure-heads, great inconvenience being caused to the public and less attention paid to the average passengers seeking information. That other gentlemen went so far as to recommend certain posts to be filled by European, which is not at all necessary. Had not the Traffic Supt been a man of wit he would have erred. That's the way some of our D. C.'s make our administrators to do more than one man's work.

Yours truly,—KWAKU PAYIN.

Sekondi, 21. 10. 03.

The Gold Coast Leader.

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GENERAL NEWS.

The Rev. Horace Kelk M.A. (Colonial Chaplain) and Mr. Anderson the Director of Works have been in Town since last week.

This has been the week for the Anniversary celebrations of the Foresters, beginning with an afternoon Service at the Christ Church when the Chaplain preached to them.

J. sr. r. Do not cut your nose to spite your face.

We are unable to publish your letter this week also, LEX, as well as two others bearing on the same subject, because we think you should hold on a bit for matters to develop themselves, you may find something in this column to satisfy you, perhaps, in the mean time.

Mr Justice Parcell arrived here last Saturday and proceeded on to Elmina for the Assizes.

The Foresters had a picnic last Monday at Abrobonku, their concert at the Centenary Schools on Tuesday night was well attended, and passed off successfully.

At the Michaelmas Examination of the students of the Inns of Court held in Gray's Inn Hall last October Messrs John F. Boston, S. L. H. Bocknor and John T. Halm passed in Evidence, Procedure and Criminal Law. Messrs John T. Halm, and Peter E. Sampson in Roman Law and Mr. William W. Brew in Constitutional Law and Legal History.

Mr. Mercer's mother died on Tuesday evening at Kotakuraba.

Mr. Walter Egerton C. M. G., British Resident in Negri Sembilan, succeeds Sir Ralph Moor as the High Commissioner for Southern Nigeria.

"Major H. Bryan, who will succeed Captain Arthur as Colonial Secretary of the Gold Coast Colony, proceeds to Accra next Saturday." A. A. J. 7/11/03.

SEKONDI: Your letter will be dealt with next week.

N.B. The news from the outstations have been unusually large this week and want of space has compelled us to put by a good deal for the next issue. Our correspondents will please note.

We have received a communication from Ekom Bros. about the piece of news that appeared, under General News, in our contemporary's issue of the 24th ult. to the effect that they are "unwilling for a settlement of their case with their uncle Rev. A. W. Parker, out of court," and the Brothers ask us to give unqualified denial to that statement, and further to say that on the contrary, they attended two meetings both composed of several "friends" of the Rev. Gentleman, but upon their finding that more than half the number of the "friends" were prejudiced against them (an attitude they made no effort to conceal) even when they have made no statement—they thought it better not to attend any more meetings, and regret that the false piece of news above referred to, should have compelled them to say anything at all about the case in a newspaper.

The procession of the Foresters to, and from the Wesley Chapel last Thursday in their full dress was a magnificent sight. Rev. Brodie Graham preached on the occasion. A Ball was given last night at Hockman's Hotel, and there is to be a Banquet to-night at Acquah's Hotel.

We offer a Prize of £/- to the best account of the celebrations that will be sent us on or before next Thursday (Dec 3rd.) which we will publish and 2/6 for the second best.

Just as were going to Press we learn that Kodzo Imbra has been fined £150 with costs in the recent case with the Ohiu of Aguafal.

The attitude His Honour Justice Parcell thought best to assume during the trial is to be regretted; but before the proceedings had gone half way through, judgment was on his lips against the defendant. We agree with him in preventing Counsel in asking unnecessary questions but at the same time it would have been fair if he allowed Counsel to percol or defend their cases. His bearing towards Hancornen the Counsel for the defence in this case (and as it is often witnessed in Court) was rather very unfair.

G. I. MUSGROVE AND MUSGROVE

R. CROWTHER NICHOL

We were pleased to read in the issue of the 14th inst. of our contemporary the "G. C. A." that parties in the above case have amicably settled their dispute out of court and no more will be heard, at least in court, of this "scandalous and disgraceful case," to quote the learned Judge whose misfortune it was to sit on it.

It was a pity the case was allowed to go to court at all, and a greater pity, that circumstances as we are informed, compelled counsel to insist on its being heard for the time it took.

Without doubt it is the "dirtiest and filthiest" (to again quote the learned Judge) case that has ever been heard in our courts since the establishment of British Law Courts in this country. We hope the like of it or anything near it may never occur again not only in this Colony but anywhere else, where decency, and self-respect are known and prized. It has brought forcibly to the front at least one useful saying—"All that glitters is not gold," and we hope not only those who are immediately concerned in it but all of us will learn the by no means easy lesson, namely to appear as well as to be what we profess to be, and would have the world take us to be.

DIXCOVE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

We must once again call the attention of the Postal Authorities at Accra to cause our parcels to be carried up from Sekondi and duties collected thereon instead of our sending for them at Sekondi ourselves. The public are greatly inconvenienced by this method. For instance, one receives an advice of there lying a parcel of about 5/- value at Sekondi office for him. Under the present circumstances he is bound to pay 6/9 the fare of a bearer to Sekondi before he can get his parcel. We hope the P. M. G. at Accra would on seeing this facilitate the D. P. M. at Sekondi undertaking to forward parcels intended for this place by the Postmen.

It is quite evident that the Post, Telegraph and Money Order Departments cannot be attended to by one man alone and it is desirable that more hands are sent to the establishment.

TARKWA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

It is a pleasant thing to see the mill of the "Home of Mystery" (Wassaw (G. C.) Mining Co.), crushing but cannot the managers stop doing same on Sundays? Comparing with the other Companies like Ashanti Gold Fields Corporation, it is better that they too, will do their utmost to stop running the mill on the day of rest.

On Thursday morning Mantraim (Wassaw) Ltd. had the honour of welcoming at their mines, Hon'ble Pensonby and John Daw Esq. both Directors of the Ashanti Gold Fields Corporation Ltd. They returned here for Sekondi by the same train.

On the same evening an inquest was held at the Police Station by Dr. T. A. Chambers on the body of George Crowther, who died very suddenly on the previous morning. It appeared from the evidence of Daniel Wilkinson, a friend of the deceased that the deceased was a Fitter and was going up to Prestea Mines in search of work having left here on Tuesday morning. The same evening he returned and appeared then in his usual health and dined with his friend D. Wilkinson. A few minutes after, he went to bed he was heard breathing very hard, but afterwards slept very comfortably. On the next morning, as he was going out to urinate, and while in the act of opening a gate, he fell down. Assistance was promptly rendered, and a Doctor was sent for, but he died in two or three minutes. Dr. Chalmers who attended the deceased professionally was able to state that in his opinion, death was due to disease of the heart, and difficulty in breathing, and a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

SEKUNDI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

We are informed a branch of Messrs. Lawrence Jones & Co's business will be established here within the next fortnight—their offices will be at Messrs. Gold Coast Stores.

Apropos of our innuendo about the unprofitableness of the butchering trade here, it is understood a new Company has been formed under the style of Sekondi Fresh Food Company Limited.—there is little conception however of this venture turning a success, and that stands on the sole question of how fresh food could be supplied.

Reuters' news service on the Gold Coast will shortly be resumed.

The Traffic receipts of the Railway for the 4 weeks ending last August, as reported, amounted to £11,921 for 124 miles, showing average receipt per mile of £96-2-9.

For the Cis Belge du Congo, the s/s "Leopoldville" is being built by Messrs. Sir Raylton Dixon & Co. Ltd., in lieu of the "Stanleyville." We understand that two new steamers for Lagos Express Service will soon be launched for Messrs. Elder Dempster & Co.

Rev. Alfred T. R. Bartrop arrived here last week and occupied the pulpit on Sunday morning.

We understand he leaves with Rev. Sackey for Tarkwa, Dunkwa, Obussie and Kumassie on Tuesday morning by rail.

The Wesleyan Mission House is now completed. Its substantiality and magnificence advocates the great indebtedness of praise due to the erector. We understand Rev. Riggall is expected here to take charge of the station.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

An inquest was held, during the 14th inst., on the remains of a husband and wife which were

brought to town from Adansal on the previous evening. It is related that the man murdered the wife and subsequently committed suicide. Another was recently held on the body of a person from Obuadzi who was said have shot himself.

At Kormantine on the 17th inst. a certain man of Cape Coast passing by a crowd of Ompe players rashly discharged a shot into them. The result was that 15 persons were wounded. When arrested the explanation he gave for his conduct was that the crowd had laughed at him on account of his peculiar tarban. He is undergoing a trial.

Mr. Nathaniel Coker the Superintendent of Police has arrived here.

On the 20th inst. the case 'Rex v. Whyte and Appiah' underwent a trial, the Commissioner of Police who arrived on the 18th prosecuting. There had been two fresh charges added since my last report. One being for receiving bribes to the amount of £2, from certain bush people and another of £8 from the same class of men. They will be subsequently committed to take their trial at the Assizes. Mr. J. S. Mensah has succeeded in bailing them out.

A quantity of powder belonging to two of the local firms have been ordered by the Authorities to be buried at sea, three-fourths rebate of duty to be refunded. Portion of the stuff was set to fire at the landing stage recently in the presence of the Officials and the Agents.

Rubber abound in the local market as also Palm Oil, kernels and cocoa. Of the former 150 casks were shipped per the *Ascan Warmann* and *Azim* during the middle of the month.

Two paupers died under painful circumstances recently, under the market shed one on the 9th and another about a couple of days after. This confirms the need of a local Hospital for the convenience of the town. We have not been aware of the verdict of the Coroner's Jury, but at any rate there could be no question that if there had been a Hospital here from which paupers, not to say the general mass of the people, receive medical aid the lives of these two miserables might have been saved. Their deaths were hastened through utter destitution.

The street leading to the Ashanti road is in a disgraceful condition, the ditches lying along it should be filled up and proper drainage constructed. Generally speaking the whole streets require some attention. As for sanitation it is deplorably neglected here.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It appears that the Enquiry held at Aburi with its unexpected results has created quite a sensation in the Croboe District. Our correspondent that way reports on the Enquiry. It appears that one Odonkor, who on defending himself from his assailants who fired on him and wounded him, made use of his gun to save his life, and firing, killed four of them. In bringing in their verdict the Jurymen found the man guilty of murder, much to the surprise of the Chief Justice, who from facts that came before him, and as might be inferred from his address to them expected a verdict of manslaughter.

With this poor man were condemned to die three other innocent men (innocent according to the statement of the prisoner Odonkor himself). There is a strong rumour in the district that an Omanhin that way, who probably has some personal interest in the case brought his influence to bear on the Jurymen hence this result. This Omanhin is supposed to be a "favourite," of the Governor's Representative in the District (and these are the sort of Amanhin and Ahinfa who are practically ruining the country and by the assumption of this monstrous and treacherous position render themselves inimical to the manners and customs of their people, and to every thing that goes to the interest of their people). We sincerely pray that His Excellency would consider all the circumstances bearing on the case and if possible have the sentence passed on the poor men commuted.

We were under the impression that the trial took place at Accra, but another gentleman writes from Kpong:—

"The Public mind is indignant about the institution of an enquiry held (at Aburi) at all on a Head-chief and his subordinances. Why should the Government interfere with that? The Head Chief is a favourite and in the face of facts disclosing his disgraceful conduct he has been shielded. Three Croboe men are said to have been unjustly condemned to death and others to a long term of imprisonment. The Odonkor I refer to is the man whom the Omanhin summoned to his court, and knowing the iniquities and extortions of that court he refused to go. The Omanhin bought 25 kgs of powder and armed his messengers to bring him or his jaws; the consequence was that Odonkor was fired at and wounded. In self defence he killed four men and for this he has been condemned to die with some innocent persons. The enquiry was into some false charges against Ohin Odonkor of whom the Omanhin is jealous on account of the rising of Kpong into commercial importance.

People present at the Court of Enquiry say that the Omanhin failed to prove any of the charges against him..."

We note two things here. Our correspondent asks, "Why should the Government interfere with that?" We say, it should, if there was any crime committed. Then again, if the Omanhin is a favourite, then of course, he assumed he could act, in that harsh way, with such results as we see, expecting to be shielded if any danger arose. Let such of our Amanhin who think they can by foul or fair means ingratiate themselves into the favour of District Commissioners or Governors, so as to have a sort of Licence to do what they can, or allow themselves to be coaxed with prisons and hand-cuffs, know, that they will by that disintegrate their kingdom, alienate the feelings of their subjects from their stool, and endanger their own position, and some day rue the day when they allowed themselves to be fooled.

We would once more most respectfully ask the Government to clothe the prisoners better than what it is at present: to see them in the shabby clothes they go about in, is a disgrace to a Government and they must not be necessarily starved because they are prisoners, so as to compel them to way lay people for their things they may be carrying to the Market, as it is done here and other places. Since the days of the great christian prisoners reformers, Mrs. E. Fry and John Howard, did their noble work, so that in England to-day, for the matter of that, in all civilized places, it is not possible even to write on the door of a convict prison, "All hope abandon ye who enter here," vast improvement has taken place and ours being a christian Government prisoners should fare better. And on Sundays they should have some rest. What does our Government think of this? Of Wormwood Scrubs, the great convict prison to the west of London, we read, "The prisoners all rise at seven (Sundays)." "The hour on working days is 6.30, but the Sabbath in prison is always a quiet and restful day." (Italics ours). Services are held for both Protestants and Catholics: here our prisoners hardly know the Sunday from the other days.

Drums and Fife Bands are plentiful in Town, not bad in themselves, but with thinking men, these innocent things, intended for the amusement of the people, are simply getting to be a nuisance with the obscene songs they play, which is having bad effect on our young people. We must take up the subject again in our next issue for they are having a very immoral effect on the youngsters.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned. A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, NOVEMBER 28, 1903.

THE NATIVE CHIEF'S ORDINANCE 1903

COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE THEM.

If we read the Ordinance carefully we find first of all, that underlying it is the assumption that the Government has the right to confirm the election or destoolment of a native King or Chief, but that in the exercise of that alleged right it experiences, it is confronted with some difficulty or difficulties—hence the necessity to pass this Ordinance to "facilitate" make it easy for the Government to do what it already (on his own showing of course) it has the right to do.

But we ask, when did the British Government on the Gold Coast, acquire the right to elect or destool a native King or Chief? How was that right acquired and from whom was it acquired or by whom was it conferred on the Government? With the people of the Gold Coast, a King or Chief duly elected and entooled in accordance with native custom, is a King or Chief to all intents and purposes till destooled at the request and with the consent of the people (vide G. C. L. Aug. 2 '02.) Hitherto the custom has been to "notify the Government of their entoolment for political reasons or purposes but whether the Government recognises them or not it does not do away with their being *ipso facto* Kings or Chiefs to their people and country" (vide G. C. L. Aug. 2 '02).

This being the known recognised and undoubted right of the people, the Aborigines Right Protection Society petitioned Governor Nathan

when the latter arbitrarily and contrary to all custom and usages of the Colony contrary to even Rowe's Ordinance of 1883 caused Chief Fabir to be deposed. The Petitioners humbly submitted that the deposition of a King or Chief should be at the request and with the consent of his own people, (vide G. C. L. July 26 '02.)

The right therefore to elect and destool a King and Chief is a right belonging to the people, and it has never been abused by them. It has never been interfered with since we came into contact with not only the British but other European Powers. Why is it now being sought to rob it from us: At the Gambia in S' Leone and at Lagos the Government has never interfered nor is it interfering with the entoolment or destoolment of the people's Kings and Chiefs. Why is the Gold Coast Government alone seeking to poke its finger into this purely native pie. What surprises us more is the A. R. P. Society now betraying the people—her trust—and as the body to whom is "entrusted the safeguarding of the rights and liberties of the Kings and chiefs and people of the Gold Coast" practically consenting to this iniquitous Bill—A Bill that should it pass into law would positively render every stool in the whole Colony unsafe by leaving its hereditary occupants at the mercy of a foreign government who it never had nor now have a scintilla of a right to interfere with anything that concerns it.

Sir Matthew Nathan himself declared last year "I do not propose to interfere with your native administration where these do us no harm. I am not going to do away with native chiefs or the native way of choosing them." "The right of election is of the very essence of our constitution.....and if the Government have no right and will therefore not interfere with the election and entoolment of our kings and chiefs, we fail to see how they can possibly kick at a person rightly entooled because Mr. Resident or Commissioner does not choose to recommend him or His Excellency does not sanction (or in the words of the Bill under review "confirm") his entoolment (vide G. C. L. Aug. 2 '02.

"I am not going to do away with native chiefs or the native way of choosing them but of course, I am going to do away (under the Native Chiefs Ordinance 1903) with the native way of keeping your kings and chiefs on their stools or destooling them." This is the anomalous state of things at present at least as far as our Government is concerned. We are to go through the ceremonies to "properly elect" (Governor's letter to King of Beyin, G. L. L. Aug. 2. '02) that is, elect and entool a king or chief in accordance with native customary law and then leave it with His Excellency to coolly step in and say, "For reasons best known to myself, I am not 'satisfied' with the man you have entooled, therefore, I refuse to 'recognise' him and His Majesty's Courts will also refuse to 'recognise' him. That being the case, I would advise you to put another man on the stool—a man after my own heart, who will receive 'confirmation' at my hands and 'recognised' at the Law Courts. In other words, our Kings and Chiefs are to be Government nominees, just as they are now at Ashanti, and this is what the Aborigines Society would have us believe is meant for our good, for the protection of the rights and privileges of the People of this country.

As late as the 26th of July last year we wrote these words:—The steps taken by the Government to destool Chief Faibir of Wassaw were a flagrant outrage on the rights of the People, as well as of our Kings & chiefs. It is a direct blow at the root of one of our few established and hereditary rights, and should it be overlooked would necessarily end in the upheaval and general overthrow of what little independence is left us. We are therefore surprised that the Aborigines Society has not followed the matter up, up to now. Its a question that affects every stool in the land. The occupant of not one of them is secure so long as the Government can "depose" him whenever it chooses. It is evident that the Government has seen the situation, and has made up its mind, as to what to do, and is going about it softly, softly. In his reply (to the Petitioners from the Aborigines Society) the Colonial Secretary says "the particular matter it deals with, (that is Chief Faibir's case), and the more general one it involves of the position of Chiefs in this Colony under the Government have received most careful consideration from His Excellency..."

We cannot too urgently call upon the Aborigines Rights Protection Society to arouse itself and take the matter up seriously, and looking at it full in the face make a determined stand to protect this all important right of our Kings and Chiefs and the people.....Others may see nothing here we, rightly or wrongly, see a great deal in the very guardedly worded reply to the Petition. It shows which way the wind is blowing. And should this matter not receive the careful consideration as well from whom it directly concerns, we venture to predict that in the near future the Aborigines Society itself shall share the fate of the Fanti confederation, and our kings and chiefs be no more than "station masters"

"transport officers" and such like in the country. (G. C. L. July 26 1902.) How true our prediction has been fulfilled, we leave our readers to say.

The Aborigines Society did not see with us, and the Government has stolen a march upon us yet it is not too late, and we repeat what was said in our issue of Aug: 16 02. "It behoves you to see to it without delay. It is this tardy, careless way of attending to things—especially such as require prompt and decisive attention that is the ruin of us. Throw off this inertness and be alive, actively and vigorously alive to the situation. Act with vigour, for you have the sanction of the laws to support you, and your united people to uphold your claims."

ROWE'S ORDINANCE (1883) AT WORK.

News has reached us here from Wassaw that there has been another riot at Anamabu the seat of one Essar Kodwo the "Chief" whom the Government placed on Ohin Fabir's stool.

The first riot during which, Essar Kodwo was himself wounded in the left arm, was somehow suppressed, but this other one, which we are informed took place not quite a couple of months ago was reported at Tarkwa, a distance of about 20 miles from Anamabu, by some of those who got the worse in the affray, and Essar Kodwo, was brought down, and fined the sum of £50.

Now, for some of his men who are engaged as carriers to bring up Government stores from Bonasa to Tarkwa "making noise" in the vicinity of the Court house, while the Court was sitting Ohin Fabir was imprisoned, if you please, for contempt of Court—although we understand afterwards released by the order of the Governor after the unfortunate "Chief" has spent hundreds of pounds to frustrate the flagrant and high-handed and illegal act of the then Commissioner.

And all this, when, be it said to the disgrace of our Government, the Chief had spent about two hundred pounds of his own money in subsisting his own men whom he had collected by order of the Government to carry the stores above referred to.

This amount remains unpaid, and the "Chief" is still, contrary to reason, fair play and justice, not to say, the customary laws of his country deprived of his hereditary rights and privileges and that on the face of the fact, that his people are daily crying out for him, as we all know.

Can the Government—a British Government carry unreasonableness and injustice so far? We trow not.

If while the "Chief" when in the act of serving them with his own people, and free of charge to the Government his men had acted contrary to any law "MADE NOISE" surely such a trifle might and could easily have been overlooked, or at most, a fine inflicted upon—him. If a District Commissioner in the exercise of what he may consider his duty, contravenes the law, he is not amenable for the results of his action but an Ohin is held responsible for the acts of his people, even though he may know nothing of them, or might himself be averse to, or resent same. Surely, this is not common fairplay and is grossly unjust.

We understand the Aborigines Rights Protection Society has again taken up Chief Faibir's case now, we hope, in earnest to which we called its attention as late as in our issue of July 26, last year and referred to in subsequent issues, and we sincerely hope the matter will receive the serious unanimous and determined support it deserves, and that no stone would be left unturned to persuade His Excellency to "restore" this much injured Chief to his scarcely less injured people.

A "MEDICUS" ON GOVERNOR NATHAN.

We have received a very long letter rather a "great" and "unparalleled" (to quote the writer) panegyric on Sir Matthew Nathan our retiring Governor from one who calls himself "Medicus" and the letter shows the point of view of "Medicus" and of "Medicus" alone. We are one with him when he says that in Sir Matthew Nathan we have or have had a Governor of "unique" administrative qualifications the result of which is apparent to all who have followed His Excellency's administrative career, in this Colony. We cannot conveniently agree with the learned gentleman in nine tenths of the many out-of-place laudatory remarks more nauseous to good taste than otherwise which he heaps on the Governor. We can assure the "Doctor" that we also as "being not too thick-skinned" nor

too dull to differentiate, "can tell what is what" and can read between the lines as well. For "Medicus" whoever he may be to tell us that in Governor Nathan we have had "the best and the greatest of Governors," a "greater than John" and all such utter rot is indeed absurd in the extreme. Does he know anything of the administrative qualifications of the scores of governors, administrators and commandants who have held the reins of the Colony up to Governor Nathan's time as shown by the prints of their labours? If he does he would rather, we opine, exclaim as a "responsible citizen" (?) Oh that the administration of by gone days—the tact, the considerateness and reasonableness such as on the whole are being displayed by a Governor like Sir William Macgregor at Lagos, a government of the native for the native, may be our good fortune once more! That Sir Matthew is painstaking is not denied, but to say that he is "extraordinarily" so is absurd for to give even a recent example, one to which everyone—black and white who was for or against him would assent—His Excellency fair and passable as he is, is far behind our late Governor Sir William Maxwell on that score. But comparisons are invidious and we are not inclined to follow "the Doctor" especially as Sir Matthew is still with us, but to write as "Medicus" does of His Excellency's "phenomenal love and memory for minutiae," his "sense of justice and fair play which cannot be excelled," "his willingness to weigh the pros and cons, and his readiness to yield to conviction," his "unparalleled courteous civility to all classes," and his "avowed determination to co-operate with responsible citizens" and what not besides, is, well, the least said about it the better.

But the "Doctor" surpasses even himself when after as slightly shown above, heaping Alps upon Alps, he goes on to write about His Excellency "graciously endorsing the operations of the Aborigines Society....and with which Society...it is evidently his (the Governor's) intention to co-operate with such heartiness as has never been known in the annals of the Constitutional history of the Gold Coast Colony," (the italics are our own.) We ask what next? and we pause for breath, and pause to think as well, whether "Medicus" really knows what he writes about and if he does whether he wants us to take him seriously. This is the first time we have heard or read of a minister of the Crown, not to say a Colonial Governor, "graciously" doing this or "graciously" intending to do that. Where do His Majesty the King and the Royalty come in? It is absurd to talk like this and we feel sure none would resent it so much as Sir Matthew Nathan himself.

But if the "Doctor" is nothing he is candid, and thanks to his frankness he supplies us with the key to all this...affection (we must "beware of adjectives"). "Medicus" has received favours "great" and "unparalleled" (perhaps unique in the annals of the Constitutional history of the Gold Coast Colony) from His Excellency, favours in connection with his Gold concessions, and thereon may (?) hang a tale, for the public as a rule is seldom too thick-skinned to realize or discern the true underlying motives of such 'differentiating' favours particularly when connected however remote with Gold Concessions. But we would rather not follow the indiscreet, fulsome, and sycophantic exuberance of "Medicus" which, for reasons we cannot disclose, would have been relegated to the waste-paper basket, therein to find a fitting and fitful rest.

We believe it premature to say anything about Sir Matthew Nathan's administration of this Colony, an administration that may be characterized as a reign of experiments, we wish him success in his new sphere of influence and long life to occupy same.

SCRUTINEER.

The successful and effectual working of any movement or institution depends fundamentally on its LEADER. In a Military campaign the LEADER must be absolutely tactical, he must be ever ready to mobilise and manifest the highest qualities of a strategist, being ever equal to the reasonable and unreasonable surprises of his antagonists, and perennially maintaining an eagle-eyed scrutiny over the manoeuvres of the foe. As in warfare so in politics. The Leader of such an important and dependable Institution as the "Aborigines Society" must, in the interest of the Gold Coast, very necessarily assume all the strategy and manoeuvring of good generalship. He must always be brave, rarely gentle, or timid, brave in the propagation of national convictions, brave in the vindication of NATIONAL RIGHTS, CUSTOMS AND INSTITUTIONS which are neither immoral nor dialoyal. He must habituate himself to the rashness of the daring soldier when such intrepid dashing would both terrorise and render the capture of a position probable, for the soldier who counts life dearer than duty and shirks engagement by thinking that it is better for one to die than to face fearful odds for the betterment of

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his race is not worth his salt, certainly undesirable, and should unhesitatingly give way to bolder and honester men. He may occasionally lie low to shun a blow from the sword of a foe though ready at the next moment to return a formidable one; but to keep continually crouching will be giving your opponent enough time to renew his strength and re-level his instrument against you for ill, such a Leader is not worth his salt and should give way to more active and sedulous nerves. He must be a man of ready wit and should possess a great deal of presence of mind, a bit of humour, a bit of sarcasm, combined fully with the knowledge of the history of men and events past and present and also have the power of observation and discernment, giving due considerations to the imperceptible possibilities of a question. He must be an apostle of the doctrine that there are two sides to any given question; hasty conclusions he should avoid; bold in truth, brave in leading, he should always be. He should be perpetually speaking out his mind and must not be obstinate to conviction by sane arguments; and never for one moment subserving public interests to those of personal interests ever strive after respect, honour, and peace. The LEADER who lacks these qualities, temperaments, and inclinations should not, for one moment be tolerated in office. It is a mostly delicate, most responsible and highly honourable post to fill—that of a LEADER. But these are all by the way—and no disparagement, mark you, no disparagement, to any one!

Some months ago I suggested that there should be a rotation in the appointment of President, and Vice-Presidents of the "Aborigines Society." How far deep that suggestion sank I cannot tell but at any rate it never rose up again judging from the time that had elapsed since then. Nevertheless, it seems an important reform and I respectfully throw it again for the consideration of the Society. It would, surely, be a singular thing to appoint Presidents and Vice-Presidents for life. Despite the fact that men are apt to undergo a change of opinion, this reform, if not this desideratum, would afford a systematic conduct of business and ensure a thorough mutual confidence between the PEOPLE and their LEADERS. It is on account of this consideration that the shrewd Americans have a rule of changing their Presidents periodically, and to come nearer home, I know for certain the proposed Fanti Confederation had intended to adopt this system.

I suggest then that the offices of Presidents and Vice-Presidents should be changed annually or every two years, the reservation availing and entitling any office-holder to any amount of re-elections as much as public confidence may be reposed in him. And thus affording any individual in the rear, in whom the public may have detected honest rays of patriotism, an opportunity of more effectively shedding out his rays, will also preclude those in office from perpetually bearing the fierce heat and burden of the day.

Yet another suggestion. The business-like, orderly, and decorous working of such an institution depends a great deal on the Secretary. If, therefore, some steps were taken to render his office binding the more so can he be conscientiously responsible and regular in the discharge of his duties. It does not matter whether he happens to be an official who discharges his duties occasionally, he may be devoting an hour or two each day, week, or month, to his Secretarial duties, but all the same he should be remunerated, so that he may not execute his duties perfunctorily. The emolument may be a mere nominal sum but the very fact of that must render his obligations to the Society serious. Any establishment that lacks such business principles must be bound to crumble into ruins. I think I must further add that to ensure order and method in the Aborigines Hall rules of procedure and rules of debate should be framed to make practicable the free expressions of opinions without the slightest regard to age, (so far as individual views are concerned) qualifications or social status, and generally to ensure at all times, the adopting of the opinion of the majority on all questions. These are all matters that demand the careful and serious attention of the Society.

A few weeks back I humbly endeavoured to appeal to the impartial sense of our lawyers, emphatically avowing that it would essentially add to the good name of the legal profession were they to manifest a spirit of conscientiousness in their charges as is done by other professionals. But in certain quarters (as may be naturally expected) the appeal seems to have been received and treated with contempt. Now, what did I say? I stated that the lawyers are pursuing a policy quite contrary to what their brother professionals do, by their charges; that in most instances the fees they demand and eventually receive are exorbitant and far in excess to the amount of work undertaken or performed, that by doing so they exhibit themselves very like a body of vampires who have no other regard for mankind than the sedulous pursuit of impoverishing others to enrich themselves—and "law-

yers fees" have passed to be a local by-word. Of course my remarks are general. Treat it with contempt indeed! Do so, and go on sucking the public, but certainly there are certain gentlemen in the government and outside it who would give the matter due consideration and would besides set in long before you shall have succeeded in sucking them dry.

Yours faithfully,—ATTOO.

WINNEBAH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

On the 9th November 1903 King Edward's Birthday was honoured in Winnebah as it should be honoured by the bringing about of events of an appreciable and enjoyable order.

As early as 8 a.m. a Police Guard of Honour was found drawn up on the open space in front of the Fort under the command of a Superintendent of Police with the accompaniment on such occasions of an interested mixed crowd at a sensible distance and with the verandah in the Fort facing the open space occupied by the prominent residents of the town whose presence had been arranged by invitation. Directly the District Commissioner stepped on the grounds a brief ceremony in connection with the Royal Salute was gone through and an inspection of the Police by the District Commissioner followed; on the termination of this the Wesleyan School boys who were in full attendance struck up the National Anthem which they sang with much feeling and among their tuneful voices could be distinguished the voluminous bass voices of the surging crowds.

Three cheers for the King were next called for and led by an Official in attendance on the District Commissioner to which an enthusiastic response was accorded by all present who then dispersed to resume other individual functions and demonstrations of delight, in honour of the day.

That of Mr. P. W. Bernasko District Commissioner and Mrs. Bernasko took the form of a Garden Party in Government House between 4 and 6 p.m. to which invitations were issued in the name of the latter to nearly 70 guests.

The function turned out a distinct success but it would be difficult to state in detail the various elements which helped to the attainment of that success,—there is however no harm in making an attempt to describe the environments of the average guest as he entered the premises. He would first of all encounter a warm and cordial reception from the hostess and the host one of whom would lead him wherever the guest was sure to like to be, by which circumstances he would find himself either facing one of the refreshment tables and creating a slight disorder among the glasses and other articles there, or he might find himself playing cards with a friend or rather a foe, and trying to cheat him without being caught;—or he might find himself playing begatelle with a shaky hand and an unsteady eye, swearing furiously at his opponents,—or he might be promenading peacefully under shady trees and then returning for more drinks;—or he might find himself losing a game of chess just when a lady was watching him;—or he might feel a slap on his back and through the fumes of cigar smoke he would dimly recognise his bosom friend of years ago wanting to drink his health. After this he would consider himself done up with amusement and fun and just as he would be preparing to depart in peace the music that had all the time been stealing softly on his sense through the cool air would suddenly burst out and shake him with fresh power and vigour and the Band would strike up, "God save the King," and as it went on, human voices would mingle with the sounds of flute and drum in rendering their share of a song that must have floated to the skies from a thousand bands and from millions of loyal hearts throughout the British Empire that day.

But this was not to be all, three ringing cheers for King Edward were led by Mr. Bernasko and three for Mr. Bernasko himself were led by Mr. Benoy after which the guests took themselves off to their respective homes some however simply went home to recoup themselves for a ball arranged by Messrs. Refell, Coker, Taylor, Pratt and other gentlemen. To be brief this was also a success; it afforded huge entertainment to its participants and the echo of its final note died off at the solemn hour of midnight.

ADDAH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

On Sunday the 8th inst. the Basel Mission Church of this place celebrated its anniversary. At about 1.30 p.m. the Chapel was overcrowded with visitors from the different stations and villages along the Volta River. The meeting opened at 2 p.m. under the Chairmanship of the Rev. Josephina the General Superintendent for the Adda and Volta District who is stationed at Oduasie. In reading out an elaborate and encouraging report of the

past year's work he remarked that he regretted to find the indifference towards education and was of the opinion that the natives had not as yet seen the value of it. The Croboe District is doing its best in School-work and is consequently far better than the dwellers on the Sea borders. Among the speakers were the Acting D.C. Dr. J. Lamu who seems to take great interest in the mission and Mr. Veerhinger the Agent of the Basel Mission Factory. The singing during the occasion was well rendered the successful management thereof having been brought about through the exertions of Mr. Allroy the local School-Master. Many beautiful anthems and exquisite selections were rendered on the occasion. The meeting was brought to a close about 4.40 p.m. and all present appeared to have enjoyed it heartily.

WRECK OF THE "STANLEYVILLE."

REX vs. J. R. ACQUAY.

HEARD AT SEKONDI ASSIZES SEPTEMBER 1903.

By S's AND A's.

These were Criminal proceedings instituted by the Crown upon the statement of an illiterate man supporting a letter of report which he had caused to be written by one William Mineau Grant of Axim and forwarded to the District Commissioner of Axim in order to move a prosecution.

It appears that the informer Annokwa was a servant of the accused and that William Mineau Grant, Trader, had unsuccessfully litigated with Acquay (the accused) respecting some large and valuable tract of land at Axim. Grant upon oath declared himself an enemy of Acquay and further stated that he wrote the report out of kindness towards the man Annokwa (the informer).

The whole of the report was not admitted by Annokwa as having been dictated by him; one or two very important and material facts or allegations he denied knowledge of as having been dictated by him. The man Annokwa had an Associate called Aman who in evidence alleged that he together with Annokwa and others had made several trips to the "Stanleyville" and had stolen goods from her.

It appeared that a meeting was held at Grant's house, the letter or report dictated, subsequently corrected and twice signed. Upon this letter active enquiries on the part of the Government properly began and after many fruitless searches under cover of warrant had been made of several houses at Axim the District Commissioner issued a warrant for the arrest of J. R. Acquay who was then a Government servant engaged in the Judicial Department as Registrar of the Divisional Court Cape Coast, a man of 17 years service. The informer had alleged that he counselled, abetted and directed the carrying out of the felonious acts alleged. The informer stated upon oath at the trial that they made 70 trips to the ship at the rate of one trip per night each time bringing goods from the "Stanleyville" but that they accomplished the whole landing in one month and three weeks.

No two witnesses gave the story on material particulars or facts relevant, and only Annokwa the informer was alleged to have been in communication at any time with the accused on the matters.

One witness did state that at night he heard a voice like the accused that was all the identification of any weight that was discovered by the evidence.

The witnesses individually gave unreliable statements and contradicted themselves in all important points even when they were supposed to have been working together. Not even Grant could give story of his share in the transaction of writing the letter which carried any weight.

The defence produced witnesses which altogether negatived the theory and facts set forth by prosecution. Witnesses were called independently showing what goods Acquay had bought from the "Stanleyville" and the Auctioneer's and other receipts were produced to meet the case of the prosecution. The informer alleged that he gave the information his only reason for so doing being that Acquay had failed to pay him a reward of £50 which he had promised.

Grant confessed that he undertook to pay the cost of the writing of the report. The taste of a conspiracy among the Crown witnesses appeared strong.

A Jury of Europeans and natives was empanelled.

The Solicitor General of the Colony (The Honourable J. A. McCarthy) was sent specially to prosecute. Mr. P. A. Renner defended. His Honour Mr. Justice Percell presided. And after a long trial of ten (10) days and brilliant and effective speeches by the Counsel engaged learned Judge in a brief address crystallised the issues and dealt with the point of law to be considered. The Jury retired at about half past six and returned at about ten and delivered a verdict "NOT GUILTY"—Thus ended a sensational trial which was specially removed to Sekonli from Axim and which commenced on the 18th day of September 1903.

The Gold Coast Leader.

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NOTICES.

NOTICE is hereby given that a certain plot of land, belonging to one Frank Edward Amisshah, and situate at Cape Coast, Kotokrabah Road, to the West of Prospect Hill measuring One Hundred feet square is at present held by African Association Limited as security against certain moneys owed by the said Frank Edward Amisshah, the original title deeds being in their hands and anybody purchasing the said plot of land will do so at his or her own risk.

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Thoughts upon a Healthy Imperial policy for the Gold Coast and Ashanti

by

CASELY HAYFORD

of the Inner Temple, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and of the Gold Coast Bar.

LONDON:

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GENERAL NEWS.

We are pleased to welcome back Mr. Clare of the African Association who returned from Europe by the Nigeria last Sunday.

The Juvenile Foresters had a turn out by themselves last Monday, and an "At home" on Tuesday evening at Hockman's.

The Argus says, Mr. Andrew Swanzy, the eldest son of Mr. Francis Swanzy, will leave Southampton for the Gold Coast, per the "Anversville" on November 27.

"Captain L. R. S. Arthur, C. M. G. formerly British Consul at Dakar, and now Col. Secretary of the Gold Coast, has been appointed to Lord Northcote's staff. Captain Arthur is well known in West African circles, and his transfer will cause much regret." *The Argus.*

Sir Matthew Nathan in acknowledging the receipt of the transmission of a resolution from the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce congratulating him on his new appointment says: "During the three years I have been connected with the Gold Coast, my sole aim

has been to work for what have appeared to me to be the best interests of the Colony, and I am very gratified to learn now that in the opinion of the African Trade Section my duties have been satisfactorily fulfilled."

The Weekly News says Mr. T. C. Fraser has been appointed a Commissioner of Peace (Sierra Leone).

From the same source we learn that eight of the men concerned in the riot here after the expedition to relieve Sir Frederick Hodgson and staff condemned to penal servitude and discharge were released on the King's Birthday through the recommendation of Colonel Graves.

"Of our native institutions we are jealous." G. C. A.

A correspondent from Sekondi writes: "Two policemen were arrested yesterday for going about in their native garb and fined five shillings each. I presume this is in accordance with new orders issued to the staff at this end."

"Sekondi is not now as what we all thought it to be, the place is going from bad to worse."

The Merchants who visited Kumasi lately are wondering if the trade there will improve in the coming 18 months. Those who have decided to build up there are doing so on speculation and I hear they candidly admit that.

The King's Birthday Celebrations here were a failure.

Dame Rumour is assiduously circulating the scandalous news of a serious friction between two officials, necessitating the intervention of the D.C.

After the report on the Sanitation of Cape Coast and a well-measured laudation in English papers on the subject it is only natural (?) that the Officer of Health should settle down.

Overflowed dust bins with their foul smell to the annoyance of the Public are now common objects. An inspection of the Town now and again with a camera is no doubt the new method to keep the Town clean—and to stamp out the small pox in Elmina. "Mind your own business."

The Full Court sat yesterday, Sir Brandford Griffith (Chief Justice) presiding, and with him Mr. Justice Smith and Mr. Justice Purcell.

Messrs Hutton Mills, Dove and Flango from Accra were in Court and we understand the *Oleada* brings down the Axim Barristers.

News of Mrs Bartels' death at Elmina reached here yesterday.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Nov. 16. A serious assault was committed on a girl of 16 from one of the villages beyond Mankeessim by her *seney* on the complaint of infidelity, he is being dealt with accordingly.

Mr. O'Brien, D.C. arrived here from Cape Coast on special duty and he contemplates making his inspectorial visits as far as to Inessim.

Nov. 17. The community was thrown into commotion when the unexpected news arrived of the death of Mr. R. B. Quaison through an accident in the collision between a canoe and steam launch at Labon (Grand Bassam).

ACCRA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

The Parade ground was crowded with all classes of people to witness *How de Joon* at 8 a.m.

The Escort *Hausa*, The G. O. V. and The Police all turned out to taste—the one exceptional thing that deserves mentioning was the way and manner

Captain C. A. A. Barnes turned out with the Volunteer Band Boys with their Brass Instruments.

These Instruments have been in town for over a year and nothing in the shape of tune could be rendered, but within the 2 weeks that Mr. Barnes has been in Town he has trained them up so well that they had to play all the tunes and marches with the Instruments.

Capt. Barnes really deserves praise and honour and we hope His Excellency will not forget him before leaving the Colony. The Levee at the Christiansburg Castle was also well attended. At 7 p.m. a dinner was given by His Excellency to all the Heads of Departments and at 9 p.m. all the influential people who were invited to the Governor's

"At Home"

enjoyed themselves well, some returning home at 3 a.m.

On this same day at the Factory of the German West African Trading Company the Union Jack was seen over the German flag and this we think is exceptionally so loyal that it deserves notice.

The marriage of Miss Kate Richter to Mr. Vanderpuye came off successfully at the Wesley Chapel last Thursday. The Bride was given away by her father Robert William Richter the Book Keeper of The African Association Ltd.

SOME FUN AT THE JAMES FORT PRISON.

Last week as the Gaoler was passing in the Prison yard, a prisoner took hold of a broom stick and gave him a good hiding—after getting the Prisoner in irons the Gaoler went to his office and just when he could not help but cheer himself up, suddenly two more Prisoners entered and gave him a good flogging: we understand the Prisoners are going to be flogged. We hope Mr. Anquandah the Gaoler will have some satisfaction for this flogging.

The Anniversary of the Basel Missionary Society took place last Sunday. The attendance was large. The Rains have stopped.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Our Trade: the dulness of this, has been the song of all who are directly or indirectly connected with it. Nearly all that need be said on it has been said, and yet things practically remain as they were: as affecting the principal trading places on the littoral, we have been endeavouring to show the cause why it has been so, but confining ourselves particularly to Cape Coast and some adjacent places on the badness of trade as it is facts have come to us, on which we make no undue haste to comment till at the proper time. We here give publicity to them to be confirmed or refuted.

Not very long ago, information reached us, that traders in Ashanti have been "commanded" to go to Sekondi the coming "city" instead of going Cape Coastward. Now we learn, as the people insist upon coming this way, "men" have been posted all along the road to press the traders to go to Sekondi and those who succeed to pass through the lines pay the penalty by having their goods forfeited, unless they show in writing the names of the parties from whom they bought them together with their own names. What can all this mean? Do the Chambers of Commerce know of this?

Last week we referred to the local Bands and the indecent songs they indulge in which are having a very immoral effect on our young people. Against this every sensible person in our community justly complains. What is worse this is usually done at nights where they collect hundreds of young persons of both sexes. We all like to be entertained with music, but certainly not the sort of music our kind entertainers have chosen to give us. Now-a-days nearly every little boy or girl you meet must be singing some obscene song or other much to one's annoyance and what is to be regretted is, children take to them easily. We believe there is an ordinance calling on the Police to stop this kind of impure songs in the Public streets, if so they will do well to put stop to them rather than to go about beating people.

A Band that holds a Pass to play, can be stopped at once when it starts any of these impure songs; and some of these play at very late hours. Why may not a fixed time be given to them? The amount of young people of both sexes to be seen at nights after these bands is simply surprising, and this does not fail to have its immoral effect on them. We hope the Police authorities will give this their due consideration. Nearly all these bands are under the patronage of enlightened persons why may they not use what influence they have on their Bandmen to get them to play decent things?

A correspondent from Sekondi writes of a Firm there, whose Agent keeps in his clerks "till half past 5 o'clock for talking during office hours." He continues—

"I have passed through many mercantile offices but I

have never since heard of clerks being made to keep in after business hours for talking..... If however such restrictions are to be imposed on poor black clerks in addition to the inconveniences they are being made to put up with, how can the Agent get them to work heartily. It is rather strange that a decent Firm like..... should treat their clerks as School boys... and we hope the Agent in chief of this Firm who is known to be one of the most decent gentlemen we have on the Coast, will see to put his foot on such a treatment which always leaves a bad impression'...

Well now, after this, what must we expect to hear next?

"A house divided against a house falleth," this is a Scriptural truism, which we will do well to learn the lessons it seeks to inculcate, and consequently we have taken in the invectives of our esteemed contemporary with as much coolness and pleasure as we can command' especially when we take into consideration the importance of the subject which occasioned the "uncontrollable fury" which appeared in the "Current Chat" of last Saturday's issue of the *G. C. L.* truly the language was alliloquent enough, and no pains should have been taken to call in the aid of Lord Rabinington Macaulay to show the erudition of the writer. Our contemporary had not been long on the stage when we foresaw such a clash, and but for the importance of the subject on this occasion, we would have passed these remarks also with the utter contempt and indifference it richly deserves.

We take it that the two local organs have one object in view, *the safety of the Public and the welfare of the Race*, if so we must not make ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of the Public. We believe in logical reasonings and not in "vituperations" and "invidious epithets." Our hard working Legislative Council proposes a Bill, The Native Chiefs' Ordinance, over which unfortunately we happen to hold different views: our contemporary sets forth its views, and we finding that "the safety of the Public and the welfare of the Race" is threatened thereby, set forth ours. What should have been the sensible and reasonable course to have been taken by our contemporary? To show the fallacy and illogicalness of the position we have taken if it can, and thereby to establish its points, and surely we shall not be so obstinate and tenacious of our points when we find them weakened especially from such a source, and are convinced by force of argument that the safety of the Public and the welfare of the race are kept intact.

Instead of this what do we find? Why these—"uncontrollable fury," "silly outpourings" "invidious epithets" "vituperations," and all sorts of names heaped on our poor pate. Well, we have heard of lawyers starting to abuse their "learned friends" when they find they have got no case, but this is really too rich, and the subject on hand is rather too serious to be treated with such puerility, and what is more by the organ of such a Society as the Aborigines Society. By the way it rather tickles us to be told of the "strength" and "honesty" and "integrity" of this Society, as if we did not know, and where this comes in at all is what we fail to see.

Think of a British journal for instance which has criticized certain acts of the Parliament being told by a contemporary of the "strength" the "honesty" and "integrity" of the House by way of refuting its criticisms. This is the situation and we leave the thinking Public to say where the silliness—we had almost said, the dunderheadness—lies. One thing we regret to find, and that is that the "Gold Coast Aborigines" which has always commanded our esteem and respect being now put to such nonsensical farrago. This we believe is the first time we have had two organs working contemporaneously in Cape Coast. Let us not make ourselves contemptible then but side by side advocate the cause of the oppressed and not seek to vilify each other and make them the channel to give vent to our rightly or wrongly pent up feelings, and thereby let the finger of scorn be pointed at us: surely a public journal has a higher, and nobler course to pursue. We have expected great things from our contemporary as far as the rights and privileges of the People are concerned, let us not be disappointed. Need we say more?

[N.B. The article this should have supplemented has been shut out this week.]

We print in another column one of the articles we have received from abroad on the Native Chiefs' Ordinance '03 since our issue of the 21st. ult. We are certain that we have the majority of the natives not to say independent Europeans, officials &c. of intelligence and position in the country with us, at least as far as the attitude we have assumed and the opinion we have given publicity to, with respects to this all-usurping and unnecessary Bill is concerned. But we want hurry to disclose matters.

[The article in question is crowded out, it appears next week.]

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Our Subscribers will please note that it is necessary that some attention be paid on the receipt of our Notice informing them of the time their subscriptions expire otherwise without hearing from them we take it that they do not wish to continue same, and stop their supplies thereby. THE MANAGER.

In Ever Affectionate Remembrance of STEPHEN HILL MENDS JR. who departed this life on the 2nd. day of January 1900.

Aged 17 years.

Brother, thou art gone before,
And thy saintly soul is flown
Where tears are wiped from every eye,
And sorrow is unknown,
From the burden of the flesh,
And from care and fears released
Where the wicked cease from troubling,
And the weary are at rest.

I. T. M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned. A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, DECEMBER 5, 1903.

ORDINANCES ON THE GOLD COAST. HOW PROMULGATED.

The burning question of the day—"The Native Chiefs' Ordinance '03" has necessarily brought to the front the all important question, as to what steps our Government takes, to let the general public know of the laws it enacts or passes from time to time affecting them either directly or indirectly. Some months ago, we had occasion to say a word or two on the question. It was on the occasion when after the representation made by the various Chambers of Commerce in England to the then Colonial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, a representation based upon sound and reasonable grounds, Mr. Chamberlain seeing the justness of the request made, wrote a circular letter to all His Majesty's Colonial Governors that to state the matter briefly, any ordinance affecting trade or commerce in their respective colonies should in future be first submitted to those chambers for their opinion before they were passed into law if need be.

We then saw that an opportunity had been consciously or unconsciously given us—thanks to the Chamber of Commerce—to approach our Governor for a like privilege, for if we then wrote Liverpool Manchester, London and other Chambers of Commerce thousands of miles away from us, and only connected with or interested in us by commerce, and hardly anything else were to have their say, before Bills affecting their interests were passed into law how much more, we, the natives in whose hands is "practically the prosperity or decline of trade.

And we urged the Aborigines Society our recognized representative body to lose no time in getting the same privilege accorded us.

It is so just, and so reasonable, that it was a foregone conclusion that His Excellency the Governor would we felt sure have been only too pleased to grant us our request. But did we do it?

The opinion of the Aborigines Society on the Native Chiefs Ordinance, '03, has been asked for by His Excellency simply out of courtesy. His Excellency the Governor would like to know what the representative body of the people of the Colony think of it. But had that very same representative body approached him and got him to grant what we know full well is due in reason and in justice to us, what is now a mere matter of courtesy, what is at present may or may not be done, according to the inclination of the Governor would have become a duty incumbent upon the government to perform and a right due to the people of this Colony that could not be ignored, neglected or refused without our bringing the Government to book. It would not have been whether or not the Governor chooses to let us know, what laws he may be enacting that affect us, but it would have been or a bidden duty to let us know of them, just as it is now bidden duty to let the English Chamber of Commerce to whom they may concern know of them, before they are passed and become incorporated into the laws of the Colony. But is it yet late?

Here is an Ordinance directed against a most an,

cient and harmless native institution and undermining if not actually annulling the fundamental principal of our very existence as a purely native community—a nation, now about to be passed into law. Had His Excellency chosen, the public would have known in fact next to nothing about it till it had become law—for we take no notice of the sham, the pseudo-representation of the people of the Colony at the Legislative Council. He has, however, been pleased to ask the opinion of the Aborigines Society on it. But we ask is this enough? Should not their opinion have been asked before the Bill was presented to the Council? Then granting that His Excellency expects the Aborigines Society to inform the Kings and Chiefs of it—which is not the course taken by the Government when the Kings and Chiefs are wanted to know anything from the Government—what is the time allowed the Society to do the work which is the duty of the Government to do? Barely time enough to get one or two Chiefs and their councillors together read and explain the Bill to them, for them in their turn to go into conference upon it (with their sub-chiefs, captains, &c. &c.) before the deputy from the Aborigines Society can get a word from it and this generally takes days if not weeks.

It is not fair nor just nor right, we say, to pounce laws upon a community especially an almost all illiterate, a lately semi-civilised community like ours to pass such radical, sweeping measures without their knowledge. Laws are made by the score without those to whom they directly affect, even knowing of their existence.

To say they are Gazetted, whenever he chooses to pay for them, is begging the question, especially in a country like the Gold Coast. Out of the estimated population of the Colony, a million and a million and a half (Outlines of the Geography of the Gold Coast Colony by Hesketh Bell sometime Chief Assist. Treasurer of this Colony) how many of them read and write—and out of the infinitesimal small number—the few hundreds, at most, so-called "scholars" among them, how many can understand what they read? It is a farce on one hand and an imposition on the other to say, here or in England, that the people of the country know the laws of the foreign Government in their midst, because they are Gazetted. We know the laws only when we are punished for having unwillingly broken them. And is this right? There is no reason why the Gold Coast Government cannot pursue the same course, especially when purely native question or legislation affecting the native is concerned as Sir William Magregor is pursuing at Lagos with such splendid results.

Our contention is that the people in whose interest the laws of the Colony are made are not consulted and when in extraordinary cases, once in a way their opinion is sought for, it is done in a perfunctory way, scarcely time enough being allowed them to barely comprehend what is it they are told.

There is no Government proclamation of any sort whereby the illiterate by far the great majority are made to know the English laws affecting them. Notices are put up, Gazettes are printed, but how are the people to know what are on them.

The Kings and Chiefs cannot be held responsible—though, unfortunate beings—they are punished all the same for breach by their people for they also cannot read and no provision is made to supply them with official papers having matters that they should in justice lay before their people.

The practice that comes near to anything of the kind is, a District Commissioner writes a Chief about what he wants him or what in accordance with this or that ordinance he is to do in his district, sends it by an orderly who has instructions to introduce the letter and deliver the letter. The letter is duly delivered and the chief is expected to inform his whole district in the best way he can. In nine out of every ten cases the ordinance the letter refers to had been long innocently, unwillingly broken and in nine cases out of ten, it was upon hearing of the breach that the District Commissioner wrote about it at all, well knowing that though that law had become the law of the land months perhaps years ago, the poor people had no idea of its existence than they have of the man in the moon.

Surely this is a state of things that requires amendment and the attention of the Government should be directed to it as early as possible for we repeat, that if the Government were to seek to govern us through our kings and chiefs not by depriving them of their rights and powers, but by recognising same and making the best possible use of them—never altering our laws where they need no alteration—gradually moulding them where and when necessary and asking for the abolition of any, that are inhuman immoral and contrary to justice through the kings and chiefs themselves gradually adapting foreign laws as circumstances may call for or direct, adapting and enforcing them piecemeal through our own kings and chiefs if, we say, our Governors would adapt such a course leave the native to be as much of a native as may be consistent with the times, and when approaching him in matters of Government give him SUFFICIENT TIME to take in what he

intended for his own good, they will find their administration easier and far more prosperous than hitherto. Sir Wm. Magregor has tried it at Lagos with pleasing beneficial results to both the governed and the Governor, is there any harm in—the Gold Coast Government taking the hint?

WHAT I THINK.

BY A TUFUHN.

Confirmation of entoolment and destoolment of an Omanhin or Ohin on the Gold Coast by the Government before it will be made a success among the people of his own kingdom or chiefdom, and the Government itself is a farce. That an Omanhin or Ohin is entooled in place of his deceased or distooled relative as a rightful person to inherit an ancestral stool in accordance with Fanti Customary Law, the institution of which is prior to the early possession and occupation of the country by the Foreign Government. The institution has harmoniously worked with the Government of by-gone years, untouched even up to last month, (Sept), and without its confirmation but, recognition only.

The undivided opinion of the public, is, that official confirmation of Amanhin and Abinifu of the Gold Coast is unnecessary and will be injurious not only to themselves, but also to the people of Gold Coast who have indisputable right to maintain the institution of their nationality, Official "Confirmation" of Amanhin and Abinifu simply means deprivation of the rights of the Gold Coast people its variation and eventually the abrogation of the native's customary laws.

Where are we without this particle of right left to us by the Foreign Powers.

Gold Coast has never experienced, that need of official confirmation without which the entoolment and destoolment of an Omanhin or an Ohin is not a success. On the contrary it has been successful all along, therefore the Government could do no better than adhere to the formal introduction of Amanhin and Abinifu as hitherto and recognise same for future reference in matters of their respective Towns or villages; as the present demand of the Government is absolutely uncalled for.

Now allow me to refer you to the able speech of Dr. Byden's which appeared in the "Gold Coast Leader" of 10th Oct. No. 68 delivered to a small party of Africans in London this year.

The distinguished Doctor said, "You should be the Leaders of action and the Leaders of thought, among your people. My message to you to night, therefore, is to school yourselves to look upon life, from the stand point of nationality, with your study, of English history, and English institutions, unite the study of the institutions and customs of your people."

We ought to thank Dr. Byden heartily, for his instructive speech, delivered to a few Africans in due season, just as if he had the presentiment of the ideal of the Gold Coast Government.

I hope the reader of this article will try his best to avoid partial application of the Doctor's noble speech to a few of our African nationality in England but apply same for himself and all Africans in Africa and to ingratiate it into our lives accordingly.

ADDA

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

At the District Commissioner's Court on the 12th ultimo four men were brought up charged with stealing 14 bags of palm kernels the property of Messrs. O'heaveller & Co. The accused were the boatmen of the above firm and when they were recently returning from Akusi with 264 bags of palm kernels they took the 14 bags and hid them on the way which, however, were detected by the men of the Preventive Service. They were found guilty and sent to do 3 months hard labour each, the property being returned to their owners. Larceny runs high in the town which is the more surprising when considered that this vice was formerly unknown here. A Mr. Davies had lately the experience of having his store broken into and robbed and the Basel Mission was also broken into and a quantity of silk and other goods to the amount of about £50 were taken away.

On the 12th ult. His Honour the Chief Justice arrived from Kwitta and held Court on the same day. Messrs. A. B. Quartey-Papafo and Henry Plange, Barristers, have been in town for the Court. During the sitting of the Court the house was overcrowded, many people having arrived in town from distant places for the Assizes.

ELMINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BOGU ALIAS DEWITT.

ASSIBA AND MENSA.

The plaintiff in the action sued to recover from

defendants the sum of £12 as balance on account of purchase money for a piece of land situate on Java Berg, Elmina. The case was heard in the District Commissioner's Court before His Worship Dr. Waldron on the 4th November last. Mr. Bucknor appeared for the defence. Evidence showed that defendants bought a piece of land on the Java sometime ago from plaintiff Bogu at a price of £31.5—of which plaintiff received £1.5—as earnest money and subsequently £8 as an instalment. No further payments were made by reason of the action which was taken sometime ago by Mr. da Costa and was then pending in the Divisional Court against plaintiff (which appeared in some of the back numbers of the Leader) when plaintiff's title or right to sell the lands on Java Hill became a question of doubt. The plaintiff's contention was that the Hill was made over as present to the pensioners by the Dutch Government and he, as Head or Chief of the pensioners had the exclusive right by virtue of a certain document (which was never produced in Court) to bargain and to sell any part or parcel of such Hill without any let or hindrance from any person. Mr. J. A. de Veer, ex-Consular Agent for the Netherlands was called and stated that he was not aware of the plaintiff being in possession of any paper which gave him the privilege to sell the Hill. He only knew that in former times before the plaintiff assumed headship, over the other pensioners, the custom was, if any person, other than a pensioner applied for a piece of the land the Head of the pensioners simply received a flask of rum and allowed him to build his house and live there on sufferance, that person of course claiming no title of ownership to such piece of land.

His Worship found that plaintiff had no right to the land and accordingly entered judgment for the defendants with costs.

Appropos of the foregoing, a correspondence dated at the Hague, 3rd November 1903 has just reached Mr. da Costa from the Netherlands Secretary General for the Colonies; the gist of which appears to be that according to Article I of the Convention of the 25th February 1871, the Netherlands possessions on the Gold Coast of Guinea were ceded to Great Britain and there had been transferred all right of sovereignty, jurisdiction and property which the King of the Netherlands possessed and that by Article III were included all Forts buildings and structures in his territory and belonging to the Netherlands Government.

If therefore, it is shown and admitted that the Hill had belonged to the Dutch Government as their property then by virtue of the agreement referred to, the right of possession has devolved to the English Government.

This is, what perhaps called forth the assertion from Mr. Renner the other day when he alleged that this piece was acquired from the Dutch Government by cession.

According to the purport of the correspondence, the Dutch Government do not even appear to know much about the Hill. It is now an open question as to whom the Property really belongs. The King and the Elders of the town should see to this otherwise they will wake up one fine morning to find that someone is in possession. It is however due to the efforts of Mr. da Costa that the Java Hill problem has so far been solved.

KOFI NTSUA KING OF EGWAFU

AND

KWODWO MBRA KING OF CAPE COAST.

At the Divisional Court Elmina Assizes before His Honour Justice Purcell, the plaintiff in the above instituted an action to recover from the defendant £100 damages for assault and false imprisonment. The hearing lasted from the 12th to 27th November. Mr. Ducktor conducted the prosecution assisted by Mr. Renner Mr. Bannerman and Mr. Leung defended.

Evidence was led that sometime about May last, four police constables accompanied by defendant's linguist, Kofi Moko and two messengers Kwodwo Kola and Basfo arrived in plaintiff's village of Egwafu and by the directions of the Linguist plaintiff was arrested and taken to Agona where the Ohin of that place was also arrested and both were handcuffed. They were taken down to the defendant's house at Cape Coast, where they arrived on a Sunday night at about 8.30. Plaintiff was subsequently taken to the Police Station and there, locked up, until Brothers Acquai of Cape Coast stood bail for him for the night. The next morning the Sub. Ass. Commissioner Gate of the Police investigated the case upon the representations of Amanhin Kwodwo Mbra who was present that one Adjay who was in custody had sworn and violated his oath at Agona, that he had sent his linguist with one constable Kwoko Mensa to arrest the man Adjay but that plaintiff had prevented the constable from executing his orders. Mr. Gate finding that the

WANTED Two Smart Learners able to read and write for this Office. Salary from 20— to 30— offered. Apply to THE MANAGER.

affair of an oath had nothing to do with his department ordered Superintendent Downer to take them before the District Commissioner Mr. Peregrine—who finding that the Omanhin of Egwafu was under no obligation to the Omanhin of Cape Coast apologised to the plaintiff and dismissed him.

Superintendent Downer adduced that sometime about May last defendant applied to his department for a constable to arrest a man who had violated defendant's oath, in the bush. About a week after the constable returned without his cap belt and baton and alleged that he had been thrashed by some women when he was bringing his prisoner and had lost his kit. Defendant was present and there and then applied to Mr. Gale for more policemen and subsequently wrote a letter to the Sub-Assist. Commissioner to that effect. Three fresh constables were accordingly detailed for him beside the one who had previously been sent to the bush. They went to the defendant's House where they were to be subsisted and dispatched. He did not know what instructions defendant gave to the constables. About two days later they returned with some prisoners among whom was the plaintiff, the Ohin of Aguna and another man and two women. The plaintiff was locked up but subsequently allowed bail. The next morning an inquiry was held into the matter by Mr. Gale in the police office. Constable Kweku Mensa pointed out the two women as those who had assaulted him in the bush in the execution of his duty. After due investigation it was discovered that the women were selling handkerchiefs up the country and the constable wanted to take some of the handkerchiefs without paying for them. The women resisted his attention, he started an assault—they fought—and, as his Honour put it—"the women became victorious and gave him a thundering good thrashing which sent him flying through the bush to Cape Coast and without his cap and belt." His Honour seriously remarked about the purblind misconception of the Police Department in placing Civil Police constables at the disposal of Native Kings and Chiefs and said he would make a note of the fact and send a minute to the Inspector General of the Police to order the discontinuation of the practice. He was aware, from his recent bush experience of the terror these constables struck to the peasantry and remembered having sent a couple of them to seven years' penal servitude for some outrageous deeds perpetrated by them up the bush recently. It was an abuse to the King's uniform.

Mr. Downer further stated that Mr. Gale finding no charge against the two women discharged them and severely reprimanded the constable. Defendant was then asked what he had to say against plaintiff. Defendant stated that Adjay had violated his oath in plaintiff's village and he had prevented the constable from taking him down to Cape Coast. Mr. Gale ordered plaintiff with the other prisoners to be taken before Mr. Peregrine who subsequently apologised and dismissed plaintiff, defendant having failed to establish any case against him.

The four constables were each called and stated that before starting on their mission to Egwafu they were subsisted by defendant in his house with 4/- and were also supplied with two pairs of hand-cuffs. They were to go and arrest the Omanhin of Egwafu, the Ohin of Aguna, the man who had sworn his oath and two women who had assaulted and prevented constable Kweku Mensa from executing his orders. They were accompanied, by three of defendant's men to Egwafu where plaintiff was pointed out to them and they arrested him.

Counsel for defence argued that defendant was no party to plaintiff's arrest and false imprisonment although defendant did not however deny that plaintiff was falsely arrested and imprisoned and contended that the law was set in motion by Mr. Gale the Sub-Assist. Commissioner of Police and not defendant. That defendant supplied the constables with hand-cuffs because they were not to be got from the Police Station at the time. That plaintiff was arrested upon the report and complaint made by constable Kweku Mensa to Mr. Gale who sent up the constables—that he had been assaulted.

The Linguist Kofi Monko and Kwodwo Rolla were also called and examined.

There were however two points upon which the Court wished to be satisfied; namely, that plaintiff was arrested by order of defendant and that plaintiff was not under any obligation to the defendant. And these were duly proved to the fact; that plaintiff was in no way under any obligation to Kwodwo Mbra Omanhin of Cape Coast and that plaintiff was arrested and imprisoned falsely by defendant.

His Honour in summing up said that he had never had a worse case of false imprisonment with outrageous tyranny brought before him. He viewed that case from the relationship between the two parties as Omanhin of Egwafu and Cape Coast respectively. The Government had some good deal of respect for the native Amanhin and Ahinfa and therefore could not tolerate any one of them to offer an indignity to the other. He was perfectly satisfied that defendant ordered the arrest and im-

prisonment of the plaintiff. He was quite sure that if it was Mr. Gale who had ordered his arrest he would have sent the Superintendent or a sergeant to do it and not the rank and file of constables. That the constable who had been first sent up the country by defendant, grossly misbehaved himself and if the case had been brought before him he would have sent him to jail for 10 years' penal servitude. And that because the defendant was perfectly aware that if he sent his own men to arrest the plaintiff there would be a free fight between the Omanhin of Egwafu and his people hence he hired the constables in order to terrorize the peasantry and impose upon them the belief that the Government had hands in it. The nature of the case suggested very heavy damages but he would only award a moderate penalty in order to place it beyond any possibility—in case of a prospective appeal—of reconsideration by the Appeal Court, for mitigation. He would therefore consider the damage sustained by plaintiff and also an adequate reparation for the indignity suffered by him. He would therefore enter judgment for plaintiff for £150 damages with costs.

The foregoing summary of facts was rendered through Mr. Interpreter Anaman for the edification of some of the audience who did not understand English.

I must here commend Mr. Barrister Leung for the way in which he conducted and concluded the defence. The whole Gold Coast Bar could not have done better. The case was really bad and there was no help for it.

That the recent removal of furnitures &c. from the Castle has been an unmixed evil was fully illustrated on the arrival here of Mr. Justice Purcell last week when it was found that the bedding in the Judge's quarters had also been removed. He had to send all round about the Town to borrow a mattress but could not obtain one to suit him, and it is still a question of doubt as to how he spent the night; until he got one sent up from Cape Coast next day.

It was in reference to this that when Counsel Mr. Leung was leading an argument during the proceedings in the Ntewa-Mbra case as to that the hand-cuffs were supplied to the constables by defendant because there were none at the Police Station, that, His Honour jocosely remarked that there would not be the slightest doubt that there were no hand-cuffs at the Police Station as there were no mattresses in the Public Works Department.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, attended by his Private Secretary Captain Stephens, paid a flying visit to Akuse on his return from Kwitta and the Eastern Districts. His Excellency arrived on the night of the 4th inst. and left on the morning of the 5th inst. for Accra via Dodowa. H. M. Hull Esq. Secy Nat. Affairs with the motor-car meeting the Governor at Tróm. We are proud of these visits, and expect some political benefit therefrom though H. E. leaves the Protectorate soon.

Mantse Odonkor returned to Kpong on the morning of the 13th inst. from the Enquiry held on him, Mantse Amitei and others. Mr. Henry Plange, (Barrister) appeared for the Plaintiff, and Barrister Dove for the Defendants. The proceedings of the Enquiry (as far as it appeared to Spectators at Court) did not reveal any serious misdemeanour or insubordination, on the part of the Defendants, of a political nature, affecting the Croboes as a people and the Gold Coast as a nation, worthy of the trouble and expense imposed upon His Majesty's Government. Public opinion is that such complaints as Konor Mate Kole framed into so many charges against his Colleague and blood relations, could have been quietly and amicably settled by a Council-board or by Arbitrators consisting of neighbouring Headmen according to native usage in the days of our fathers. But why did he jump all at once to the Government? In what way did he first attempt to call his subordinates to order if he found any fault in them? Is there no provision for checking any Mantse, Asafoatse, or Man-kralo in the native constitutions? How did our Ancestors proceed in cases of this nature when the Government had no hands in their jurisdiction? If the Defendants had been aspirants to the stool, if they had conspired truly against the Konor, if they were traitors in the right sense of the word the Public would assent to the cause pursued. We are sure if His Excellency had demanded a written Reply to the several charges we call complaints, he would not have placed this case within the compass of the Ordinance empowering the constitution of Enquiry into a case of very little political importance as this.

The Prosecution after narrating serious charges based on trifles, was ill at ease with the *onus pro-*

bandi. The evidences for the prosecution were plainly conflicting to which the Special Commissioner called the notice and attention of the Plaintiff and his Counsel. Eyes were strained in vain to see those witnesses committed for Perjury. The disclosures by the proceedings and the overwhelming evidences adduced in the Defence reflected seriously on the honor of the Plaintiff. Public confidence is shaken and another tornado such as the case in reference will overhaul it root and branch. The outcome of the whole circumstance is that the Croboe tribes are lowered in the estimation of the Akwapims in particular and of the Country in general.

The Konor's mistake lies in supposing his position above criticism, and taking his Critics for Enemies. Our Critics are our best friends who push us up to Official perfection and present us friendly in the eyes of the Public.

From the Enquiry Court Mantse Amitei and Sasraku were committed for Perjury. Preliminary examination took place before His Worship the Acting D.C. Dr. Papafio at Akuse, on Saturday 14th inst. Messrs. Murphy, D.C. and A. Foulkes, Assist. D.C. gave their evidences for the Prosecution. Again Mr. Dove, appeared for the defence. There was a strong contest on a Legal technical point. The Accused was remanded till Friday next the 20th inst. Mr. Murphy left for Adda the same day.

The Croboe Country in the main received with much regret and amazement the news of the sentence of death passed on Odonkor, Lam and Afro by His Honor the Chief Justice founded on the Verdict of the Jurymen. The Verdict was surprisingly contrary to the charge given by His Honor. The Prisoner Odonkor emphatically reiterated the innocence of the two persons with whom he was condemned and pointed out that their blood would be on the Judge and Jury. Of course it cannot be on the Judge. The Jurymen are responsible. Odonkor admitted from first to last he and he only killed the four men who met their death in course of his arrest and that he did it in self defence. The evidence of Dr. Papafio revealed the fact that Odonkor had wounds from a gun shot. It was that prior to Konor Mate Kole's constables(?) going to arrest Odonkor, the former had brought 69lbs of gunpowder from German Factory at Akuse. The Agent of the said Firm attested to the truth of that and explained that a Permit signed by the D.C. was presented upon which he sold the lawful quantity. The circumstantial evidences go to prove that Constables went to Odonkor's village armed in the face of such facts and in spite of the learned Judge's comments and charge these jurymen gave verdict of "Guilty of Murder". The Judge could not do otherwise than pass the sentence of death; but it is now within the Governor's discretionary power to reverse the judgment. The Croboes know nothing of petition; Accra people will interfere into the case of a man or men unacquainted with them. Jurymen except they are genuine christian men of good standing in the church, having the fear of God and regard to justice, are not above corruption? We do believe the Governor will respect the merits of the case according to the deposition of the Supreme Court.

Nyaghetor was acquitted; but Asafoatse Namo and others were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment ranging from 10 to 15 years. These old men seem already pining away. It is very doubtful whether they can live to serve the long term.

The case of the Larteha has been referred to Akropong for investigation and settlement. Ohin Tetey of Akitibi the Ahinasees and few others oppose the election at Mamfe on the 13th Oct last in favour of Asiedu whose sanguinary descent from the regal ancestors is much debated.

The D. C. of Akuse has been actively engaged in improving the Roads. The Akuse-Amedika Road rounding the Lagoon is stretching splendidly along. Mr. W. A. Bly, Foreman of Work is hard at work building a substantial bridge over Okoi on the Tróm-Akuse Road. Another new Road is being constructed to communicate directly with Agomada. The Akuse-Kpong Road is also having a share of the attention of the D.C. Mr. Foulkes, His Excellency will find it a pleasure when he visits the Volta District again in his Motor-car.

The Editorial of the Leader on the subject of "The Native Ahiefs Ordinance" has elicited much interest and surprise on this side of the Protectorate.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Barnes returned from Accra last week.

The *Dakoway* brought Mr. Justice Stanley Morgan with Mr. Ribeiro and Mr. Robertson for the Appeal Court last Friday from Axim.

We learn that Mr. Clare has been appointed by his Firm (the African Association) its Chief and General Supervising Agent for this Colony. Mr. C. has our hearty congratulations, and we wish him all success.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. "Thanks very much" says the "LEADER."

"Life however short is made shorter by waste of time."

Just as we were going to Press last Saturday a paper was handed in to us announcing the publication early this month by "The Gold Coast Globe Publishing Co. Ltd." a Handbook to be entitled, *The Gold Coast and the Frontiers* by LIONEL R. FOOT and T. F. E. JONES JUN. at 6d.

Mr. Jones is the eldest son of Mr. Jones of the Deputation fame and seems to be a very enterprising young man. From the contents announced, the Handbook should be interesting. "A very large sale seems assured," says the *Argus*.

For our Prize competition on the Foresters' Anniversary, ONSAARD wins the first Prize (£5) and Mr. James S. Mills the second prize (2/6).

"THE PRESENT STATE of things in the community and in all West Africa," says the *Weekly News* (S. Leone) is most unsatisfactory, and it is the duty of the Press—if it has any duty at all—to call attention to whatever not only demoralizes but threatens the life of the People. *Salmus populi optima sal lex.*"

The members of the Wesley Church, we understand when our preaching last Monday night were ordered to stop, to obtain a Pass before, and they stopped. We are getting on famously!

For G. C. L. in the sixth paragraph of the *News* of last Saturday's issue please read G. C. L.

"Children and fools should not handle edge tools."

According to a Government Proclamation divisions of Denkers (Omanhin Inkwantah, Assin (Omanhin Tiba Daku) Assin Apunehin (Omanhin Kwamin Takyee in) and Abura (Omanhin Ota V) have been placed under "The Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1885."

Dr. Roma Hall, the Senior Medical Officer of this Protectorate retired since 17th Sept. last.

The following Ordinances have been confirmed by the Secretary of State:—

1. An Ordinance to amend "The Administration Assistance Ordinance, 1902."
2. An Ordinance to regulate communication by Wireless Telegraphy.
3. An Ordinance to amend "The Towns Ordinance 1892."
4. An Ordinance to further amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902.
5. An Ordinance to further amend "The Spirit License Ordinance, 1887."

"The Secretary of State for the Colonies has now completed his staff, which is as follows:—Private Secretary, Mr. Bernard H. Holland, Assistant Private Secretaries, Mr. Edward Marsh, Mr. Conrad Russell, and Mr. J. Reginald Rankin (unpaid)." *The Argus*.

It is to be regretted that the accident which befell the young Bricklayer on the fall of Mr. Egan Wedda's house necessitated the amputation of a leg, which operation was performed at Dr. Hayford's (Hester Hall) close to the place.

We understand the Honourable J. Mensah Sarbah returned from his visit to England by the *Olanda* last Monday. We heartily welcome him back.

Mr. J. P. Brown also returned from Axim by her.

"We want not time but diligence for great performances."

PATRICK KONIN, Oso &c. we regret space has not permitted your correspondence being published this week also.

Mr. Longdon's store at *St. James* was broken into on last Monday morning.

Mr. Edward Walker we understand chased and caught a nocturnal visitor and succeeded to search his bayonet from him, but the man effected his escape—and he was a Bobber!

"Efforts are being made by the Accra Young Men's Christian Association" says the *Argus* "to raise funds for the erection of an Association Hall, which it is said is a much felt want."

A Deputation from the West African Section of

the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, has waited on the Hon. Alfred Lyttleton M. P. Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the administration of the West African Colonies.

We regret to learn that His Honour the Chief Justice has been indisposed during the week.

OUR TARKWA Correspondent wired on Thursday, morning:—The Boy Omanhin KWANIN EKIMIL III. Lower Wassaw died on Monday after seven days' illness, date for funeral not fixed.

We regret to find that the broken part of the old Wesleyan Cemetery containing the remains of our dear departed ones has been left unrepaired for the past 3 years. If it is true we hold them in remembrance it is necessary that their resting place should engage the attention it deserves.

We understand Mr. C. A. A. Barnes has written to sever his connection with the Aborigines Sanitary Section.

We further understand that some ill-disposed persons are making themselves obnoxious in the present state of affairs in the Christ Church and they have even gone so far as to say that the building is the property of the Government.

The Full Court closed yesterday afternoon. we hope to give a Report on it next week.

TARKWA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Assistant D.C. Mr. Furley having been transferred to Dunkwa, Mr. Maxwell has been substituted.

We beg leave to call the attention of the Officer in charge of the Sanitary Department to the disgraceful condition of the Blackman's Cemetery which is overgrown with wild and thick bush, while the Whiteman's is always kept clean. We hope the officer being himself a native would pay similar attention to that.

The Police escort of whom we reported to have made away with the specie £600 in course of conveyance from here to Prestea Mines have been at last found, arrested, and committed for trial.

The public is experiencing some trouble with the Post Office with regard to the way their letters &c. are treated. When mails arrive fine care is only taken to sort and put in their respective boxes all letters belonging to the mining companies and merchants and then carelessly toss about the rest on the counter for the public to dance with. In this way some important letters get astray and more also some mischievous rascals have an easy access of taking and concealing them in their pockets and burning them in their homes after they had read them through. When letters are sorted they should be called out to the public present as it is done at other places and those not answered for should be kept in a box for the letter carriers to deliver.

[The Post office officials at Tarkwa must be a pack of drones if they conduct their business in that manner. What do their conscience tell them of the method of spreading letters on the counter and thus rendering them easily accessible to any one?—Ed.]

The public in general will be surprised to hear that we have no medical officer in this large field but only a Dispenser, who takes charge of the whole medical and Sanitary Departments. Many congratulations are due to Mr. Bannister, the Dispenser, for his diligence, but we very much need a resident doctor.

It has come to our knowledge that a great improvement is taking place at Dunkwa. It is to be the centre of the Sekondi-Kumasi Railway and about four or five different branches of rail-lines will be laid to the several mines in the neighbourhood. Plots of lands are being obtained by some merchants and others for the erection of excellent buildings there.

We note with regret the untimely departure from our midst of Mr. G. A. Dudley Fitz-John, B. H. P. Mas. V.C.M. London who, on the transfer of Mr. Thomas to Sekondi voluntarily offered himself as organist for the local Church. Mr. Fitz-John who is a native of Kwitta, goes to visit his family there and returns to Accra to sit under an Examination under the Drugs Ordinance for a certificate early next year.

We understand the retiring merchant Mr. H. Drewry has sold up his two premises to Mr. Geo. Wilson for the handsome sum of £150 on private contract.

It was an awful scene at the station yard on the 25th ult. when the morning train came tumbling over the rails and running aground, thereby rendering many of the station rails broken and twisted. Surely if such an accident had happened while crossing a bridge not a single soul would have been saved.

Rev. Assan who has been in charge of this station (Wesleyan Mission) has left for Richmond College (Sierra Leone) and Rev. Stanhope, we understand comes to take his place.

DIXCOVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

As the sequence of the riot of the 27th October last, one Kobina Essaw, a native of Cape Coast and a carpenter by trade, succumbed, on the 28th of November last, to wounds received on the head by a stone from some of Ohin Kweel Agyiman's party.

An inquest was held on the body, presided over by Mr. Ennis, D.C. there ought to be some compensation for his people from—

We again call the attention of the authorities, through Mr. Ennis, the D. C., for the provision of a Market Shed for the town. Any one visiting the market place after ten o'clock in the morning will see how the people fare from the heat of the sun, not to say the action of the rains.

When you find a town like Dixcove without a King's Warehouse and consequently importers have to subject their goods to the mercy of the sun and rains, and when you witness that even the King's Customs officials have to subject their bodies to a similar process, you will know the amount of benefit the community derives from the heavy taxation.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Spirits License Amendment Ordinance has created a stir here and rum sellers seem to have been hard hit by it. Some of the Firms are likely to give up that trade. A meeting is to be held when a petition is to be forwarded to His Excellency, the Governor.

We see the Government is paying some attention in the matter of the repairing of the crooked and rocky passage at the back of Mr. J. V. Aggrey's house leading to the Ashanti Road. The work is, however, being undertaken by prisoners under a Gaoler instead of a skilled Engineer. As it is we presume it will not be properly done up and may turn to be a penny-wise-pound-foolish work. Such kind of economy is hard to beat and judging from the revenue the Town yields it ought to be able to afford an engineer to look over well the ordering of the streets &c.

At Impeseduazi on the 22nd ultimo a man by name Egyir-Kofi was caught by a gun-trap that had been set in the bush and died on the 28th ultimo. It is said that the man went to the fields in search of some medicine and that during the quest he met with the accident. When Mr. Harper the D.C. who was returning to town from inspection, reached Impeseduazi, the *Odzikro* (Head of the village) informed him of the accidental death of Egyir-Kofi, and pointed out to him the setter of the trap one Bekunyin. The D. C. ordered the *Odzikro* to come to town with Bekunyin. The D. C. subsequently inspected the corpse and held an inquest when the jury returned a verdict of "accidental death." The D. C., however, decided to commit Bekunyin on trial pending further orders from Accra, holding that as the field was not a personal property of his but a place much frequented by all the people he had no right to set the trap there.

Mr. D. T. Orma, the Inspector of Schools, arrived in town on the 1st. inst. and started examining the local Schools.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We do not consider the treatment usually given by the fisher folk to the strangers who come here for fishing purposes fair, and we call attention to it for those who are responsible for these men to see and put a check to it. These strangers on coming here are made to pay certain sums of money before they are allowed to go a fishing, and they pay ungrudgingly for we understand this is customary with fishermen everywhere. It being so, we cannot understand why after this, damages should be wilfully and intentionally done to their canoes. This is most unjust and the Abinfa who take pains to see that these strangers pay these moneys should also take the trouble to see that they are not molested.

The Agricultural Show at Lagos from all account has been a great success and it will not fail to have a salutary effect on the agricultural pursuits of the sister Colony. So successful it was, that Sir William Macgregor suggested an Intercolonial West African Exhibition. Well done, Lagos!

On reading the account of the Show as reported in Lagos papers one cannot help admiring the hearty and cordial reception given by the head of the Executive to the Onis, and the Akarigbo and Awuyales and the Alakes and Alafins, the Owuhis and the Oroguns, the Olohis Aikotus &c. who happened to come down to Lagos for the Show, a reception every way worthy of the West African Governor who from experience and conviction has given it out as a dictum that it is wiser and safer and more

beneficial to all concerned to manage the affairs of a Colony, by and through the "Chiefs." The incident forms a striking contrast to what we are experiencing here and makes a sorry comment on "the question of the hour."

Sir William has undoubtedly made his mark as a Colonial Governor, one who racks his brains to find out, what would be to the best interest of his "subjects," and takes pains to carry out as much as he can, what he thinks will be to the interest of his people: but—that ugly word—we cannot understand his "Newspaper Ordinance." Is this the fault of the man or the Crown Colony System? By the way, we understand our Lagos friends are petitioning against the decision of the ex-Colonial Secretary Mr. Chamberlain who sanctioned it. We wish them every success in the movement, and may better judgment prevail.

"Many so-called punitive expeditions are really forward movements in imperial interests" says the correspondent of our esteemed contemporary the *West Africa* in his "Naval and Military Notes." That's the naked truth.

The same writer says:—"I am glad to learn that the defence of the West African Colonies is being seriously considered by those responsible, and that a scheme for the same has been formulated, and is ere long likely to take effective shape. It is proposed, in the first instance, to adequately fortify Cape Coast, Accra, and Lagos—Sierra Leone has already been provided for. The defence of none of these places should present any insuperable difficulty as nature has done much to assist them towards that end. [And what Nature has done in this respect she has done for some places in this Colony for the building of Wharves also. Ed.] It is to be hoped however, that when the proposal now put forward is approved, steps will be taken to carry same into effect as rapidly as possible. The defences of Sierra Leone have been many years in course of completion and they are still incompleting."

The way in which some people seem to take delight in depriving other people of their liberty for the most trifling debt, and the manner in which warrants are issued for the least trifle out here is surprising: whether it is the creditor, or his adviser that bankers after this 'pleasure' is what puzzles us. Those who know tell us, that it is only in this Colony that things are done as they are being done, and this is not strange, for is not this the Gold Coast?

An improvement! The Police are now to be seen in civilian dress or in their trousers only apprehending people. We must have our Scotland Yard with vengeance and all for Sanitation, since the Segregation Dream is a thing of the past or has not been realised yet. This Town at least ought to win the first prize in a Sanitation Prize Competition, for it has every chance to do so.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned. A *non-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, DECEMBER 12, 1903.

"THE NATIVE CHIEFS' ORDINANCE 1903"

BY AFRICANUS.

This is not the time for mincing matters. It is a time for calling a spade a spade. A great danger threatens the country—a danger as great as that which threatened the country in connection with the Lands Bill of Governor Maxwell. We must not stop to study the feelings of this man or that man, however highly he may be placed, and be he personally ever so well-intentioned. Unless we wake up, we shall rise one morning to find that we are permanently crippled as a people in as far as commanding the usages and customs dear to our forefathers, and which they have handed to us in solemn trust is concerned.

To begin with, all the authorities on the native laws and customs make it plain that the Gold Coast is a protectorate to a large extent, "the soil being in the hands of the natives and under the jurisdiction of the Chiefs" (Sachah's Customary Laws).

Now the "Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1883," when applied and adversely interpreted, places in the hands of the Colonial Government a power which the local authorities, until the time of the present Governor, have been slow to exercise. If you take the trouble to read pages 208 to 215 of the "Gold Coast Native Institutions,"

you will see what a weapon the said Ordinance is in the hands of the administration.

To wait till the people should ask for the repeal of the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1883, or for such a modification as would safe-guard the interests of the native Kings and Chiefs, the present administration has taken the bull by the horns and pounced upon the country the present "Native Chiefs' Bill."

Any educated man can read for himself the meaning of the Ordinance. In a few words, it makes the Governor the power to enstool and destool the kings and chiefs, and the talk about "facilitating" and so on is simply a blind man's buff.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 make a certificate under the hand of the Colonial Secretary without further proof enough to prevent a native king or chief from asserting his right to his position under the Customary Law.

Governor Nathan may be very well-intentioned, and our judges may be blameless. But for all that human nature is so funny; and what guarantees have we that there may not be a Pharaoh who knows not Joseph?

Therefore, I do trust most ardently that our people will agitate, and keep on agitating, until the Bill shall be a dead letter, and the underlying policy involved nipped in the bud.

But let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, and it is this.—The people of the Gold Coast have short memories. Why ever did they drop the appeal for a national assembly in 1898-1899? If they had pressed on to success, there would to-day be no recrudescence of a policy which makes for the ignoring of the ancient rights of the kings and chiefs of the people of this country. A word to the wise is enough. That word is, that all must be up and doing before it is too late.

THE "G. C. ABORIGINES" OF NOV. 28 AND THE "G. C. LEADER" OF NOV. 21.

We never expected the Editorial Staff of our contemporary as at present constituted to agree with us in everything especially where purely native questions are concerned. Though all blacks some of them hail from countries where although there are native institutions and laws the nature, the fundamental principles of such laws and institutions as well as the way and manner by which they are upheld or effect is given to them radically differ from those of the natives of this Colony. It would be unfair therefore to expect, these other than natives of the Gold Coast to see eye to eye, to sympathize and feel with us at least to such an extent or degree as a son of the soil would on questions such as the Native Chiefs' Ordinance, 1903. It is impossible for them to grasp the meaning the more than possible effect the legislation in question will have upon the customary laws, institutions and practices of this country, especially when in the hands of a reckless or down-with-the-native person in authority.

In the words of our contemporary itself "step by step silently and by insidious processes the rights of our kings and chiefs have been interfered with curtailed and smothered until now they stand bare, left at the mercy of any capricious official dressed in a little brief power."

Apart from every other consideration if this is the present position of our Rulers, a position brought about by the Government, and brought about by them in the manner our contemporary describes is it not but "natural" that any further legislation encroaching upon their rights or in any way affecting them and through them the People, should be looked upon with "suspicion" and criticized? We venture to say if the above quotation had appeared in our columns we would have been put down once more as being "against the Government" (whatever that may mean) yet it is the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth about them. It is the very same thing that we have from the beginning been calling attention of the People of this Colony, the Aborigines Society in particular as their authorized representative and our many trustworthy and sympathetic friends over the seas who love to see justice and fairplay even between whites and blacks.

It is the inconsistency, the untenable position as it is the impossible attitude as the Country's mouthpiece into which the Executive of the Aborigines Society has placed itself (vide also her leading article in her issue of Nov. 14) that led us to criticize her action rather position while criticizing the Ordinance in question.

We yield the palm to none in our respect and esteem for the members of that Society. We never questioned "its honesty" or "its integrity." It is presumptuous, to say the least, to inform us that the Society has "defended the rights and worked for the amelioration of the condition of our people." Any one who has read the G. C. L. and understands what he can read needn't be told that it has always given the Society her due mead. But at the same time it has striven to stir her up to her duties when she has shown unmistakable signs of weakness and apathy. Many a suggestion has been thrown out in our columns which in more instances than one has been taken up by her with advantage, nay with signal success to the country such as the advisability of having the business of the Society distributed among its members. Hence the Sanitary, the Education, the Commercial

(Chamber of Commerce) &c. Departments now doing useful work for this Town and the whole Colony. The Editor of the G. C. L. is not only a member but a President of one of the sectional departments above referred to. It is the Report of Dr. E. J. Hayford as President of the Sanitary Section of the Society that His Excellency the Governor speaks so highly of in his Memorandum and the Editorial Staff of the G. C. L. are members of the Society. From all this it must appear to any reasonable and unprejudiced person that anything that appears in our columns about the Aborigines Society cannot but be dictated by duty and duty to our country alone and because it is our duty we shall as long as we continue our journalistic career call a spade a spade whether it has reference to White or Black.

It is significant that it is our contemporary alone so far as we are aware that takes the view it comments upon in her issue before last of our leading article of the 21st ult. From Axim right down to Kwitta, to say nothing of personal calls to our office and elsewhere from men of note and who are members of the Aborigines Society, we have received letters and telegrams congratulating us on the "remarks and arguments directed with such singular precision to the provisions of the Ordinance in question and the general attitude of the Aborigines Society and hopes our contemporary will reply to both" to quote from one of the letters received. Well, our contemporary has replied, a rather singular reply for it alone finds in this very article nothing but "uncontrollable fury" "silly vapourings" and "vituperation" and "invidious epithets"! We leave it with the thinking and discerning Public to say, where the silliness lies, when at such a crisis in the history of the country and upon such a momentous question as this one the Ordinance deals with, the mouthpiece of the Natives of this Colony has done its duty to her people by the way it has dealt with the matter and the spirit it has evinced towards the G. C. L.

We venture to remark that none sees and feels the great responsibility that lies on the Society in general and its Executive in particular than we do. As the Body representing the natives in this large Colony, voicing their wishes and desires their hopes and fears and their grievances, as a Body properly constituted and duly authorized to safeguard the rights of the PEOPLE, we see and believe in the almost unlimited possibilities that lie upon her to make or mar this country nine three-fourths of the inhabitants of which can neither read nor write, and are almost wholly ignorant of what goes on around them particularly with respect to the administration of the Government totally foreign and strange Government established in their midst.

In his speech at Stirling on the 22nd October last Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman is reported to have said "a man could change his opinion as often as he pleased but if he did so he could not expect to be taken as an authoritative guide with the People." Those are words worthy of the consideration of our responsible citizens to whom the country has "entrusted the safeguarding of their rights and liberties."

We consider the present crisis through which the natives of this Colony are passing a very grave one. The issues at stake touch the very core of our existence as a nation under our own institutions and our own Kings and Chiefs, elected, enstooled and kept on their stools or deposed therefrom by ourselves as hitherto.

Dr. Wilmot Blyden never gave a sounder, wiser advice not even than when at the dinner given him by Africans in England the other day he told them "Now Gentlemen, you are certainly among the leaders of the people. You have had access to European culture. You should be leaders of action and leaders of thought among them. My message to you to-night therefore is TO SCHOOL YOURSELVES TO LOOK UPON LIFE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF YOUR OWN NATIONALITY. (Capitals ours). With your study of English History and English institutions unite the study of the institutions and customs of your people. . . . We must all enter earnestly and intelligently upon the study of alien customs brought among us, comparing them with the customs of our fathers, with the view of retaining the one so far as they conflict with our true interests, and strengthening the other as far as they conduce to our permanent welfare (italics ours)—always keeping that great truth in mind that 'the life is more than meat and the body than raiment'."

Those are words which every educated native especially the young whether or not he has been brought into contact with European culture at home should do well to seriously ponder over and resolve to follow, even though he may be misunderstood and called names by natives or other than natives of this soil, for they are worth their weight

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in gold to us especially at this crisis when our national existence in the shape of the "institutions and customs of our fathers" the rights and privileges of our hereditary Rulers and consequently of the PEOPLE are threatened and are being "step by step, silently and by insidious processes interfered with, curtailed and smothered."—(G. C. L.)

WHEN IS A DOCTOR NOT A "DOCTOR"?

BY C.

The question "when is a doctor not a doctor" is a puzzling one to the lay mind.

On the Gold Coast we are accustomed to call every man "Doctor" who is in the Government Medical Service or is in private practice, and we are surprised to find that this is not correct. The highest authority on the subject namely the General Medical Council of England has decided that only those who hold a University degree are entitled to call themselves "Doctor."

We read in the Supplement to the British Medical Journal of October 1903 the following—

The question of Medical men who do not hold a University degree styling themselves "Doctor" was considered. The Committee expressed the opinion that medical practitioners who do not possess the degree of M.D. or M.B. are not justified in styling themselves "Doctor."

We have taken the trouble to look up the Medical Directory in order to see how many of our Medical men here can take unto themselves the learned and honourable appellation of "Doctor." We begin first with the most prominent of them namely, the one who holds the position of Medical Officer for Cape Coast and we see that he is "M.B. Ch. B." of Edinburgh University, our worthy friend from Lagos Dr. R. Akiwande Savage holds the same degree; our esteemed townsman Dr. Hayford is an M.D. all these three are therefore properly entitled to style themselves, and to be styled by others "Doctor." The remaining Medical man in Cape Coast the Medical Officer of Health has no University degree and is therefore like ourselves in virtue of the decision referred to above only a plain "Mr."

It appears to us so far as we are able to judge the question (and we think we judge rightly) that a man can get a medical qualification entitling him to have his name on the Medical Register the official record of medical men, and also enabling him to practise medicine and surgery, but that his so doing does not entitle him to call himself a "Doctor" this must be very disappointing in after life to those who hold such qualification but they like ourselves must accept the fact. The General Medical Council is wiser than we are in this matter, and must have had good and sufficient grounds for its decision. Pursuing our duties of men and things medical, we find that in England only those medical men who hold a diploma of Public Health are eligible for the appointment of Medical Officer of Health.

To get a diploma of Public Health we find that a medical man has after he gets his University degree or a lesser qualification, to spend at least another year studying practically and in the Laboratory, all that appertains to the Health of the Public, both urban and rural.

For the sake of the Public this is only right. And we ask, if this is good enough for England is it not good enough for the Gold Coast? In our humble opinion it is even more important to have fully qualified Medical Officers of Health for the tropical region of the Gold Coast than for the England of a more temperate climate.

The very fact that a fully qualified Medical man has to spend so much additional time and money to gain a diploma of Public Health shows how important is science of Hygiene as applied to the Public welfare. There is no more important subject save that of the direction of the state itself.

In the light of this knowledge we are inclined to question whether the Government of the Gold Coast has been as careful as it should have been in its Public Health appointments. Consequently in different parts of the Coast we find this important duty frequently discharged by persons who not only hold no diploma of Public Health but who also had presumably no actual experience of such work until their arrival on the Colony.

But not only does Public Health in the tropics require specially skilled men it requires men trained in the courteous discharge of administrative duties, men who are by nature tactful, resourceful, even diplomatic, men who, ignoring the policy of the man with the muck rake can look out on the horizon of their important duties with a comprehensive sweeping eye noting the large things to be dealt with yet not neglecting small details, men who are above petty trifling and who seek to enlist every one in their aid instead of rubbing every body the wrong way.

In the future, when appointing Medical Officer of Health we trust that the Government will see to it that thoroughly qualified men are given these important posts and not thrust into them any one who by favour may be thought fit for the position

affair of an oath had nothing to do with his department ordered Superintendent Downer to take them before the District Commissioner Mr. Peregrine—who finding that the Omanhin of Egwafa was under no obligation to the Omanhin of Cape Coast apologized to the plaintiff and dismissed him.

Superintendent Downer adduced that sometime about May last defendant applied to his department for a constable to arrest a man who had violated defendant's oath, in the bush. About a week after the constable returned without his cap belt and baton and alleged that he had been thrashed by some women when he was bringing his prisoner and had lost his kit. Defendant was present and there and then applied to Mr. Gale for more policemen and subsequently wrote a letter to the Sub-Assist. Commissioner to that effect. Three fresh constables were accordingly detailed for him beside the one who had previously been sent to the bush. They went to the defendant's House where they were to be subsisted and dispatched. He did not know what instructions defendant gave to the constables. About two days later they returned with some prisoners among whom was the plaintiff, the Ohin of Aguna and another man and two women. The plaintiff was looked up but subsequently allowed bail. The next morning an inquiry was held into the matter by Mr. Gale in the police office. Constable Kweku Mensa pointed out the two women as those who had assaulted him in the bush in the execution of his duty. After due investigation it was discovered that the women were selling handkerchiefs up the country and the constable wanted to take some of the handkerchiefs without paying for them. The women resisted his attention, he started an assault—they fought—and, as his Honour put it—"the women became victorious and gave him a thundering good thrashing which sent him flying through the bush to Cape Coast and without his cap and belt." His Honour seriously remarked about the perblind misconception of the Police Department in placing Civil Police constables at the disposal of Native Kings and Chiefs and said he would make a note of the fact and send a minute to the Inspector General of the Police to order the discontinuation of the practice. He was aware, from his recent bush experience of the terror these constables struck to the peasantry and remembered having sent a couple of them to seven years' penal servitude for some outrageous deeds perpetrated by them up the bush recently. It was an abuse to the King's uniform.

Mr. Downer further stated that Mr. Gale finding no charge against the two women discharged them and severely reprimanded the constable. Defendant was then asked what he had to say against plaintiff. Defendant stated that Adjav had violated his oath in plaintiff's village and he had prevented the constable from taking him down to Cape Coast. Mr. Gale ordered plaintiff with the other prisoners to be taken before Mr. Peregrine who subsequently apologized and dismissed plaintiff, defendant having failed to establish any case against him.

The four constables were each called and stated that before starting on their mission to Egwafa they were subsisted by defendant in his house with 4 and were also supplied with two pairs of hand-cuffs. They were to go and arrest the Omanhin of Egwafa, the Ohin of Aguna, the man who had sworn his oath and two women who had assaulted and prevented constable Kweku Mensa from executing his orders. They were accompanied, by three of defendant's men to Egwafa where plaintiff was pointed out to them and they arrested him.

Counsel for defence argued that defendant was no party to plaintiff's arrest and false imprisonment although defendant did not however deny that plaintiff was falsely arrested and imprisoned and contended that the law was set in motion by Mr. Gale the Sub-Assist. Commissioner of Police and not defendant. That defendant supplied the constables with hand-cuffs because they were not to be got from the Police Station at the time. That plaintiff was arrested upon the report and complaint made by constable Kweku Mensa to Mr. Gale who sent up the constables—that he had been assaulted.

The Linguist Kofi Mooka and Kwodwo Rella were also called and examined.

There were however two points upon which the Court wished to be satisfied, namely, that plaintiff was arrested by order of defendant and that plaintiff was not under any obligation to the defendant. And these were duly proved to the hilt, that plaintiff was in no way under any obligation to Kwodwo Mbra Omanhin of Cape Coast and that plaintiff was arrested and imprisoned falsely by defendant.

His Honour in summing up said that he had never had a worse case of false imprisonment with outrageous tyranny brought before him. He viewed that case from the relationship between the two parties as Omanhin of Egwafa and Cape Coast respectively. The Government had some good deal of respect for the native Omanhin and Aminfu and therefore could not tolerate any one of them to offer an indignity to the other. He was perfectly satisfied that defendant ordered the arrest and im-

prisonment of the plaintiff. He was quite sure that if it was Mr. Gale who had ordered his arrest he would have sent the Superintendent or a sergeant to do it and not the rank and file of constables. That the constable who had been first sent up the country by defendant, grossly misbehaved himself and if the case had been brought before him he would have sent him to jail for 10 years' penal servitude. And that because the defendant was perfectly aware that if he sent his own men to arrest the plaintiff there would be a free fight between the Omanhin of Egwafa and his people hence he hired the constables in order to terrorize the peasantry and impose upon them the belief that the Government had hands in it. The nature of the case suggested very heavy damages but he would only award a moderate penalty in order to place it beyond any possibility—in case of a prospective appeal—of reconsideration by the Appeal Court, for mitigation. He would therefore consider the damage sustained by plaintiff and also an adequate reparation for the indignity suffered by him. He would therefore enter judgment for plaintiff for £150 damages with costs.

The foregoing summary of facts was rendered through Mr. Interpreter Anaman for the edification of some of the audience who did not understand English.

I must here commend Mr. Barrister Leung for the way in which he conducted and concluded the defence. The whole Gold Coast Bar could not have done better. The case was really bad and there was no help for it.

That the recent removal of furnitures &c from the Castle has been an unmixed evil was fully illustrated on the arrival here of Mr. Justice Puccell last week when it was found that the bedding in the Judge's quarters had also been removed. He had to send all round about the Town to borrow a mattress but could not obtain one to suit him and it is still a question of doubt as to how he spent the night, until he got one sent up from Cape Coast next day.

It was in reference to this that when Counsel Mr. Leung was leading an argument during the proceedings in the Ntenu Mbra case as to that the hand-cuffs were supplied to the constables by defendant because there were none at the Police Station, that His Honour jocosely remarked that there would not be the slightest doubt that there were no hand-cuffs at the Police Station as there were no mattresses in the Public Works Department.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Matthew Nathan, attended by his Private Secretary Captain Stephens, paid a flying visit to Akuse on his return from Kwitta and the Eastern Districts. His Excellency arrived on the night of the 4th inst. and left on the morning of the 5th inst. for Akera via Dodowa. H. M. Hull Esq. Secy Nat. Affairs with the motor car meeting the Governor at Tröm. We are proud of these visits, and expect some political benefit therefrom though H. E. leaves the Protectorate soon.

Mantse Odonkor returned to Kpong on the morning of the 13th inst. from the Enquiry held on him. Mantse Amitei and others, Mr. Henry Plange, (Barrister) appeared for the Plaintiffs, and Barrister Dove for the Defendants. The proceedings of the Enquiry (as far as it appeared to Spectators at Court) did not reveal any serious misdemeanour or insubordination, on the part of the Defendants, of a political nature, affecting the Croboes as a people and the Gold Coast as a nation, worthy of the trouble and expense imposed upon His Majesty's Government. Public opinion is that such complaints as *Konor* Mate Kole framed into so many charges against his Colleague and blood relations, could have been quietly and amicably settled by a Council board or by Arbitrators consisting of neighbouring Headmen according to native usage in the days of our fathers. But why did he jump all at once to the Government? In what way did he first attempt to call his subordinates to order if he found any fault in them? Is there no provision for checking any *Mantse*, *Asafatsse*, or *Mankyalu* in the native constitutions? How did our Ancestors proceed in cases of this nature when the Government had no basis in their jurisdiction? If the Defendants had been aspirants to the stool, if they had conspired truly against the *Konor*, if they were traitors in the right sense of the word the Public would assent to the cause pursued. We are sure if His Excellency had demanded a written Reply to the several charges we call complaints, he would not have placed this case within the compass of the Ordinance empowering the constitution of Enquiry into a case of very little political importance as this.

The Prosecution after narrating serious charges based on trifles, was ill at ease with the *cons pro-*

bandi. The evidences for the prosecution were plainly conflicting to which the Special Commissioner called the notice and attention of the Plaintiff and his Counsel. Eyes were strained in vain to see those witnesses committed for Perjury. The disclosures by the proceedings and the overwhelming evidences adduced in the Defence reflected seriously on the honor of the Plaintiff. Public confidence is shaken and another tornado such as the case in reference will overhaul it root and branch. The outcome of the whole circumstance is that the Croboe tribes are lowered in the estimation of the Akwapims in particular and of the Country in general.

The *Konor's* mistake lies in supposing his position above criticism, and taking his *Critics for Enemies*. Our Critics are our best friends who push us up to Official perfection and present us friendly in the eyes of the Public.

From the Enquiry Court *Mantse* Amitei and *Sasaku* were committed for Perjury. Preliminary examination took place before His Worship the Acting D.C. Dr. Papafio at Akuse, on Saturday 11th inst. Messrs. Murphy, D.C. and A. Foulkes, Assist. D.C. gave their evidences for the Prosecution. Again Mr. Dove, appeared for the defence. There was a strong contest on a legal technical point; The Accused was remanded till Friday next the 20th inst. Mr. Murphy left for Aida the same day.

The Croboe Country in the main received with much regret and amazement the news of the sentence of death passed on Odonkor, Lam and Adfo by his Honor the Chief Justice founded on the Verdict of the Jurymen. The Verdict was surprisingly contrary to the charge given by His Honor. The Prisoner Odonkor emphatically reiterated the innocence of the two persons with whom he was condemned and pointed out that their blood would be on the Judge and Jury. Of course it cannot be on the Judge. The Jurymen are responsible. Odonkor admitted from first to last he and he only killed the four men who met their death in course of his arrest and that he did it in self defence. The evidence of Dr. Papafio revealed the fact that Odonkor had wounds from a gun shot. It was that prior to *Konor* Mate Kole's constables (?) going to arrest Odonkor, the former had brought 60lbs of gunpowder from German Factory at Akuse. The Agent of the said Firm attested to the truth of that and explained that a Permit signed by the D.C. was presented upon which he sold the lawful quantity. The circumstantial evidences go to prove that Constables went to Odonkor's village armed in the face of such facts and in spite of the learned Judge's comments and charge these jurymen gave verdict of "Guilty of Murder." The Judge could not do otherwise than pass the sentence of death; but it is now within the Governor's discretionary power to reverse the judgment. The Croboes know nothing of petition, Akera people will interfere into the case of a man or men acquainted with them. Jurymen except they are genuine christian men of good standing in the church, having the fear of God and regard to justice, are not above corruption? We do believe the Governor will respect the merits of the case according to the deposition of the Supreme Court.

Nyagbetor was acquitted, but *Asafatsse* Nwona and others were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment ranging from 10 to 15 years. These old men seem already pining away. It is very doubtful whether they can live to serve the long term.

The case of the *Jartsis* has been referred to Akropong for investigation and settlement. Ohin Tetey of Akitibi the *Ahinasees* and few others oppose the election at Mamfe on the 13th Oct last in favour of *Asiedu* whose sanguinary descent from the regal ancestors is much debated.

The D. C. of Akuse has been actively engaged in improving the Roads. The Akuse-Akumeka Road rounding the Lagoon is stretching splendidly along. Mr. W. A. Bly, Foreman of Work is hard at work building a substantial bridge over Okon on the Tröm-Akuse Road. Another new Road is being constructed to communicate directly with Ago-mada. The Akuse-Kpong Road is also having a share of the attention of the D.C. Mr. Foulkes, His Excellency will find it a pleasure when he visits the Volta District again in his Motor-car.

The Editorial of the Leader on the subject of "The Native Chiefs Ordinance" has elicited much interest and surprise on this side of the Protectorate.

Printed at the office of the GOLD COAST LEADER, Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by JOHN D. OROO.

The Gold Coast Leader

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GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Barnes returned from Accra last week.

The *Dahomey* brought Mr. Justice Stanley Morgan with Mr. Gibber and Mr. Robertson for the Appeal Court last Friday from Axim.

We learn that Mr. Clare has been appointed by his Firm (the African Association) its Civil and General Supervising Agent for this Colony. Mr. C. has our best congratulations, and we wish him all success.

SOUTHERN NIGERIA. "Thanks very much says the *LEADER*."

"Life however short is made shorter by waste of time."

Just as we were going to Press last Saturday a paper was handed to us announcing the publication early this month by The Gold Coast Globe Publishing Co. Ltd., a Handbook to be entitled, *The Gold Coast and the Frontiers* by LIONEL R. FOOT and F. F. E. JONES JUN. & CO.

Mr. Jones is the eldest son of Mr. Jones of the Deputation fame and seems to be a very enterprising young man. From the contents announced, the Handbook should be interesting. "A very large sale seems assured," says the *Argus*.

For our Prize competition on the Foresters Anniversary, OSMOND won the first Prize (£5) and Mr. James S. Mills the second prize (£5).

"THE PRESENT STATE of things in the community and in all West Africa," says the *Weekly News* (S. Leone) is most unsatisfactory, and it is the duty of the Press—if it has any duty at all—to call attention to whatever not only demoralizes but threatens the life of the People. *Salus populi suprema est lex.*

The members of the Wesley Church, we understand when out preaching last Monday night were ordered to stop, to obtain a Pass before, and they stopped. We are getting on famously!

For G. C. L. in the sixth paragraph of the Notes of last Saturday's issue please read G. C. A.

"Children and fools should not handle edge tools."

According to a Government Proclamation divisions of Denkera (Omanhin Inkwantatasa) Assin (Omanhin Tibu Daku) Assin Apumenin (Omanhin Kwamin Takyie in) and Abura (Omanhin Omu V) have been placed under "The Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1883."

Dr. Rome Hall, the Senior Medical Officer of this Protectorate retired since 12th Sept. last.

The following Ordinances have been confirmed by the Secretary of State:—

1. An Ordinance to amend 'The Administration Assistance Ordinance, 1902.'
2. An Ordinance to regulate communication by Wireless Telegraphy.
3. An Ordinance to amend 'The Towns Ordinance 1892.'
4. An Ordinance to further amend the Ashanti Administration Ordinance, 1902'
5. An Ordinance to further amend The Spirit License Ordinance, 1887.

"The Secretary of State for the Colonies has now completed his staff which is as follows:—Private Secretary, Mr. Bernard H. Holland; Assistant Private Secretaries, Mr. Edward Marsh, Mr. Conrad Russell, and Mr. J. Reginald Rankin (junior). *The Argus*."

It is to be regretted that the accident which befell the young Bricklayer on the fall of Mr. Esau Waddu's house necessitated the amputation of a leg, which operation was performed at Dr. Hayford's (Hester Hall) close to the place.

We understand the Honourable J. Mensah Sarbah returned from his visit to England by the *Ocean* last Monday. We heartily welcome him back.

Mr. J. P. Brown also returned from Axim by her.

"We want not time but diligence for great performances."

PATRIOT KOUIS OMOKE we regret space has not permitted your correspondence being published this week also.

Mr. Longdon's store at Axim was broken into on last Monday morning.

Mr. Edward Walker we understand chased and caught a nocturnal visitor, and succeeded to snatch his bayonet from him, but the man effected his escape—and he was a Bobby!

"Efforts are being made by the Accra Young Men's Christian Association" says the *Argus* "to raise funds for the erection of an Association Hall, which it is said is a much felt want."

A Deputation from the West African Section of

the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, has waited on the Hon. Alfred Lyttleton M. P. Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the subject of the administration of the West African Colonies.

We regret to learn that His Honour the Chief Justice has been indisposed during the week.

OUR TARKWA Correspondent wired on Thursday morning.—The Boy Omanhin KWANIN ENIMIL III. Lower Wassaw died on Monday after seven days illness, date for funeral not fixed.

We regret to find that the broken part of the old Wesleyan Cemetery containing the remains of our dear departed ones has been left unrepaired for the past 3 years. If it is true we hold them in remembrance it is necessary that their resting place should engage the attention it deserves.

We understand Mr. C. A. A. Barnes has written to sever his connection with the Aborigines Sanitary Section.

We further understand that some ill-disposed persons are making themselves obnoxious in the present state of affairs in the Christ Church and they have even gone so far as to say that the building is the property of the Government.

The Full Court closed yesterday afternoon: we hope to give a report on it next week.

TARKWA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Assistant D.C. Mr. Furley having been transferred to Dunkwa, Mr. Maxwell has been substituted.

We beg leave to call the attention of the Officer in charge of the Sanitary Department to the disgraceful condition of the Blackman's Cemetery which is overgrown with wild and thick bush, while the Whiteman's is always kept clean. We hope the officer being himself a native would pay similar attention to that.

The Police escort of whom we reported to have made away with the specie £600 in course of conveyance from here to Prestea Mines have been at last found, arrested, and committed for trial.

The public is experiencing some trouble with the Post Office with regard to the way their letters &c. are treated. When mails arrive fine care is only taken to sort and put in their respective boxes all letters belonging to the mining companies and merchants and then carelessly toss about the rest on the counter for the public to dance with. In this way some important letters get astray and more also some mischievous rascals have an easy access of taking and concealing them in their pockets and burning them in their homes after they had read them through. When letters are sorted they should be called out to the public present as it is done at other places and those not answered for should be kept in a box for the letter carriers to deliver.

[The Post office officials at Tarkwa must be a pack of drones if they conduct their business in that manner. What do their conscience tell them of the method of spreading letters on the counter and thus rendering them easily accessible to any one?—Ed.]

The public in general will be surprised to hear that we have no medical officer in this large field but only a Dispenser, who takes charge of the whole medical and Sanitary Departments. Many congratulations are due to Mr. Bannister, the Dispenser, for his diligence, but we very much need a resident doctor.

It has come to our knowledge that a great improvement is taking place at Dunkwa. It is to be the centre of the Sekondi-Kumasi Railway and about four or five different branches of rail-lines will be laid to the several mines in the neighbourhood. Plots of lands are being obtained by some merchants and others for the erection of excellent buildings there.

We note with regret the untimely departure from our midst of Mr. G. A. Dudley Fitz-John, S. H. P. Mas. V.C.M. London who, on the transfer of Mr. Thomas to Sekondi voluntarily offered himself as organist for the local Church. Mr. Fitz-John who is a native of Kwitta, goes to visit his family there and returns to Accra to sit under an Examination under the Drugs Ordinance for a certificate early next year.

We understand the retiring merchant Mr. H. Drewry has sold up his two premises to Mr. Geo. Wilson for the handsome sum of £150 on private contract.

It was an awful scene at the station yard on the 25th ult when the morning train came tumbling over the rails and running aground, thereby rendering many of the station rails broken and twisted. Surely if such an accident had happened while crossing a bridge not a single soul would have been saved.

Rev. Assan who has been in charge of this station (Wesleyan Mission) has left for Richmond College (Sierra Leone) and Rev. Stanhope, we understand comes to take his place.

DIXCOVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

As the sequence of the riot of the 27th October last, one Kobina Eesaw, a native of Cape Coast and a carpenter by trade, succumbed, on the 28th of November last, to wounds received on the head by a stone from some of Ohin Kwezi Agyiman's party.

An inquest was held on the body, presided over by Mr. Ennis, D.C. there ought to be some compensation for his people from—

We again call the attention of the authorities, through Mr. Ennis, the D. C., for the provision of a Market Shed for the town. Any one visiting the market place after ten o'clock in the morning will see how the people fare from the heat of the sun, not to say the action of the rains.

When you find a town like Dixcove without a King's Warehouse and consequently importers have to subject their goods to the mercy of the sun and rains, and when you witness that even the King's Customs officials have to subject their bodies to a similar process, you will know the amount of benefit the community derives from the heavy taxation.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Spirits License Amendment Ordinance has created a stir here and rum sellers seem to have been hard hit by it. Some of the Firms are likely to give up that trade. A meeting is to be held when a petition is to be forwarded to His Excellency, the Governor.

We see the Government is paying some attention in the matter of the repairing of the crooked and rocky passage at the back of Mr. J. V. Aggrey's house leading to the Ashanti Road. The work is, however, being undertaken by prisoners under a Gaoler instead of a skilled Engineer. As it is we presume it will not be properly done up and may turn to be a penny-wise-pound-foolish work. Such kind of economy is hard to beat and judging from the revenue the Town yields it ought to be able to afford an engineer to look over well the ordering of the streets &c.

At Impeseduadzi on the 22nd ultimo a man by name Egyir-Kofi was caught by a gun-trap that had been set in the bush and died on the 28th ultimo. It is said that the man went to the fields in search of some medicine and that during the quest he met with the accident. When Mr. Harper the D.C. who was returning to town from inspection, reached Impeseduadzi, the *Odzikro* (Head of the village) informed him of the accidental death of Egyir-Kofi, and pointed out to him the setter of the trap one Bekunyin. The D. C. ordered the *Odzikro* to come to town with Bekunyin. The D. C. subsequently inspected the corpse and held an inquest when the jury returned a verdict of "accidental death." The D. C., however, decided to commit Bekunyin on trial pending further orders from Accra, holding that as the field was not a personal property of his but a place much frequented by all the people he had no right to set the trap there.

Mr. D. T. Orma, the Inspector of Schools, arrived in town on the 1st inst. and started examining the local Schools.

EDITORIAL NOTES

We do not consider the treatment usually given by the fisher folk to the strangers who come here for fishing purposes fair, and we call attention to it for those who are responsible for these men to see and put a check to it. These strangers on coming here are made to pay certain sums of money before they are allowed to go fishing, and they pay ungrudgingly for we understand this is customary with fishermen everywhere. It being so, we cannot understand why after this, damages should be wilfully and intentionally done to their canoes. This is most unjust and the Ahinfa who take pains to see that these strangers pay these moneys should also take the trouble to see that they are not molested.

The Agricultural Show at Lagos from all account has been a great success and it will not fail to have a salutary effect on the agricultural pursuits of the sister Colony. So successful it was, that Sir William Macgregor suggested an Intercolonial West African Exhibition. Well done, Lagos!

On reading the account of the Show as reported in Lagos papers one cannot help admiring the hearty and cordial reception given by the head of the Executive to the Onis, and the Akarigbos and Awuyales and the Alakes and Alafins, the Owubias and the Oroguns, the Oloshis Akiaketus &c. who happened to come down to Lagos for the Show, a reception every way worthy of the West African Governor who from experience and conviction has given it out as a dictum that it is wiser and safer and more

beneficial to all concerned to manage the affairs of a Colony, by and through the "Chiefs." The incident forms a striking contrast to what we are experiencing here and makes a sorry comment on "the question of the hour."

Sir William has undoubtedly made his mark as a Colonial Governor, one who racks his brains to find out, what would be to the best interest of his "subjects," and takes pains to carry out as much as he can, what he thinks will be to the interest of his people: but—that ugly word—we cannot understand his "Newspaper Ordinance." Is this the fault of the man or the Crown Colony System? By the way, we understand our Lagos friends are petitioning against the decision of the ex-Colonial Secretary Mr. Chamberlain who sanctioned it. We wish them every success in the movement, and may better judgment prevail.

"Many so-called punitive expeditions are really forward movements in imperial interests" says the correspondent of our esteemed contemporary the *West Africa* in his "Naval and Military Notes." That's the naked truth.

The same writer says—"I am glad to learn that the defence of the West African Colonies is being seriously considered by those responsible, and that a scheme for the same has been formulated, and is ere long likely to take effective shape. It is proposed, in the first instance, to adequately fortify Cape Coast, Accra, and Lagos—Sierra Leone has already been provided for. The defence of none of these places should present any insuperable difficulty as nature has done much to assist them towards that end. [And what Nature has done in this respect she has done for some places in this Colony for the building of Wharves also. Ed.] It is to be hoped however, that when the proposal now put forward is approved, steps will be taken to carry same into effect as rapidly as possible. The defences of Sierra Leone have been many years in course of completion and they are still incomplete."

The way in which some people seem to take delight in depriving other people of their liberty for the most trifling debt, and the manner in which warrants are issued for the least trifling debt here is surprising: whether it is the creditor, or his adviser that hankers after this 'pleasure' is what puzzles us. Those who know tell us, that it is only in this Colony that things are done as they are being done, and this is not strange, for is not this the Gold Coast?

An improvement! The Police are now to be seen in civilian dress or in their trousers only apprehending people. We must have our Scotland Yard with vengeance and all for Sanitation, since the Segregation Dream is a thing of the past or has not been realised yet. This Town at least ought to win the first prize in a Sanitation Prize Competition, for it has every chance to do so.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned.

A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, DECEMBER 12, 1903.

"THE NATIVE CHIEFS' ORDINANCE 1903"

BY AFRICANUS.

This is not the time for mincing matters. It is a time for calling a spade a spade. A great danger threatens the country—a danger as great as that which threatened the country in connection with the Lands Bill of Governor Maxwell. We must not stop to study the feelings of this man or that man, however highly he may be placed, and be personally ever so well-intentioned. Unless we wake up, we shall rise one morning to find that we are permanently crippled as a people in as far as commanding the usages and customs dear to our forefathers, and which they have handed to us in solemn trust is concerned.

To begin with, all the authorities on the native laws and customs make it plain that the Gold Coast is a protectorate to a large extent, "the soil being in the hands of the natives and under the jurisdiction of the Chiefs" (Barbado's Customary Laws).

Now the "Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1883," when applied and adversely interpreted, places in the hands of the Colonial Government a power which the local authorities, until the time of the present Governor, have been slow to exercise. If you take the trouble to read pages 208 to 213 of the "Gold Coast Native Institutions,"

you will see what a weapon the said Ordinance is in the hands of the administration.

To wait till the people should ask for the repeal of the Native Jurisdiction Ordinance 1883, or for such a modification as would safeguard the interests of the Native Kings and Chiefs, the present administration has taken the bull by the horns and pounced upon the country the present "Native Chiefs' Bill."

Any educated man can read for himself the meaning of the Ordinance. In a few words, it makes the Governor the power to enstool and destool the kings and chiefs; and the talk about "facilitating" and so on is simply a blind man's buff.

Sections 3, 4 and 5 make a certificate under the hand of the Colonial Secretary without further proof enough to prevent a native king or chief from asserting his right to his position under the Customary Law.

Governor Nathan may be very well-intentioned, and our judges may be blameless. But for all that human nature is so funny; and what guarantee have we that there may not be a Pharaoh who knows not Joseph?

Therefore, I do trust most ardently that our people will agitate, and keep on agitating, until the Bill shall be a dead letter, and the underlying policy involved nipped in the bud.

But let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, and it is this:—The people of the Gold Coast have short memories. Why ever did they drop the appeal for a national assembly in 1898-1899? If they had pressed on to success, there would to-day be no recrudescence of a policy which makes for the ignoring of the ancient rights of the kings and chiefs of the people of this country. A word to the wise is enough. That word is, that all must be up and doing before it is too late.

THE "G. C. ABORIGINES" OF NOV. 28 AND THE "G. C. LEADER" OF NOV. 21.

We never expected the Editorial Staff of our contemporary as at present constituted to agree with us in everything especially where purely native questions are concerned. Though all blacks some of them hail from countries where although there are native institutions and laws the nature, the fundamental principles of such laws and institutions as well as the way and manner by which they are upheld or effect is given to them radically differ from those of the natives of this Colony. It would be unfair therefore to expect, these other than natives of the Gold Coast to see eye to eye, to sympathize and feel with us at least to such an extent or degree as a son of the soil would on questions such as the Native Chiefs' Ordinance, 1903. It is impossible for them to grasp the meaning the more than possible effect the legislation in question will have upon the customary laws, institutions and practices of this country, especially when in the hands of a reckless or down-with-the-native person in authority.

In the words of our contemporary itself "step by step silently and by insidious processes the rights of our kings and chiefs have been interfered with curtailed and smothered until now they stand bare, left at the mercy of any capricious official dressed in a little brief power."

Apart from every other consideration if this is the present position of our Rulers, a position brought about by the Government, and brought about by them in the manner our contemporary describes is it not but "natural" that any further legislation encroaching upon their rights or in any way affecting them and through them the People, should be looked upon with "suspicion" and criticized? We venture to say if the above quotation had appeared in our columns we would have been put down once more as being "against the Government" (whatever that may mean) yet it is the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth about them. It is the very same thing that we have from the beginning been calling attention of the People of this Colony, the Aborigines Society in particular as their authorised representative and our many trustworthy and sympathetic friends over the seas who love to see justice and fairplay even between whites and blacks.

It is the inconsistency, the untenable position as it is the impossible attitude as the Country's mouthpiece into which the Executive of the Aborigines Society has placed itself (vide also her leading article in her issue of Nov. 14) that led us to criticize her action rather position while criticizing the Ordinance in question.

We yield the palm to none in our respect and esteem for the members of that Society. We never questioned "its honesty" or "its integrity." It is presumptuous, to say the least, to inform us that the Society has "defended the rights and worked for the amelioration of the condition of our people." Any one who has read the G. C. L. and understands what he can read needn't be told that it has always given the Society her due mead. But at the same time it has striven to stir her up to her duties when she has shown unmistakable signs of weakness and apathy. Many a suggestion has been thrown out in our columns which in more instances than one has been taken up by her with advantage, nay with signal success to the country such as the advisability of having the business of the Society distributed among its members. Hence the Sanitary, the Education, the Commercial

(Chamber of Commerce) &c. Departments now doing useful work for this Town and the whole Colony. The Editor of the G. C. L. is not only a member but a President of one of the sectional departments above referred to. It is the Report of Dr. E. J. Hayford as President of the Sanitary Section of the Society that His Excellency the Governor speaks so highly of in his Memorandum and the Editorial Staff of the G. C. L. are members of the Society. From all this it must appear to any reasonable and unprejudiced person that anything that appears in our columns about the Aborigines Society cannot but be dictated by duty and duty to our country alone and because it is our duty we shall as long as we continue our journalistic career call a spade a spade whether it has reference to White or Black.

It is significant that it is our contemporary alone so far as we are aware that takes the view it comments upon in her issue before last of our leading article of the 21st ult. From Axim right down to Kwitta, to say nothing of persons: calls to our office and elsewhere from men of note and who are members of the Aborigines Society, we have received letters and telegrams congratulating us on the "remarks and arguments directed with such singular precision to the provisions of the Ordinance in question and the general attitude of the Aborigines Society and hopes our contemporary will reply to both" to quote from one of the letters received. Well, our contemporary has replied, a rather singular reply for it alone finds in this very article nothing but "uncontrollable fury" "silly vapourings" and "vituperation" and "invidious epithets": We leave it with the thinking and discerning Public to say, where the silliness lies, when at such a crisis in the history of the country and upon such a momentous question as this one the Ordinance deals with, the mouthpiece of the Natives of this Colony has done its duty to her people by the way it has dealt with the matter and the spirit it has evinced towards the G. C. L.

We venture to remark that none sees and feels the great responsibility that lies on the Society in general and its Executive in particular than we do. As the Body representing the natives in this large Colony, voicing their wishes and desires their hopes and fears and their grievances, as a Body properly constituted and duly authorized to safeguard the rights of the PEOPLE, we see and believe in the almost unlimited possibilities that lie upon her to make or mar this country nine three-fourths of the inhabitants of which can neither read nor write, and are almost wholly ignorant of what goes on around them particularly with respect to the administration of the Government totally foreign and strange Government established in their midst.

In his speech at Stirling on the 22nd October last Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman is reported to have said "a man could change his opinion as often as he pleased but if he did so he could not expect to be taken as an authoritative guide with the People." Those are words worthy of the consideration of our responsible citizens to whom the country has "entrusted the safeguarding of their rights and liberties."

We consider the present crisis through which the natives of this Colony are passing a very grave one. The issues at stake touch the very core of our existence as a nation under our own institutions and our own Kings and Chiefs, elected, enstooled and kept on their stools or deposed therefrom by ourselves as hitherto.

Dr. Wilmot Blyden never gave a sounder, wiser advice not even than when at the dinner given him by Africans in England the other day he told them: "Now Gentlemen you are certainly among the leaders of the people. You have had access to European culture. You should be leaders of action and leaders of thought among them. My message to you to night therefore is to SCHOOL YOURSELVES TO LOOK UPON LIFE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF YOUR OWN NATIONALITY. (Capitals ours). With your study of English History and English institutions unite the study of the institutions and customs of your people. . . . We must all enter earnestly and intelligently upon the study of alien customs brought among us, comparing them with the customs of our fathers, with the view of revising the one so far as they conflict with our true interests, and strengthening the other as far as they conduce to our permanent welfare (Italics ours)—always keeping that great truth in mind that 'the life is more than meat and the body than raiment.'"

Those are words which every educated native especially the young whether or not he has been brought into contact with European culture at home should do well to seriously ponder over and resolve to follow, even though he may be misunderstood and called names by natives or other than natives of this soil, for they are worth their weight

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in gold to us especially at this crisis when our national existence in the shape of the "institutions and customs of our fathers" the rights and privileges of our hereditary Rulers and consequently of the PEOPLE are threatened and are being "step by step, silently and by insidious processes interfered with, curtailed and smothered."—(G. C. A.)

WHEN IS A DOCTOR NOT A "DOCTOR"?

BY C.

The question "when is a doctor not a doctor" is a puzzling one to the lay mind.

On the Gold Coast we are accustomed to call every man "Doctor" who is in the Government Medical Service or is in private practice, and we are surprised to find that this is not correct. The highest authority on the subject namely the General Medical Council of England has decided that only those who hold a University degree are entitled to call themselves "Doctor."

We read in the Supplement to the British Medical Journal of October 1903 the following—

The question of Medical men who do not hold a University degree styling themselves "Doctor" was considered. The Committee expressed the opinion that medical practitioners who do not possess the degree of M.D. or M.B. are not justified in styling themselves "Doctor."

We have taken the trouble to look up the Medical Directory in order to see how many of our Medical men here can take unto themselves the learned and honourable appellation of "Doctor." We beginning first with the most prominent of them namely, the one who hold the position of Medical Officer for Cape Coast and we see that he is "M.B. Ch. B." of Edinburgh University, our worthy friend from Lagos Dr. R. Akiwande Savage holds the same degree; our esteemed townsman Dr. Hayford is an M.D. all these three are therefore properly entitled to style themselves, and to be styled by others "Doctor." The remaining Medical man in Cape Coast the Medical Officer of Health has no University degree and is therefore like ourselves in virtue of the decision referred to above only a plain "Mr."

It appears to us so far as we are able to judge the question (and we think we judge rightly) that a man can get a medical qualification entitling him to have his name on the Medical Register the official record of medical men, and also enabling him to practise medicine and surgery, but that his so doing does not entitle him to call himself a "Doctor" this must be very disappointing in after life to those who hold such qualification but they like ourselves must accept the fact. The General Medical Council is wiser than we are in this matter, and must have had good and sufficient grounds for its decision. Pursuing our duties of men and things medical, we find that in England only those medical men who hold a diploma of Public Health are eligible for the appointment of Medical Officer of Health.

To get a diploma of Public Health we find that a medical man has after he gets his University degree or a lesser qualification, to spend at least another year studying practically and in the Laboratory, all that appertains to the Health of the Public, both urban and rural.

For the sake of the Public this is only right. And we ask, if this is good enough for England is it not good enough for the Gold Coast? In our humble opinion it is even more important to have fully qualified Medical Officers of Health for the tropical region of the Gold Coast than for the England of a more temperate climate.

The very fact that a fully qualified Medical man has to spend so much additional time and money to gain a diploma of Public Health shows how important is science of Hygiene as applied to the Public welfare. There is no more important subject save that of the direction of the state itself.

In the light of this knowledge we are inclined to question whether the Government of the Gold Coast has been as careful as it should have been in its Public Health appointments. Consequently in different parts of the Coast we find this important duty frequently discharged by persons who not only hold no diploma of Public Health but who also had presumably no actual experience of such work until their arrival on the Colony.

But not only does Public Health in the tropics require specially skilful men it requires men trained in the courteous discharge of administrative duties, men who are by nature tactful, resourceful, even diplomatic, men who, ignoring the policy of the man with the muck rake can look out on the horizon of their important duties with a comprehensive sweeping eye noting the large things to be dealt with yet not neglecting small details, men who are above petty trifling and who seek to enlist every one in their aid instead of rebuking every body the wrong way.

In the future, when appointing Medical Officer of Health we trust that the Government will see to it that thoroughly qualified men are given these important posts and not thrust into them any one who by favour may be thought fit for the position

or who not being fit for general service is got rid of by being made a Medical Officer of Health.

This matter is highly important in the interest of both the Whites and Blacks of this Colony.

SCRUTINEER.

Theory in Government, as in Religion, we have had enough and to suffocation, and it is decidedly high time that practice gave way to theory. It is one thing to assemble in the Council room passing laws, and another thing to get the objects, for which they are intended, achieved; and the circumstances are aggravated when such laws happen to be unnecessary, harsh, and out of conformity to fair-play. There is a wide distinction between a law-making (which is but a prospective) Government, and a practical Government which does than say. He must be a successful Governor of this Protectorate, and for the matter of that any other Country, who would devote more of his time in practising than in theorizing; that is, he must study closely the needs of his people and seek for means to provide them. He must study their legitimate claims and endeavour to grant them. He must suffer Justice, Honesty, and Conscientiousness to be his guides, and seek to be guided by them. "We will educate the people," will be his pledge, for he will know that Education will raise the People from ignorance, and immoral depravity and will endow them with the faculty of knowing their duty to their Government and fellow-men.

George Maclean devoted most of his time, as an Administrator, in the interests of the People. He lived with, and for, them. Fairplay and Conscientiousness was his motto, and in dealing with the People he followed very closely the relations then and now existing between the protecting and the protected powers; never for one moment overstepping the landmarks of treaties and bonds. No colour prejudice had a print on his brain, and self-interest was an unknown quality with him. No desire to ruin this or that town, directly or serpentine, because it is plain and outspoken, because it calls a spade a spade, because "it is always in my way," was ever a motive with him. He was an anti-humbug in Native institutions. And the result of this was that his name has passed to grateful posterity, and generations here have risen and will rise to call him "Maclean the Good." Is it not, after all, worth the sacrificing of tens of millions of oppressions, high-handednesses, and corruptions, to get the simple designation, the "Good"?

I have never been able to comprehend the aptitude of the Government for monopoly, that has greatly retarded the onward progress of this Country in modern facilities for the convenience of mankind and the expansion of commerce. In all, too, it exhibits a childish unbecoming in undertaking the few it could. Capitalists were ready and willing to undertake the building of Railways throughout the land, and would have done it more substantially and economically, but the Government would do them. Though it knows as much of the solidity and economy in railway construction as I know of ship-building. Capitalists will be found to undertake the construction of a Branch railway line for this and other towns in the Country but the Government would not suffer them. A Company will undertake to supply wholesome waters to the large towns but the Government would not allow it. I presume English Financiers would like to undertake wharves-making as a commercial speculation but the Government would not allow them. The Government itself would not undertake to provide these and if it ever stirs itself to work it is sure to exhibit itself egregiously.

Now, let me ask, what other free nation besides us, would so calmly perch down and exhibit such Job's patience while such ipsecuanaba draughts are forced down their throats?

The question the Executive of the Aborigines Society should have asked with regard to the "Native Chiefs' Ordinance," was whether or not the Government has a right to interfere with our Native Institutions. If the answer happened to be in the negative—as it surely would—then they were bound to protest for the abrogation of the Bill. And no one has got business or ground to consider whether it was initiated with good or bad intentions. Let us assume, for the matter of argument, that the Bill was initiated with good intentions. Then the question must arise, if we know how to manage our Native affairs properly what right has an outsider to interfere with them at all, even with good intentions? If I can manage my personal affairs orderly I do not see what right another man has got to interfere with them, even with good intentions.

Yours faithfully,—Artoo.

ELMINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

A SEA WALL TO PROTECT THE TOWN. A DESIDERATUM.

The extreme exigency in the matter of providing the town of Elmina with a permanent SEA WALL or a BREAKWATER to protect the houses fronting the Bay from further incursions of the tides, has been for the fiftieth time, at least, dealt upon without eliciting any sanguine expectations from the Government although affairs are daily assuming graver aspects. It even appears that Christiansburg Castle is engaged in a conspiracy to leave this town to its doom. The recent removal of furniture with the only time gun—from the Castle goes to support the suspicion. The government of the Gold Coast being unquestionably notorious in always providing one bone for a dozen dogs.

But to return to the matter of the Sea wall. It must be remembered that on the last visit of the Governor Sir Matthew Nathan to this place in February last, among other grievances laid before His Excellency was the "sea wall palaver" to this as well as other matters, the reply was as usual, "ready made" no funds.

What the *Onankin* and his committee should have done preparatory to the interview was to have provided themselves with the statistics of the revenues of this town, such as the Customs duties collected annually on so many puncheons of Rum consumed as well as the expenditure in salaries to officials &c. for the sake of drawing some inference in point of argument. Instead of this, some one made it a speciality to advocate for the abrogation of the "Stray Castles Ordinance." What this had to do with a sea wall I have not as yet been able to find out.

In the programme of the government Estimates it would be noticed that there has been always a sum of £100 placed to the credit of this town yearly, for the repairs and maintenance to the River Embankment which in nine cases out of ten, is seldom expended in the proper sense, save for an occasional patch here and there.

If for the past ten years this sum of £100 had been utilized in purchasing cement and laying out blocks at a rate of about 200 annually there would have been at present, a stock of at least 2000 blocks, on hand and with a little outlay of a couple thousands pounds and some human exertion a good sea wall or break water could be easily constructed. Besides affording protection to the town a sea wall properly built would at the same time render the landing one of the best on the Gold Coast.

There is at present some talk about transferring the landing and shipping arrangements of Sekondi to Takoradi Bay the Authorities having found out from recent experience that the Beach of the former place is not spacious enough for such heavy work as the landing of machinery &c. compared with Takoradi Bay. A train line was however run between the two places, to join the main line.

Why cannot a similar thing be done between Cape Coast and this place, by way of insuring people's lives and property against boating accidents.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We request that many of the letters we publish here had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can neither find room or letters exceeding 500 or 600 words in length.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

HOW THE "GOLD COAST ABORIGINES" REPRESENTS THINGS.

"THE EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE IS UTTERLY NEGLECTED AND THE MASS, THE GREAT MASS OF THE PEOPLE ARE GROSSLY IGNORANT."

My Dear Mr. Editor—I could scarcely believe my eyes when my attention was directed to, and I subsequently beheld, in the columns of the *Gold Coast Aborigines* of the 21st out a surprising and peculiar report of the above statement which was embodied in an article I sent to the *Liverpool West African Mail* and which appeared in its issue of the 23rd October last. The *G. C. A.* was conscientious enough to term the statement "gross exaggeration," a bold statement to make, "undiscoverable," "gratulations," which means in plain English that the education of the people is not neglected by the Government, and that the greater mass of the people are not grossly ignorant. This is both strange and amusing and after this deed I wonder what next the *G. C. A.* has in store for its readers. Previous to this foreign and grotesque refutation of an undeniable fact, which all people outside the sanctum of Mrs. Grundy endorse and sadly deplore and have from time to time called upon the Government to remedy, I had never expected that the *G. C. A.* was printing such inanities. The whole thing is on the face of it so unwarranted and so absurd, although equally unachievable, that it needs no enlargements to render it plainer. Nevertheless, let us briefly weigh the "splendid" argument of the Journal devoted to "the safety of the Public, and the welfare of the race." It is quite evi-

dent that the stand and by which the *G. C. A.* measures the flourishing state of Education in a "Colony" is by the institution of three "Splendid Government Schools" (Elementary class Schools, mind you, and this is what the *G. C. A.* designates "splendid"), amount of grants given annually by the Government to other Schools belonging to the Missionary Bodies, and still stranger, "the expense of the Education Department"! The so called "largest number of scholars," though I have not the data by me, I have every reason to believe may not be over 3000 in all the three "splendid Government Schools." I am not properly informed of the case of the others but I know that the Cape Coast Government School cannot even be rightly termed a free School as the Scholars pay nominal sums as School fees. Taking this subject as a whole the *G. C. A.* betrays an ignorance quite unworthy of a public Journal, and consequently it remains to be taught (1) That the systems of Government "grants" by which it assumes that the Government is doing its faithful best in the education of the people, is not peculiar to this Country but prevails throughout Great and Greater Britain. (2) That by taking a glance through the Geography of either Natal, Mauritius or Trinidad, all British Dependencies, it would find for its edification that instead of three "splendid elementary Government Schools" there are maintained in these Colonies at the cost of the respective Governments "High Schools," "Art Schools," "Royal Colleges" besides numerous state-supported Elementary Schools. (3) That "the expense of the Education department" does not mean the "expense" of instructing the children, and (4) That the greater mass of the people are grossly ignorant, which the *G. C. A.* itself confirms by saying "that education has taken a firmer hold on the people of the other 'Colonies' because 'better Schools' have been 'established' there. By its own 'uncharitable' and perverse argument the fact remains unimpaired that the education of the people is utterly neglected by the Government, and the mass, the great mass of the people, are left grossly ignorant; and no ignorant Englishman cognizant of the educational interest taken by the Imperial Government at 'home' would in comparison to what is perpetrated here gainsay this.

"THE NATIVE CORRESPONDENT."

DR. SAVAGE AND THE YOUNG FORESTERS.

Sir.—After our banquet last Saturday, a private meeting was held by 15 of us Young Foresters, and I was requested to write to you to say, we did not like the way Dr. Savage spoke about the natives of this town and country, in fact everything he said. We did not invite the Doctor to come and chop and drink with us, and then abuse us.

One of us said at our meeting that he overheard Dr. Savage himself asking our Chief Ranger to let him speak for the Aborigines Society and that the C. R. consented to it.

Now Sir, is it fair for the Doctor to solicit for the post, and then go and say things to mean there is no native in this town who could be asked to speak for his people and that's why they asked him, and so "it's an epoch," "it's an epoch"? Is no epoch at all. The Doctor has done wrong to abuse the privilege we gave him at his own request, by going on how he did.

Lawyers Savage and Leung also spoke, but we all liked what they said which was full of sense, and good. Why did not Dr. Savage also speak like them?

If this is the way he means to go on with us, then we tell him plainly, he better begin to search for the surf boat that landed him here, for the sooner he makes himself scarce, the better for him, for we don't want people who get their living by us to abuse us, and we did not want to go to banquet to take lessons in Grammar and Composition and how to construct Newspapers. We are Government and mercantile clerks and some of us are doing our own little business, if the Doctor wants to teach Grammar and give lessons he can tell Mr. Britton or advertise for night school boys and girls, but he must not teach our Past Chief Rangers and Present Chief Ranger and the members Grammar.

Again we are all so vexed that we shall ask the C. R. why he allowed Dr. Savage to go and speak like that for we don't like it at all.

My friends asked me to beg you, Mr. Editor to publish this letter, or we shall be vexed with yourself.

Yours truly,

YOUNG FORESTER.

Cape Coast, Nov. 29 1903.

[For fear of incurring the threatened wrath of Y. F. and his vexed friends, we publish the above, though we very much regret the incident, complained of, having been ourselves compelled by common courtesy to our hosts, to be unwilling listeners to the Doctor's diatribes. —Ed. G. C. L.]

Sir,—Kindly allow me a space in your valuable columns to set in the following, for an explanation. A few weeks ago I saw Amakwa and Annan who, I understand, had been committed for trial on their own confession for larceny in connection with the ill-fated "Stanleyville," and were for some time in custody without getting any one to bail them out, had been released on their own recognizance of £100 each without sureties. As a lady I should like to know whether there is an authority to allow persons, charged with larceny under section 269 of the "Criminal Code," to let themselves out on their own recognizance of £100, and if so why such indulgence is not allowed others in a similar position. I further wish to know whether the accused have each property to the amount of the recognizance? I am,

IGNORANT OF LAW.

Axim, Nov. 28.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. O'Brien D. C., went up to Mansu last week.

The Chief Justice (Sir William Brandford Griffith) Messrs. Mills & Plange left by the *Jebba* last Sunday morning for Accra.

Mr. Justice Morgan also left for Axim on the previous Friday and Mr. Ribeiro the next day.

Fort Victoria is being fenced in.

There has been a Prize competition for an invention for the scientific preparation of palm oil and kernels in Germany, when eighty German manufacturers of machinery competed. Fr. Haake, manufacturer of machinery in Berlin won, and 1500 marks was awarded him.

Mr. A. E. Gibson, B.A., West African, has written a very interesting article on *Slavery* in the current number of the *Journal of the African Society*.

Mr. James Hockman died on Tuesday evening last at his residence.

DIVORCE: Certainly, we must have your address, that is, if you wish it to be published.

The Wesleyan Sunday School Scholars paraded through the Town last Thursday.

Apropos of the present stir in the church and of the "meetings" which "are moreover being convened galore," our readers, especially, our church friends

will find the leading article, (*The Disestablishment of Anglican Churches*) of our esteemed contemporary the *Gold Coast Aborigines* of April 22, 1899 (No. 69, Vol II — 16) very instructive and interesting.

It begins:—"To be or not to be—that is the question. The declaration of Church Independence is the topic of the hour with the Anglican Churches here and at Accra. The Poet Burns sings, 'sweetly of the glorious privilege of being independent,' and the unusual warmth with which Bishops TOWELL and OLUWOLE's advocacy of 'disestablishment has been received, speaks volumes for the intelligence of those in the community who profess and call themselves members of the Church of England

LIONEL: We can assure you, you are greatly mistaken to suppose that we do not know or hear of the scandalous goings on of the "remarkable store" you mention, we do; but remember to every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose. We think however you can go on, on the lines you propose, and we shall be pleased to hear from you at any time.

On Christmas Day, (next Friday) we hope, some of our readers will do well to remember John Ploughman's advice for the day to have more thinking than drinking.

"A few minutes, thought before deciding may prevent years of regret after it.

The Inspector of Schools (MR. ORMAN) is in town, and examined the Catholic Schools on Thursday and Government School yesterday. He goes to the Wesleyan School to-day.

GEORGE, a well known cook and steward died last Saturday night.

We deeply regret to learn of the death of Bishop ALBERT the recently consecrated Bishop for the Gold Coast in Europe, which news was cabled to the Catholic Mission here this week. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Catholic Church yesterday. Our Catholic friends have our sympathies.

"DUTY BE THY POLAR GUIDE, DO THE RIGHT WHETHER BETIDE.—" Goethe

We have received a lengthy correspondence from Mr. Bannerman Martin in reply to Mr. "Young Forester's" letter which appeared in our last issue, which unfortunately came in late for to-day's issue. It appears in our next.

A copy of MR. MERRIMAN-LABOR's *Handbook on Sierra Leone*, has been received at our office, which we hope to review in our next issue.

TARKWA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

For a considerable time we have been complaining of the perpetrations of the local drivers and prisoners, but seeing that nothing can be done by the local District Commissioner, we leave the matter at the hands of his Senior. The other day we saw a prisoner buying a tin of sardines in a shop followed by a driver. And the practice of forcing plantains, cassavas &c. from the country people by these prisoners runs on apace.

This has been the week for the collecting of Rents, but what do the Government say to the condition of

the streets and drains in town, when in most cases not even planks are laid across the latter to serve as bridges? When Mr. Jackson was here with his Assistant we thought things would assume a commendable shape, but not a single improvement had been added to the town since they touched here. What does become of the amount annually voted for the "Improvement of Tarkwa" then?

Can any of our readers in town inform us why the broad sellers have been stopped selling in the streets, between the front of the *Gold Coast Stores* and that of the *Tarkwa Trading Company*? Through this special Ordinance from the Legislative Council (?) passengers arriving from Sekondi and up country can scarcely get bread to buy. Perhaps His Excellency may consider the inconvenience this Tarkwa Ordinance (?) is giving.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. W. A. Bly the Foreman of Works, has been transferred here from Akuse for the purpose of erecting a Signal Station and a Hospital. The latter is not officially announced but it is gathered that it will be constructed jointly in the same spot on Chief Quainoo's Hill. The work is destined to be completed within six months.

There is a special need which we will throw for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor, and wait awhile, whether something would be done before he leaves for Hong-Kong, and that is the IMPROVEMENT of the LAGOON. If His Excellency will cause something to be done on this before he goes away, he will be ever remembered by it. Its condition, and the smell the lagoon emits are unbearable.

About a dozen women escorted £300 from the local Government Chest to Cape Coast for transmission to the Hinterland on the 1st. inst. good.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A few weeks ago we called attention to the inconvenience the Public are put to when they go to the Post Office to have their Orders cashed, but the General Postmaster, does not seem to have given the subject any thought, and the inconvenience continues much to the annoyance and regret of the Public, which it is supposed to serve. It appears that this state of affairs is due more to the Treasury than to the Post Office, and possibly this is the reason why Mr. DEACON has paid no attention to the rectification of matters, but as it reflects on his department, we hope he will see to put matters right. A short while ago such inconveniences were never experienced and whatever led to this alteration of the former system we think the experiment has been on long enough to show that the scheme will not work, at least as far as the Public are concerned. Let us therefore revert to the old system and the ever grateful Public will thank the Postmaster General for it.

In our Correspondence column this week we publish a letter from *A Familiar Voice* bearing on "the question of the hour," to us it is specially interesting, for it confirms to a great extent what we have sought to point out in our columns from time to time, and that is, the evil effect, the policy of making favourites of some Amanhin and Ahinfa will have on our native rulers and their subjects and *vice versa*. We venture to say, that if the Amanhin the correspondence refers to had not felt himself to be one of these favoured few, he would not have dared to rule his people as our correspondent points out. He knows that his people dare not touch him because the Government are ready to back him against them. We can almost understand our correspondent in that while he asks that the Authorities should not in any way interfere with the election, entoolment and destoolment of our Native Rulers, he pleads for the adoption of some measures to put them in check. In this we disagree with him.

Our correspondent should remember that this unpleasant state of affairs which in his opinion calls for some check on our Amanhin and Ahinfa has been brought about by the Government themselves. In the good old days when our Guardians had not interfered in any shape or form with our customs &c. everything went on as they should be: it is when they thought best to interpose that all this confusion and trouble came in. In accordance with our customs and manners, every Amanhin is amenable to his subjects, and his conduct or rule can be questioned if not in accordance with our manners and customs. None can rule as he likes. It is only the Government that has so far spoiled matters, by relaxing the customs &c. Amanhin Kodwo Inkoom would not have dared to go on as our correspondent complains of so bitterly, but he undoubtedly feels himself secured on his stool because he is a favourite, and he has been told so doubt, that he could have constables at his back, (and handcuffs at his disposal,) and he pro-

bably possesses a Prison: what else can he do but to rule his people with an iron rod, and the poor people who in days of gone would have deposed him for any despotic or autocratic ruling, are now to submit to his tyrannical rule.

By this very policy disintegration and want of unity have been sown among our Rulers and they are even got to work against their own interests as *Native Rulers*, mistrusting those they should confide in and *vice versa*. And what is worse still, some to their shame be it said, can be got to act as Government informants and spies! Not knowing that such things will recoil to their own heads, to their own disgrace loss of power and ultimately destoolment, and to their people ruin, distress and oppression. Matters that could be settled amongst themselves as Rulers are now rushed with to the *D. C's Court*: nay some of them are even known to appeal to the D.C. to decide cases which properly belong to native tribunals and every year things grow from bad to worse. Why cannot the Government seek to heap on them ordinance after ordinance—Ordinances which aim to make them nonentities and officials. Let our Amanhin and Ahinfa consider by thinking less of power mixed with foreign elements, and more of this Country and its interests, the time-honoured institutions left them of their ancestors—and their People.

On the other hand, this very Government has as it were, encouraged their subjects to disrespect and disregard them. Subjects are now known to summon their Rulers at the slightest pretext and at the least provocation, for is not this *Brofumbiri* Whilst "Kings" now figure in Courts of Law against themselves, (when formerly they appear before their Brother-Kings to settle their differences) a subject against a "King" or "Chief" before the D. C. is now a common sight; consequently an Omanhin to taste something of his former power, and to have a full control over his people (as he thinks)—which things are fast slipping from his hands, seeks to be a favourite(?) and even an informant and a spy. This is what we are being reduced to, and so must things continue to be so long as the Government would interfere with our native laws, manners and customs. Therefore we say with all due deference, from all our native laws, manners and customs, "HANDS OFF." Indeed it may be questioned whether this so called civilization as it is lived and practised and taught us by our Civilizers has done us any good, as a People or a Race.

And we in this Country still talk of being a PROTECTORATE: this is idle; it is nothing but play of words. In our present condition what more could be done to us if our Country had been conquered, or ceded or colonized? All things said and done, can it be doubted that as a British Colony we stand the worse in British West Africa? What Dr. Blyden is reported to have said at the Banquet given in honour of the Hon. C. E. Wright on his being appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Sierra Leone, the other day, is far more applicable to us than our Sister Colony, at least we feel so.

Says the great Negro:—"So far as we are concerned here...it is evident that there has been inappropriate and unscientific legislation. It is something of contradiction of terms to use the word "legislation" with "scientific"; for the word "legislation" adopted by the Romans, the founders of European Law, means *bringing in the law*. The Legislator was supposed to have carefully studied the conditions, comparing or contrasting one thing with another, and when he had found what was necessary to hold these things together, he arrived at the law governing them—the constitution necessary to make them stand together—and brought in his conclusions which were formulated into an Act and adopted by those authorized to do so. So Newton legislated in Astronomy, and brought in the "Law of Gravitation" which however, is not yet invariably accepted. So called law, made otherwise as by the arbitrary will of superior power is not legislation but legisfaction—making law. That is what as a rule we have had in the British Colonies in West Africa."

The truthfulness of these words concerning British West Africa in general, and of this Colony in particular cannot be denied. Ours is a *Legisfactio* and not *Legislatio* Council and well might they stock it full with European members, and be productive of oppressive, de-nationalizing, de-Africanizing legislations only. By the way, the Hon. J. J. THOMAS' speech at the Banquet in proposing the health of the Governor Sir CHARLES A. KING-HARMAN, and the Colonial Secretary's (Hon. G. B. HADDON-SMITH) reply were so very interesting that we intend reproducing in our next issue for our readers portions of same.

To be hearing still of the doings of the European Chamber of Commerce on their Native Clerks, when there are so many important questions to engage their serious attention, forces on us the un-

pleasant task of commenting on them, but more of this anon.

We are once again in the Yule-tide, and this is to be our last issue before Christmas Day. Once more we are privileged to wish our readers the compliments of the season, and in doing so, we say with DICKENS, "Christmas has come round, and the unkind feelings that have struggled against better dispositions during the year" let us hope, "have melted away before its genial influence, like half-formed ice beneath the morning sun." To all our readers then far and near, the "good, bad and indifferent" the LEADER says:—A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned.

A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, DECEMBER 19, 1903.

THE NATIVE JURISDICTION ORDINANCE 1883.

This Ordinance which has been brought to the notice of our responsible citizens and our representative Body after twenty years by the Native Chiefs' Ordinance 1903, has, no doubt, influenced to a much greater degree, than we can say, at present, the Bill, which has created so much stir and uneasiness, and at last, opened the eyes of our People to the real aim and intentions of our would-be Benefactors—thanks to Governor Nathan(?)

Sir Samuel Rowe the Governor of this Colony who thought fit to pass such a Bill was we all know an English Native King. Not only when among his own staff or the ordinary officials surrounding him, did he show and impress upon them that was his intention to govern this Colony as much and as well as a native in his position could, that is, in conformity with the usages of the Natives themselves, but far more when among us, the outside world for all his movements—official and unofficial were characterized by that combination of a foreign administrator and a native potentate, which has been, in fact, unknown since his days, and which to all intents and purposes originated the Bill of 1883.

Until only last September we find the Bill applied only twice in April and four times in August of that year and but once only in 1889 and then only to Eastern Wassaw, Aknapim, Eastern and Western Croboe and Shai.

Any one conversant with the history and people of this Colony will see at once that these places, rather the kings and chiefs ruling (or then ruling) these provinces or "districts," were just the men, the least likely to know what was being done with their portions of the country with the rights and privileges they were exercising or were accustomed to exercise within their various jurisdictions or how far those rights were being tampered with jeopardized, if not entirely abrogated, by the Ordinance in question—and all that assuming they were made to know, not to say to comprehend the phraseology the terms, and to realize the inevitable results that submission to the Ordinance would bring upon their people.

One can imagine what efforts were put forth twenty years ago, to let the poor Wassaw, Croboe and other chiefs, know the true, the real state of things, under the Ordinance from the efforts now being put forth by the Government to let our other illiterate and dissatisfied ones—as well as even those sensible and educated enough to take council with superior minds, arrive at the right construction and the certain unavoidable results of his wholesale-sweeping-of-NATIVE-jurisdiction Ordinance. The nauseous, suicidal pill is coated with sugar and honey, and what is worse presented on a casket of ivory and gold.

One would think our kings and chiefs are perfectly free to come under the Ordinance or not, but as our contemporary (*G. C. Aborigines*) rightly points out in its issue of the 14th ult. Section 3 of that Ordinance empowers the Government to, at any time it lists, "proclaim any portion ("district" —"division") of the country to be named as within

the operation of the Ordinance" and it or they would be *ipse facts* under its operation, and that whether or not the King or Chief (or chiefs) and their councillors and people within that district know of it or agree to it, as Governor Nathan has done but yesterday, in the case of Oroo V. of ABURA and four other kings.

Of course we know the Aburas will resent any such undue uncalled for, and unnecessary interference with their ancestral rights, and independence, even if their king had been blind enough, and educated as he is, consented to put on the yoke which his forefathers could not bear. The Country knows the people of ABURA their sagacity and shrewdness, their tenacity to their customary laws, and immemorial rights, and know also that they are able to defend, to stand up for them, and would rather die in their defence than otherwise—notwithstanding the sprinkling of a few black sheep among them and we are waiting to see what Oroo V. and his People will do, when he shall have let them know the truth, the whole truth about this Ordinance, as he is in duty bound to do, if even he may be otherwise inclined.

We do not wish to qualify the provisions under the Ordinance, nor do we now propose to criticize them, but this much we will say, it gives or purports to give certain rights with the right hand, and takes away those very rights with the left almost at the same time. As we will deal with the Ordinance from time to time from now, but for the nonce let it suffice our readers, and ALL TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN that whatever the rights and privileges of a king or chief, under it may be, whatever "ministerial Powers" he may be clothed with or may be entitled or empowered to exercise under it: this is the conclusion of the whole matter, The Governor in Council may suspend for a stated time OR MAY DISMISS any chief who shall APPEAR TO HIM to have abused his power, or be unworthy or incapable of exercising the same justly, or for other sufficient reasons (best known to himself) and thereupon such chief shall be disqualified to exercise any power or jurisdiction, unless and until he may be expressly restored by the Governor in Council (which may be "never more"); No suspension or dismissal shall take place unless the charges against such chief are communicated to him and he has had sufficient opportunity of making his answer or defence thereto. Sec. 29."

But the Government has itself made us disbelieve in at least, this last paragraph, by deposing CHIEF FABIE of Wassaw without communicating any charges to him and therefore without giving him any chance at all not to say "SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY" to answer alleged charges "or make any defence thereto."

With this flagrant breach of their own laws before us, and His Excellency refusing to correct the mistake made—perhaps inadvertently—although we are still hoping against hope we ask the People of this Country:—Are you going to tolerate this Bill which deprives our Rulers, as the famous Lands Bill sought to deprive us of our rights in the soil on which we live—or are you up rising one and all with the Aborigines Society leading, to seek, nay, fight, if need be, for its repeal?

SCRUTINEER.

THE PESTILENCE OF LIFE.—STREET NUISANCES.

It is one of the characteristics of human nature to move beyond the bounds of moderation, and the sequence is that actions or things which in themselves are innocuous, turn to be sources of infestive pestilence and invidious nuisances to ordinary life. For instance, cleanliness is admittedly next to godliness, but when we become inclined to make ourselves beaux and stuffed models we must always expect to be in trouble and often to be thieves. I have never come across, or have I ever been told of, a top being out of debts, or secure from the impurities of life. Tell me of a dandy and I will accurately describe him to you to be either a habitual insolvent, a thief, a prodigal, or all three qualities combined. Yet another instance. Although I am myself a teetotaler I do not hold the opinion that wines and spirits were not made for a purpose. I believe that it is only when the immoderation comes in that the dire mischief follows. But as in nine cases out of ten those who take to the cup perish by it, I have consequently refrained from taking to it at all, for very likely my inclining to that may bring me to an undesirable and an inevitable end, as my taking to the dagger or gun may bring me to the scaffold. On that principle I wish all people would take my advice and refrain from befriending the cup.

A few years ago one could hardly see a girl with a silk kerchief, a gold pin, a bracelet, necklaces or any of the other ornaments, with which they so profusely adorn themselves now, except on Sabbath days or some other occasions.—(And I hold that even silk kerchiefs and gold ornaments should form no part of a girl's attire if they will bring evil on her). Now parents (be it to their shame) make it a study of adorning their daughters, putting on them the best cloths or clothes and the most immaculate jewels that human ingenuity can produce, and thus making them a sort of sharp attractions to the male population. Not only this. They

allow their children to roam at best and at large in the streets during nightly hours, whilst they themselves are having heavy consultations with their pillows; and when they turn up they feel even lazy to question them where and why they had been out. When, however, through some immoral escapades or through an inhalation of some deadly air during the street wanderings, they come to sicken and die, the parents have the impudence to take the loss as a sort of Job's trial from God or a hard blow from Him in taking away the objects of their affection, very often bursting out in the formula—"the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away," whereas in most cases it should be, the Lord gave and we have sent it away."

Turning to the light side of life, one would admit that all instruments of music are useful when employed for the amusement or as the enliveners of a community the happy result of which depends upon the nature of the airs used. Scarcely do I hear now of the *Adankum* or *Gome*, and generally speaking these native amusements had hardly the ill-effects, which the modern 'Bands' are having on the young men and women. These 'Bands' are instituted and played by the young men with the avowed intention of gaining at some disreputable and deadly ends. Let any parent who doubts the accuracy of this, take an evening walk to see how these 'Bands' are played and danced, culminating in the "marching off" of your Esis or Abba (pardon the uncomplimentary expression) and how your Kweisi or Kofi conducts himself there, if you are a parent possessing a grain of sense, you would decidedly find more of ocular demonstrations to convince you than all the volumes on immorality I can give you. Or take an evening walk through the promenades especially, in a moonlight evening; when you witness how the young couples parade through the streets, you would from the next day, see that your children do not step outside the door except on a special errand from you. These remarks could be applied to almost all the littoral towns.

When I was at School, my teacher, who had as much interest in the temporal as the spiritual welfare of his pupils, made it a point of periodically walking through the streets in the nights or sometimes using espionage for the purpose of noting down street-wandering scholars. And woe betide you—boy or girl—whose name happened to be in the 'night book.' Unless you could adduce some material evidence to prove that you were on a parent's errand and that during the errand you never stopped in the way, you would there and then be made to hate bitterly the idea of cherishing a taste for street-life. This is an example that ought to be followed, with all advantage, by school-teachers who have the temporal and spiritual welfare of their pupils at heart. Verb. Sap.

Let us now appeal to the District Commissioners and the Police authorities in the different towns, and humbly anticipate that they would do something in their power towards raising the moral tone of the community by the suppression of street nuisances:—

1. That Bread-Sellers, and they only, should be cleared from the streets at 6 P.M. (I would here emphasize the fact that this should be done with all gentleness, for we know that the Police are apt to resort to extremes and make themselves invidious even in a good cause. In fact I think the Superintendent of Police or some enlightened Subordinate should superintend this.)

2. That no pass should be granted to school boys at all for ordinary Band-playing (for I do not see why boys who have to be at School in the day and at their books in the night can make up time at all to play 'Bands').

3. That the system of playing 'Bands' in the streets should be abolished, of course, excepting Anniversary days &c. And that in granting Pass for Ball parties &c. (which should always take place in halls) it should be expressly laid down on the face of the permit that obscene songs are never to be used and that whenever they are used the Police should be entitled to stop them from carrying out the time.

4. That to prevent the use of obscene songs, the Head of the Band should be expressly made liable to a fine when it is sufficiently proved by a member of the public that an obscene song or air had been used on him or her or to the detriment of the public peace.

In all this we still hold that funeral Customs—things of rare occurrence—and religious songs should be given no interference whatever.

Yours faithfully,—Arreo.

APPEAL COURT SITTING.

On Friday the 4th December 1903 the Court of Appeal commenced its sittings at the Divisional Court, Cape Coast.

The Court was constituted by Their Honours Sir W. Brandford Griffith, C. J., Francis Smith, Stanley Morgan, and G. K. T. Purcell, Puisne Judges.

After a few motions were dealt with, the first case on the List was heard namely

Daniel Aboagye v. Yerechi and another
(Respondent) (Appellants)

This was an Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Smeeth, Acting Chief Justice.

Mr. Francis T. Dove for Appellants
Mr. T. Hutton Mills for Respondent.

The cause of action was for recovery of land called Atabin situate in the Akropong District. There were about four grounds of appeal but the only one argued by Mr. Dove was that of "Res Judica

ta" based on an alleged decision by the native Court of Ohin Akuffo of Akropong who exercises jurisdiction under the "Native Jurisdiction Ordinance, 1883." Mr. Mills replied that the decision which Mr. Dove contended as a "res judicata" was merely an arbitrary executive act of Ohin Akuffo of Akropong and not at all a judgment by Ohin Akuffo and his councillors. The contention of Mr. Mills was virtually upheld by the learned Judges and a decision affirming the judgment of the learned Judge of the Court below was accordingly pronounced with twenty guineas costs for the Respondent.

On the afternoon of the same day the following case was next taken.

James Morgue v. T. B. Hemans
(Appellant) (Respondent)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Purcell
Puisne Judge.

Mr. C. J. Bannerman for Appellant.

Mr. P. A. Renner for Respondent.

Action for damages and injunction on land near Connor's Hill, Cape Coast.

In this matter the chief ground of Appeal on which appellant's Counsel confined his argument was, that judgment was against the weight of evidence. Mr. Renner replied contra. Judgment of the Court below was reversed and the appeal was allowed with £10 10/- for the Appellant.

Susana Kinful v. Agarbia
(Appellant) (Respondent)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Morgan.

C. J. Bannerman & G. H. Savage for Appellant.
P. A. Renner for Respondent.

Action. Recovery of possession of land called Abanton near Armin in Cape Coast.

Ground urged was that judgment was against the weight of evidence. Appeal dismissed with £7 5/- costs and the decision of the Court below affirmed.

Sakie & others v. Acquah
(Respondents) (Appellant)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Morgan.

F. H. Fearon for Appellant

Christian & Leung for Respondents.

Action. Trespass to land near Salt Pond.

Ground pressed was that judgment was against the weight of evidence. Appeal dismissed with £15 15/- costs.

Tuesday, 8th December 1903.

Ambah Ahinfooah on behalf of members of her family }
Arabah Yamikye }
of members of her family } alias Kofi Anuah.
Appellant (Respondent)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Purcell.

C. J. Bannerman for Appellant

A. J. E. Bucknor for Respondent.

In this case also Mr. Bannerman urged the grounds of "Res Judicata" and that of decision being against the weight of evidence. Mr. Bucknor replied. Judgment of the Court below was set aside. Appeal allowed with £10 10/- costs.

Wednesday, 9th December 1903.

Concession Enquiries No. 446 Axim and Nos. 635 and 800 Cape Coast.

Gold Coast Acquisition Ltd. Gold Coast Exploration & Trade Co.
(Appellants) (Respondents)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Pennington, P. J.

Edmondson & Roberts for Appellants.

P. A. Renner for Respondents.

This was an important appeal in which the bar anticipated to hear some interesting points argued but they were signally disappointed as the Court without hearing Counsel on the merits decided to remit the whole case to the Court below to rehear. Mr. Edmondson readily assented to the decision of the Court which in spite of strong opposition by Mr. Renner prevailed. The judgment of the Court below which included a certificate of validity was consequently set aside with costs of Thirty-five guineas for the Respondents. On the following day Mr. Renner applied ex parte for leave to appeal to the Privy Council. Conditional leave was granted upon terms.

The next case taken on this day was Concession Enquiries Nos. 842 Axim, 1780 and 1781 Cape Coast.

The Gold Coast Development Syndicate Ltd.
(Claimants & Appellants)

The Appolonian Concessions Ltd.

(Opposers and Respondents)

Appeal from the decision of Mr. Justice Pennington.

M. F. Ribeiro for Claimants & Appellants.

Lawrence Jones & Co. for Opposers & Respondents.

There were 5 grounds of appeal filed by Counsel directing his arguments to practically 3 namely—

1. Judgment against the weight of evidence.

2. Judgment contrary to native customary law applicable to land tenure.

3. Judgment contrary to law and equity.

Mr. Edgar M. Robertson replied on behalf of the Respondents. Appeal allowed. Judgment of the Court below set aside with £35 17/- costs for

Appellants.

The Court concluded its sittings this afternoon after delivering the judgment in the above Enquiry. The proceedings were apparently interesting and instructive to both Bench and Bar and it is hoped that this would serve as a beginning of the sittings of the Full Court in the various important Districts, such as Accra, Axim, and Sekondi in the future.

SEKUNDI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TOWN.

Sir Donald Stewart with a party of 23 Bandmen arrived here by special train on Sunday evening the 29th ulto. His reception by the officials at Sekondi, took place on the evening of Monday at the D.C.'s bungalow, and on the greens close by, where thrilling airs on brass instruments were played by a musical party of a dozen and half.

At the Hotel Metropole on several occasions Sir Donald has been entertained at dinner, each time the voluptuous notes of the musical party swelling from the chords of their instruments with a delightful harmony, which amusing the guests at table also set the congregated listeners to a tumultuous dance, who could find no where than to convert the apartments in the flight of steps into an "imaginative Theatre."

We understand that Sir Donald and his party left for Accra by the s/s "Oienda" due on the 4th instant.

That portion of Sekondi with ruined houses Eastward of the Fort and opposite Swanzy's New stores, is covered over with thick grass—of course the habitation of snakes. By this there is a road which leads to that constructed by the order of D.C. Philbrick, who or the Sanitary Department should not wait till he or it is beckoned to it, before they opine with us that "scavenging is all that is desired to keep a place hygienic"; we regret to remark how soon the Sanitary power in Sekondi has passed out of existence.

So the Sekondi trade is slowly but surely passing into the hands of foreign merchants? In addition to Messrs. Pagenstecher & Co., Messrs. Pelizeus of Bremen and Conakry have also lately established here. The former who have already pocketed the British firm during the past three weeks, are extending their branches to Tarkwa, Dunkwa, Obuasi and Kumasi.

On Friday night the 4th instant, an infuriated band of wild Popos made a *Coup de main* on a party of Sekondi drummers at Accra Town; what led to this, we are at a loss to know. Ere the Police reached the spot, the felonious ruffians had made their escape leaving two wounded (one of whom (a Popo) has since died. Every nook and corner was searched, 15 culprits (innocent and the guilty) were arrested. On being tried, the 13 prisoners absolutely denied the charge. The whole fault is that the Police force is not strong as would admit of the men being posted at the several circuits-going-ahead Sekondi has meantime sprung into. We call attention to this.

The most atrocious crime ever committed in Sekondi scarcely rivals with that which has reference to the damaging of canoes belonging to fishermen from other Coast towns. As a matter of fact, the average Sekondiian has no taste whatever in his profession, and in this position, his inclination is to prefer engagement on boating purposes. However, when there is a laxity in the arrivals of steamers, he find it a difficult theory to "earn a three pence for morning grog"; the instinct of preference having a completed footing, he would add jealousy to his sheer indolence by cutting away the lath on boring a hole in the canoes of his foreign friends—the doing of which naturally does not solve his "earning-three-pence-for-grog" problem. These foreign fishermen, have under certain rules of township, been taxed at £2 a head on entering into this bay, and we cannot understand why the Chiefs of Low Town by imposing this tax do not assume any responsibility towards the safety of their craft. Our statement is supported by a gong-gong of Obin Basumchie beaten at night last week.

On the 29th ulto. the Beach was thrown into awful state of confusion when both the "Warri" with 308 tons, "Batanga" 541, "Adansi" 576 and "Ernest Warman" with mails and passengers arrived in port.

From Sekondi to England, the largest number of passengers on record ever carried, was that which travelled in the s/s "Tarkwa" last Friday morning—this steamer, as advertised, arrives in England in time for the Christmas holiday.

ADDAH.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Salt lagoon (Songor) suit came to an end on the 17th ultimo with judgment in favour of the Omanhin. It was suited between the Omanhin and the ferish priest. There seems to be doubts as to the judgment being impartial. And this appears

to be deduced from the several witnesses who in their respective evidence confirmed the impression that the lagoon was the priest's by right by the various public functions he executes. The ownership of the lagoon can be traced by a reference to Rev. Rein-dorf's "History of the Gold Coast" pp. 44. There it is stated that the lagoon was discovered by one Korley (Kole) a hunter from Terkperbiawer tribe, and by whom the whole Addas came to settle in this place. Undoubtedly if the priest Tettey Nyaba is a descendant of that hunter Kole the lagoon must be his by right. The priest and his followers about six times the number of the Omanhin and his people did not agree to the decision; and we understand the case is going to be reviewed at Accra, and if possible then to appeal.

On the 22nd. ultimo some Sukpe people who have a case in court started with the intention of visiting an old man in Adeokey islet at the mouth of the Volta, and instead of employing two canoes they packed themselves in one Fanti canoe. On reaching the bank of the islet one of them stood up to jump ashore, forgetting that Fanti canoes have round bottoms unlike local ones. By this act the canoe rolled and got upset, and before they were rescued by the people of the islet men and women had got half drowned. One of them died, and sorry to report, it was the very man who attempted to jump while the canoe was floating. The body was taken to the Hospital and then to Sukpe where it was buried.

The latrine among the palm-trees near the "main road Lodge" (Mperhuasem) which was recently transformed for the use of females, is suffocating the inhabitants of the whole square along the street with offensive smell; oftentimes it is impossible for the people at "Mperhuasem" to stay in their houses. Should the Inspector of Nuisance visit this spot, he will no doubt find that it will be better to remove the latrine from that position.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Two Mohammedans, blood stained, appeared before Mantse Odonkor on the night of the 16th. ult. The one had a large protruding wound on the head received from a heavy stroke of a club. The other had three incisions from a cutlery stroke, and blood was running profusely. They were both marched to Akuse the next day.

From the statements made at the Mantse's Court yard the circumstances appeared to be that about 7. 30. p.m. the elder happened to overtake the younger handling his wife unlawfully whereupon the husband thrashed the offender soundly who afterwards complained to Mantse Odonkor. They were both advised to return home that night and come the next morning for a hearing. The complainant preceded but hid himself in the dark; and on the approach of the other he levelled the club on his head, and seeing the result hurried to a friend and begged him to give him some cuts to make up his case. Well, the friend did it so cleverly and so faithfully that it was hard to distinguish the friendly wounds from that of an enemy's. This murderous act could not have been perpetrated if there were street Lamps we have been crying for.

A similar case with fatal results was brought before His Worship the Acting District Commissioner Dr. Papano at Akuse, on the 21st. ult. Asare Kobina, a nephew of Ayikugua Mantse, was tried for the death of Quamin Jakitey who succumbed under his hands.

During the week a large number of Akwamus from Okra Kwajo were brought to Akuse under arrest for assault or riot. They are said to have severely beaten a certain man whose residence in their village they objected to. These untried prisoners were led away to work among the convicts before they were bailed out. Such legal blunder is too far below an accredited magistrate. But to whose account can it be put? The Gaoler could not do that without instructions. An abuse of British authority and Law! Surely there is large room for amendment in our legal administration on the Volta. Knowledge of common British Law is so widely diffused that carelessness, obstinacy and incompetency in a legal officer cannot escape public notice and indignation. Arrests without warrant, warrant without Affidavit, Proceedings in Court without Record or Depositions are simply innovations and enigmas to the British subjects in this part of the Protectorate. These are brood of ostentation on the part of miniature King and contempt for the blackman.

It is to the Public welfare and safety that the general Rules relating to cycling be applied here also. We hear the rushing of cycles in the nights without lamps: bells are rung but the pedestrian knows not which way to turn: to the right or left to evade the danger of being thrown into the ditch. Let every cycle have a lamp at night, or let us have Lamps in our main-streets at least.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I cannot for a moment believe that although your contemporary the "Gold Coast Aborigines" is an official organ of the Society, it expressed the conviction of every member in its views in respect of the new ordinance affecting native Kings and Chiefs. Hitherto we have heard only your views and that of your contemporary but I think such vastly important matter dealing with our natural rights and institutions should at once call forth discussion from every one competent to deal with the subject more especially from our educated Kings and Chiefs.

My own humble opinion is, that we should not allow the Government to assume the powers of interfering with the nomination, election and entoolment of our Kings and Chiefs, in that it will rob them of their independence it will make them Government nominees, the people will cease to have confidence in them, and they can have to protect their subjects against any acts of the Powers that be, where that is necessary. Some of the unscrupulous sort will abuse the privilege if I may call it so, already some of our Amanhin usurp powers that is not their own, they abuse their position and privileges. I give you a deplorable instance. The Paramount King of this District is extorting money and large sums too from the poor ignorant people, over whom it is his good fortune to rule: every man discovered in the possession of a fire arm of any sort or any small quantity of gun powder is brought before him and fined from five to Twenty pounds according to his ability to pay. It is generally known that the Government by special License permit the sale of Twenty pounds of gun powder to certain kings and chiefs in this and I think in other Districts as well in the Colony.

The object is that they may be able to supply the hunters in their localities: King Kojo Inkoom is in receipt of such supply, but he has the conscience to arraign such people before him and inflict very severe fine on them on the ground that the Ordinance prohibit the possession or sale of gun powder: this man is a King after the people's own choice, and shows so much eagerness in abusing what he calls an enforcement of a Government ordinance with the ostensible purpose of filling his coffers: think of what he will be and can be capable of doing, if the Government had the sole control over his nomination and entoolment.

The conduct of some of our Amanhin is so reprehensible so full of extortion that one would jump at the new ordinance as calculated to bring them under a proper control. To seek the power of nominating their own men on the stool is however not the proper way to go about it; some District Commissioners are very oppressive, very unpopular, but they are under proper control and the consciousness of it keeps them in check.

I say, place our Amanhin under proper control, but do not seek to interfere with our ancient and natural right of electing them, the formal sanction of them by the Government for Political purposes should be sufficient for all purposes.

Yours faithfully,—A FAMILIAR VOICE.

Winneba, 7/12/03.

Dear Sir:—It has come to my knowledge and perhaps to that of some of your readers as well, that during the recent visit of the Colonial Chaplain from Accra Mr. Fearon, who has resigned his post in Christ Church some months ago, convened a meeting at which matters relating to the above Church were discussed at his residence without the knowledge of the Church Wardens, who represent the congregation; or even Mr. Britton the Licensed Lay Reader who is now officiating for the Church.

I consider the whole circumstances that in as much as he (Mr. Fearon) have voluntarily resigned his post he has no right in fact no voice whatever in Church matters, except as an ordinary member of the congregation and no more. Such being the case I pause for a reply for the reasons that prompted him to take the steps he did.

I am inclined to believe from what I have heard from reliable sources that in nine cases out of ten there are some ill-disposed person or persons who seek to thwart any movement that tends to the welfare of the town. I say without any hesitation that a person who has severed his connection with any society of his own accord, has no right to call a meeting in his house with the Head of that body. There must be apparently some mischief if not injury at the bottom.

I should like in conclusion to ask F. H. Fearon Esq. M. A. L. B., B. L. through the medium of your organ the following questions:—

1. Is he an officer of the church?
2. What right has he to convene a meeting in connection with the Church in his own house?
3. Whom did he inform prior to the meeting?
4. Did he inform the Church Wardens viz:— Messrs. C. A. A. Barnes and George Amisah of his views and intentions.
5. What right has he to go behind the Church Wardens and do things as he please.
6. What was the object of the meeting he convened.

I shall extremely thank Mr. Fearon if he could be good enough to spare time as he did to convene the meeting to reply to my questions, meanwhile,

I remain,

Yours very truly,—UNPREJUDICED ONE.

Cape Coast, 5th Dec. 1903.

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A confidential clerk for Accra. Competent Stenographer and Typist. Salary £100 per annum. Apply to

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Cape Coast.

FOR TARKWA AND SEKUNDI

TWO STORE-KEEPERS with respectable men as Sureties. Apply to

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Appellants.

The Court concluded its sittings this afternoon after delivering the judgment in the above Enquiry. The proceedings were apparently interesting and instructive to both Bench and Bar and it is hoped that this would serve as a beginning of the sittings of the Full Court in the various important Districts, such as Accra, Axim, and Sekondi in the future.

SEKUNDI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

THE TOWN.

Sir Donald Stewart with a party of 23 Bandmen arrived here by special train on Sunday evening the 29th ulto. His reception by the officials at Sekondi, took place on the evening of Monday at the D.C.'s bungalow, and on the guests close by, where thrilling airs on brass instruments were played by a musical party of a dozen and half.

At the Hotel Metropole on several occasions Sir Donald has been entertained at dinner, each time the volupuous notes of the musical party swilling from the chords of their instruments with a delightful harmony, which amusing the guests at table also set the congregated listeners to a tumultuous dance, who could find no where than to convert the apartments in the flight of steps into an "imaginative Theatre."

We understand that Sir Donald and his party left for Accra by the s/s "Oleuda" due on the 4th instant.

That portion of Sekondi with ruined houses Eastward of the Fort and opposite Swanzy's New stores, is covered over with thick grass—of course the habitation of snakes. By this there is a road which leads to that constructed by the order of D.C. Pinbrick, who of the Sanitary Department should not wait till he or it is besokened to it, before they opine with us that "scavengering is all that is desired to keep a place hygienic", we regret to remark how soon the Sanitary power in Sekondi has passed out of existence.

So the Sekondi trade is slowly but surely passing into the hands of foreign merchants? In addition to Messrs. Pagenstecher & Co., Messrs. Pelizeaus of Bremen and Conakry have also lately established here. The former who have already pocketed the British firm during the past three weeks, are extending their branches to Takwa, Dunkwa, Obuase and Kumasi.

On Friday night the 4th instant, an infuriated band of wild Popos made a *Coup de main* on a party of Sekondi drummers at Accra Town; what led to this, we are at a loss to know. Ere the Police reached the spot, the felonious ruffians had made their escape leaving two wounded (one of whom a Popo) has since died. Every nook and corner was searched, 13 culprits (innocent and the guilty) were arrested. On being tried, the 13 prisoners absolutely denied the charge. The whole fault is that the Police force is not strong as would admit of the men being posted at the several circuits-going-ahead Sekondi has meantime sprung into. We call attention to this.

The most atrocious crime ever committed in Sekondi scarcely rivals with that which has reference to the damaging of canoes belonging to fishermen from other Coast towns. As a matter of fact, the average Sekondiian has no taste whatever in his profession, and in this position, his inclination is to prefer engagement on boating purposes. However, when there is a laxity in the arrivals of steamers, he find it a difficult theory to "earn a three pence for morning grog", the instinct of preference having a completed footing, he would add jealously to his sheer indolence by cutting away the tails on boring a hole in the canoes of his foreign friends—the doing of which naturally does not solve his "earning three pence for grog" problem. These foreign fishermen, have under certain rules of township, been taxed at £2 a head on entering into the bay, and we cannot understand why the Chiefs of Low Town by imposing this tax do not assume any responsibility towards the safety of their craft. Our statement is supported by a gang gang of Obin Busumadine beaten at night last week.

On the 29th ulto the Beach was thrown into awful state of confusion when both the "Warri" with 300 tons, "Batanga" 241, "Adana" 576 and "Ernest Weismann" with mails and passengers arrived in port.

From Sekondi to England, the largest number of passengers on record ever carried, was that which travelled in the s/s "Takwa" last Friday morning—this steamer, as advertised, arrives in England in time for the Christmas holiday.

ADDAIL.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Salt lagoon (Nongor) suit came to an end on the 17th ultimo with judgment in favour of the Omanhin. It was suited between the Omanhin and the fetish priest. There seems to be doubts as to the judgment being impartial. And this appears

to be deduced from the several witnesses who in their respective evidence confirmed the impression that the lagoon was the priest's by right by the various public functionary executives. The ownership of the lagoon can be traced by a reference to Rev. Reinhardt's "History of the Gold Coast" pp. 44. There it is stated that the lagoon was discovered by one Korley (Kole) a hunter from Terkperbiawer tribe, and by whom the whole Addas came to settle in this place. Undoubtedly if the priest Tetey Nyaba is a descendant of that hunter Kole the lagoon must be his by right. The priest and his followers about six times the number of the Omanhin and his people did not agree to the decision; and we understand the case is going to be reviewed at Accra, and if possible then to appeal.

On the 22nd. ultimo some Suspe people who have a case in court started with the intention of visiting an old man in Adeokey islet at the mouth of the Volta, and instead of employing two canoes they packed themselves in one Fanti canoe. On reaching the bank of the islet one of them stood up to jump ashore, forgetting that Fanti canoes have round bottoms unlike local ones. By this act the canoe rolled and got upset, and before they were rescued by the people of the islet men and women had got half drowned. One of them died, and sorry to report, it was the very man who attempted to jump while the canoe was floating. The body was taken to the Hospital and then to Suspe where it was buried.

The latrine among the palm-trees near the "main road Lodge" (Mperhuasem) which was recently transformed for the use of females, is suffocating the inhabitants of the whole square along the street with offensive smell; oftentimes it is impossible for the people at "Mperhuasem" to stay in their houses. Should the Inspector of Nuisance visit this spot, he will no doubt find that it will be better to remove the latrine from that position.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Two Mohammetans, blood stained, appeared before Mantse Odonkor on the night of the 16th. ult. The one had a large protruding wound on the head received from a heavy stroke of a club. The other had three incisions from a cutlery stroke, and blood was running profusely. They were both marched to Akuse the next day.

From the statements made at the Mantse's Court yard the circumstances appeared to be that about 7.30 p.m. the elder happened to overtake the younger handling his wife unlawfully whereupon the husband thrashed the offender soundly who afterwards complained to Mantse Odonkor. They were both advised to return home that night and come the next morning for a hearing. The complainant preceded but hid himself in the dark, and on the approach of the other he levelled the club on his head, and seeing the result hurried to a friend and begged him to give him some cuts to make up his case. Well, the friend did it so cleverly and so faithfully that it was hard to distinguish the friendly wounds from that of an enemy's. This murderous act could not have been perpetrated if there were street lamps we have been crying for.

A similar case with fatal results was brought before His Worship the Acting District Commissioner Dr Papafio at Akuse, on the 21st. ult. Asare Kobina, a nephew of Ayikugua Mantse, was tried for the death of Quamin Jakitsey who succumbed under his hands.

During the week a large number of Akwamas from Okra Kwajo were brought to Akuse under arrest for assault or riot. They are said to have severely beaten a certain man whose residence in their village they objected to. These untried prisoners were led away to work among the convicts before they were bailed out. Such legal blunder is too far below an accredited magistrate. But to whose account can it be put? The Gowler could not do that without instructions. An abuse of British authority and Law! Surely there is large room for amendment in our legal administration on the Volta. Knowledge of common British Law is so widely diffused that carelessness, obstinacy and incompetency in a legal officer cannot escape public notice and indignation. Arrests without warrant, warrant without Affidavit, Proceedings in Court without Record or Depositions are simply innovations and enigmas to the British subjects in this part of the Protectorate. These are brood of ostentation on the part of miniature King and contempt for the blackman.

It is to the Public welfare and safety that the general Rules relating to cycling be applied here also. We hear the rushing of cycles in the night without lamps, bells are rung but the pedestrian knows not which way to turn to the right or left to evade the danger of being thrown into the ditch. Let every cycle have a lamp at night, or let us have Lamps in our main-streets at least.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room or letters exceeding 300 or 400 words in length.

To the Editor, Gold Coast Leader.

Dear Mr. Editor:—I cannot for a moment believe that although your contemporary the "Gold Coast Aborigine" is an official organ of the Society, it expressed the conviction of every member in its views in respect of the new ordinance affecting native Kings and Chiefs. Hitherto we have heard only your views and that of your contemporary but I think such vastly important matter dealing with our natural rights and institutions should at once call forth discussion from every one competent to deal with the subject more especially from our educated Kings and Chiefs.

My own humble opinion is, that we should not allow the Government to assume the powers of interfering with the nomination, election and entoolment of our Kings and Chiefs, in that it will rob them of their independence it will make them Government nominees, the people will cease to have confidence in them, and they can have to protect their subjects against any acts of the Powers that be, where that is necessary. Some of the unscrupulous sort will abuse the privilege if I may call it so, already some of our Amanhin usurp powers that is not their own, they abuse their position and privileges. I give you a deplorable instance. The Paramount King of this District is extorting money and large sums too from the poor ignorant people, over whom it is his good fortune to rule: every man discovered in the possession of a fire arm of any sort or any small quantity of gun powder is brought before him and fined from five to Twenty pounds according to his ability to pay. It is generally known that the Government by special License permit the sale of Twenty pounds of gun powder to certain kings and chiefs in this and I think in other Districts as well in the Colony.

The object is that they may be able to supply the hunters in their localities: King Kojo Inkoom is in receipt of such supply, but he has the conscience to arraign such people before him and inflict very severe fine on them on the ground that the Ordinance prohibit the possession or sale of gun powder: this man is a King after the people's own choice, and shows so much eagerness in abusing what he calls an enforcement of a Government ordinance with the ostensible purpose of filling his coffers: think of what he will be and can be capable of doing, if the Government had the sole control over his nomination and entoolment.

The conduct of some of our Amanhin is so reprehensible so full of extortion that one would jump at the new ordinance as calculated to bring them under a proper control. To seek the power of nominating their own men on the stool is however not the proper way to go about it; some District Commissioners are very oppressive, very unpopular, but they are under proper control and the consciousness of it keeps them in check.

I saw, place our Amanhin under proper control, but do not seek to interfere with our ancient and natural right of electing them, the formal sanction of them by the Government for Political purposes should be sufficient for all purposes.

Yours faithfully,—A FAMILIAR VOICE.
Winneba, 7/12/03.

Dear Sir:—It has come to my knowledge and perhaps to that of some of your readers as well, that during the recent visit of the Colonial Chaplain from Accra Mr. Fearon, who has resigned his post in Christ Church some months ago, convened a meeting at which matters relating to the above Church were discussed at his residence without the knowledge of the Church Wardens, who represent the congregation, or even Mr. Britton the Licensed Lay Reader who is now officiating for the Church.

I consider the whole circumstances that in as much as he (Mr. Fearon) have voluntarily resigned his post he has no right in fact no voice whatever in Church matters, except as an ordinary member of the congregation and no more. Such being the case I pause for a reply for the reasons that prompted him to take the steps he did.

I am inclined to believe from what I have heard from reliable sources that in nine cases out of ten there are some ill-disposed person or persons who seek to thwart any movement that tends to the welfare of the town. I say without any hesitation that a person who has severed his connection with any society of his own accord, has no right to call a meeting in his house with the Head of that body. There must be apparently some mischief if not injury at the bottom.

I should like in conclusion to ask F. H. Fearon Esq. M. A. I. L. B. B. L. through the medium of your organ the following questions:—

1. Is he an officer of the church?
2. What right has he to convene a meeting in connection with the Church in his own house?
3. Whom did he inform prior to the meeting?
4. Did he inform the Church Wardens viz—Messrs. C. A. A. Barnes and George Amisah of his views and intentions.
5. What right has he to go behind the Church Wardens and do things as he please.
6. What was the object of the meeting he convened.

I shall extremely thank Mr. Fearon if he could be good enough to spare time as he did to convene the meeting to reply to my questions, meanwhile,
I remain,
Yours very truly — UNRECORDED ONE.

Cape Coast, 5th Dec. 1903.

Printed at the office of the GOLD COAST LEADER
Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by JOHN D. OTTO.

The Gold Coast Leader.

VOL. II
No. 79.

CAPE COAST, WEST AFRICA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1903.

Price 3d.
Including postage 4d.

THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS

A weekly journal devoted to the interest and welfare of the Country and Race.

Offices:—Saltpond Road, Cape Coast,
West Africa.

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(Payable in advance.)

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AT SEKONDI

From his store at Poas Road, New Town.

AT AXIM.

From the store of Mr. Charles E. Moses at the back of St. James' Chapel.

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of Trade Notices of leading Manufacturers, Merchants, etc. in the principal provincial towns and industrial centres of the United Kingdom.

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25 Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that a certain plot of land, belonging to one Frank Edward Ansell, and situate at Cape Coast, West Africa, bounded to the West of Prospect Hill measuring One Hundred feet square is at present held by African Association Limited as security against certain moneys owed by the said Frank Edward Ansell, the original title deeds being in their hands, and anybody purchasing the said plot of land will do so at his or her own risk.

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION LTD.

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of the Inner Temple, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, and of the Gold Coast Bar

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1903

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Dr. E. G. MacLean,

DENTIST.

(AMERICAN GRADUATE)

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not abused their positions in any shape or form, except that in the opinion of the "Chamber" they are to leave to improve Trade or to increase "profit"—which? This is always the case with some people, promotion turns their head. We would strongly and politely advise him to find something better than this to do during his spare moments, in the interest of his employers.

GOLD COAST MAILS.

A WARNING.

A prominent mining engineer, writing to us from Tarkwa on the 14th ulto., makes a very significant remark. He says—"No letters are safe unless registered!" There must be some dire mismanagement or maladministration somewhere on the Coast, for we have known our correspondent so long and intimately that we cannot doubt the truth of his statement.—*The Argus*

[We have here the confirmation of what our Tarkwa correspondent wrote a fortnight ago. If even those whose letters are safely "boxed" for despatch can say this, what of those whose letters registered or unregistered are thrown away on the counter? Ed.]

SEKUNDI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Sam (Bailiff, Judicial Dept.) died on the morning of the 8th inst., and was buried the next day; we extend sympathies to the bereaved friends of the deceased.

POST OFFICE.

The management of the parcel post business here is something rather appalling. Parcel for Dixcove, Chama and all Wassaw districts are landed in Sekondi. There is only one clerk to do all the job, and this accounts for the tickets for the parcels not reaching their owners until five to six days after the steamer conveying them had arrived and gone—we have a run of indolent clerks supported by the revenue who only help Jack to melt pin's head. Mr. Deacon should see to this.

THE CUSTOMS.

To an imaginable extent pilfering had recently been finding its way among some people who are at or go to the Customs warehouse on the beach. A few months ago a tall list was produced by Mr. Humphrey of the Lighterage Company on which was detected that several packages in the Customs shed had made their way to the homes of some people other than the original consignees. No measures, however, have been adopted to check the progress of this kleptomania.

Last week a case belonging to the Gold Coast Machinery and Trading Co. was reported missing in the warehouse—it contained silk goods to the value of about £25 which amount, the responsible officers in charge of the warehouse have been made to pay. How and by what means purloining is smartly practised, seems to us a mystery.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The case of the man who rashly discharged a rifle into a company of *Ompa* players and succeeded in wounding fifteen persons, at Kromantine as previously reported, came on the other day before the Acting D.C. Dr. Ralph. His plea was that he acted in self-defence, and on that plea the D.C. discharged him. He was, however, fined 20/- for failing to stamp the rifle. It is evident that Dr. Ralph has far more regard for the protection of the Revenue than the lives of the People. To discharge a man on such flimsy-plea when fifteen persons have been injured by his reprehensible rashness, really beats even the Doctor-Commissioner's Justice.

Those who handled the "Odonkor case at Akuse, may take edifying lessons in LAW from Dr. Ralph of Saltpond(?)

The Wesleyan School was vacated for the Christmas Holidays on the 14th inst., and they return to their studies on the 14th proximo.

APPAM.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

There is no denying the fact that the D.C. is paying commendable attention to this Town, the most noticeable incident is the removal of the filth of several years accumulation which given a longer period would have swallowed the new market and made access to it at least an impossible task.

There is one thing more which the D.C. may recommend for the good health of this place and that is—Latrines—These useful commodities need not cost the Government a great outlay, a few built after the style of those at Winnsabah can be easily provided. The regular outlay will be the one man provided for their removal and I consider that the revenue of this Town is quite ample, half per cent of the monthly collection will be more than adequate for the maintenance of the latrine map. It is a disgrace to think that no such provision is made

for the people, and yet they are fined now and again for committing nuisance on the beach. I have more than once brought this matter forward to public notice and I now appeal to the good people of Appam to take it up and approach the D.C. on his next visit and I am sure the result will be beneficial to them: that selfish policy which characterises the conduct of the average Gold Coast native is very detrimental to our advancement.

The erection of a fish market district from the proper market built by the people themselves is very praiseworthy, so is also the public reservoir dug by the people for their own use. There is no doubt that there is a good deal more cohesion in this small place than many far advanced Towns in the Colony, one capable, public-spirited, individual will achieve wonders among a people of such temperament.

The new Omanhin seems to be giving satisfaction to both his people and the Government, he seems to be in good hands: if he takes extortion and oppression out the principles of his rule he will be bound to become popular.

Talking of extortion and oppression reminds me of the current news in Town. *On dit* that the paramount King of the District Kojo Inkum is extorting sums ranging from five to ten pounds from anybody discovered in the possession of Fire arms, and that there is a case before the Court in respect of this.

I notice also several dilapidated buildings pulled down, it is a step in the right direction but may I remind the authorities that a mere destruction of them does not improve the aspect of the Town, it is the complete removal of the debris and clearing of the land that attains the object which prompted their destruction.

EDITORIAL NOTES

With this issue we close for the year, it has been a year fraught with political, educational, and industrial matters of great importance, which we trust will be productive of good results to the welfare and well-being of the Country. In greeting our Readers on the year now in its death throes, we asked, "Why cannot this year witness a deeper, and keener interest in our politics, education and industry?" And this has been to a great extent the case, but we cannot help hoping that it may be keener and deeper still in the year just about dawning on us, and it behoves us ALL, each in his own way, to contribute his quota towards the amelioration of the existing state of things.

We do not review the year beyond saying this: In politics, things have remained almost *in statu quo*, till towards the close of the year, some stir has been created by the passing of certain Bills affecting our native Rulers, which has caused some activity in our political circle: the fever still prevails, and we trust, it will result to the satisfaction of all concerned, this being our ardent wish, and no doubt the desire of the Authorities. We are pleased to note, the Aborigines Society has been almost all activity, and individuals, who hitherto have shown no interest in politics have been alive to their "duty." This augurs well and we hope it will continue.

In Educational affairs, we have been dragging on, in the same quiet, monotonous way, until recently from Accra in the Eastern Province, the news has been waved to us, that our friends over there, are agitating for better Schools, to be worked on better lines: it seems that the movement has been on foot for some time, and it promises to be a reality: from our heart of hearts we wish it every success. The Western Province has not been idle in this respect, and we hear of a "Fanti Public Schools" Scheme now afloat, concerning which we may have something to say later on. We trust the People will take up the Scheme cordially for the encouragement of the promoters, and for the welfare of the Country, for after all EDUCATION is the important factor in the civilization of a People.

There is some activity still in our Mining Industry, our only fear being, the many ordinances thrown in its way may still prove a barrier to its success, but those immediately concerned can tell better. Our Trade, we regret to say, continues to be dull, of the cotton industry we have next to nothing to say, but we have an expert in the Eastern Province. There seems to be some trouble over the cocoa industry according to report: on the whole, despite what success there is in our industries for some people to talk about, things are not hopeful here, and what has been only serves to show, that given, an active, keen, deep interest in the industry of the country, a surprising result will be the result.

In the Church, the Wesleyans have now a Chairman of their own: the Anglican Church here has had the post of the Assistant Chaplain abolished. The Catholics have lost their Chief Overseer, and may his mantle fall on a worthy successor.

This is to be the last year Sir Matthew Nathan our Governor is to spend with us. He goes to Hong-Kong next year. We wish him good luck wherever he may be. We do not consider this policy of changing the administrators so frequently a good one: just as they begin to understand the People, their manners and customs, which will be useful and hopeful to them in their administration and the People also begin to know them, they are ordered to "move on;" other men come, and both parties are set to new lessons, and this state of affairs cannot but have its baneful effect on the administration of the Country. Those concerned may give it a thought. We have had Governors who never had opportunities even to visit some places in the Colony, such places being entrusted to their District Commissioners: this makes the D. C.'s post a very important one, and the system of having Doctor-Commissioners should be abolished. We, here, have Mr. O'Brien as the Senior D. C. he is an old friend, and has for his Junior colleague Mr. White a hard-working and genial gentleman. There have been changes here and there the most notable being the Colonial Secretary's.

We are very much pleased to note, that this year has been privileged to see our contemporary the *Aborigines* alive again, and this naturally gladdens the heart of every native: of the *Chronicle* we hear very little. The *Leader* notwithstanding the precarious career of Journalism in the country has lived to enjoy another Christmas Season with its readers. It has striven to do its duty, to the administration, our Native Rulers, the People and the COUNTRY, and and we are pleased to find, that the interest in it has not waned but grown. Its task as usual, has been difficult, and delicate: to see justice and fair play meted out to EVERY BODY has been its DUTY to call a spade a spade, which is truly said to be "an indication to avoid the too often timid tendency of men in the deviation from the direct course in characterising men and things." It is impossible to pursue such a course without being misunderstood, and every other motive but the right one attributed to such an innocent performance of DUTY. In defending the cause of the majority, there must be a few who may feel themselves wronged. Possibly this may be natural, but a little sympathy and understanding with the much ill-used, down-trodden victim, may lend some colour to their aspect of viewing things. It is needless and unnecessary at this time to defend our position, for our aim being *Justice Fairplay to the People—the Country*, things probably may continue as they are. EDUCATION and UNSELFISHNESS, will no doubt some day, clear it all up, for in our present semi-civilized state, there must be some, who must always take in personally, what is meant and said *pro bono publico*.

Ere our next issue comes out the New Year would have been on us, and we desire to wish all our Readers:—A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned. A *nom-de-plume* or initials should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper. Name and address must accompany all communications as a guarantee of good faith.

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, DECEMBER 26, 1903.

ESSANDOR v. YEWAN

AND

"THE NATIVE 'CHIEFS' BILL, 1903."

It has been repeatedly brought to our notice during the past few days that the above case heard and decided by Mr. Justice Purcell at Elmina in August last and our remarks thereon in our issue of Sept. 5 (Aug. 29) may be the probable cause of the above Bill which we are informed had to pass its second reading on the 22nd instant. We do not see how that can be.

The case was not one to determine whether or not Yewan (a chief) had been rightly destooled. That question had been disposed of by the people themselves and subsequently confirmed by the report of the committee of investigation into the case that sat at Cape Coast under the presidency of the then District Commissioner. It was not until it had

been clearly proved to the satisfaction of every one that Yewan had been rightly deposed that the Government ceased to give him its support.

But Yewan like the man he is, still clink to the sinking ship, in the same as ex-chief Johnphia of Sekundi is now doing. And to harass the people he secreted some of the paraphernalia of the office from which he had been deposed. Among these is the stool of the Komendas, without which no chief can be properly set over the people, certainly not in accordance with native customary laws.

Finding Yewan thus still troublesome Omanhin Essandor under whom is the stool of Komenda applied more than once to him to give up the stool but he persistently refused to do so, therefore Omanhin Essandor was advised to sue him for it. We say he "made a mistake in going to court to claim the stool from Yewan."

In former times Yewan could not have dared to do such a thing, and if he did the matter could have been easily disposed of, by Omanhin Essandor and the Komendas themselves. As matters are now, however, what we thought (and still think) was the right course for him to have taken was to have complained to the District-Commissioner that Yewan persisting to keep what belonged to the people would eventually lead to a breach of the peace, seeing he would be compelled by the people to give up all the articles he had wrongfully taken away with him. For the Government to step in to prevent a breach of the peace, or a possible riot, the "Native Chiefs' Ordinance, 1903" is not necessary.

Omanhin Essandor did not go to court to ask it to determine whether or not Yewan was rightly deposed, but whether or not he, having been deposed in accordance with native customary laws, had a right to detain, or refuse to give up anything appertaining to the office from which he had been deposed. Unfortunately the learned Judge who sat upon the case seems to have gone into the question of the rightful or wrongful destoolment of Yewan and to have been satisfied that he was not rightly destooled and therefore he could not order him to deliver the stool. If Yewan had not been rightly destooled then the learned Judge was right in refusing to order him to give up the stool. But Yewan was rightly destooled.

The "Native Chiefs' Ordinance 1903" aims at quite a different thing altogether. It seeks to transfer the right of king-maker from the People to the Government. If the people have in accordance with native laws enstooled a king His Majesty's Government according to the Bill can say, it does not "recognize" or "confirm" him, as such, and thereupon, he shall be to all intents and purposes no more than a private person, nothing more in the eyes of the Government than the man who carries his stool.

And this is what we say, is a deprivation of the People of their rights. It will upset the whole native constitution and institutions: it will unmake us as a nation, our kings (who are also our law makers) being thus rendered practically Government nominees, the whole nation will be sent adrift from their ancient and natural moorings, and in the course of a few years there shall be no native law properly so-called, for there would be no native constitution. We cannot but close with the truly patriotic and significant words of our contemporary: "An axe has for many years lain at the root of our customs, but a master hand, now attempts to lift that axe. To stop the axe from being lifted, and to remove it altogether, is our purpose and mission. From the interest already excited by the matter, we are glad of the assurance, support and co-operation of every patriot and loyal citizen of the Gold Coast."—*G. C. Aborigines*, Nov. 21.

A NATIVE (ANGLICAN) CHURCH FOR CAPE COAST.

BY THE SUB.

According to an announcement from the Pulpit, a short meeting was held after the afternoon Service on Sunday the 13th for the purpose of the confirmation by the entire congregation of the letter drawn up to be forwarded to the Bishop of the Diocese in connection with the movement for the severance from the Government Chaplainship the local Anglican Church which was built and had, apart from the chaplainship which has been endowed by the

State, mainly supported by the natives. The letter which had been drawn up by the Committee of the People's own selection was then read. The gist of it was that three or four years ago the Government asked the congregation whether they were ready to take over and support the Church themselves, to which they signified their inability. Now circumstances have changed and they now desire to comply with the request. The edifice was, of course, their own property and all the expenses have been borne by them from time to time, so that the only additional burden they have to bear was the support of the Pastors to which they would appeal to the public, they themselves doing all in their power. It was remarked that during the administrations of the chaplains it very often happened that when the Assistant Chaplains had to fill the post of the Chaplains at Accra when the latter were on their holidays, the ministrations of the Supper, Baptism and Matrimony were always at a standstill. To this must be added the ignorance of the Assistant Chaplains in the native language and a general study of the People. That being so they now desire to take over the whole institution and support their own Pastors as other Churches in the field. The names of the two gentlemen, REVERENDS SAMUEL R. B. ATTOH-AHUMAN and FYN EGYIR-ASAAM, were submitted as natives of the soil able and learned in the profession and in Church administration, in whom the People have implicit confidence to carry on successfully that calling to the advancement of God's work in this vineyard. After the reading of the letter, the congregation were asked to express their opinion, by the lifting up of their hands, to both the adoption of the letter and that of the names submitted, to which they amid smiling faces and marked cheerfulness, responded by doing so *en masse*—entirely approving all. The Wardens were then asked to forward the letter to the Bishop as early as possible, and the meeting terminated. It is worthy of remark that the appreciation shown by the People in this way demonstrates the high esteem in which the two gentlemen are held in the community. Both were formerly of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, but voluntarily resigned their connection with that institution after some fiasco-ending circumstances which have passed to ancient history, and their character stands clear and their persons dear to the Country which they have been continually and conscientiously serving. Putting aside the high proficiency of the clerics, the key to all this esteem lies in their tendency to care for the spiritual as well as the temporal weal of their flock, believing that when the mind is sick through some worldly oppression or injustice, the soul cannot conscientiously serve its Maker always. And this is the Church whose ministers—from the Archbishop of Canterbury down to the Curate—take much interest in politics. The other object which we Churchmen have in view in soliciting the pastorship of these two gentlemen is their ability as Educationalists. REV. ASAAM has already made his mark as a successful TEACHER, and he it was who gained such a high reputation in like years for the Wesleyan Collegiate School when he was connected with that Church. From one end of the Protectorate to the other you will meet with his old pupils who are ever ready to sing out the praises of their "Principal" as he is better known among them.

And REV. ATTOH-AHUMAN is by no means inferior in this respect. When the Fantis are determined, it needs something more formidable than the mere underhand dealings of a clique to oppose them. And the actions of the handful, presumably well-disposed "friends" in our midst in endeavouring to oppose the natives of the soil, coupled with the recent nice experience of Church discipline have served more to innerve the natives to action and I bear no false prophecy when I say that from henceforth the natives will level an Argus eye on what is going on, which seems to have gone on for sometime. The thanks of the community are due to MR. CHARLES A. ALBERT BARNES A. E., A. M. I. C. E., &c. &c. and MR. GEORGE AMISSAH the Churchwardens and the other churchmen who are equally deserving of mention but who are too numerous to mention, especially the members of the Committee. The Gold Coast will thank them one day for it, as their labours on behalf of the Fatherland will not be in vain. In a previous Committee meeting which I had the opportunity of attending it was resolved that a letter be written to Mr. F. H. Fearon to show cause why he, not holding any authority in the Church, took upon himself to convene a meeting and discuss Church affairs with the Rev. Kelk the Colonial Chaplain on his last visit here. I had very much expected that the reply would be made public at the last meeting so that the public may have the opportunity of dealing with it, for the Committee will agree with me that it is very necessary that such self-constituted powers were seriously checked. That being the case I trust the good Committee will publish the reply so that if it turns out that Mr. Fearon did really convene that meeting and discuss Church matters when he is nothing

more than a mere adherent of the Church as I am, the public may deal with him.

"THE NATIVE CHIEFS' ORDINANCE, 1903."

II.

BY AFRICANUS.

The customs and institutions of a people constitute the soul of such people. They who interfere with such customs and institutions, or seek to sap the foundations of them, are attempting to kill the soul of the people, and "what shall I profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

"The Lands Bill" of the late Governor Maxwell, metaphorically, affected the body of the Native Institutions of this country. "The Native Chiefs' Bill" of the present administration affects the very soul thereof.

If the people of the Gold Coast lose the soul of their institutions, they cease to be a people; they cease to be a nation, they become politically dead, and exist merely to bow and scrape to Downing Street red-tape. Thereby hangs a tale. Hence the trouble we are taking to help to enlighten our people.

Thank God, the reading community on the Gold Coast keeps enlarging, and we notice day by day, with untold gratification, the intelligent way in which public questions are discussed in a language foreign to the people.

But we do not forget that there are thousands of our people, equally intelligent, who do not command the use of any written language. Therefore, the duty of the educated ones is to start to educate their less privileged brethren as to the dangers that at present threaten the country.

When you see the whole community coming together as one man discussing and pulling to pieces a given political theory—then there is danger in the air. Such a coming together—such a pulling to pieces—has, and is, taking place in connection with the present "Native Chiefs' Bill," and all must be up and going in order to save the situation.

Do we, as a people, do wrong in trying to show that the Bill is wrong in principle, mischievous in design, and dangerous in its ulterior effects? No.

No more prominent politician lives in England to-day than Mr. Chamberlain. He is the embodiment of the Imperial idea. Yet since he brought up his fiscal policy, he has been met with a storm of opposition and criticism, and therein lies the safety of the body politic, known as the British Empire.

So must we discuss in public meetings and in private ones, along the highway and in the hedges, the present Bill, and present such a bold stand as will ensure its defeat.

In England they have a Parliament where the people are truly and duly represented. Here we have no representation, and, unless we are loud in our protest in the public papers and otherwise, there will be no chance of our being heard. So long as our arguments are calm, respectful, and logical, it is too late in the day for any administration to find fault with us. For, above all things, we take it that our present Governor is a constitutional Governor.

Let us, therefore, stand together, and make a pull, a long and a hearty pull, which will bring down the fabric which threatens to overwhelm the foundations of our Native Institutions.

THE "GOLD COAST LEADER" AND THE PUBLIC.

CONTINUED FROM SUPPLEMENT No. 50.

JUNE 6TH 1903.

BY C. E. J.

How strange and how unconcerned we go about matters which greatly affect our positions in life. From the columns of the *Leader*, we have been told and reminded often and often of the obstacle being put in our way by the European Chambers of Commerce from earning our daily bread in the future. Such wicked and uncalled for order has been unlawfully adopted by this Body solely for the purpose of raising the future interests of the present and coming youngmen of the educated community—the effects of its pernicious and damaging influence having been realized by many.

The seriousness of the situation, we are sorry to say, has not been brought home vividly to us, neither have we given the due consideration it deserves.

We cannot say we are not aware of the number of our youngmen who have been put out of employment with no hopes for the future, by this mischievous outlaw of the Chambers of Commerce.

There are a great many of our promising youngmen thrown out of work and who, we know, are on the downward road to ruin and degradation. If a youngman with good abilities and prospects before him is to be debarré for ever, from entering into any employment how are we to expect him to earn

his own living and at the same time care for the interest of his country! Our motto has been and shall for ever be "Every man for himself and God for us all."

If we are to allow the evil propensities of the "Chamber" to take root and remain a stumbling-block in the way of our youngmen what will be our hopes for improving the minds of the generation yet unborn? It is our inertness and want of unity and stability of purpose that has made the foreigners take such an undue advantage of us.

Why should we continue to brook such insults from foreigners to the ruin of our country?

Governor Nathan we know was the man sent out from Downing Street to administer the Gold Coast Government and his laws we are to abide by but what about this order of prohibition passed by the Chamber which is quite diabolical and inhuman in every detail? Does the Governor know of this, and does he approve of its being enforced—if so are we under two Governors on the Gold Coast or what?

(To be Continued.)

ADDA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Some time in last month one Djimisa of Tomatoku came to Big Adda and called one Kugoooh of Tekperbiawer who is physicking him, outside the house and told him in a friendly manner that he was wanted by one Akunyah. It was about ten in the night and Kugoooh told him to wait while he went to fetch one of his brothers to lead him to answer the call. When he returned without finding any one of his brothers, he asked the pretending messenger Djimisa to go and tell the man Akunyah that being late he would be there on the morrow. No sooner had he bid the man Djimisa "good night" and turned his back than he received a severe and unexpected blow on the head with a native axe, Djimisa having secreted the axe under his arm the while he was with Kugoooh. Seeing the man fell and mortally wounded he fled. But a horrible shriek from the poor man brought all in the square to the spot. By a report made to the officer in charge of the Preventive Station the intelligence was brought to the Sergeant of Police, and by a careful search made by the Preventive men, the man was found and arrested by the Policemen sent by the Sergeant and brought down to custody.

The *Ida* made her fifth Coast trip to Accra last week to meet one of Swanzy's sailing vessels to receive cargo for Pram-Pram, Adda and Kwitta.

We understand the Agent of at Akuse dislikes to see Adda news in the *Leader*—Why? He must understand that the *Leader* is a Weekly Journal devoted to the interest and welfare of the whole Country and race.

THE RIVER VOLTA AND CROBOE DISTRICT.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Omanhin Akuful of Akropong visited Accra last week at the request of the Governor with a view to discuss the complaints of the Merchants respecting the cocoa trade which had been at a dead lock. An amicable settlement was the result of this conference. This week has seen a good business of it.

It was rumoured that the Merchants reduced the price of cocoa considerably bordering on the loss to the Farmers, in consequence of which the Akrapims unanimously stopped sale, till the Merchants, who thought the Farmers would have been pressed by want of money to accept the lowest possible price for their cocoa, at last felt that they were losing their profit, and complained. In this the Merchants have had a foretaste of what they may expect when they shall have squeezed the Brokers or Middlemen out of their fraternity.

We learn that a large stock of cocoa and other Produce are lodged beyond the River on account of the taxation or ferrage put upon loads of Produce from British Crepee. For the same reason caravans of Hoassa traders to Kpong are getting more rare. The Merchant by his *bait-and-switch* system is assisting the Government with its *get-all-policy* to injure commerce as far as possible. We should never overlook the fact that the African Farmer can live comfortably without the Merchant's money and unless all possible encouragements are given to our Farmers the Merchants will have to import not only cargo but Farmers.

Reports from up Rivers respecting the Water Police of the Preventive Service reflect badly on the Government. Evidently these men are untrained and consequently offer much rudeness in their dealing with the villagers for punitive and with petty traders who cross their way. They force what they want from these poor folks, offer vexatious prices or give nothing. The result is a fight and their Masters are ready to back them up.

A case as one which happened lately at Tiase, R. Volta, is an instance of many which we refrain for good reasons from giving publicity to. In fact the conduct of these Public servants impresses the illiterate people with the idea that His Majesty's Government is inimical to the Public. Is it too much for the heads of their Department to lecture the Water and Land Police on *Civility*?

It does not appear that the supply of Street Lamps to Odumase satisfies any want. For many years past only one of these lamps had been in use and the rest have worn for want of use. It appears that lamps were supplied just in honour of the Omanhin.

What Report is the General Postmaster to give of Odumase Post Office? The Basel Missionaries have their own Post carriers and the people of Odumase who generally live in the villages have scarcely any use of a Post Office. We do not understand this indiscriminate use of public money. Somynya, the central Croboe town of brisk Market and mercantile business, a Dispensary and general Resting place for travellers, deserves such attention and expense wasted on Odumase and has more claims thereto.

Another house at Adinkra behind Mr. Boye Doe's house, was on fire in the midnight of Thursday the 19th inst. Our cry for street Lamps for Kpong is echoed thereby. Why these fires happen mostly at nights it is easy to conjecture!

Decision on the Enquiry at Aburi is not yet given. We wait to see whether there is still justice among us or it has taken its flight from every quarter. "Fiat justitia ruat coelum"

CHAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

On Wednesday the 18th ult. arrived at Chama Rev. Bartrop (Chairman and Gen. Superintendent). He visited the School the ensuing day and examined the scholars. He has since left for Sekondi with Rev. Mr. Sackey.

Christmas is at hand. And we hope this time sobriety and quietness will characterize this great Christian festival. Last year much boisterousness and violence attended the celebration of this festival especially among the fishermen in town. In short it was rather Chamaish.

We understand that on Friday the 20th ult. Mr. R. S. De Vere the Acting D. C. happening to visit the School delivered a short but impressive address to the Scholars and wrote the following in the "Log Book"—

"I have to-day inspected the Adult and Infant Schools and am much pleased with the cleanliness and order prevailing. I have examined some of the Scholars and have found them bright and intelligent."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

We regret that many of the letters we publish have had to be cut down. Correspondents who desire to see their communications printed as sent must bear in mind the limitations of our space, and that we can seldom find room for letters exceeding 500 or 600 words in length.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

Sir,—In your issue of the 12th inst. just to hand "Mr. Ignorant of Law" writing from Axim wishes to know why the famous Anokwa and Anan in the "Acquay Stanleyville case" have been let out on their own recognizance bail, to surrender for trial when called upon, and whether such practice is authorized by the Powers.

As a friend of the Court I beg to point out to him that such practice has been extorted by the Courts from time memorial, the exercise of which is always left at the Court's discretion, even in the most severe cases.

Yours faithfully,—ANDRÉS CURT.
Sekondi, 16.12.03

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 12th instant, I noticed a very strange and funny article headed "Dr. Savage and the young Foresters" and signed by a "Young Forester." I say "strange" because those who are responsible and were present at the Banquet of the 28th November do not see up to the moment of writing that there has been any cause for such an unpleasant story to be written and I say "funny" for this reason that the letter which was evidently written by a young boy is the piece of factlessness and nonsense.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am writing to you not merely as a Forester of the Adult Court but as an eye witness and I am sorry the remainder of the report of their proceedings as notified in the G. C. A. newspaper to be continued will be before the public in a day or two. All reasonable men will be able to think out for themselves whether the substance of the speeches delivered by Dr. Savage at the Banquet are such as in any way justify "Young Foresters" letter.

To begin with it is not true that Dr. Savage solicited to be appointed to read or to respond to any particular subject, all these having evidently been arranged beforehand or in the course of dinner being served.

Of our outside Gold Coast friends who were lately admitted Honorary members of the Aborigines Society Dr. Savage is the only one who has bothered himself and worked as hard as any native of the soil on the ac-

tive list would do and if, at a social gathering from which so many of the native prominent members of the Society were absent, the Doctor had casually been asked to respond to the Society, I certainly do not think that it was a wrong idea. In fact it should serve as encouragement to Dr. Savage in his sense of duty to his Gold Coast brethren. Chief Coker was present but he was required to exclusively represent the "Free Gardeners" and Mr. Carr to respond to "Commerce" and the "Free Masons".

Royd Asaam was there but he was particularly required to be a Co-Representative of the Press and to represent the Grand Order of Odd-Fellows as well.

Dr. Savage had to respond to three toasts:—

"The Aborigines Society"

"The Aborigines" Newspaper

and the Medical profession; and in reply to young forester's letter I think it necessary to give you the outlines of the two former speeches for the benefit of your readers. The details of those speeches will be found in the Report that has been written at considerable length for publication.

Replying to the toast of the Aborigines Society, Dr. Savage pointed out the great manhood on the part of those who formulated the scheme for its formation, the great and memorable work that it had done, the pride and admiration with which all coloured men have since regarded it, the essential importance of its existence and progress for the safeguard and promotion of native interests and the infinite desirability of all classes of the country clinging to its banners in season and out of season, and more especially the educated youngmen of the rising generation upon whom will some day fall the armour of those who are now in the brunt of the fight.

I think that those are what Dr. Blyden himself or any great African would have advised who took interest in the welfare of the black race.

And then in response to the toast of the "Aborigines" Newspapers, Dr. Savage said that he regretted very much the absence of Mr. J. P. Brown the worthy Editor-in-chief of the paper who was away from town & would have been the proper person to respond to that toast. Continuing, he said, that the existence of the "Aborigines" Newspaper was an absolute necessity as the official organ of the great Society to which they all belonged, and that from a social and political standpoint, every view called for a great Powerful Press in the country. He would, however, like to mention this that we were in the hands of great world-wide Empire whose Government Authorities, but for the Englishman's own liberal views and professed principles of equality, justice and freedom, would do as they pleased irrespective of our likes and dislikes especially, under a Crown Colony System like our own where the Representatives of the people on the Council Board are in a hopeless minority and the Government consequently did, as they chose, it was very necessary that the tone of the Press should be moderate and respectful but at the same time earnest in its protests against oppression and tyranny and in its demands for amelioration and reform. He said that the choice of words was a delicate matter as the use of one single word alone might mean the downfall for ever of a great cause or the destruction of an important public cause and that being the case it was wise to avoid being harsh as much as possible.

The above are what Dr. Savage said and if these can be interpreted to mean an attempt to teach Grammar and how to conduct Newspapers, I leave it to your readers to judge.

There are two things in question for consideration which "Young Forester" does not appear to know.

A man's capability to run a newspaper is quite a different thing from his style of writing matters. The former must exist before the man can venture but the latter is always open to the Editor to adopt in whichever way he likes according to the immediate prevailing local circumstances.

Dr. Savage never insinuated that some one was not capable of conducting a newspaper and he could not have been so puerile, so that the statement that he attempted to teach "Grammar is absurd. The latter was merely an opinion of his own which he had to mention in the course of a speech on the Press and every man has a right to hold to his own convictions and when a man expresses an opinion it does not suggest, that he performs wants others to hold to it. On the occasion referred to several gentlemen had to speak and each expressed himself in a way he thought best. There were no personal attacks, no references and Dr. Savage's speeches were no exceptions.

Then there is this fact to remember that seeing that the Banquet was given by the Adult Court members who were there in a strong force and only a few juveniles had the honour of being present, it is a surprise that the whole of the former should have been such a "pack of fools" as not to have heard what were being said by the several speakers but that only the few irresponsible Young Foresters were taking all the pains.

By common consent all the events of the Anniversary were successes and it is much regretful that at the close public mind should be taken up with such reckless assertions in a paper like yours which is so widely read but what has given cause for greater regret and greater astonishment is the fact of your having given colour to "Young Foresters" unfounded statements by your footnote remarks.

I am sure that the Past Chief Rangers of the Court have been drawn into this affair without any knowledge whatever on their part of what "Young Foresters" and his friends have been doing nor have these responsible members of the Society up to the present time seen any cause for complaint against anybody in connection with the whole of their Anniversary proceedings.

Thanking you for space kindly allowed.

Yours faithfully,—BANNERMAN MARTIN.

Cape Coast, 17th Dec. 1903.