

# The Gold Coast Leader.

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No. 6.

CAPE COAST SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1902.

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## THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

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Twelve lines and under	5/-
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## NOTICES.

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JOHN AYENSI,

Cape Coast, July 12.

Wanted at this Office, two smart Boys as learners.

Apply in person to the Editor.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The Government have been landing a large quantity of lumber, it is said for bungalows to be put up between the *Fosu* and *Duyakur*. During their storage in the castle yard, a Wangarra man met his death: it appears he and another man a Fanti, were carrying one of them into the castle, and when they got in, to put it down the Fanti kept shouting to the Wangarra, to put his part down first, which the latter could not understand, so the former let go his. This, threw down the other man the lumber falling on his neck, and death was instantaneous. Poor fellow.

It seems that on steamer days, accidents occur very often, a Kroo Boy and a prisoner also met with an accident. Whose can be the fault of all this: somebody's of course though accidents must occur.

Is the report true that Mr. Graves who has been the gaoler here for a good many years is to be replaced (not superseded, if you please) by another man. Can any of our readers inform us of the cause or causes that led to this replacement.

What is to be done with Mr. Graves, suspended or degraded.

We learn that Mr. Barber James whose arrival in the colony we reported the other day is to be the District Postmaster, and Mr. Blankson the—what?

Bishop Jno. B. Small M.A., D.D. of the Zion Methodist Episcopal Church occupied the Wesley Church pulpit on last Sunday night, the audience was very large and the discourse was most acceptable in Methodist circles.

There was a concert at the Centenary Schools on Friday the 24th by some Ladies and Gentlemen of the town under the management of Messrs. Ekem Parker, W. A. Fynn and Isaac Hayford a report on which crowded out this week, will appear next.

The *s. s. Albertville* arrived in port last Wednesday afternoon with Governor Nathan on board on his way to England, it is said, ill. A day or two previous to this, His Excellency had asked by wire that the D. C. and the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Aborigines Society should meet him on board, and this we learn was done accordingly. We wish His Excellency a safe passage home.

The Rev. T. B. Freeman a Presiding Elder of the Zion M.E. Church arrived here from Kwitta on last Sunday.

The Colonial Secretary Capt. L. R. Arthur, is to administer this Government during the absence of His Excellency Governor Nathan. We wish for His Excellency, the Acting Governor Capt. Arthur all possible success in this, we believe, his first attempt to administer a government.

"Help rather than harm."

Mrs. C. Selby leaves for England in the middle of this month.

"Fidelity in one's present calling is the quickest way to promotion."

What does become of the people's sheep and goats which the kroo scavengers display such dexterity in catching? At one time we used to see the prisoners also carrying some of these animals to the Castle.

There is a telephone communication now between the Mercantile Houses, and the Telegraph office.

Thousands and thousands of pounds per month go to Kumasi, and what is the Revenue of the new Ashanti Protectorate, Colony, sphere of influence—which is it? Perhaps a somewhat vanquished country.

The female brain commences to decline in weight after the age of thirty, the male not till ten years later.

CURED BY A QUARREL: One of the most singular cures for deafness ever recorded is quoted by the 'Independence Bølge' from the Dutch papers. An old man of seventy, living at Krommeme, who had been deaf for twenty years, got involved in a dispute with some neighbours and became literally transported with rage. In this semi-demented state he suddenly recovered his hearing, which he has retained ever since.

### THE BLACK CAP OF THE CORONATION.

The popular idea that judges assume the black cap preparatory to pronouncing sentence of death is finally dispelled by the fact that the judges wear the same sable head gear at a Coronation. What the coronet is to the peer the black cap is to the judge—the final of his official costume. Until 1635 the habits of judges were governed by individual taste, but in that year the occupants of the Bench met and solemnly ordained their attire. It was decreed to consist of a scarlet robe with an ermine tippet as now, and "a coat or cap of a black cloth" the judicial wig is a late innovation, and the black cap as an essential part of the official must be worn on all State occasions, of which the passing sentence of capital punishment is only one.

A donation of Five Pounds, on the appeal of Chief R. A. Harrison to A. Herschell Esqr. of the firm of Messrs A. Herschell & Co. of 20 Red Cross street Liverpool for and on behalf of Christ Church extension fund, Cape Coast was announced in the above mentioned Church to a large congregation, about the first week in December last year. This announcement would have been published in the "Leader," but it was unavoidably kept in abeyance for want of Press. We now most cordially tender our united thanks to the above gentleman for his cheerful gift, with all good wishes. Again the long expected cheque of £50, promised by Sir A. L. Jones of the firm of Messrs Elder Dempster & Co., also of Liverpool on the appeal of Chief R. A. Harrison about the same time, for and on behalf of the same fund, when he was in England last year, was also announced last Sunday the 20th instant to a large congregation. We the worshippers at the above Church with the general public combine to return our hearty thanks to Sir A. L. Jones for this noble act of his. May he live to continue the furtherance of the interests of the public. Especially on all occasions of this kind.

Let those who wonder at the comparatively low state of education in the country cease to do so when they learn that at this very stage it is the Gospel still preached in some quarters that good education is an evil, the forerunner of all mischief, it makes one proud, anything but what an educated man knows what high class education is, and can do. It is a blessing to know that those who indulge in such ideas are precious few and be sure of this, when you can find men who can give way to such suicidal views, at this time of the day, in this country, you will invariably find that there is something at the bottom.

But 'there is a good time coming Boys,' with the literary clubs springing up around us like mushrooms and the recent departures for England, there is a good time coming.

Died at the Colonial Hospital this morning, Mr. W. T. Brown, a Bank official who arrived here on the 24th July by the *s. s. Dukemey*. His colleagues have our sincere sympathies.

SECOND.—We would respectfully call the attention of the Wesleyan Body to the State of their Church here: the pulpit administration here is rather wretched and most disappointing to a good many of us who repair there on Sundays for worship: at times some Europeans go in only to go out again, from what they see. Who is directly responsible for this Church.

The General Supply Association has started work, and we hope it will be to the interest of all and not to a select few, as all of us use the coin with the King's usage and superscription.

How long will the Railway Company continue to do work on Sundays? There is some wisdom in having one day's rest. It may not be on Sunday, but it should be some day.

ELMINA.—That 'too many Cooks always spoil the broth', has been proved by some happenings the other day in connection with their construction of the new steel Bridge. Mr. Jardine who always assumes the airs of the man who knows all about nothing and who should have been better kept at Cape Coast to mind his business, or sent away to the remotest regions of the hinterland to erect grass huts, is making two bites at a cherry. He has somehow managed to get up his wall of this side abutment just on the wrong course of the iron work, consequently he has contrived by expediency to induce Mr. Pearmain to warp the Bridge to about thirty degrees off its proscribed bearings. Some-

thing is sure to go wrong in the end. Mr Jardine, no doubt, begins to find, for once, that bridge building is no kid-glove work.

Very bitter complaints are current at the expense of the present Registrar and Interpreter of the D.C.'s court. The holder of this office is a native who does not understand the Fanti language. Many a case has gone to the dog through the misinterpretation of this gentleman. Perhaps the judicial function at headquarters does not believe that Fanti is as far different from Accra or Ga language as India is from the North Pole. Anything is just as good for Elmina, eh?

Some attention ought to be paid to the streets of this town which have suffered to a great extent. Sir Matthew Nathan, the Governor, sometime ago on his visit here was approached with the matter and he promised to see that something is done in the shape of drainage &c. But as yet what has been done? Is it because there are not at least fifty whitemen in this town. Elmina has always been looked upon as a slovenly little hole, with a climate said to be deadly especially to the class of Europeans, who from one month's end to another month's end bathe in oceans of whisky.

Nine puncheons of American rum, said to be damaged and unfit for human consumption were removed from Messrs. Miller Bros.' Bond and emptied into the river, on the 25th July under Customs Supervision. This means a loss of at least £200. to the Government and about £60. to the firm.

One of the Ashanti Political prisoners died on the 20th July in the dungeons of the Castle. This is the third death since the beginning of the year. It is to be wondered what the government intend doing with these people.

The American Lodge anniversary is, we hear from good authority, timed to take place during the first week in August, for which, very strenuous preparations are being made—what with eagles, stars, aprons, sashes and what-nots we are sure to have a jovial time of it.

An unaccountable dearth of fish is at present the leading feature of the town, and to make things assume graver aspects, the King has suspended fishing because they say this is a juju month. How long is this tomfoolery going to last.

We understand that when the detachment of West Indians of this station has gone through its course of shooting, the other half Company at Cape Coast will be sent up here by sections to do the same thing; this range having been found to be adaptable for the purpose.

**SALT POND.**—We are now to have the gun time here also, a seven pounder having arrived from Accra by the *Azim* for that purpose.

Will it be asking for too much, if we say, there should be a Town bell as well.

As the rains have stopped a little now, the Inspector of Nuisance should see to the cleaning of the Streets. The sanitary condition of the town is anything but what it should be.

Mr. Max Webber of the firm of F. H. Rottmann died on the 20th inst. (July) after three days' illness.

What has become of our Chamber of Commerce. All the business that used to be transacted by the chamber is now in the hands of only two firms, and there is such a work going on, that beats fair to give a bad reputation to the "Salt Pond oil."

We must call the attention of those concerned to the Ashanti Road, and the one leading to Kwadaga, they are in a very bad condition and they are doing much harm to trade.

Why do people here like to go to court for any trifling case which can be easily settled out of court.

The recent rains did a little damage to our chapel.

Messrs Hayford (Telegraph Dept.) and Koomson a 5th class Customs officer have been appointed signalmen.

## MAIL NEWS.

### PASSENGERS LIST.

*R. M. S.—Sekondi Capt Harrison*

For Cape Coast Messrs Howie, Pool, Lieut Murray.

From Sekondi.—Messrs Hockman and Bruce 2nd class (from L'pool,) Messrs Dubroca, Nicholas, and Sergt McLeod.

Accra Major Irvine

Lagos Mrs Read Mr Tanio, Mr Ingram (2nd class Mrs. Bock, from Sierra Leone and 100 deckers.

Forcados Capt Lewis, Mr. Bartlett, Major MacClimock Mr. Cargill Mr. Campbell Mr. Fielden Lieut Mundy, Mr. McLucas, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Ryan,

Mr. Watson, Staff Sergt Woodell (2nd class) Mr. Jones Williams, Mrs. Jones Williams, Mr J. B. Maccauley from Sierra Leone.

*Beruta.*—Mr Fort (2nd class) S. O. Roberts from Sierra Leone.

*Bonny.*—Mr Gibbons, Mr Hendry, and Mr Neville (2nd class) Officer John Mrs John from Sierra Leone.

*Old Calabar* Lieut Duguid, Mr Greenway, and Capt Moore. (2nd class) Mr Bright Davis, Mr G. Gooding from Sierra Leone.

## TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Does Mr. D. C. O'Brien after inspecting the Free Town, with Chief Mbra really think that nothing can be done with the pond, or does he find himself unable to do anything in the matter until instructions are sent him from Headquarters? If so we must point out that this is a red-tapeism which carries nothing in its train but ruin—death itself.

If it is thought that safe in our homes we who are some yards away from the place are free from suffering from any effects of the present condition of the pond, that is a gross mistake. One would like to know the nature of the report on the sanitary condition of the Town which the Health Inspector sends to Headquarters, seeing that the pond as it is now must have some effect on the sanitation of the Town as pointed out by *A European's* letter. Let Dr. Barker read that letter, which appears in another column, barring the D. C.

Dr. Barker, the Asst Colonial Surgeon here evidently has a firm believe in his dust bin being in the most prominent places in the Streets, an improvement on the sanitation of the Town. He is supposed to go round on inspection, and see things for himself. If so, has he ever seen them in the mornings, between 6 and 8, or towards nightfall: or perhaps he goes round to see them during the day when his Kroo boys have managed to empty them. Dr. Barker should know that these boxes of his, are a disgrace to the Town and an offence to the community.

The Sheep-and-goat chasing which is still kept up much to the delight of the kroo scavengers, the laughing-stock of the public, the disgust of all lovers of quietness, we are told, is performed because the animals create nuisance, and yet in the Health Inspector down to the last kroo scavenger you have the greatest nuisance-creators going as shown above.

It is said that in England these animals are not to be seen in the principal towns: that may be true, but why introduce this 'advantage' to us, and leave out the others. Perhaps this brings in some revenue, and so all said about it must be heedless. The increasing of the revenue then and not the comfort of the inhabitants—native or foreign, must be the object of our government. We must hesitate to give any credence to any such policy on the part of our Benefactors, though it has been said that facts are stubborn.

A gong-gong this week has announced the fact that small pox is raging again: with the experience of what happened a year or two ago fresh in our minds this announcement is simply horrible to think of; we expected that. What else can it be with such an accumulation of filth in and around the Town. Add to this the unprecedented influx of all sorts of people into the Town, who knocking about the country to their hearts' content, find a resting place here, bringing with them every possible disease to which human flesh is susceptible. The Churches will do well to start the Litany at once, the only resource available for deliverance from a repetition of 1900's disastrous work.

For sometime the Government have been employing a clerk to see that the Hausas who slaughter their sheep and goats at the Market place, do not kill diseased and sickly animals so that bad meat may not be sold to the public. This is a grand idea in theory, so far. Our economical Government must raise some revenue here also, and so the clerk is to collect tolls from all who may have some animals to kill. As we do not know what is expected exactly from the clerk of the Slaughter house we may reserve what we have got to say on the subject until we are well posted up on it: in the meantime it will be fair to say that some complaints are abroad that the Hausas manage to kill the animals before the clerk arrives on the scene. Is that so?

We are pleased to find that the Government have now finished the Telephone arrangement with the Mercantile Houses at the rate of £10. a year. This is another improvement in the Town. Improvements we want, but what we cannot understand is, one cannot get the government to take any steps in that direction unless it finds it can reap some harvest in it. The Colony is rich enough to spare some money for the sanitary improvement (or

any other improvement) we have been clamouring for. Thousands of pounds must wend their way to Kumasi, and if the Country is rich as we say, it is thought better to spend it on salaries, increase of European salaries, in T. A.'s on the importation of new officials, in punitive expeditions whose object is, to extend the English Market, in the acquisition of new Protectorate, anything but the legitimate expenses of the Protectorate.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

July 28 The King has proclaimed the 9th of August for Coronation Day.

There has been a serious outbreak of cholera in Cairo. The British regiments are going into camps in the desert.

The Colonial Conference have discussed Mr. Seddon's proposal to establish Militia reserve in each Colony.

July 30 The King sitting in a wheeled chair watches the yacht races.

The degree of doctor of laws has been conferred on Governor MacGregor of Lagos.

Aug. 1.—The London and Liverpool Chambers of Commerce are agitating for the reduction of the Telegraph rates for West Africa.

The Liberals have gained a seat in North Leeds.

Lord Rosebery declines the Premiership.

The Government have received a mortal blow.

## NOTICE.

Will the friends who subscribed for 3 months (that is in April last year, with the other Press) please note that their subscriptions expire with this issue as announced last.

We beg to remind the gentlemen who seeing the necessity for a local paper, signed our list of donations when we were conducting the G. C. A., that we shall be pleased to receive their promises at an early date. It is our intention to publish the list, and possibly it will cause some inconvenience to our kind friends to find us placing *unpaid* against their names.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.

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 Thursday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

## The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUGUST 2, 1902.

### AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR KINGS (AND CHIEFS.)

The "Gold Coast Leader" Office,  
Saltpond Road,  
Cape Coast, Aug. 1902.

May it please your Majesties,

We do not need to apologize in addressing our selves to you. We approach you as your humble and obedient subjects, subjects who, having rightly or wrongly undertaken the self-imposed task of voicing the beliefs, hopes and fears, grievances and joys of ourselves and fellow subjects, look to you for encouragement and support, both of which we humbly think we have a right to expect from you.

2. It is our duty to study the times, and the signs of the times—to act among other things as watchmen and as such to give the alarm or cry out "All is well" as the case may be. We cannot but believe that you have one and all, either read for yourselves or been made to know what we have been compelled to write about on the present state of affairs in this Colony, the people of which have been committed to your solemn charge and care as a legacy from

the long line of kings and chiefs on whose stools you have been placed in strict accordance with our native customs and usages, and over whom you rule, with the co-operation and assistance of the British Government whom your ancestors on your stools gladly welcomed and entertained about two hundred years ago.

3. The opening up of the industries of the country particularly the gold mining industry which has in turn brought about the Railway has necessarily brought in its train so many changes in the, on the whole, hitherto non-aggressive policy of the Government of the country that you cannot but admit that your country is passing through such a crisis as requires, nay, demands your serious, thoughtful and careful consideration.

4. The leasing and sub-leasing of large portions of your lands to Europeans for long terms of years has brought about such legislation as affect you to a much greater degree than perhaps appears on the face of it. The laying down of railways in the country necessarily affects a people like yours, who from time immemorial have been accustomed to, and know no other mode of conveyance of a transport than that of carrying every burden or a load on the head. The responsibility rests upon you to see that these changes in the life of your subjects are turned to such uses as would be beneficial to them without impoverishing them, or throwing them to the wall. It is for you to see, that the large sums of money now coming into the country is well spent—that, the supply of labour is efficient—that the country is none the worse for the improvements which must necessarily follow the altered state of things, that the rights and privileges of your people, and yourselves are not encroached upon or arbitrarily snatched away—that no succession of changes, however rapid, may reduce you and your people to that state which hardly any change can mend—in short, that in accordance with the oaths you took and the vows you made on the day of your enstoolment, you do nothing or suffer nothing to be done but what would preserve inviolate the hereditary rights of your people, and tend to the settlement of your country.

5. We expect all this from you. You promised them (and much more) to us on the day we received you as our kings and chiefs. Should you fail in the discharge of your duties you know as well as we do, that we have the right to call on you to account for it, and that we have the power to exercise that right as none other has. It is our intention to do all we can to assist you in the proper discharge of your onerous duties, and we hope to do so by addressing ourselves to you in general, from time to time in the columns of this paper on such matters, legislature or otherwise which we may think or deem necessary to be brought under your special and immediate attention.

6. In the meantime, your Majesties will allow us to point out, that whilst we admit that you have hitherto worked hand in hand in all matters connected with the country, with the *Aborigines Rights Protection Society*, we desire to see more zeal, and energy shown by you in their work, since that Society is at best your guide, councillor and your mouthpiece.

We are,  
Your most obdt. Servants,  
THE EDITOR,—G. C. L.

#### SIR MATTHEW NATHAN TO THE ASHANTI KINGS AND CHIEFS.

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 then 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 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 enstooled 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 enstool them according to native customary law. They notify the Government of their enstoolment 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 enstoolment 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 enstoolment of our kings and chiefs, we do not see how they can possibly kick at a person rightly enstooled because Mr. Resident or Commissioner does not recommend him, or his Excellency does not sanction his enstoolment.

Sir Matthew Nathan says to the King of Beyin, "I have decided to recognize 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 a 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.

Bravo! P. E. S. Such fraudulent, impudent productions of "Chickiell Camp" and the likes would surely not pass unchallenged in these days of our existence. Be it known therefore to "Chickiell Camp" and other fictitious writers on our race that men we have who will not allow to pass unquestioned all calumnious letters, sayings and doings of shallows of his type.—Hard disease requires strong remedy.

To find "Chickiell Camp" lay down the assertion that the "Bush natives" could live on the magnificent sum of £1. 7. 6. not per month—but for a whole year is on the face of it highly characteristic of what might have preyed on his memory with reference to his own home living at the time he was fabricating his treatise. He might be, but he could not possibly be blind to the fact that there is no circulation of pennies or halfpennies amongst these *extra-economical* "Bushmen" and that the smallest coin in use is the "3d". Such being the case his argument that they both live and save on this "3d a day" is not a ridiculous absurdity perhaps

an uncommonly Bankum.

If "Chickiell Camp" is still in a letter-writing mood, would he please inform us at what reckoning he arrived at this sum of £1. 7. 6 per annum. To me he seems to be a high rate mathematician.

Unscrupulous writers, Beware! And talk of things you know and things you have seen on the Gold Coast. For savages as we appear to you we like to find nothing than the naked truth though it may reflect on us.

Ye men also—even ye our fellow-negroes who prefer to join the train of the offending "Whites" in pestering the Fanti (if not the whole negroes) take warning! Negroes are negroes, and we had expected that being of the same colour you would have given us a helping hand in the common defence of the race from the aggressive foreigners and thus render your duty to West Africa and the Gold Coast in particular in which you live and move and have your being. If a Fanti offends you (as to err is human) why cannot you point to him his error as Black to Black and so give him an opportunity of reparation and moreover of returning you the same chance when you offend.

Treat him fairly possibly as a brother, and you will find in him a good comrade—a real *Fidas A-Aates* otherwise and you have your own tale to tell.

On the other hand move on the favour and company of the "Whites" and from your so-called high position help in defying and throwing missiles on your race—But mind, so long as "Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander" you will have cause to regret when it is too late to mend and would then burst in the unredeeming elegy "Had I but served my race as I had served the "Whites" I would not have been receiving the pecking from both Black, and White as the vain bird in borrowed plumes. Good feeling gentlemen, good feeling and mutual co-operation.

Yours etc.—Aroo.

Cape Coast, July 29.

#### HOW A POPE IS ELECTED.

The selection and crowning of a Pope is a very ceremonious affair, and an event that concerns the Catholic Church throughout the world. From the moment a Pope dies until his successor is crowned the Vatican may be said to be in a state of fervid excitement.

On the death of a Pope it is the duty of the cardinal camerlingo to formerly ascertain that fact.

He does so by knocking thrice on the door of the Pope's bedchamber. Getting no answer he enters, and taps thrice with a silver mallet on the dead man's forehead, and thrice calls him by name. No response coming, the camerlingo declares to the world that the Pope is dead.

The body is then embalmed and after Mass has been said over it in the presence of the cardinals it is removed to St Peter's, where it lies in state for nine days, when the funeral proper takes place, and which is rightly regarded as one of the of the world. The next step is the selection of a new Pope. He is chosen by the conclave, a body or committee composed of cardinals and other high church dignitaries.

They occupy special quarters in the Vatican, isolated from the rest of the building and from the outer world by the walling up of every door and window and aperture. Each cardinal has a separate room, which is drawn by lot. With their servants they muster about 200 souls. All these men are sworn to secrecy. While the gathering lasts they are forbidden all intercourse with the outside world. They even cook their own food in a common kitchen.

One of the first duties is to choose three scrutators to count the ballots. The canons really define three kinds of election—by inspiration, by compromise, and by ballots. Election by inspiration takes place when "all the cardinals, if by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, proclaim one candidate." As they never do this the Pope is always chosen by ballot or vote.

The ballots, when open are about 4 inches long and 3 inches broad. In the first or upper section the cardinal writes his name, in the middle, the name of the candidate whom he proposes; in the lower section, some motto from the scriptures. Two ballots are taken daily, in the morning, and afternoon until some candidate receives the requisite two-thirds vote of the members present. The duration of the conclave depends on many considerations—personal ambition, political intrigues, and factional jealousies. That of 1800 lasted 104 days that of 1878 when the present Pope was selected, only three days.

The moment the decision is declared the lucky cardinal dons the papal robes, the masons tear down the plaster wall before one of the balconies from which the cardinal dean proclaims the selection to the expectant throngs beneath, as for example in the case of the present Pope "Cardinal Pacci has been chosen, and he takes the name of Leo XIII."

Then comes the coronation ceremony. It takes place in the morning, commencing with a procession headed by the Swiss Guards, and ending by the new Pope wearing a golden mitre, carried aloft on the sedia gestatoria, with a silver damask canopy borne above his head, flanked by the *flabelli* (the great fans of ostrich and peacock feathers) the whole surrounded by noble guards with drawn swords.

As the Pope enters St. Peter's, or the Chapel Sixtine in the Vatican, where the coronation takes place, as the choice remains with the Pope, he is stopped three times by one of the clerks of the chapel, who, kneeling, sets fire to some flax on the points of a three-pronged stick, exclaiming, in loud and mournful voice, "Holy Father, thus passes away the glory of the world."

Having descended from the sedia gestatoria, the Pope proceeds to the altar and, after a brief prayer, commences the introit of the Mass, which on this occasion is celebrated by himself. At the end of the confession he takes his place on the throne on the left side of the altar, while the first cardinal bishop recites the three customary prayers over him. Then the Pope returns to the altar, kneels on the step, and while the first cardinal deacon removes his gold mitre, the second cardinal deacon invests him with the pontifical pallium. This garment is adorned with three black silk embroidered crosses, and constitutes the most sacred and important tokens of his office.

But to enumerate the ceremony at all fully would be too tedious. Needless to add, it is much more lengthy than the crowning of a temporal Sovereign. The most interesting part of the whole proceedings, probably, is the placing of the tiara upon the Pope's head by the first cardinal deacon. It weighs 3lb., and is adorned with no fewer than 19,000 precious stones, of which 18,000 are diamonds. As the deacon places the crown upon the supreme Pontiff's head he exclaims: "Take this tiara, adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the father of all Princes and sovereigns, the ruler of the globe, and on earth the vice-regent of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom all honour and glory for ever and ever, amen." The Pope then rises and, wearing the tiara, delivers a benediction which completes the ceremony of coronation.

#### THE POLICE TO THE FORE.

"The Police Force has undergone very great improvement in late years and the idea had everything to recommend it to bring over native drill instructors from the West Indies."

Exactly a fortnight ago, this was what our Accra Correspondent said and until recently, these words might have been equally applicable to us here also; as a matter of fact since Superintendent Coppin took charge of our Constables in this Town, those of our readers who interest themselves in the Police, and have therefore been watching their doings, must have observed an improvement in them. We felt that a man who understood his work, was at the head of our Police Force, a good deal of their stupidity, and crass ignorance, and undesired display of their pugilism vanished into thin air, and people began to breathe freely, and realized that instead of Bullies, we had officers of Peace, and Protectors of our homes and persons. But Mr. Superintendent Coppin is still at his post, and is as hard working as ever; he seems to have intelligent Sergeants round about him too who spare no pains to drill some sense of duty into the hard pates of their men. Why this sudden revival of the old days then? It seems that all goes well when with the Superintendent or the Sergeants, but directly they are left to themselves, then all the mischief begins. Here, in then, it seems to us lies the fault—the class of men, which the government through their own doings are compelled to receive into the Constabulary. Most of these cannot know B from a battledore in English, and all they think a Policeman has to do is to be chasing after poor people, singing out "Makio," to be finding cause for some innocent person's apprehension and disgrace with "Ifu eribeyem interfere" and *Miribeye wa charge*, the only English words *interfere* and *charge* they seem to have, picked up, and to offer gross insult to gentlemen because they are policemen.

At one time we had decent, respectable looking men in the Force, and who on the whole had a fair knowledge of the English language and consequently gave less trouble. When the authorities undertook to make them carriers, messengers, servants, orderlies anything but what they enlisted for, these men left, and their places were taken by the class of men we have now.

These are mostly Akims, Quittas, Wassaws &c. What can you expect? They think once they find themselves robed in the King's regimentals, they are made monarchs of all they survey, and they have got nothing to do but to insult and apprehend people. The Superintendent may drill and talk as much as he likes, no good; nothing they know, and that is to 'catch' people. With this idea in them we are not

surprised to find so many wrongful, stupid arrests and once they have arrested you, they are prepared to swear to any falsehood just to get you either fined, or imprisoned. What is to be regretted is, that their *spes dixit* is pitched against the truthful statement of any unfortunate one who may fall into their hands, and the magistrate and their senior officers believe their false statements. When Sir Thomas Rayner, and Mr. Blackwell, and the late Mr. Cummings were at one time or other the Commissioners here, fully knowing what adepts those men were, in telling falsehood to mislead them in their findings, they took pains to go carefully into all Police cases that were taken before them, and the result was, the men were careful with their arrests. In the name of discipline and fair-play we would recommend this to the present Magistrate, and the senior officers of these men.

We notice here a few facts to show how these officers of Peace go about their duty in Town.

The other day a man from the bush came to sell his parrot: a Policeman on the beat in Commercial Rd. wanted to buy it: the man asked 3/- for the bird, the Bobby insisted upon giving him 2/6; altercation ensued, their fighting, bringing all in the neighbourhood to the scene, even the intervention of Chief Harrison would not succeed; this brought another Peeler to the scene of action, by this time, quite a crowd had been collected, and all this disturbance was brought about by the Peace officer. The second Policeman arrested both, and what the result was we do not know—A woman was arrested in Salt Pond Road for throwing water into the Parade ground, and she was fined 10/6: on another occasion, this same unfortunate woman, was seen by two policemen going to the Station from their huts by the tank coming from the beach with a pot in hand, she having been wiser by her former arrest and throwing the water this time into the sea; but the men must have her again, and it was a sight, to see her between the two men, dragging and beating her to their hearts' content, she resisting—a woman, mind you.

Pains were taken to look into the case, and she was discharged—beating for nothing! There are heaps of such silly arrests. But why the beating? Is this part of their regulations. Let a Bobby have a just or unjust cause to arrest a person and he thinks it is part of his duty to use his fists and baton freely on him, and by the time they get to the station, the poor fellow had had enough of it. Superintendent Coppin sometime ago succeeded to put a stop to this sort of things, and the game is started again.

Indeed, it is the talk now, that the Police are wild again nowadays and are making free apprehensions. Let all who create nuisance, and misbehave themselves, be apprehended and punished by all means, but you must not take the law into your own hands and give them a good hiding, before they are fined, or punished. There are some mischievous young boys who go about at nights throwing stones on people's houses, and all such silly things. By all means take them to the station, if you get hold of them and if these resist use any lawful means in your power to land them safe at the station.

And should Policemen—the representatives of the King, use dirty, filthy language. The Authorities who have themselves to blame in having such kind of men to join the Force, should at least use a little discrimination in choosing men for such an honourable, but now much-abused work. Why may not their regulations be read to them at least every fortnight. Until such things are stopped, people will always be blaming their Superior officers. And does Mr. Coppin know that his men nowadays go about in cloth, and in cloth apprehend people. Surely we have had the police long enough in the country for them to know, at least the elementary duties of their office. If our officers of Peace are so wild, and take advantage of their Regimentals to 'boss' it in this way, one may see enough in it for any rough young man, or even a 'Job' like the worm to 'turn'. One can see from this that Mr. Coppin's post is not a sinecure and he deserves every encouragement from his Superior officers. It may be inferred from this perhaps that what is done here is being done also in the other Towns, and when a Policeman finds himself in the Bush—why, His Excellency himself is no where by him. Hard as the Superintendent's work appears to be, we have every confidence in him, that he will still be doing his best.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

Sir,— Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable columns for a line or two on the deplorable condition in which I met what I am told is known as Free Town, on my return from the Mines about a week ago. I leave you to imagine the consternation my men were in, on finding their friends in that pitiable state. I lost all patience and began to pitch into the people for being so lazy, as to allow their houses to be thus flooded. I may con-

less I take the trouble to send you this letter for the sole reason that my men, seeing their wives, and friends in that state positively refused to leave Town with me in a day or two—and they were quite right too. Anxious to leave as early as I possibly could I called the next day with my boy to see if I could persuade my hammockmen with 'dashes' to leave with me, but I found them as obstinate and pig-headed as ever. My boy tells me they say they will not budge an inch until they are sure of leaving their people in a better condition. From what they say, if I had not been informed by my European friends with whom I was discussing the matter for a European to take the native's part as I proposed doing, he would lay himself open to be shunned and be in disfavour with his European friends and even with the government, I would certainly have taken the matter up as well as I could. I said to my boy, why do not the people approach the District Commissioner on the matter, and this was what he told me; he said that one of the men came to see him in the afternoon of the second day of our arrival in town, who told him that the Chief of the place and his people had approached Chief Kodwo Mbra, and they had both been to see the place, but that nothing had been done for them yet. If this had not been confirmed from another source, I would never have believed it, as a little common sense would have shown, that apart from the discomfort given to the people, and the difficulties thus placed in the way of those who have to travel, and must have carriers and hammockmen, the stench that the condition of the pond causes now, must make the town, more unhealthy, and should be sufficient reason for the necessary steps to be taken by the government. How things are done out here is a puzzle to me.

As it is I must now take the long and round about way of going to Accra by the steamer and taking men from there to get to my destination, whereas it would have been by far shorter for me to have gone by Salt Pond.

Please send some copies of the number you will be kind enough to publish this letter in, to London for me; address enclosed herewith. I shall write from Accra myself. I have asked Mr. ——— to send me a copy too.

Yours very truly,  
Cape Coast,  
29th. July 1902.

A EUROPEAN.

#### TO OUR INTENDING CONTRIBUTORS.

(From No. 2.)

Christie Murray's advice is eminently sensible and easy of acceptance. "To try to be striking, new, fine, is all faulty. Try to see clearly, to speak justly and you are on the road to a style. Idiom is the cream of language. Use common forms for thoughts which have often been expressed. I remember one man saying of another that he never clothed a modicum of meaning in a long array of misapplied polysyllables: an excellent example of the vice he said his friend was free from. Avoid foreign phrases and scraps of the dead languages. There is nothing which can be said at all which cannot be said in English."

To sum up then we may take it that the three things which should first be arrived at are, *accuracy*, *clearness* and *grace*. To be accurate is to have one's facts well marshalled and verified; to be clear is to convey to the reader all that is necessary for him to know, choosing just the words which will most precisely suggest to him the thought in the writer's mind, and the value which the latter places upon it: to be graceful is to select sweet-sounding words, to turn sentences neatly and, never to use an ugly, harsh expression where a pleasanter one may be found. These are the things we are striving after, and this is what we wish you also to do.

But just "one word" more before we leave this subject: it must be readily admitted that to the beginner, the initial difficulty lies in the choice of his subject, at least we found it so, and even now we must confess we are not yet quite out of its entanglement—a confession we cheerfully and readily make, and yet it seems to us that it is a difficulty which will disappear with a little experience, for our part we leave it to Father Time. Indeed it is doubtful whether the subject of an article is not even more important than its treatment; and this must be obvious, since the newspaper reader is first attracted to an article not by any elegance of style, or perspicuousness of reasoning, but by the nature of its subject. A contribution might be written with all the polish which a scholarly writer could give to it, and it might be a very model of treatment so far as clarity of argument were concerned, but if it did not deal with some style calculated to interest the reader and attract his attention it will be of no more use as a "copy," than a budget of interesting clippings from other newspapers.

(To be continued.)

# The Gold Coast Leader.

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## THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

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### GENERAL NEWS.

A reader sends us the news of the judgment given on the Sey case, which we insert some where in this column.

Dr Murray is once more with us, Dr Barker having been sent up to Axim we hope with his dustbins or "boxes."

His Honor Judge Smith was taken suddenly and seriously ill last Friday, we regret to learn, and we are pleased to find he has been so far recovered so attend to the duties of the assizes this week.

The Wesley Church officials gave tea to Bishop Small at the Vestry last Tuesday evening.

The Bishop since his arrival here has shown himself an out and out Methodist Bishop, by attending every church meeting, his voice being often heard at their Prayer meetings. He addressed the Sabbath Schools last Sunday.

Another reader sends us this bit of information. "The late King Kwamina Hammah of Edwimaku was born in the year 1807; became King in 1847 and died on the 8th July last, having attained the age of ninety five; he reigned peaceably over his people over fifty-five years. By the consent and approval of the members of the family and all the subjects in the District, his grandson Appiah Orsam was proclaimed King on the 29th July, and passed through the usual ceremonies. We heartily wish King Appiah Orsam of Edwimaku long life and earnestly pray that he be blessed with wisdom to govern his people prudently."

The Coronation Day celebrations are in full swing. We hope next week to be able to tell our readers how the town spent the day.

All the local Bands (seven) had practices together at the chapel square for the occasion.

Last Sunday there being a report that the pond was forcing itself into the sea there was a large gathering at the Salt Pond.

"The great Jacob Sey-Will case has been finished. The children represented by Lawyer Renner have lost. The executors representing the domestics, the heirs under the will, represented by Lawyer Bannerman have won. We understand the executors, consisting of Rev. A. W. Parker and R. A. Harrison and 2 others ordered £10 out of the estate, of course, for drinkables including champagne to celebrate the occasion.

Ghost of Jacob Sey: we can imagine how you enjoyed in spirit the celebration of the occasion with £10 worth of spirits. We had a vivid recollection on the morning following the day we had the information, of seeing a ghost, we couldn't see its face, struggling with entreaties, and begging for leave to return to the world, if only for five minutes. But it was a dream.

He heaped up riches—  
And dies, and knows not  
How they'll chop am

(Communicated)

We think the Police when on duty should smoke neither cigar, cigarette or pipe. They must get drunk as little as they can, that is if they can't stop drinking altogether. They must not leave their posts at night only to come back early in the morning to be relieved; and are they in their uniforms to be seen with umbrellas. They ought to stop disguising themselves in cloth for the apprehension of people; all these are meant to be broad, unmistakable hints to the "officer in charge."

On Thursday morning at 4, a Mr. G.—was going to Elmina when he was stopped at the Bank by the Bobby on duty there for the purpose of "searching" him if he could find, what? Only the Policeman knows. Not finding what he wanted, he of course let him off, and Mr. G. couldn't go till 6 in the morning. We understand the gentleman intends reporting this conduct of the Police.

The other day a European resident was arrested for nuisance in the public street. Appearing before the D. C. the next day, admitting the charge, he said he did it under pressure as he had a very long way to go before he would reach his house to attend to nature's call, and looking about for urinals, or any provision that may have been made in vain he did it; this was his plea, and His worship Mr. D. C. discharged him.

The gentleman was right, and the D. C. too—well, yes right. Both did they what was right. But the question arises what would have been the D. C.'s decision, if the arrested party had been a nigger gentleman? In that case would it not have been, 'fine' at all costs; and the bush traders who come to the coast, to meet Nature's call, go to the outskirts of the Town, since even these apologies of Latrines are wholly and cruelly insufficient, are they not hunted by the Kroo Scavengers for court fines.

That is it some provisions of some sort must be made, or none at all, but it must be all fine, fine and nothing more, at least for the unfortunate Ne-

gro: a mangled and distorted British Justice and fair-play, must ever be our portion!

ELMINA.—The construction of the much talked of steel bridge on the lagoon is practically completed. It now remains the parapets and the approaches, which as the Bridge is now raised to about four feet higher than the old one, have got to be removed.

The old middle pier which has been for some-time past, fast crumbling away, is being removed thereby leaving one open bay, of nearly 10 feet or so.

The entire span is also widened by about five feet on the Elmina side.

The work, *tout ensemble* is the initiative of an undertaking pregnant with signs of the future improvements of the town.

In short the Bridge is the best of its kind in the Colony putting aside the Sweet River Bridge. It is worth the while of the authorities to arrange for a red letter day for the opening of the Bridge and have it christened.

We hope to be able to report in extenso on the Bridge when the whole work becomes a *fait accompli*.

On the 5th ult a certain man coming from Ponsu made a haul for the night at Ekutuasi. On leaving the place the next morning for town, he was way laid and brutally assaulted and robbed by some of the villagers who happened to know that the man had some money on his person. The unfortunate man however, managed to reach this place and reported the matter to the police but as yet we are not aware of the results.

Mr. Commissioner Vernon we understand, is at present lying on his beam ends.

A squad of West Indians left here on the 31st to replace a section of the detachment at Cape Coast Castle, which also arrived here the same night for a course of shooting which will commence this week.

We are informed that the Postal Clerk here, has for some time not been supplied with postage stamps and consequently he has been placed under the obligation of sending down to Cape Coast for a supply with his own cash in order to keep the transaction going. How does this irregularity come to be accounted for? It is alleged that the Customs people here do not see their way clear to be bothered with stamps accounts which is purely Treasury work. Why cannot the authorities appoint a man for the Treasury arrangements.

There have been very unusual high and rough tides here during the commencement of the week and several canoes on the beach have been either washed away or smashed. The road on the river banks at New Town requires paying attention to. We are told there is a scheme under contemplation to have it walled in. The sooner this is carried into effect the better it would be to the poor tenants in the vicinity.

Mr Johannes Welsing recently the store keeper at ~~Swamp's~~ ~~here~~, died suddenly on the night of the 4th instant.

Mr E. P. Dantah lost his first daughter, Margaret, the wife of Mr. H. B. Plange, at Beyin on the 2nd inst. Mr J. B. Plange the postmaster at Axim and a brother of the bereaved husband also died suddenly from heart failure on his way to visit his brother on the following day. August is going to play havoc again.

The English Lodge of good Templars propose holding a public meeting on Saturday night, 9th inst.

SALT POND.—A girl who went for firewood the other day, was lost 'in the woods' a company rushed to the woods with lanterns etc. in search of her but she was not found; the next morning she was brought to town by a native of Awun Yaa.

There seems to be some stir now by the Chamber of Commerce on the price of green cases gin, which are being sold with different prices by the different Houses. There is a Chamber of Commerce then.

The Juveniles of N. O. of Free Gardeners went to Anambos for profits on Friday last; they returned

ed to Town about 8.30 p.m. and had a tea party at Bro. Robert Cann's (Melver's).

**WINNEBAH.**—From the perusal of your esteemed journal one is able to estimate the amount of damage done at the different places by the last torrential rain.

Winnebah suffered at the earliest part of the season when the collapse of the south position of Mr. Chesham's house took place killing the wife of Mr. H. A. Quansah, the partner of his declining years.

Then followed the coronation rain of the two would-have-been-memorable days, happily there was no loss of life. Mr. Wallis however escaped on the skin of his teeth being in one of the rooms in the portion of his house that broke down, it is also reported that at this time, a woman was jammed between the debris of fallen walls, but escaped unhurt.

The mischief done is perceptible every where and most houses were abandoned: a great lesson will be learnt by the future house-builder here as in most places every body is his own house-builder and build without studying the peculiar geological formation of the soil.

The street known as Eason's road is in a disgraceful condition, dangerous to life and limb: cannot the authorities improve it with even convict labour until they are ready (Doomsday of course) to give it a thorough and permanent repair?

We specially draw the attention of the D. C. to the so-called street behind the chapel and leading to Eason's road: with the present gang of convicts it can be decently and at the same time economically repaired and improved—all that is required to our mind is filling in the uneven surface draining the sides and making same straight and level, this certainly can be done without much skill nor much expense.

At present we have the right man in the person of Mr. Harper as Commissioner of the District and he is fortunate to have in the District the advice of Mr. Pearce Foreman of works.

We also do want better latrines than those in use. There are facilities both here and Appam for building them at the beach as at Accra. Some of them are so located as to make them impossible to be in offensive to the surrounding people, we refer chiefly to the one situate at Ndama road which may in the interest of the public health be removed further up, at present it is more nuisance than convenient.

At Appam they have no latrine of any sort and we believe they have free card for committing nuisance, on the beach which they do with a vengeance, the unhealthy inhalations from the muddy deposit of the lagoon coupled with this nuisance on the beach and added to the free liberty given to pigs to roam every where at their sweet will and the nuisance that is concomitant with their liberty contribute to make the town extremely filthy—(please pronounce the word filthy with little more force and you then realise it).

The GOVERNMENT could and should give them at least three latrines of the Winnebah sort at convenient places, a most useful and commodious market is nearing completion, and Mr. Pearce might be instructed to build the latrines while he is there.

## TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Whilst admitting that there are a good many subscribers to the *West Africa*, still we fear there are comparatively few who see that paper. For this reason we have inserted in this issue, in *extenso* an article which appeared in one of its April issues.

We commend that article to the careful reading and study of all natives of this Country.

To find such an independent and disinterested testimony on the politics of the Country is indeed, encouraging it greatly strengthens the hands of those who have all along had the views expressed in that article as to the attitude the Authorities have assumed on the politics of the country, and the status of the *Aborigines Society*. After all there are some Europeans who interest themselves in the affairs of the Country on the right lines. The writer has no doubt given the subject a careful study. If all Europeans who through necessity must find a home out here will do this, it will be well for themselves, their people who send them out, and for the British Empire, leaving the native out of it.

And if foreigners would interest themselves in the affairs of the Country to that extent, does it not stand to reason that the natives of the soil, or the blacks, should do all they can to excel them in this?

In a previous number we have asked our people to interest themselves more in the *Aborigines Society*, and in our last issue in our open letter to the Kings, we asked them also to do the same thing. We had not seen, nor even heard of this article, whilst writing those things, and now, we are more than ever bold to appeal to our people and our Kings and Chiefs to do so. Looking at the matter squarely in the face it would seem altogether unnecessary for each an appeal and yet the necessity for this more than exists. We must not be hasty to pronounce ourselves on the Society as it now exists, and its *modus operandi*, until we are in a position to do so: but whatever may be said, there is this to be remembered, that that Body needs and calls for all possible support and assistance from all intelligent persons, young and old, of this Country. We cannot conceal the fact that we have got to shut our ears against many things we hear, and let many a person in that Body be lost in it, if the rising generation must be appealed to, for its support and co-operation.

What a power for good will that Body be, if it is properly organised, well officered, and with a constitution, working hand in hand, with the *Aborigines Society* in England, and old and young changing views freely, all personal prejudices, animosities, grievances, or grudges thrown overboard aiming at these—loyalty to our Country and Government, and the peace and prosperity of the land.

"Public opinion, is slow, and perhaps timid to express itself." Who can doubt this, and the reason for this is not far to seek. When every body is bent on money-making and will show a bit of patriotism, when it must mean something to the pocket (a fact which the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes, gave vent to in a witness box in South Africa sometime ago) when one must interest himself in a public movement, out and out, only when there is a gain of some sort, and not purely for the good of the country, when all who dare to express themselves freely on a public subject, must be singled out as the trouble-makers, or that they may be doing so to "show off themselves" or their knowledge (knowledge indeed, but the more of this the better) and so on, surely public opinion must be slow and timid to express itself.

"It seems incredible that this is the same Gold Coast which organized, despatched to England..... a deputation consisting of the President and two members of the "G. C. A. R. P. S."....." It does seem incredible indeed, if you look around you. But more of this anon.

As for our Government encouraging the natives in liberty of speech and all the rest of it, how dark and hopeless things may have seemed in the past, there seems to be a streak of light, in our sky, as a wronged and oppressed people, seeing who is at the head of affairs assuming that after all there is much in a name: and we are English subjects a liberty loving people, and a nation who are prepared at any time to lose many a precious life, and millions of money, if only to take off the yoke of oppression from off the negro's neck. Africa, West Africa, Gold Coast may some day see a deliverer or deliverers, in the meanwhile what are their sons doing? This ought to be the question of the day. *Experientia docet stultos*, and—"Heaven helps those who help themselves."

We have casually come across a letter from the Foreign Chamber of Commerce in this town written by the Secretary Mr. Aspinall, to one of its members: on the first instant it was decided, that in future any shopkeeper who makes default in his accounts should be "boycotted" by all the members of the "Chamber." This is all very good. Poor storekeeper! No matter the cause or source of defaultation (or defaultation (sic) as Mr. A. puts it) he is to be absolutely dismissed and hence forward boycotted.

We are rather amused at this all-round, uncompromising and unqualified weaving of the black tares of storekeepers among the black wheat! But what about the white tares of storekeepers, cashiers, and agents among the white wheat which latter is unfortunately not many? Are there not several Europeans who have literally gone the round of all or nearly all the European Houses in this town or Colony? Will the "Chamber of Commerce" kindly say, for what or on what account they were given the sack, or they gave themselves the sack, to cover their disgraceful acts—acts more disgraceful than the unqualified defaultation of black storekeepers? There is an English saying we can't help quoting—They that live in glass houses should not throw stones.

We know a little of the way accounts are made and presented. Profit and Loss. Oh, my! Hush.

There are many ways of making a name, and it is a well known fact, that it is somewhat a weakness of our Masters, this name-making. Mr. Aspinall, as the Secretary of the Chamber is fast making a name. We understand this young gentleman, is a

Manager or something of the sort of the Mining Companies, and it does seem to be his abilities, to point out that under the present scene, the Mercantile Houses did not have amongst them competent enough to be the Secretary. But this is no business of ours, and he is able to do this, and to look after his Company's interest as well.

By the way Mr. Secretary has not found time yet to reply to our appeal to him to refute or confirm, what we said sometime ago about his 'Chamber' and the Native concessionaires, and Governor Nathan, which we think has in a great measure hurt the Gold Mining Industry in this Country. This is our last time of asking. But the subject will be heard of again.

Whilst it remains unrefuted, is it not left open for us to assume that the report may be true. With this assumption coupled with what is said above about the storekeepers, we wish to say this in the interim to our countrymen. Be warned in time ere it is too late. An attempt having been made to cut you off the means to make yourself and children somewhat independent, so as to be clerks to them always, with all the unpleasantness attached to that post no matter how hard-worked and willing servants you may be, the next move is, having got you as clerks, to seek to put you out of work: then the town will be full of the 'unemployed,' then there will be an Ordinance (an Ordinance-ridden Colony this, you know) for Vagrants. You will next find yourselves fast filling up the cells in the goal yards, or you will be cart boys or stewards or you must wend your way to Wa. Do you think we have blackened the picture a little too much? Wait and see.

But what are you to do then? This. Educate your children as much as your means will allow, after which, put them to some trade, any kind of work: it is not all of you who will have the means to give your sons a profession. Educate your children, not with that half and half education, rushing them through their School studies to make clerks (!) of them. Those who are qualified to express an opinion on the subject in the civilized world, say, it is far better to give your Children a thorough education, than to leave them heirs of millions of pounds. We out here think otherwise; no sooner you say this than they begin to point out to you, many an educated man who is unfortunately at the last rung of the ladder, and many a one, who will with difficulty tell a noun from a verb at the top, and wish us he is a nice young man who knows how to make money: with us, this exception to the rule becomes, and is the rule.

That idea has been so long in the country, that only time, and the strong force of civilization will wipe it off. This idea will not prevail always. *Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis*. Please make a note of that, and if you must have but a glimpse of what it will be in a few years hence, look around you. The only way to make your children independent is, educate them, and put them to some work. Don't send them into the world sooner than you can help. All things come to him who wait. Wisdom is the principal thing therefore give them wisdom. Do this, and they will live. How strange it is that at this time of the day Gold Coast is now, of all the Country on the West Coast, the one which thinks less of education, and thinks too, that much of it, spells uppishness, pride, *everything bad*. Yes Gold Coast or Cape Coast—which. Nay, nay, we are over drawing it. We hope so.

'Wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.' *Holy Bible*.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

Aug 4. The King is making a rapid progress, he is able to walk the entire length of a deck unassisted. He held an investiture of the officers and men of the Yacht yesterday.

He comes to London on Wednesday.

Aug 6. The King walks easily. The Kaiser is gone to Riviera on board the *Hohenzollern*.

He is to visit the Tsar and to witness the combined Naval and Military manoeuvres.

Generals Botha, Dewet and Delarey have sailed for Europe to raise funds for the widows and orphans and the wounded.

## NOTICE.

We beg to remind the gentlemen who seeing the necessity for a local paper, signed our list of donations when we were conducting the G. C. A., that we shall be pleased to receive their promises at an early date. It is our intention to pub-

With the list and possibly some inconvenience to our readers, we find us placing *in* against their names.

Wanted at this Office, two smart Boys as learners.  
Apply in person to the Editor.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.

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 Thursday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned. Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

## The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUGUST 9, 1902.

LAST week we addressed ourselves to our Kings in an open letter, and this week, we do not think we can do better, than to call the attention of the Country to the *Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society*; happily for us a few days after writing the letter to the Kings, in going through some back numbers of our contemporary the *West Africa*, we quite unexpectedly came across an article in its issue of April 19, headed *Native Politics in the Gold Coast*, from its Special Correspondent on the Gold Coast, every word of which we agree with. As there are comparatively very few in this Country, who see this paper, we have thought best to give that article a prominent place in this issue:—"The last few weeks have been occupied by me in attentive study of the relations between the Government and the people of the Gold Coast, and the more deeply I have gone into the matter, the more I have discovered that there is a strong undercurrent of discontent among the latter.

Public opinion, however, is slow, and perhaps timid to express itself. The idea of a military Governor and the summary methods that he may adopt on a given occasion seems to overawe men's minds, and to make them hesitate to assert their rights and proclaim their grievances. It seems incredible that this is the same Gold Coast which organised and despatched to England in the year 1898 a deputation consisting of the President and two members of the "Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society" with such happy results ament the then projected "Lands Bill."

What sort of a body is the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection? It is a society that was solemnly and regularly called into being about 1897, in accordance with native law and custom, by the exigencies of the times. It continues to exist to day, and its influence is as potent as it then was. Whenever and however the occasion may arise, I am assured that the members of that patriotic body will not fall short of their duty to their Country. The members thereof are true aborigines of the country, claiming family ties and family possessions as much as any native chief or person can. They have been duly chosen for their superior intelligence to represent their country, much as Members of Parliament are chosen to represent constituencies in England. Mr. Chamberlain accorded the deputation an audience in 1898, but there is now a tendency to belittle the influence of aboriginal political forces when it is found difficult or inconvenient to cope with such forces. The history of this country furnishes instances. In the early seventies of the last century the leading members of the "Fanti Confederation" were aspersed, and every attempt was made to annihilate them. The attempt succeeded, but it set back indefinitely the work of Gold Coast development and progress. People speak of the native developing on his own lines. This was the God sent institution that could have

do so. To my mind, when a strong movement like ours seeks to repress aboriginal institutions, having the ostensible object of asserting native rights, it bespeaks great weakness unworthy of a civilised Power.

Therefore, when I hear the question whispered in high places, Who are the aborigines? I recall to mind the teaching of Gold Coast history, and I ask myself the question, are we not again betraying our weakness? What is there to fear in the existence of the "Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society?" If our object is to train up the people of the Gold Coast in the elements of free institutions, which we pretend is the case, why seek to crush the first budding of national spirit? Why not encourage free discussion, free ventilation of public grievances and wants? Believe me, in no part of Greater Britain would a free discussion of public affairs more clear the air.

If the discussion of public affairs were, indeed, tolerable to the powers that be, it would, for example, be open to question why, as yet, there are no suitable small-pox hospitals in Axim, although the Government were petitioned upon the matter, I am informed, as far back as the fall of last year. Do you think the people do not feel in their heart of hearts the injustice of the deposition of Chief Faibir, the fining of King Enimil Kwamin, consequent upon his enquiring from the Governor what were the charges against Chief Faibir wherefore his destoolment was required? Or, again, do you think the people do not perceive the ulterior motive in the policy which seeks to set up a king in one province and pull one down in another province? As a matter of fact, what right have we to interfere in the native institutions of these people? "None"! would be the official disclaimer. Yet, if the truth may be told, the present policy of the government does anything but bear out such disclaimer.

As far as I can see, what is required at present is a calm, impartial study by the head of the administration of the past and contemporary history of the Gold Coast with a view to applying its lessons to the immediate needs of the country. Instead of that, I see here and there, and, with hurry, the confusion that attends it."

#### IMPORTANT TO NATIVE STOREKEEPERS, TRADERS, FACTORS OR AGENTS AND MERCHANTS.

#### 'TO BE FOREWARNED IS TO BE FOREARMED.'

The letter of the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for the whites of this town, to which we have referred in another column, should serve as an eye opener—to use a trite but expressive word—to our petty (and large) traders. What is more, our youngmen who have taken the mercantile line as their life-work, should not make light of this broad, unqualified hint from their white masters. They tell you plainly that if you supply them on the slips they send you—which are chiefly for cham, whisky and soda—and you happen to loose any of these—or give credit with their unwritten approval which is the case in nine out of every ten cases and cannot prove it in the face of your written agreement or from some cause or other, which may be not embezzlement or anything of the kind—you are not only liable to be dismissed, but all your knowledge and years of experience in the department of work to which you have devoted your life, will be rendered absolutely useless to you—and that not only in Cape Coast, but throughout the whole Colony, and who knows whether the "boycotting" of the Chamber of Commerce will not, indeed, has not already reached Nigeria and perhaps South Africa. We know at least, of one instance in which the influence of a single House in this town, was used against, in fact, to boycott a promising youngman who having come to owe them, through no fault of his, had gone down to the "Rights" to have something to do and was actually in business there and was doing well too. Youngmen of the mercantile class, bestir yourselves. You have no sympathy, and will have none from us, if you play ducks and drakes with what belongs to others—nor shall we sympathize with you, if you go giving large credits which you cannot call in, or even giving credits at all without the written approval or consent of your masters. We would call the special attention of those who are of the Commission Agent class. Your agreement forbids your giving any credit, and for your own sakes be satisfied with the losses you make when you keep to the terms of your agreement than be tempted with large profits to be made on giving credit even though with the verbal consent of

your agent. The agent may conveniently forget or refuse to remember that he gave his consent, or may be removed and replaced by another who would, do, what you would, have his pound of flesh on his agreement. The practice does not pay, fellow countrymen, and be content to become rich by degrees. You only endanger your position block your own way and spoil your good names—for we know several of you who are honest, hard working and but who have unfortunately gone down on the credit-giving practice, and have come to bear a name which is anything but indicative of your true real selves.

But a word to our native traders. You see that the white men have now founded a Chamber of their own. This is quite new for us. It is not so in either of the sister Colonies. They don't want you—and if they don't, why don't you thank God for it, and form one of your own. You have far better experience and knowledge in, at least, native trade than nine three-fourths of all of them.

Many of them served under you when they first came out, and you had to teach them the very A. B. C. of this African trade, some of them you have even taught book-keeping or put up to keep their books correct—taught how to buy and gauge palm oil, buy kernels and rubber: surely, you know the English and Continental markets as well as most of them do if not better though you might not have had access to the private and confidential letters of the various Firms you served in. And to crown all, your little knowledge of their language, is not a disgrace to, at least to you. You are doing your own business and are doing well. Your Houses and friends in Europe, have confidence in you and in your knowledge of the trade of your country. Why then not form your own Chamber? Unity is strength. You will be more patronised, by your people when they come to find the state of affairs—which they are sure to, within a short time. You will have the support of your *Houses*? Don't be afraid that the whites will undersell you. If they undersell you, they undersell themselves and should they do it at all, they cannot afford to keep it up for long. If you will only try it, you will see the change that will come over your business and theirs, and we will not be at all surprised to find but one Chamber of Commerce for both Black and White in the near future. As an organ determined to do its little best towards the interest and welfare of the country, we promise you every support both here and in Europe, if you will try for yourselves as well—

And if at first you don't succeed,  
Try, try, try, again.

#### THE AVERAGE YOUNGSTER OR OLDSTER OF THIS COUNTRY WILL READ THIS WITH PROFIT.

... We have little to learn from our ancestors: they would have much to learn from us. How foolish is it then to govern our conduct, in the altogether new conditions which prevail by what they thought or what they did!

Every generation has the common-sense of its period; our ancestors had the common-sense of their ages; we of ours. It is one of the fallacies which have been handed down from time immemorial that the old are wiser than the young, and the sooner this is shunted into space the better. The wisdom of the young is amazing. The young have intuitive qualities which diminish and disappear as years increase: they have a courage, enterprise, energy, and self-confidence to a degree that few old people ever enjoy. The old have experience, but experience seldom alters the character. The experience which teaches men to do things mechanically and according to rule the old have, but how much experience ever taught an ordinary man to control his character or to deal with woman? Because the old no longer so keenly desire the things they were eager for in their youth they account themselves wise, but that is not wisdom, it is physical decay. They look wiser than the young—that is unquestionable—and it is on their looks that they trade.

The young are full of love, of faith, of truth of confidence in others, are less selfish and more generous than the old are generally. If they have the faults of their time of life, why are those not described tenderly as "the infirmities of youth" as the failings of the old are the "infirmities of age"? Goethe has approached the thought more timidly: "People," he wrote, "always fancy that we must become old to become wiser, but in truth, it is hard to keep ourselves as wise as we were."

Another matter that has to be handed to the necessity of teaching the young, as part of their education, to say "No." Half the troubles which beset us in life come from saying "Yes"—more often from amiability or weakness than from more objectionable causes. Every child should be put through a severe course of saying "No" from the moment the

or he commences to be schooled. *Ques:* "Will you play?" *Ans.:* "No." *Ques:* "Will you lend me your knife?" *Ans.:* "No." *Ques:* "Will you fight?" *Ans.:* "No." In the higher branches of training, children would be taught to say "No" decidedly but politely, and even to do it so graciously, as to give almost as much pleasure as they would have done by saying "Yes."

*Truth "Letter from the Linkman," 1/5/1902*

What a hubbub there would have been, if we had ventured in any shape or form to have said anything like this—Such a universal truth would have been nothing but gross personality *et cetera.*

### CORONATION CONCERT.

The above concert which was to have come on a fortnight ago, but unavoidably postponed, owing to the inclemency of the weather, passed off successfully on Friday the 26th instant. With Mr. Johnny Parker, as the musical Director must be associated Messrs. Parker Longden, S. E. Mensah, Joe Addaguay, T. B. Freeman, and G. B. Insaideo. The gathering was not quite a representative one as could be desired, owing mostly to the previous night's Grand Ball at the Retreat by the "Ashick" Society; and also the public not having been sufficiently informed. The decoration was an improvement in itself and the brilliancy of lights displayed added a magnificent splendour to the whole show.

So far as the entertainment was concerned the admirable manner in which all difficulties were surmounted reflects the highest credit upon the ability and energy of those kind Ladies and Gentlemen with whom the work of organization rested. And while the organizers are being considered surely no less praise is due to the performers without whom all work of organization would have been of no avail. Mr. Simon Acquah's "Good bye John" was simply nice and the audience received it with deep gratefulness as well as high gratification. I enjoyed Misses Eliza Eyan's rendering of "The ship that never returned" and Elizabeth Minnow's "Time may steal the roses darling," as one may enjoy a bottle of good wine—I do not know how many times Messrs. Parker, Longden and G. S. Blankson were not called before the curtain fell by their humorous rendering of "Just a little" and "Meet me at the Golden gate" respectively; but the unstinted applause, I am sure, were deservedly won by Miss Rosetta Mason, and Messrs. Joe Addaguay, Longden and Blankson had their reward in the hearty appreciation with which their performances were received by the audience in the "King's Coronation". Misses Rachel Mendis and Eva Freeman's Duet—"Music and her Sister Song" was impressively rendered. It is only fair to add that all the performers did their level best.

The programme which was somewhat lengthy did much evil rather than good. It is customary here to have a very lengthy programme that before the end of an Entertainment is reached instead of relief it turns out otherwise—I should strongly desire Managers of Concerts to take notice of this. In all the earnestness evinced was most apparent in the above movement and suggested the exuberance of young life—I congratulate the Organizer on the meritorious success achieved and trust that the cost of production may not have fallen upon the charity the performance was designed to benefit.

—BORIS.

### SCRUTINEER.

The "Gold Coast Globe and Anglo African Argus" has a propensity of harbouring the sentiments of negrophobists. The latest exhibition, as the public are aware, is that of a "Correspondent" whose back was put up on seeing "white stewards" wait on negroes, a practice that has been in operation from time immemorial. Every man has a right of expressing his opinions, however prejudiced it may be.

I cannot help remarking, however, that this worthy "Correspondent" has obviously more sympathy and respect for these "white stewards" than the Captains who vigilantly steer ships through the dangers of the Deep for the safety and comfort of the negroes. Surely there are many men at large who ought to be within the precincts of lunatic asylum.

The only remedy that would probably cure the diseased minds of Mr. "Correspondent" and his compeers might lie in fitting up some of these Boats manned completely—from Captain to Boatswain—by negroes for the negroes. But consider! Even here there might possibly be some shadow of offence for all these boats bear African names; and as everything African seems obnoxious to a section of the very Christian Britons, it would suit them better to fit up new vessels manned by Englishmen and having nothing African appertaining to them.—would British shipowners please note this?

Failing the above remedy I could not see why I should not advise all negroes who have an atom of respect for themselves and Country to patronise the Boats of the "Woermann Line" as the Teutons will tolerate the idea of a "white steward" waiting on a negro.

There is nothing new under the sun and all the events of human life are but recurrences. The discovery of gold and diamond fields in South Africa attracted into that part of our Continent all sorts and conditions of men and what the result was the

whole world knows.

That the same thing will happen here if proper precautions are not taken by the sons of the soil, no right thinking man will gainsay. The Country is flooded with all sorts and conditions of men and these ungrateful people will not only satisfy their souls with the good things of the land but must need curse, slander and assault the natives from whom they receive the good things.

Is it not then expedient and necessary to prepare the 'young' against these forthcoming events by giving them sound learning and knowledge of the History of the Country, to enable them to hold their own against foreigners in the coming struggle?

In this connection it would not be a bad suggestion to the Fathers of the "Aborigines Society" to throw some of their meetings open to intelligent youngmen and thereby give them an opportunity of learning their mode of operation to the end that they, as the "Hope of the Future" may not be found wanting when called upon to serve their Country.

This surely claims a firm consideration.

The local Chamber of Commerce is highly thirsty after power, and I venture to suggest that if the Legislature would perform a similar act of kindness as that performed by the Oriental "Khaleefeh Haroon Er-Rasheed" of the "Arabian Nights" to his "Wag," it will be interesting to see how it will move in its brief acquisition of power. For it strikes me forcibly that a Chamber of Commerce that advise the government not in commercial affairs, but in dethronement of kings, bids hard to become a rival of the government itself.

Yours &c.—Aroo.

### ACCRA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Governor Nathan left here for England by the *s. s. Albertville*. During his absence, the Government will be administered by Captain L. Arthur, the Colonial Secretary.

This seems just the time to say a few words as to the policy of Sir Matthew. Directly on landing at Accra, in December 1900, he was presented with an address. He then said that it would be his desire to preserve the very best of relations between all classes, particularly of course between the Government and the people. It is needless to add that what he said then has in a very great measure actually been done. Though there is still much to accomplish before the official and the unofficial classes can look upon themselves as brothers, still on the whole a better understanding prevails. At one time, the Government were taught to look upon the Accras as rebels and what not. The slightest stir in the town was quickly construed into an open revolt, or something else, not very remote from it. But things have changed. Throughout the whole of the period of Sir Matthew Nathan's administration there have been neither punitive expeditions nor troubles either in Accra or in any part of the Colony. Sir Matthew too, is a thorough soldier. On the very day he landed at James Town beach he appeared in the simple attire of any ordinary civilian. But he appeared in the historic hall of the Secretariat at the moment he was to be sworn in, in the full uniform of a Major of Engineers and this was just three or four hours after he had reached the landing stage. It was on his special recommendation that the uniform of the Accra Volunteers was changed. He caused the C. I. V. kit minus the great coat or two or three other articles to be issued out to the men and it must be confessed that his subsequent keen interest in the corps saved it from disbandment. Sir Matthew's only mistake—if mistake it was—in his capacity as Governor was the extraordinary communication or report he forwarded to the Colonial Secretary with reference to the "blow pipe" and the use which was made of it by some unscrupulous concessionaires. The report was certainly of a true at first sight calculated to exercise a prejudicial effect on the Mining Industry. But the Secretary of State's subsequent explanation as to the real object of Sir Matthew's report was considered satisfactory and contributed to allay the agitation in mining circles which was originally created. Of course among the evil results of the report one has duly to mention the sudden serious fluctuations in the price of shares at the Stock Exchange and the consequent possible withdrawal of capital from the local gold fields. Capt. Arthur, the Acting Governor, has no

doubt his programme already made out, if he but follows in the track of his predecessor, he will have nothing to be sorry for when handing over the seals of office to a successor or another officer.

I am happy to announce the return to Accra of Major Kitson.

The authorities seem to be in a "fix" about Christiansborg Castle. At one time we hear that the Governor is going to make it his residence; at another moment we are told something else, but the public now wish to know what is actually going to be done with it. No person with common sense can possibly refrain from an expression of regret that such a fine old building was not put to some good use years and years ago.

The assizes at Kwittah are to be held soon.

### TO OUR INTENDING CONTRIBUTORS.

(Continued from our last.)

The first thing then the young contributor will have to learn is, that before he puts pen to paper he must select some subject which is likely to interest newspaper readers, at the same time bear in mind that what may interest him may not interest his readers,—therefore to arrive at a true estimate of newspaper requirements he must study the contents of as many of the different periodicals of the day that may fall into his hand: this may seem a large order, but it is surprising how a judicious survey of contemporary periodicals may give one a good idea of the public requirements, and how easily that can be made: subjects must be of current interest, and must concern things which will be in the public mind, or before the eye of the public, when the articles are to be published. The newspaper must be the child of the flying day, and it must bring its readers into touch with every topic of interest, day by day, else its career will be short. As Editors when we sit down at our desk to think out our next issue, we are positively thirsting for materials that will be talked about at the store, office, a social gathering or at home, and if some energetic contributor sends us an article bearing on this, written as best as he could, with a modicum of common sense in its treatment, the chances are ten to one that we will pass it for publication while we may return to its author an essay on something that had happened some weeks, months or even years, previously; and this is because the first essential of newspaper articles is that they must deal with some topic of the moment: now scarcely a week passes without some important question not taking place even in this our little world, therefore not one of you, if he could only write will fail to get something to write about: our misfortune out here as editors is, that there are not many journals on the coast, or else their News column would always give us some materials to work upon for our papers, and this can be made up in this way—your writing to us of what you may observe as often, and regularly as you can. After all is said that can be said on this point, the choice of a subject is still the most trying thing for the beginner, it is that which tests, first and finally, one's journalistic capacity.—We must not be misunderstood, our remarks here are intended for only those, who do not write to newspapers because of some of the reasons referred to at the commencement of this article. We are not blind to the fact that there are some expert writers with us—will not these in the interest of the Country which no doubt they dearly love, contribute regularly to this paper, no matter on what subject they would write, since it will be *pro bona publica*. Let it be said then that Journalism fails on the Gold Coast not from contributions, but rather from

### THE CORONATION DAY.

This much-talked of, and important event has to-day passed into history. The occasion passed off with as much noise and *clat* as possible. In the great Empire over which King Edward has been to-day crowned its Sovereign Lord and Ruler, there are none more loyal than the people of this town, such exuberant display of loyalty cannot be exceeded even by the man in the Street in London itself. There was more than enough to fire up the enthusiasm of any one who calls himself a British subject, no matter how much he may feel himself aggrieved as to the treatment that may be doled out to him by the worthy Representative of the Crown out here. God save the King—God bless the Queen.

We hope to furnish our readers with a report of the proceedings of the day, in our next issue, and other places in the Colony may send in their reports.

Printed at the Office of the GOLD COAST LEADER, Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by SAM T. HARRISON.

**ISSUES(S)**

**MISSING**

Miss Mary Kingsley had said that there were three sorts of white men—the official, the trader, and the missionary—all always pulling in a different way (laughter). We did not treat the black man fairly. We should try to improve the moral condition of the native, make him a richer and freer man, and make him feel that the country belongs to him. Missionaries could help the black man by speaking out for his rights. If they could by some means get the Missionaries, the traders, and the officials to work together, they could certainly do something to lift up the native, to advance him in civilization and to advance the material interests of the country much quicker than hitherto (applause). He urged that they should be invited for this purpose.

"He that hath ears to hear let him hear."

## CHAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

We regret to chronicle the death of Mr. Garnet W. Lawrence the grandson of Kwame Mankata of Anamaboe and a cousin to Mr. F. M. Wilson (Swanzy) which took place here on Tuesday the 26th Aug. The Good Templars (English) of which he is a member accompanied the corpse to the place of interment to pay their last respects to the deceased brother. Rev. E. A. Sackey officiating. We greatly sympathize with the bereaved family.

Rev. E. A. Sackey the Superintendent of the Circuit has left for Sekondi to see to the erection of a Mission House.

The Fort at Chama has undergone thorough repairs and consequently presents a picturesque appearance.

The Cyclists in town have formed a club.

Messrs. R. J. Yankah, J. A. Mensah and W. D. Aggrey who left here for England to witness the coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII have returned. We hope they were greatly benefited by the trip. The last named gentleman was initiated into the I. O. G. T. (English) "London Olive Branch No 353" having been proposed by Chief W. Z. Coker. The other gentlemen Mr. J. A. Mensah we understand at his last trip presented a

Church with a large bell at the cost of £40 6 and the Society in return presented him with a gold ring for a recognition of his kindness.

## ELMINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The anniversary of the American Good Templars which had been nearly seventeen years preparing, came off at last on Thursday the 21st instant. The Lodge was instituted sometime 1885, and this is the first time that it can be said to have actually made its debut. Members from the sister lodges at Cape Coast also came, and took part in the affair. On the whole the show was not a very bad one. The only peculiarity of some of the members (Elminians) is that since the anniversary they have been airing their paraphernalia too freely. Some of them have been seen to attend their daily work in sashes and gold laced caps, very much after the fashion of those used in the Japanese Navy; and long poles mounted with stars and eagles in lieu of walkingsticks. On the following Saturday 23rd a musical entertainment was held by the members of the fraternity, in the Wesleyan School Rooms. The Chair was taken by the Rev. R. M. Acquah. The programme contained fifty-one items which were partly performed in English and partly in the vernacular. The most conspicuous of the performers were Messrs. Krakue, Godwin, Mensa, Lutterodt Awotwie, Misses Esdie Yankah, Anna Jorie and Mary Aacht. The 27th item entitled "A marriage feast" scene, was not a bad performance, in this Miss Krakue played the first fiddle.

On Saturday 23rd two fishermen coming from Ampang in a canoe "Dove" near Anquanda and did some fishing. On landing here the fish was seized and taken to the King by some of his courtiers. The fishermen, however, insisted upon having infringed the King's oath, so with going out to fish when he had decreed to the contrary. For the commission of this crime a preliminary fine of twenty-seven shillings was imposed on them in addition to which they were also required to pay £36, as a reparation for the damaged oath. This of course they refused to pay and we are informed it was afterwards reduced to one bottle of rum with forfeiture of the fish for the King's table. How these poor fishermen are humbugged cannot be clearly understood. How does the King expect them to find money to pay for that heavy wine bill without their going a fishing. The better class alone cannot be made responsible for this amount. Why are the mechanics and clerks allowed to carry on their business without hindrance? Are they not as well Elminian people? Do not the ten Companies of Elmina comprise the whole community?

## ANAMABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Registrar Bernasco and some members of the Gold Coast Bar have passed down to Salt Pond for the Assizes.

Mr. Isaac Andzi Quainoo, who was the Customs Officer in charge of this station, has been superseded by Mr. Inkabi. The former has been transferred to Salt Pond to take the place of Mr. William Arthur Sackey, who has been granted one month's leave of absence on the ground of ill health.

Mr. Rickaby (Messrs. Alex. Miller, Bro. & Co. Salt Pond) was up here on the 27th ultimo on a Factory inspection. He was accompanied by Mr. Penny (African Association Ltd), who also had some business to transact in town.

## SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The case between S. C. Baiden and the people of Suprudu and Amisana came on to-day Aug. 26. Mr. Fearon for the plaintiff, and Mr. Maxwell for the defence. Judgment was given in favour of the defendants.

If the Government can find their way clear to do something towards the ferrying of the Amisa River, we think it will be a good means of putting a stop to any future misunderstanding between the Kuntus, and the people of Amisana and Suprudu.

Mr. J. E. Cato, we learn left here by the *s. s. Biafra* for Axim as Agent for the Tomby Stores Ltd.

Bakers in town are complaining against the flour Messrs. J. J. Fischer & Co. are selling.

Must cricketing be indulged in on Sundays? This was what we saw boys of a Church, we least expected this from, were doing the other day.

It will be well for the authorities of both the English and American Templars at Cape Coast to pay some attention to their Branches here.

We are of opinion that the present condition of the Lagoon should have some attention from the local authorities.

A Correspondent who signs himself "Overwhelmed" writes strongly protesting against the habit now prevalent amongst the Salt Pond young men, of going to the Lagoon on some Services, brightly shined, this sort of thing does not do well of Salt Pond, Christmas and other occasions, days should not be the only time for them to flock to the chapel. (Ed. G. C. L.)

Mr. A. S. Cane has recently presented the 'Amateur Band' with a splendid set of Brass Instruments.

## ASHANTI CHIEFS AND THE KING'S ILLNESS.

INTERESTING LETTER.

Reuter's Agent at Mahé, Seychelles, writing under date July 8, says—Through the courtesy of the authorities, I have been able to obtain the following copy of a letter from the Ashanti chiefs on the subject of the illness of His Majesty the King. I give the letter exactly as it was written—

To the Officer in Charge, Gold Coast Political Prisoners, Le Rocher, Mahé, 28th June.

Sir,—We have the honour, most respectfully to apply through you for his honour the Administrator the following—"That we sympathise with you for the sad intelligence we heard from you yesterday that our Most Majesty the King is ill, and we pray that by the grace of God he will be well again and be our good King."—We have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servants, ex-King Akua-si Prempeh, ex-Queen Yachia, King Asibi, X, their marks, and all the rest of the chiefs.

It will be observed that Asibi still styles himself King, while Prempeh and the Queen Mother, with an eye, no doubt, to the main chance, prefer the more modest title X. The letter is signed by Prempeh, and is written in the good round copy work hand, Asibi and the Queen Mother, less ambitious in intellectual attainments, have been content to make a cross in lieu of signature. The Administrator is, I believe, forwarding the Ashanti's letter in the original to Mr. Chamberlain to be laid before His Majesty.—*Liverpool Mercury*, Aug. 2.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

In this issue we call a letter which a Mr. Downing sent to the *Daily News*, and which our esteemed contemporary the *West Africa* also calls in its issue of Aug. 2. We commend the careful study of that letter to all concerned. It is indeed refreshing to come across such readings, and to be assured of the certainty of the fact that all things being considered there are men in England who believe that "God hath made of one blood all nations of men, for to dwell on all the face of the Earth," or as the "Twentieth Century New Testament" puts it—"He made every race of men from one stock, and caused them to settle on all parts of the

earth's surface."

Mr. Chamberlain's scheme for the amalgamation of the Medical Services in British West Africa occasioned this interesting letter. Now that the idea underlying that scheme, the perusal of which at times seems to us to be nothing short of a parade of verbosity, it will be read with some interest perhaps. We are reprinting it in our columns as our readers may have noticed. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, now in possession at Downing Street is in every way a remarkable man, and in his time remarkable "doings" have been witnessed in the Colonies.

To make any comment on Mr. Downing's letter, will be superfluous. That letter speaks for itself. It is true that even Homer sometimes nods, and such a magnificent Benefactor of West Africa as Sir Knight may also be caught nodding in these latter days: yet we think, every West African negro, and for the matter of that all negroes owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. D—and there are a good many others of his stamp, though some may be what they profess to be with an object in view, but there is no question of doubt that there have been and are a good many genuine ones, in and out of "old England."

But, if it be possible, we lay ourselves open to a charge of superfluity or even supererogation, we must touch upon this remark of Mr. Downing's: he thinks where the black and white are concerned in officialdom the only best test should be *fitness*, and this we think is the view of all right thinking and unbiassed persons. Take the medical department of a West African Colony for instance, and we ask, have there not been many a white official who in practice and in theory, would not be worthy to lose the latchet of a black official—men who cannot be dignified even with the name of Apothecary, but they must be placed over the black man, no matter what his qualifications, and intelligence and efficiency may be, placed there only to, unintentionally, do mischief, pocket his hundreds, and play the dandy, while his intellectual superior may be sent to the ends of the world.

In this, nearly every department has its tale to tell. At the Post office here, for instance, recently there have been some remarkable feats performed, and these men mostly hide their ignorance by bullying the under-clerks. Go to the Customs, you find men who simply glorify their names of Supervisors with signatures, but know next to nothing of the duties, while there may be natives who understand the work to their fingers' end. Only the other day a native official was made to resign his post in a department to make room for a white man and the duties of his post, which he was doing alone could not be satisfactorily done by seven white officials.

And sometimes native officials, because they are natives cannot rise higher than the post they may be holding, but there they stick doing all the work of the white official placed over them and yet not receiving one-hundredth part of that officer's salary. Others may be slaving away at their posts year after year without any hopes of increment, while the white official enjoys besides other emoluments. Furloughs rain to his white brother but he will with difficulty after many years' hard work, get even one month's rest—and so on. And is this right—is it English?

As it is in officialdom so it is in the mercantile world and in every walk of life where the white and black meet together, eye even in the church you are sure to find the colour prejudice waving aside *FITNESS*. Let the wonder cease then, we say no more. Undoubtedly the Colonies are meant for the sons of the Powers almost regardless of proficiency, and the black, that beast of burden, must be at best a tool, AND YET OUR PEOPLE WILL NOT CONSIDER!

## REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

Sept. 1—The Anglo-French delimitation at the Northern boundary of Nigeria begins in November. The remainder of the West African Coronation contingent have sailed.

The Cape Assembly have read the Indemnity Bill, the second time.

Their Majesties the King and the Queen are cruising on the West of Scotland.

President Roosevelt at Mainz emphatically reasserted the Monroe Doctrine by declaring that the American Continent is no longer to be regarded a colonising ground for any European Power.

The Kaiser and the King of Italy at Berlin made cordial references towards the renewal of the triple alliance as a most effective safeguard to the peace.

Sept. 4—Eruption of tidal wave at Montpelier on the 30th overwhelmed 200 lives.

Mr. Chamberlain speaking at Birmingham declared that the Country has never submitted any expenditure to maintain an army of a quarter million.

But it will be always necessary to make appeal voluntary by patriotism in time of emergency.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.

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 Thursday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

## The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, SEPTEMBER 6, 1902.

### SIR WILLIAM MACGREGOR ON THE LAND TENURE.

IN our issue before last we promised to take up Sir William Macgregor on land tenure in West Africa. Sir William on being questioned on public property by Mr. Martin Wood, is reported to have given this significant reply—"In dealing with the natives one must never touch their rights in land, or compromise the authority of the chiefs. If one wished to stir up trouble in West Africa, all one would have to do would be to suggest that the land of the natives is about to be taken away from them. Unfortunately their credulity in this respect is sometimes practised on."

This was said with respect to lands in Lagos which is a country ceded to Great Britain. What then of lands on the Gold Coast which has never been conquered or ceded? Our distinguished countryman the Hon'ble John Mensah Sarbah B. L. gives the answer to this in his "Fanti Customary Laws" pages 55 and 56. "As far as the Gold Coast is concerned, this portion of the English Law—the Herculaneum of Feudalism as it is called, that is, that the King is the supreme lord of the whole soil or lands does not apply, for it is a group of territories under native rulers taken under British protection; it is British territory, but not so by conquest or cession; as a matter of fact the Colonial Office stated on the 11th day of March 1887, as published in Parliamentary Blue Book of that year, that it is inaccurate to state that after the successful Ashanti Expedition of 1874, the Protectorate was annexed by Great Britain and became a Colony, inasmuch as the greater portion of the Gold Coast Colony still remains a Protectorate, the soil being in the hands of the natives and under the jurisdiction of the native chiefs."

Here we have it, that we are masters of our lands in the fullest sense of the term. The authorities have no right to interfere with our lands, or to quote Sir William Macgregor to "touch our rights in lands." Yet this is the very thing that the Government has been and is still seeking to do. And they have been trying to do it in various ways, instances of which abound in the Ordinances and Gazettes of the Colony. To accept the situation and legislate in accordance with native customary laws and ideas as to land tenure is what we humbly suggest, should be the aim of the Government not to attempt by ways and means, covert or otherwise, direct or indirect but which are all more or less diametrically opposed to the established laws and immemorial institutions of the natives to deprive them in fact of what is theirs.

It is not necessary to give instances of the various attempts that have been made by successive administrations in the Colony to make the Government the supreme lord of the soil, all of which attempts have ended as Sir William Macgregor says, in stirring up trouble in West Africa. The native laws as to every kind or class of real property is such, that it is impossible for the Government to assume the right of ownership without shattering the whole constitution of the people. The laws respecting landed property is undoubtedly unique and quite peculiar to this part of West Africa, and cannot be done away with by the stroke of the pen. If the Government will only recognize this fact, all will be well. But it won't, and there's the rub. Take, for instance, the latest

attempt made by them on the question, namely the attempt made by the Judges of the Concessions Courts to vest the title over river beds in the Government to which one of our correspondents from those Courts called attention in our last issue. It is clearly an interference with an innovation on the native rights of land tenure, and one would have thought that the Judicial Department of the Colony would have been the last to take such a palpably erroneous course, but here we are. It shows which way the wind blows. The Government is endeavouring by "hook or by crook" to get in the thin end of the wedge, in order to upset the whole system of native land tenure, but we can assure them that in the words of Sir William Macgregor it will only "stir up trouble." The natives will not sit down quietly and allow themselves to be dispossessed of their rights, or to quote the *Anglo-African Argus* be "dictated to by them as to how they may dispose of or use the lands they lease or as to whether railways shall or shall not pass through and possess those lands assigned by them expressly for that object."

If either Mr. Chamberlain or Major Nathan believes so, they have been misled and misinformed. Neither the natives nor the mining companies will brook all such dictation. Both have law and justice on their side in the inevitable protest, and if the Colonial Office is wise, it will not provoke the certain storm that will ensue on both parts should the rights of the native be interfered with. The people as a whole, may seem indifferent as to what course the Government may take in the matter, but there are, who are not unaware of the "softly softly catch the monkey" system, that she is strenuously pursuing, and are on the watch.

### THE PROPOSED PARK AND THE NATIVES.

When it was mooted and afterwards definitely laid before this community that the Government intended making a Park in this town, the unthinking many hailed the proposal with delight simply because it was something new and looked grand, and, as they thought—for very few of them are of the same mind still about it—it would serve to give them a chance to display their wardrobe. We remember at the meeting held under the presidency of the District Commissioner, we believe it was D. C. Mr. Peregrine, it was sought to impress upon those present that it is absolutely necessary to have such a pleasure ground for a town like Cape Coast—that the natives would do well to consider the advantages they would derive therefrom, and should therefore contribute towards it; in a word that it is in the interests of the native, that such a thing as a Park should be opened. One of our respected native gentlemen, ventured to suggest that the town stood more in need of a Town Hall than a pleasure Park, but he was promptly put down by being told, that the Park first, then a hall if you please, besides that the scheme was already "cut and dried," and must be carried through—The whole question, mark you had been taken up and discussed by the D. C. and a few Europeans here and laid before the Governor months before without the knowledge of a single influential native, nor was the opinion of the *Aborigines Society* sought on it. But when the Head-quarters approved of it, and money was wanted to carry it out, then the silly, foolish native, who would be elated with the possible chance of being seen within the same enclosure with the white man, was appealed to, and we say it with shame, "fairly caught."

With what *Scrutineer* says in our last issue (and more to our own knowledge, and on the face of the disgraceful act of the whiteman on the parade ground the other day, we should do well to save our money. The Parade Ground is the only place for recreation in this town. It has been used by us as a cricket field for generations. Whites and Blacks have met and played friendly and rival games on it for scores of years and we have never been driven away from the place till last Wednesday the 27th ultimo.

We are not making much of this incident

for we remember the members of the "Invincible Club"—our first class native cricket club have been threatened some months ago, to be driven out of it by a member of the European club of yesterday. The whiteman says "coming events cast their shadows before them." The blackman says *Inyim wa a waha ada*—the literal translation of which is, "If you don't know death, look at one asleep." If we are being deprived of what we have enjoyed for scores of years without any interruption or molestation where shall we be when the proposed Victoria Park is an accomplished fact?

We do not undervalue the usefulness of such places as parks. They are absolutely essential especially in crowded towns, if only from a sanitary point of view. But we say, the good of the many, the crying wants of the native should have the first and foremost attention of the Government: a Town Hall will be far more beneficial to the town—or profitable and advantageous to all classes of the community than a Park, into which it is an open secret that while "niggers and dogs" will not be admitted, whites and black cats will find plenty of room.

### SCRUTINEER.

"Government of the People, by the People, for the People." Such is the motto of a well known and outspoken English organ, and indisputably the privilege enjoyed by Englishmen "at home" and by some British Dominions beyond the Seas. And what a desirable privilege! *The People's Government, administered by themselves for themselves*. Surely the average native who has the good of his Country at heart will read these words with deep and innocent envy at those British Possessions that are enjoying this unique advantage.

Meditating on these words the question naturally forces itself—Why is this privilege of responsible government denied us?

Is the whole Gold Coast Protectorate not equal to or larger, both in extensiveness and population, than any of the Canadian, Australian or South African provinces which enjoy the privilege of responsible government? What then can be the reasons adduced against the conferring of this privilege on us? We await to know.

There is far too much smashing going on, there is far too little patience and tact (and I may add wisdom and carefulness) "exercised by the autocrats who represent British authority here," that so long as we move and crawl under the sway of Crown Colony administration, wherein any official as governor can commit anomaly without being made to answer for, wherein even a policeman has the advantage of arresting and inflicting punishment *ad lib* on any innocent citizen he may have a personal grudge against; it is absolutely impossible to expect peace, prosperity and improvement.

Admittedly it is the *Government of the Gold Coast People*, for in them it lives and moves and has its being as it is with all "Governments of the People" throughout the world.

But is it "*Government by the People*?" Have we a voice in the administration? Are we really represented in the Legislature? Is the right of nominating representatives to the Canadian, Australian or South African Legislatures vested in the Governor or general? Is it the custom in Great Britain to elect one or two Englishmen to represent their people whilst the remaining representatives may be Germans, Greeks, or Kaffirs though they are to represent the Englishmen?

*Government for the People*: Monstrosity! Why not *Government for the British officials*: Emoluments commencing from £200 per annum and in most cases former attachment of signatures to papers, passages in and out, free six months holiday with full pay for one year of light work, notwithstanding the fact that other whitemen in other walks of life stay here longer, lodging free, travelling allowances and carriage expense superb.

In contrast to this, look for good streets, lighting drainage, latrines, wharfs, utensils for reception of refuse, and general modern appliances for convenience of mankind which is so conspicuous in all civilized countries: *Government for the People*, forsooth!

One can bear to see his administration carried on conscientiously by some one else for him, but one cannot be fairly expected to sit smiling like patience when it is being done for the lining of other men's pocket.

One remarkable fact in this year's administration is the introduction of another race of officials. Undaunted with the appalling influx of British officials whose passage fares alone could give us as many latrines and paved streets—the government is now fast ordering in another kind from the West. Their presence are conspicuous in almost all the depart-

ments.

Actions speak like words and the doings of our magnanimous government mean in plain English discouragement to native officials. Visit a department like the Post Office and you will find one man acting as stamp-seller besides receiving, taxing and registering letters for the whole business Town of Cape Coast, and for these manifold offices ask the salary he receives.

The same drudgery is visible in all the departments where the natives are employed. But the reason for this is not far to seek. They do this so that in case of shortcomings they may have the occasion of branding the poor clerks with dishonesty adding unceremoniously that they are only fit for subordinates, whilst they import galore white officials and men from the West.

But he who pays the piper calls for the tune and the Government should in the interest of Fair-play show some consideration in this.

Atoo.

## SCRAPS AND NOTES.

Dustbins' offensive: The very mention of the word fills the native with disgust, though the foreigner may seem unconcerned about the evil consequences it brings.

Despite the numerous complaint made in these columns no change has been effected with them. Does this mean taking interest in the welfare of the Government?

As a case in point, many who attended divine services at Wesley's last Sunday evening had the experience of wading through an accumulated heap of rubbish that had filled out one of these 'boxes' and was scattered all over the by-way that leads from the Chapel to Jackson street. The stench from these boxes contaminates the air and endangers the health of the poor negroes at whose quarters they are stationed.

One of them is placed at *Kotokurabah*, opposite Acquah's Hotel (which is the only instance of one being in proximity to a building in which Europeans frequent) and the stench from this combined with the filthy habits of the Wangara people inhabiting the place will facilitate the spreading out of any disease that might break there. I strongly insist on its removal to the outskirts of the Town.

Our women would prefer emptying their pans a few yards further than risk their lives in patronising these dustbins of the good Dr. Barker.

The holding capacity of these *furnitures* is quite inadequate to the demands on them, and it is extremely astounding that a muddy-minded official could be found to put such things in order.

The Town requires at least a dozen *four-wheeled* refuse boxes as large as ten times the sizes of the present ones, stationed in the principal thoroughfares of the Town.

The Cemetery at *Amba* is in a disgusting state—the place having grown almost into a forest. The beach latrines too are in a dangerous condition, and it was only the other day that a man nearly lost his life by falling through one of the rotten floor boards right to the rocks below!

But why do not the Officials responsible for the up-keeping of these places pay them periodical visits and see whether they need brushing as in the case of the Cemetery or repairing as with the latrines?

The system of latrine building in this Town shows total lack of humanity on the part of Foremen of Works who carry out these functions. There are no protections on the tops of the cans used in the buildings and consequently men and women have to sit on the bars, sharp edges which is very painful and dangerous! The Inspector of Nuisance or the Foreman of Works should kindly see that changes are effected.

And then again, the system of making one latrine building do for both sexes is scandalous, if not against morality. In other towns in the Protectorate separate buildings are erected for males and females and for decency's sake this should be adopted here.

It is a painful task indeed, and one that makes one's blood grow cold, to have to remark very often on the hap-hazard way public works are carried out by *easy-going* and *well-paid* officials—especially when such works are undertaken in the interest of the natives—the taxpayers.

Nevertheless, we trust the local Inspector of Nuisance and Foreman of Works would in the interest of humanity (laying aside all colour prejudice) see to the early redressing of the foregoing grievances.

## MR. JARDINE AND HIS BRAINS.

Mr Jardine the Foreman of Works here has a peculiar way of constructing drains wherever he is stationed. The present one he is making from the Bank downwards, speaks for itself. It does not require any engineering or Foreman-of-works skill to see that the work going on is most unscientific,

and one calculated to injure the houses close by. If there is any one in Town senior to this gentleman, let him walk over and inspect what he is doing. He starts all right enough from the Bank, but as he goes further down, finding that it will necessitate the removal of the telegraph poles in front of Chief Arkah's he shows up hands as an engineer(?)

Sometime ago at Elmina this system of drain-making was carried out by him, and it was noticed in one of the issues of the *Aboorigines*. It is a great pity that the Government should allow Foremen of Works, to undertake works apparently beyond them. If Mr. Jardine will only take pains to see the kind of work going on at the Saltpond Road, he will have no difficulty in finding that all drain works are not made like pointing a gun at the bull's eye on a target.

## THE MEDICAL SCHEME FOR WEST AFRICA.

### AN APPEAL FOR EQUALITY OF TREATMENT BETWEEN WHITE MEN AND BLACK.

The following letter appeared in a recent issue of the "Daily News."—

Sir,—Mr. Chamberlain's scheme for the amalgamation of the various medical services of the several British West African Colonies into a single service contains a clause the sense of which is: applicants for appointment to this service must be of European parentage. Is it the intention of the Colonial Secretary to exclude Britons other than those whose parents were born in Europe from entering this service? If so, then it appears that he has deserted his imperialistic policy, and at the same time, confesses himself an uncertain statesman. It is impossible to imagine, however, that Lewanika's "dear friend" is changing the course of the vessel of State which he has been steering with so much daring; therefore it must be that this clause does not state his real meaning. But the disguise is thin. Read between the lines, and it becomes patent at once that "European parentage," translated, means white men. It is a case of no negroes, mulattos, or any of the descendants of African black men need apply. Mr. Chamberlain, in this instance, puts himself on record as opposed to the progress of the British people. Any attempt the British Government may make to differentiate between white and black men of equal deservings is contrary not only to that spirit of fair-play which Britons claim they are ever ready to display, but it is contrary to the proper preservation of right and justice, without which Great Britain will never succeed in ruling its various peoples. If black men or coloured men are to be excluded from administering medicine under the auspices of the British Government in West Africa, then it is only right that black and coloured men in West Africa should not be privileged to receive treatment from white medics in Government employ. If it be the correct thing to draw the colour line in this manner, then it is the proper thing to draw the colour line to affect the relations between black and white men in every avenue of life. If it is the policy of the British Government to support Mr. Chamberlain in this matter, then consistency demands that the same Government should prevent the admission of black men and coloured men into British institutions of learning, should allow them no footing in the British world of commerce; should prevent them from worshipping the only God in British Churches; should prohibit them from purchasing on British soil even the necessities of life; in fact, should do all to render it impossible for them to ever become other than "the white man's burden."

It is not reasonable to believe that the British Government, the greatness of whose country depends upon the continued prosperity of all classes of its vast and diverse citizenship, would so act as to discourage any portion of its people. On the contrary, it is just to suppose that the British Government is anxious for the good of its people, therefore is, at all times, ready to offer them every opportunity and facility which it has in its power to strengthen the people's hands; the only test being fitness, no matter what the parentage of the applicant might be.

The Ashanti, or any other savage, is not entitled to the same privileges with civilized men of education and worth. But the African aborigine, though his father may have feasted upon human flesh, if he be fit and equal to the duties of the position by reason of being educated, is entitled to employment in the British medical service, or any other branch of the British service, just the same as is the educated white man whose ancestors hid their nakedness under skins of beasts.

It is an unassailable right which belongs to every man who calls himself a Briton to serve the British Government. Administration of Government may assume that this or the other section of citizens may not exercise this to its full extent, but dictums of this kind cannot enjoy permanency. An attempt

was made to treat the Roman Catholics and the Jews in this fashion, both of whom time relieved of their civil disabilities. As occurred in these two instances, so, when sense and justice have taken their residence in the British mind, similar occurrences for the good of white and black Britons, and their better appreciation each one of the other, will arrive.

Yours etc.,—HENRY F. DOWNING.

26, Harvard Road, Chiswick, W.

June 29.

## THE SEY-WILL CASE.

(Continued from our last.)

There is certainly no evidence by either Hyde or Kennedy that they were present when the Will was explained by Mr. Mills to Mr. Sey. Still upon the whole facts and surrounding circumstances of the case the Court is satisfied that Mr. Sey knew what he was signing according to Mr. Hyde's evidence. Mr. Sey was present when the Will was being compared. That Mr. Sey was able to speak English though not an educated man cannot be denied. I can well be imagined with what attention Mr. Sey would have listened to the document when being read to see that his wishes were complied with and this view is strengthened by his initialing the word "Cape Coast" which had been omitted. He might certainly not have been able to follow technical expressions but in the main there can be no doubt that he understood how his property was disposed of, and that according to his wish. But if any doubt existed that doubt is set at rest by the statement at the foot of the will signed by Mr. Mills viz, Signed by the said Jacob Wilson Sey after the contents of this Will have been read over and explained to him by me and who expressed himself to perfectly understand the same." A statement of this character made by a practitioner engaged in the discharge of his professional duties is entitled to credence. The Court cannot assume that any of its practitioners in any matter in which he is engaged much less in an important matter will be guilty of such a deliberate misrepresentation. There was no object in Mr. Mills' acting contrary to what is expected from a professional man. It was not necessary that the explanation should have been given in the presence of third parties. In this case it could have done having regard to the wish of Mr. Sey. And in the absence of any evidence to the contrary I am bound to accept the statement contained in the above paragraph. Further that the Will contains the signature of Mr. Sey is not denied by the Caveator.

And lastly as to Mr. Sey going down to Accra. I confess that instead of this act suggesting to me an unevenly balanced mind it rather proves the strong Will of Mr. Sey that nothing prevented him from carrying out his purpose. It was clearly shown that it was his wish that no one besides Mr. Mills and Hyde should know of the mode in which he had disposed of his property and the only construction to be put upon his act is that object would have been frustrated if any one at Cape Coast was employed to make his Will. The will cannot be regarded as inofficious as far as the caveator is concerned without taking into account the conduct of the parties. The son had in 1897 quarrelled with his father and a separation had taken place. Neither saw the other till 1899. In 1898 the Will was made and notwithstanding the difference then existing between them Mr. Sey remembered him to the extent that he considered was right and proper. If the amount of a legacy left or the value of an estate devised is a test of a Will being inofficious, not only have I not been able to discover authorities to this effect but such a proposition must largely and unduly interfere with a man's liberty of disposing his property as he likes. This is not a case in which it is shown that the Testator has not acted on his own account and independently of outside influence to favour strangers to the exclusion of his own blood so that his conduct may be described as not consonant to his natural affections and moral duties. This only is a case in which the blood has not got so much as he conceives he ought to have and the domestics of the house have got more but as to their deserts no one can be so good a Judge as the Testator himself, nor can the case be altered by the mere fact of a reconciliation having taken place when we find that towards another lawful child the action of the Testator has been different.

Nothing therefore has been shown on the case made out by the Executors to disentitle them to Probate.

I come now to the case of the Caveator.

First as to the incapacity of the Testator.

It is sworn to that from information supplied by Mr. Inchful the Testator was in the early part of 1898 only convalescent. How this shows the Testator's incapacity to make a Will I am at a loss to understand and the absurdity of such a statement in proof of incapacity if it were true, was so patent that Mr. Inchful was not asked a single question about it.

(To be continued.)

Letters from abroad crowded out in this issue.—[Ed., G. C. L.]

Printed at the Office of the GOLD COAST LEADER, Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by SAM F. HARRISON.

# The Gold Coast Leader.

VOL. 1.  
No. 12.

CAPE COAST, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1902.

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Including postage 4d.

## THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS.

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ROBERT EGAY  
Native Doctor.

KAWANUPADU.  
Cape Coast, 19. 8. 1902.

## WANTED.

To find "THOMAS SMITH" Fanti cook to Mr. Bennett for 3 years on Kubi Kur afterwards went with him to Bibiani.

Will Smith hold himself in readiness to join Mr. Bennett at Secondee (on receipt of wire) about 1st. October to work for him near Tarkwa. Advise Miller's.

### GENERAL NEWS.

"Sanitation at Cape Coast" is the title of an article which appears in our esteemed contemporary the *Gold Coast Globe*, just to hand.

The report, the salient features of which, our contemporary gives, is said to be signed by M. Logan Taylor M. B., CH. B on April 22nd this year.

From it also we learn that His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan arrived in England on Friday the 15th ultimo.

That the representative natives of West Africa "at present residing in London have arranged to give a banquet in honour of Sir Alfred Jones on the occasion of the presentation to him of an illuminated address commemorating his eminent services in West Africa," Mr. R. B. Blaize of Lagos being the prime mover.

That Messrs Shefford & Sons, the Contractors of the Gold Coast Railways report, the "total receipts for passengers and goods on the Gold Coast (Tarkwa) Railway for June 1902," to be "£2,983. 18. 5., the average receipts per mile being £56. 6. 3."

The Editor quotes our Accra Correspondent on gold in Eastern Akim to support something Mr. Macdonald said in his paper "Gold in West Africa" published in the *Journal* of the African Society.

Mr. J. E. Biney returned by the *Fantee* from his visit to England, last Monday.

Says the *Rock*, one of the leading papers of the Church of England, which should be largely read by our Church friends here:—"The *Gold Coast Leader* mentions the skill and science with which the late King Tackie was attended in his last illness at Accra by Dr. B. W. Q. Papafo. The name of this medical man will be familiar to many in England as it is to us. We wonder if he remember an old native refrain he used to quote:—

Hoo hoo wobi, hooya hoo  
Na me fayò, noko, noko  
Friki moni, hooya, ho  
Hoo hoo wobi, hooya, hoo."

Can any of our Accra friends give us the meaning of the poem?

Busuntowhi, a bricklayer, whilst working at Free Town last Monday, fell down suddenly, and was taken up, dead.

Here is a 'poetical effusion' sent us by—referring to a subject which has been dauned into the ears of our First class D. C. again and again—

### THE CAPE COAST LAGOON.

Tweedledum tweedledee let me sing for a while,  
And I am sure you will deem it a boon,  
For my versedlike bad water will give you the bile,  
When I sing of the Cape Coast lagoon!  
Tweedledum, tweedledee for the stench is sublime,

Augmented by raining of June,  
And fever is bred all this troublesome time,  
By the pestilent Cape Coast lagoon!  
Tweedledum, tweedledee to this parlous abode,  
But for Heaven's sake let it be soon,  
When the sea shall enflow o'er the Elmina Road,  
And wash out the Cape Coast lagoon!

When Governor Nathan visited Elmina last year, among the subjects brought before him by the King and the people as reported in the *Aberigines* of April 15, we find this—"A complaint was lodged with respect to the trenches cut on the sides of the streets by Foreman of Works Jardine.....

In the absence of Mr. Jardine, the trench cutting question was referred to Dr. Stalker who in reply tried to defend the Foreman of Works by asserting that the trenches were intended for street

improvements. His Excellency said that he would inspect them personally, and if practicable, get them paved and properly constructed. This is not the first time that Foreman of Works Jardine has aroused public indignation. We remember during the last visit of Sir Fred. Hodgson, the late Governor, to this place nearly 3 years ago there were certain serious complaints made to the Governor about Mr. Jardine having destroyed people's verandahs simply because they would not "tip" him.

"Chin-chin" sends the above extract, and the one in the Notes.

We learn that Rev. F. C. Barton Principal of the Collegiate School is married to Mrs. Ellis, the wife of the late Rev. J. H. Ellis, and the Lady Principal of the Girls' Training Home.

Over a chair last Monday there was a hand to hand fight at the Bank. One of the European clerks insisted upon having the chair on which the native clerk was sitting, working, for—and that being the only chair available the latter refused; then as, Miss Dishelout the cook-maid's lawyer would say, the European clerk gave the *princeps stroke*. This proved too much for the other to put in his pipe to smoke and so he returned it, with all politeness possible and then—a scene. Moral: "Business before pleasure."

The Persians have different names for every day in the month.

About 45,000 sovereigns pass over the Bank of England counters every day.

Saturday is considered an unlucky day for the British Royal Family. William III, Queen Anne, George I, George II, George III, George IV, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince Consort, and Princess Alice died on Saturdays.

Mr. Arthur James Balfour is the first bachelor Prime Minister since Pitt. With him to represent celibacy in war and statesmanship are Lords Kitchener and Milner. The Bishop of London is also a bachelor.

During his illness the King is said to have used a walking-stick more than 200 years old.

Koffie Foh, a well-known carpenter residing at Gran-korbir died as a result of an accident last Tuesday.

The number of deaths this week is registered at 8.

"There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Last week the sum of £10,000, was sent up, for Kumasi and the Hinterland.

On Thursday morning one of the policemen known as the Escort Police, brutally thrashed an Elmina woman coming to sell, for reasons best known to himself.

This was in the presence of the Police for it took place at their quarters in the Saltpond Road. The poor woman made for the station to report the matter: it was then a policeman left with her evidently for the same purpose.

The miscreant seeing the woman going to report the matter bolted. What comment can one make on this?

### ELMINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

According to a proclamation of the King's, the other day certain Companies who have paid in their share of the Elmina wine bill have been granted free licenses to resume their fishing; others, about 4 Companies in all are still on parole. Fish is now coming in by *shiblets*.

From what we are informed Mr. Pearmain, Foreman of Works of the Bridge fame has been sent away with a flea in the ear, his term of one year's service having expired on the 6th instant. His pay is stopped with forfeiture of the usual 6 months' spell to which he was entitled. We are not well read in the interior mechanism of the Public Works Department, but it appears there has been some foul play somewhere. Mr. Pearmain might have been a little boyish in his manners and seemed to have fancied that the government did not care a jot how long one took to finish a job so long as it is nicely and neatly done. Mr. Pearmain played skittles with the work from the start. Any other man, would have gone unnoticed if even he had

committed a graver crime than this. But this is not a rare thing in the service. No matter what the authorities might say against Pearmain, we, as a people stick out that he has done the bridge and highly commend him for clean workmanship. The parapet walls and the approaches to the Bridge are nearing completion. The latter however are merely being made in swish and not concrete as it was expected at first. The removal of the middle pier is also progressing, having reached a depth of about a foot below low water mark. The debris from this huge structure has blocked up the river to some extent.

On 21st that the open space between Buitem Rust and Market Street, originally known as Frogs' Paradise is going to be drained in by the government on condition that the tenants of the neighbourhood guarantee the responsibility of filling up the gaps.

Another section of the Cape Coast detachment of West Indians arrived here on Monday evening 8th to relieve the first lot of men who, having gone through their course of training were in turn sent back to their station on the same day. The former will commence shooting probably next week.

Thursday 25th will witness a wedding between Miss Charlotte Adams, a grand daughter of Mrs. Anna S. Hutchinson and Mr. J. E. Coudua of Messrs. Miller Brothers.

### ANAMABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

#### THE KING'S "STOOL FESTIVAL"

The "Stool Festival" of King Amoo V. came off on Tuesday, the 2nd instant with gorgeous and imposing splendour—although the custom may be said to have practically commenced on the evening of Monday the 1st instant, and terminated on the morning of Saturday the 6th. For the benefit of foreign readers and other sources, it may be explained that the festival, besides other pompous displays and magnificent ceremonies, consists in making offerings and libations to the King's departed predecessors—appropriate lays and citations of their mighty deeds accompanying the ceremony. The festival is also the occasion for the pouring in of all the Chiefs and other vassals of the King, from far and near, to do him homage and tender personally as tokens of their loyalty, the first fruits of their labour in the shape of yams, plantains, vegetables, palm wine and the like. The solemnity and other scenes in connection with this ceremony will not fail to strike a Highlander of certain feudal glimpses in Scotland's ancient history.

The arrival of the Anamoo and other vassals, in full force, from Amoo-Ekroful, Eshroa, Mpro dwi, Fomina, Abana, and other villages on the evening of the 1st announced the beginning of the festival. Drumming was kept up, at the Palace, during the whole night, and the early morning found a large concourse of people under their respective Chiefs and Headmen, gathered at the court yard ready to render their presents to the King. Punctually at 8 a. m. the King took his seat and, after the flourish of drums and horns, the presentations began, and were continued till noon, fresh arrivals coming forth every moment with their presents. Chief Kofi Nyan of Esiam (Elmina District), whose distance was rather long, arrived in the nick of time with his retinue to offer presents and participate in the ceremony, which was closed at 12 noon to enable the people to get themselves ready to re-assemble at 3 p. m. to drink the King's health in bumpers.

The large area in the front of the Palace presented a picturesque appearance in the afternoon. All the Chiefs dressed in state, and accompanied by their drums, tom-toms, horns, and other musical instruments, took up their allotted places in a quadrangular form, under their variegated coloured caboceros' umbrellas. The King surrounded by his staff linguists, and sword-bearers, was at the furthest end of the quadrangle. Gallons of rum, and flagons of palm wine, were passed round, amidst incessant drumming and horns, and one and all, drank with becoming enthusiasm the health of the King in bumpers. At 5 o'clock, the District Commissioner who had arrived in town sent word by his clerk that he would like to see the King. All accompanied the King to the Fort, where the Commissioner courteously accorded him and his clerk a few minutes private audience. Escorting the King to the Palace, with triumphal strains and carnival-like acclamations, concluded this day's business.

The old English Proverb says that "Enough is as good as a feast", and one would have naturally thought that the festival was for all intents and purposes at an end. Early the next morning, however, found them at their usual stations in the front of the palace politely, but persistent, demanding from the King what is customary known as the "next morning rum." After receiving this, those from the nearer villages obtained permission and took their departure; while the others loitered about town, and, now and again, paid visits to the King for the purpose of "still once more" drinking his good health.

Thursday the 4th instant was Distribution Day. It must be understood that the two hundred and odd yams received by the King was not intended for his sole use, benefit, and enjoyment. All immediate branches of the family, male and female, all sections of the house, who have not by any misconduct, or otherwise, forfeited their title are duly entitled to their share. Even well-wishers of the house are never forgotten in this distribution.

The Abana's left on the 5th instant, and the Esiams (Elmina District) left with their Chief Kofi Nyan on the morning of Saturday the 6th; and thus brought the festival, with all its excitement and hilarity to an end.

The universal comment is that this year's celebration of the Stool festival has, all round, surpassed by far many previous ones; and that the new King's planet is veritably on the ascendant.

### SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

For the cleaning of the Town, prisoners were used to be brought down from Elmina and Cape Coast for the purpose: it is being rumoured that a stop is to be put to it. There should be an iron roller in town.

Not quite a month ago, I informed your readers that the town now boasts of a Town bell. For some cause or other, we are again deprived of this much-felt want: the bell after a few days' work is broken! I leave the Authorities to guess the cause of this. We have at this very moment some lamp posts lying at the D. C.'s quarters landed here for the use of the Town; but nothing will be done to them, until they are rendered useless. This is nothing, the chest being full always, some will be procured at any time.

Salt Pond is undoubtedly one of the important towns in the Colony. I therefore think its D. C. should be a legal man.

Mr. D. C. Lloyd and his Registrar Mr. Obene, who left here on the 2nd instant for the inspection of the Abura District, returned on the 4th. I shall esteem it a treat to know something of the Commissioner's report on the roads he passed through.

There is a Chamber of Commerce in this town; they say they meet and discuss business in the interest of trade. The other day I told your readers, that there is such a thing yet the Houses sell green cases gin at different prices. The next thing is Kottman's House and the German Trading Company have asked at Mankossim for the purchasing of palm kernels. Some members of the Chamber demur. A non-existence of a Chamber, will be better than a Chamber with dissensions. I think so.

### APPAM.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The market shed mentioned in my last is so far completed requiring only the felt for the roof and cement for the floor, possibly the materials are wanting hence the present cessation of work. There is a foundation laid for an Iron Tank to be built thereon to hold some five thousand gallons of water for the use of the public: this is an improvement on what is built at Winneba.

The space around the shed is barely sufficient and it will be desirable for the authorities to undertake the clearing of the filth and rubbish within a few feet only of the shed: a little reflection would show that none of the market sheds in the Colony is spacious enough for the purpose. Take those at Accra and Cape Coast, large as they seem, they have still very extensive grounds around them and yet on great market days every inch of which is utilised.

I am happy to say Appam does not present the same filthy appearance as it was a few weeks ago: the weeds allowed to grow in the vicinity of houses and the accumulated rubbish have been cleared and removed; it is strange that even this simple and elementary step towards sanitation could not be seen by our people till it has been pointed out to them by means of writs from the D. C.'s Court. To keep the Town clean, as it is just now it will be necessary to have a sufficient supply of Police or to be regularly visited by the Senior Officer of the force stationed at Winneba.

It is severely strange that there are no streets here; what goes by that appellation seems to have existed by mere accident on the part of the owners of the houses in the locality but could not have been taken by the Foreman of Works, and pigs are to be seen here and there let us hope that they are indicative of the advent of better state of things in this connection.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the *Aborigines* of March 30, 1901 we find this:—"Foreman of Works Mr. Jardine, who we understand is now shifted to Cape Coast,

has been very assiduously superintending the cutting out of trenches along-side the streets much to the annoyance of the public. This work was carried on to such an extent that several houses had to be undermined. There was, however, a general conjecture that these trenches would be cemented so as to assume the shape of drains, but this unfortunately has not been the case. Thank goodness, they are being filled up."

This was under Elmina news. This is the very Jardine now in Town carrying on the same game; what surprises us is, this man is now left in sole charge of the Public Works Department, when we were asking that his senior officer should go to see what he is doing at Saltpond Road. Mr. Robinson the Engineer here goes to Sekundi leaving him in charge. Woe betide the houses in Saltpond Road! But what is the Director of Works up to? Can it be that after all there is much in a name? At Elmina, as our Correspondent writes this week some one has been made the Scape-goat, over the Bridge "job."

This week also we deal with the Sanitation question: this is in every way an important subject, and to all appearances it is an important subject too with the authorities, at least, it should be; if not all the fuss made on the subject, will be to the ordinary man a "Walker"

There are so many Ordinances, that it is only possible, that some times an ordinantial dictum may be lost sight of. We assume that this is so in this instance, or else how are the Public to understand by these definitions under *Nuisances* as seen on page 746, Vol. ii of Gold Coast Ordinances sub-sections, 2 and 4 of Section 27, which read as follow:—

(2.) Any pool, ditch, gutter, water course privy, urinal, cesspool, drain, or ashpit so foul or in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health;

(4.) Any accumulation or deposit which is a nuisance or injurious to health;

Now we look at these sections for a moment. In (2) by the way you find in 1892 an ordinance is passed on *Urinals* when in this year of grace 1902, there are no such things to be seen. We think this section needs to undergo as much amendment as the Concessions Ordinance is privileged to be, not to delete the term 'urinal,' for they can be made even now so as to prevent any European being taken to court again for nuisance, but to add Dr. Barker's *dust-bins* to it, for these are nothing but horrible nuisances, even to a barbarian. When next the "Chamber" sits, it will do well to consider this, too, unless it will connive at it, to find therein another instance to show up the filthiness of the native, so as to declare his dwelling an open space, to be bought up by its members for building purposes. It may be so, but what of their health, until the proposed segregation becomes a fact.

If you want an unmistakeable instance of an infringement of sub-section (4) you have it in Dr. Barker's *dust-bins*. But perhaps there is a way for the authorities in interpreting these sections.

Only last week we were saying a certain native official was made to resign his post, and the work he was doing alone was taken up by seven white officials who could not even do the work. Here is another case in point. As we said a few weeks ago since Mr. Hodibert resigned, the Sanitation of the Town has been from bad to worse. The Public would like to know why this efficient Inspector of Nuisance was made to resign? Dr. Barker can tell, for the resignation took place in his time; this Dr. Barker is known to be a pest and a nuisance to the native; and since then who have been doing the work? Listen! Four whitemen, four native assistants with about 15 or 16 police men with the result that the stench from the main drain at Parprataim, the drain by the Gothic House leading to the Market (of all drains) and the one from the European Wesleyan Mission House is simply unbearable. And there are others like these.

Can there be any object for this wilful ne-

glect of Sanitation in Town? Here we are! With a Foreman of Works who would dig trenches to be dignified with the name of drains to the damaging of people's houses, and other fine specimens of Modern English or Scotch (which?) engineering, with Inspectors of Health and Nuisance prowling about the streets in—, actually "aiding and abetting" in the accumulation of filth, and in the increasing of stench from the gutters and drains tenfold, though the poor native may be pounced upon for the D. C.'s Court to be mulcted in heavy fine for *their* idea of nuisance, with scavengers whose idea of cleaning the streets seems to be chasing after goats and sheep, what else can save the life of the European but the segregation, and the killing of mosquitoes!

REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

Sept. 8—Lord Roberts and Mr. Brodrick have gone to Germany to witness the manoeuvres.  
An electric car smashed the carriage of President Roosevelt; he however escaped with bruises.  
There were eruptions at Montpelee on the 30th of August, and 3rd instant, 3,000 people perishing.  
Sept. 8—Generals Botha, De wet, and Delarey had a two hours' private Conference with Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Kitchener, at the Colonial office.  
The Anglo-Chinese Commercial Treaty is signed.  
There was a violent eruption on last Wednesday night at St. Vincent which completed the destruction of the Carribean Country.  
Sept. 10—Lord Roberts and Mr. Brodrick attended review on Saturday at Frankfurt.  
In the Oder the Kaiser most cordially welcomed the German Warships.  
The Panther sank the rebel gun boat Kaitian which recently confiscated some German cargo.  
Sept. 11—At the St. Leger Stakes, Sceptre was the first winner, Rising Glass, second, and Friar Tuck third.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.  
We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.  
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 Thursday.  
Rejected communications cannot be returned.  
Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, SEPTEMBER 13, 1902.

THE WEST INDIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

LITTLE over a month ago, there was a debate in the House of Commons "on a supplementary vote of £250,000 as a grant in aid of the West Indies." Mr. Chamberlain in introducing the subject, explained the necessity that exists for such a vote stating "that the condition of the West India Colonies had been a matter of the most anxious consideration to him ever since he had been in the Colonial Office, and the commission which visited the West Indies in 1896-97 confirmed the worst impressions he had derived from despatches," and so forth, and so on. Other speakers followed, mainly against the grant. According to the report before us Mr. Lough thought such a grant would form quite a precedent. Mr. Labouchere "opposed it, declaring that we were too reckless in regard to these Colonies. If they did not pay, let them go." Mr. Churchill asked on what principle these grants were to be made. We find it was only Sir J. Fergusson who supported the grant as a wise measure, and the vote was carried by 183 to 86.

The Secretary in his explanation for the granting of the amount gave it out that the fall of the sugar industry from something like its former prosperity was the cause of the present impecuniosity of the West India Colonies. This may or may not be so. What we wish to know is this, Did the Secretary on taking the reins of Colonial affairs find the condition

of the West Indies to be as it is now, or has it been so since he took charge? That is the question. If the former, then it is quite clear, that the system pursued by the authorities at Downing Street, was one calculated to bring ruin to the British Colonies no matter how prosperous the Colony may be, or how industrious its people; if the latter then surely there has been a touch of Brummagem Imperialism. To criticize such an able, skilful and tactful Secretary who is now at the helm of Colonial affairs is quite beyond us but—facts are stubborn. The West Indies are very fruitful islands, the people are far from being lazy, every way industrious, what is there then to reduce them to this condition? Many minds, many opinions, we give no pronouncement on it.

But come nearer home. Take any of the West African Colonies. Let us restrict ourselves to the Gold Coast, and what do we find? At one time, in the early days of the administration of the late Sir William Brandford Griffith at least, this Colony was not only able to pay its way, but could afford to give loans to other colonies and important ones too. Her Treasury was replenished. THEN, new posts were created: no end of Assistant Secretaries, Secretary for this and secretary for that: District, Special, Travelling Commissioners in abundance, countless Supervisors, new posts created in every department, let alone, travelling allowances, punitive expeditions on offending kings and chiefs where there were no offence, bogus improvements: all this, with the result that now the Gold Coast Treasury is somewhat impoverished and the colony burdened with loans. Every machinery must now be put into motion to increase the Revenue, though they may stifle the industry of the country, and spell oppression in a mild form. This is the present condition of the country, and what the end will be, we leave it to Father Time to say.

But this is a very unwise policy. The colonies are intended for the civilized nations. The Aborigines must be driven away from them. If so, we think it will be a wiser policy, to use what funds there are sparingly, so that those now fortunate to be in them, having made their thousands and hundreds and are gone, the others following may not come to find an impoverished treasury but "enough to eat and to spare" too.

THE CAPE COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The institution of the Gold Coast "Foreign" Chamber of Commerce, and the functions, at least such as have come to light, it has arrogated to itself, call for some attention. We have not forgotten how the last defunct Chamber of Commerce worked, nor the peculiar circumstances which brought about its dissolution. For some years after it was dissolved things remained in statu quo till Sir Matthew Nathan, assumed the reins of office. It appears that the necessity for a Chamber of Commerce about which the local paper very often called attention, had forced itself on the minds of some of the principal Houses in the community, and a meeting having been held, it was resolved that one should be formed forthwith but that no Blacks were to be admitted into membership, a fact which in itself is brimful of thoughts. Since then meetings are held and resolutions arrived at, such as necessarily affect the trade of this part of the Colony. It is strange that a Body, such as a Chamber of Commerce should seek to shun public notice, not to say criticism—the very public for whom it presumably exists.

The persistency with which it has striven and still strives to keep secret its actions raises suspicions as to its intentions or pretensions towards the community. We have several times called on their Secretary—and its no fault of theirs that we have come to know who their Secretary is—to enlighten us about this secret Society its members and rules or regulations (if any) but to all intents and purposes, one might appeal to the Sphinx and expect a reply. Facts have come to our knowledge as to some of the doings of this Body, and as in duty bound, we have asked their Secretary about them in the interest of the public for whom they profess to exist, but strict silence has been and is still maintained. We are forced to conclude firstly that the Chamber is sworn to secrecy, at least, so far as the black portion of the community is concerned and we say so, advisedly, and secondly, that its intentions cannot be good and honourable towards it.

The first public act of this mysterious Brother-

hood, was the Dinner they gave to the Governor on his first visit to town. At that dinner no black man was admitted not even the President of the Aborigines Society. The first time in the history of the Gold Coast when a dinner has been given to, or any public meeting has been held with the Head of the Government and the people of the soil were not represented by at least one or other of themselves.

This dinner has become famous in more senses than one. It was at this dinner that Sir Matthew Nathan made the remarks about Gold Concessions in this Colony which ultimately found its way to Downing Street in despatches and caused Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to commit one of the most serious blunders he has made during his term of office. Certain representations were made to the Governor by this secret body of men who claim to represent the commercial class in this community. We have got to know them notwithstanding the strict secrecy maintained—this is a queer world—and all told, we are prepared for weal or for woe. The cat is out of the bag, and we will all make a chase after it.

A body of men which professes to represent a section of the community whose progressive interests it affects to seek and protect, but which doggedly conceals from that very class or section what is being said or done by it to affect its avowed object does not only raise suspicion against itself or in that section alone, but also in the minds of the community at large.

This so-called Chamber of Commerce which so persistently refuses to let its work and movements be known by the country, at least, the natives, cannot mean well by the country.

Whoever heard of a Chamber of Commerce of this sort in any part of the world?

But the strangest part of it all is, the attitude of the Government towards this secret Society. The Government is hand and glove with it. We forbear saying much on this at present, for we do not consider that this is the time to make public the information now in our possession, but this much we will say, that the nocturnal meetings between His Excellency the Governor and (some of) the members of this Body when passing windward, he arrives in port late at night, are not unknown to us, nor some of the topics then discussed.

The effect of the close confabs in the dead of night, or of the correspondence with each other, on the market (duties) &c &c and on gold industry is seen everywhere by those who know what is being done by this remarkable Body of men in our midst who having constituted themselves into a secret Society with the ostensible name of a Chamber of Commerce are in reality a sort of secret service men working as the tool of the Government more for other purposes than that of Commerce.

We regret that having to adhere strictly to our plan of work we have had to open this subject when Sir Matthew is not in the Colony though we know he will read it all the same 'over there.'

SCRUTINEER.

What do I hear? Importation of a quantity of building materials for bungalows to be erected between Fosu and Dnyakur for the housing of white officials. A necessity. But must the revenue of the country be spent solely for the white officials?

Cape Coast has enough Public buildings (and even to spare) for the accommodation of officials of all grades; and we, in our ignorant way have thought that strong sanitary arrangements are the only necessary means for the improvement of the unhealthy condition of the country yet once the mania for segregation has effected the mind of our paternal government carried out it must be, for what is that to them, since they call for the tune whilst the natives pay the piper.

And so we must be left to bide with dirty streets filthy drains, toy-dustbins, disgraceful and dangerous latrines, sham lighting, no water-supply and a host of unnecessary inconveniences. Crown Colony administration—a success indeed!

It is rather curious that out of all the Colonies in West Africa ours is the only one whose government has come to the mysterious conclusion that segregation will prevent the dread Tropical fever. Well, let them try and see though we cannot help crying that it is being done at our expense.

I suppose when the segregation bungalows are completely fitted up a monster Glass Screen, miles in length and breadth, will be fixed between heaven and earth and at the segregation boundary to prevent the deadly draughts and mosquitoes of the town of Cape Coast from penetrating into this novel Paradise. And as a well wisher, I sincerely trust that they will never lose sight of this fact or else all their labours will be in vain.

To see the poor women marketing under the piercing rays of the Tropical sun and the heavy drifting rains peculiar to these climes is enough to move even the callous heart of a Skydock. But it is really a little hard to anticipate recommendations for a

proper provisions from a functionary who would rather that the inhabitants of Fashindzi were swept away by the rolling stream than permit them to unbar the mouth of the pond. O merciful magistrate! O just and upright representative of the Powers that are behind! Dost thou in thy constant devotions conscientiously pray for mercy?

A great many live to find fault with local organs, grunting that they exist merely to attack foreigners, to engage in personalities and to find fault with the government. To all such ignorant and stupid gossipers, I would counsel to read regularly foreign journals, for their edification and elevation from their depraved simplicity.

It is a misdemeanour and an unpardonable one, for any journal to pry into private affairs of men which in no way concern or hinder the community in their enjoyment of peace or prosperity, which do not obstruct or endanger their rights, liberties and lives, or which create no ill-feelings amongst them. And against this crime the law has provided a remedy.

But it is a manifest absurdity to labour under the selfish impression that people whose actions and general behaviour, (whether in public or private life) are offensive and dangerous to the safety and welfare of the public are not to be questioned or criticised.

Hence the duty very often falls on us as loyal sons of the country to set aside all feelings and with all respect the pranks, whims, vagaries, anomalies, obstinate and dangerous red-tapeism, official pig-headedness, stupid display of negro-phobia and other vices of men which we deem unsafe and to the well-being of the race.

And people must not throw stones at others and be surprised or offended when one is hurled at them or when their malpractices are checked. They must also note that no scathing, calumnious, or Utopian publications on the race; annoying gestures and display of barbarity by any personage, be he an African, European-American, Asiatic or Polynesian, will pass unnoticed by us. They will therefore Read! Mark! Learn!

Snobishness has been said to be characteristic of certain nations. I do not venture to suggest now that it is the case with the *Leader*. But that epithet may be rightly applied to *Napainal* the worthy Secretary of the *Chartered Institute of Boycotting of Storekeepers and distoolment of Kings of Cape Coast*. Surely the non-existence of one is a blessing in disguise to another! Poor departed soul! Would any of his obliging friends inform him that in our estimation he is not an inch better than what he was, and that we have known him before?

Yours faithfully  
ATOO.

#### LITANY NIGELLI

In the "Day-Book" of the late Professor John Blackie the following is a portion of his "Litany Nigelli" included in the work—

From beggars for my clients, from fools for my worshippers, and from slats for my servants,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From the impertinence of youthful critics, from the vanity of small poets, and from the unreasoned giggle of silly young ladies,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From the barren subtlety of lawyers, from the slippery shiftiness of politicians, and from the blind restlessness or calculated selfishness of commercial speculators,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From the man that slumbers sweetly, from a woman that laughs loudly, and from a young woman ambitious to play the young man,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From a scholar who smells of books, from a sportsman who smells of hghses, and a mother who smells of babies,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From genius without sense, from talent without love, and from creeds without humanity,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

From a spinner of fine phrases, a spinner of senseless rhymes, and a woman who poets,

*Good Lord, deliver me,*

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

Dear Mr. Editor—I have read the "Rules and Regulations for Wesleyan Schools" with much interest, and will you kindly spare me a short space in your valuable columns to call attention to one or two facts which concern us here.

Presumably the "Rules and Regulations" were prepared by special instructions of the Synod every Minister of a Circuit being duly furnished with sufficient copies for his School Committee Members. Rev. J. B. Anaman directly he was stationed to this thought it expedient to reorganise the Committee

which was then defunct, but sapiently withheld the "Rules" being perfectly aware that during his absence on Cape Coast for a long period of six years more or less the then Committee Members were supplied with copies. For cogent reasons best known to himself the Committee Members here had no copies from him, notwithstanding the supply he might have received from the Senior Parson.

Goodness only knows how I managed to obtain the copy now before me no doubt to his utmost regret and astonishment. Where are the remaining copies? Doubtless burnt to ashes.

Before the reorganisation, Rev. Anaman assembled both the educated and illiterate friends. The object that so necessitated that assemblage was explained to their entire satisfaction, thereupon he being the Parson was elected as Chairman or President, Mr. T. B. Crensil Senior as Treasurer and Mr. J. Andzi Quinoo Jr. as Secretary with his Assistant Mr. R. M. Korah. The Chairman presided over the meetings whilst the Secretaries remarkably did their work during the existence of that Committee. I would earnestly ask as to whether Mr. Crensil an aged and experienced gentleman after his election ever had the pleasure of drawing from the Government Treasury at Salt Pond the School grants from time to time for safe keeping as the responsible party or even the school pence? Was he not made to understand that both Government grants and school pence should be paid to him? As far as his office is concerned was he not the rightful person to pay the Head Teacher or Master and Staff their respective salaries? Otherwise who on earth then undertook upon himself to act *pro tem*? Is it, therefore provided in any clause that Ministers should act as Treasurers? If not, I may mention with profoundest regret that our much respected gentleman should be thus disrespected. What temerity!

The Parson had the audacity to disband the Committee at its last meeting held about three years ago when increments of salaries were being given to the then Head Teacher or Master Mr. F. Egan Ekuban Jr. and Staff. There arose a vague argument between the Parson and Mr. J. Robertson Quagrainie (some members included) to the fact Mr. T. B. Appiah was teaching higher standard than Mr. J. Barkers Quagrainie. The argument lasted over thirty minutes. Rev. Anaman like Samuel of old judging from the appearance of the form thought he was competent enough to teach the Fifth Standard, but never recollected that although Mr. Barkers Quagrainie so young like David the Psalmist was more competent than Mr. Appiah and that Fifth Standard was under his control. He never cared a bit the next day after the unnecessary argument to visit the School simply to find out for himself whether he argued to the point. On this account Committee Members were disturbed.

Presiding over meetings at Cape Coast before men like Mr. J. P. Brown and others as expressed by the Parson that evening did not surprise the Committee. In future for the promotion of God's glory and the welfare of the town, we would only have Justice and compaisance. Such has been the cause of the most deplorable state of the school at present, from the unbecoming treatment the Parson gave to the Committee, above all the unnecessary advantage he undertook to manage the affairs of the school alone as well as the disbursements of the Government grants and the school pence. What a mystery!

The cry of the School at present is "Competent teachers wanted".

Thanking you Mr. Editor for the space you have allowed me.

Salt Pond, 25. 8. 02.

Dix.

Dear Mr Editor—In your issue of the 15th inst a correspondent from this, unnecessarily asks whether the D. C. is Catholic simply because a gong-gong was beaten round the town on the 8th inst intimating the whole Society to turn out in their full regalia & worship at the Catholic Church on the Coronation day.

To enlighten your readers as well as your correspondent I would briefly state that at the last meeting of the Coronation Committee held on the 7th inst the Wesleyan Parson alluded to was personally asked by D. C. to hold special service on the Coronation day thus to enable the members of the different Societies to attend in full regalia; in response to such cogent request the Parson absolutely declined, because no further money was granted to him after having expended the amount of about £20 for the School Children in the Circuit in June when the Coronation was postponed last. Thereupon Father Superior was asked and he heartily agreed to comply with the request; this then brought about the beaten of the gong-gong for general information.

It is to be regretted that Rev. J. B. Anaman should not on any account whatever but through pecuniary affairs refuse to hold special service in honor of the Coronation of His Majesty the King, Edward V<sup>th</sup> and Queen Alexandra. What ungratefulness!

For the valuable present of a piece of land from the Government, is this the kindness? Strange indeed that throughout the Colony special services were held but not in the Wesley Church here: the Parson has himself to blame.

Thanking you Mr Editor for the space you have allowed me.

Saltpond 9. 9. 02.

Yours truly,—Ant.

[This is what Abu saya, but another correspondent whose letter comes in too late for insertion, says there was no service at the Wesleyan Church because the notice given by the D. C. was too short.—Ed. G. C. L.]

Sir When I read in your last issue about John Leslie's robbery at Sekundi, and his running away under pretext of coast fever—the old old game—and the subsequent capture of himself and wife when safely escorted at Ramagate. (England) believe me, Sir I was greatly surprised—surprised, not at the theft (that's common enough with John Leslie & Co) but surprised that Leslie should have been such a fool as to have gone in, for such a paltry sum. Why, his pals usually go in for something substantial, something worthy of a man indeed; good old John must have been hard up, for what is £700, for a go?

But what surprised me more was, that John Leslie Esq and Mrs Leslie should have stepped on the scene so soon, not only to corroborate, but also to prove beyond doubt what you said only a short while ago, on our white masters boycotting defaulting storekeepers.

The sanctimonious Cape Coast "Foreign" Chamber of Commerce, sat in solemn conclave and with unctuous pride gravely and unanimously resolved, that all storekeepers (blacks, of course) who, no matter from what course, have deficits should be "boycotted." Perhaps, it was at this very hour, that John Leslie of Alex. Miller Bro & Co, Sekundi, a European, was robbing his Firm of £700 hard cash.

No doubt if instead of being at Sekundi, Jno. Leslie had been at Cape Coast, he would have been present at the meeting and voted, heart and soul with his colleagues to send defaulting storekeepers adrift. Well, Sir, I cannot help quoting you on the subject that those who live in glass house, should not throw stones. Jno. Leslie is unfortunate in that he was so stupid, so clumsy about it. That's not the way they do it. I very much pity Mrs John for she might not have known she was receiving and banking stolen property. Ah! after all Skins may differ but virtues and vices dwell in Blacks and Whites the same.

Yours truly,—STORE-KEEPER.  
Cape Coast, Sept. 1902.

May I ask what salary the Foreman of Works, Jardine is drawing from the public chest? This man is doing a good work in a stupid way. Whether its his luck or his brain, he seems unlucky when put to construct drains. I remember the drains he made at Elmina sometime ago, being ordered to be filled up by His Excellency the Governor when there on a visit, because of their proximity to, and consequent dangerousness to houses in the vicinity. The Government thus certifying to this gentleman's stupidity, at least, in making drains. Public time and money was thus wasted, but he was not made the cost of his government stamped stupidity out of his own pocket, if that had been done, he would no doubt have taken lessons in that branch of his profession also. Now again he is sent here to spoil one of, if not the finest street we have in town and over and above all to endanger some six houses, nearly all of which are second to none in town.

Who is to blame for all this? one cannot very well expect Mr Jardine to patent his ignorance by refusing work placed in his hands, but after the Governor's unmistakable disapproval of his work as constructor of drains, surely he should have been pitied, if allowed to stay on, and not set to the same work again, and in such a town as Cape Coast, and in Saltpond Road of all places. Surely a worse service could not have been done to the man, for it is a very dark back ground to his brilliant achievements. The poor man is simply going from bad to worse—what else can he do, seeing he can't throw up the sponge stick to it or resign—Stick? yes but resign Never; poor, poor, Jardine thy friends, as thy works are thine enemies after all!

Yours truly,—SARDINE.

Cape Coast 12. 9. 02.

Mr. Editor,—We have read with some degree of pain, the report published in your issue of the 16th August touching your funeral procession (English Templars) of the late Brother Crensil. I am therefore instructed by my Lodge to challenge the accuracy of that report, and to say that in future it would be better that reporters like "Mr. Surprised" should adhere to facts. We hope also for the benefit of your readers that reflections will not be made in such unwarranted manner on persons deserving some consideration.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,

Salt Pond,  
26. 8. 1902.

J. D. BINEY,—(Secretary.)  
"Tower of Refuge" Lodge No. 6.

**THE SEY-WILL CASE.**

(Continued from our last.)

Then comes the information derived from Mrs. Ferguson. She was not called to confirm the information she is said to have given nor has it been shown that throughout the year 1898 she so continuously resided with the Testator as to be in a position to give this information. It matters nothing so far as the Will is concerned that the Testator was incapable to make a Will in 1899 or in any subsequent years so long as there is evidence to satisfy the Court that in 1898 he was of sound mind and understanding and this evidence is given by Hyde and Kennedy, disinterested witnesses, having nothing to gain whether the Will is upheld or not. In confirmation of this also is the irresistible presumption arising from the Paragraph in the Will signed by Mr. Mills that the Testator must have been mentally and physically fit. All these circumstances must weigh against general statements merely derived from information. The only evidence really as to the health of the Testator is given by Dr. Pitt but as it is confined within the period from September 1901 to May 1902 over three years after the Will was made it is no guide to show his condition in 1898 even if we assume that within that period of which the Doctor speaks the Testator was wholly incapable to make Will.

Upon what grounds the Caveator based his belief that all papers forming his Father's last Will have not been laid before the Court, are best known to himself. The Court has not been favoured with them. His belief then is under circumstances of no importance as affecting the validity of the Will, so must the Court pass over without comment as underserving of comment the insinuation by the suggestion that access was had during the last illness of the Testator to his iron safe where his Will and other valuable papers were, by persons not entitled to such access for there exists no scintilla of evidence to base such insinuation.

That the Testator entertained unnatural antipathy to those who were near him in blood, this Court is unable to endorse from what has been brought to its notice. It is hardly reconcilable with the Testator's action when during the strained relation between himself and the Caveator he included him in his Will and when he subsequently wrote to him that he had forgiven him from the bottom of his heart, nor is it compatible with his action towards his daughter. It is true that to those two the gifts are in comparison small but the Court in the absence of any other evidence is bound to assume that the Testator had good reasons for his action.

Then comes the charge of undue influence against Rev Mr. Parker. The course adopted convinces the Court it was a groundless charge for it is supported by no evidence. It is a grave charge to have been so deliberately and recklessly made. I find no such influence was exercised.

This sums up the Caveator's case against the granting of Probate for his contention that the Will is invalid as not made according to law has been disposed.

Before however dealing with the question of cost, I may at once determine the validity or invalidity of the Codicils.

The first is dated the 26th day of December. This affects the daughter Elizabeth Ferguson. The Codicil is sworn to by Mr. Kennedy as in his handwriting and he is one of the attesting witnesses. He however is not clear as to whether the other attesting witness Amisshah was present at the time. If he were he cannot remember. There is however the fact that Mr. Mills was the lawyer employed and that he was present at the execution. He would therefore be bound to see that the Will was executed according to law. Taking this in connection with Kennedy's evidence that the Testator signed in the presence of Mr. Mills and himself and that before such signature was made Mr. Mills explained the contents to Mr. Sey, I am inclined to believe in the due execution of the Codicil. That the Testator was capable to make this codicil the evidence of Kennedy shows. The statement made signed by Mr. Mills at the foot of the Codicil is also in favour of this view and any former remarks respecting the health of Mr. Sey at this time equally applies. I find the Codicil valid.

The next is that dated the 1st of June 1900. The witnesses to the execution of this are Mr. Amisshah Mr. Sey's former clerk and one of the merchants here Mr. Russell. From his position Mr. Russell was not likely to lend himself to any questionable ranchless fraudulent transaction. He also signs a statement that the Codicil was explained by him to Mr. Sey before he signed it and that Mr. Sey expressed himself so perfectly to understand it. From a disinterested point of view this statement signed as the truth by Mr. Russell must have weight with the Court and this makes against the contention that the Testator at the time was mentally unfit.

There was nothing in the demeanour of Mr. Amisshah nor anything that was got out of him in cross examination which showed he was not speaking the truth. He has given us the circumstances under which the Codicil was made and though he says that Mr. Sey was lying on his bed during the copying of the codicil and returned to bed after executing the Codicil, he states he was sane. The presumption is in favour of mental capacity and not against it and the onus is on those who allege the contrary. Here there is only the general statement from hearsay that he suffered occasionally from fainting fits, which by no means preclude the possibility of his being of sound understanding at the date of the codicil. Dr. Pitt's evidence as I have shown has no reference to this time. I believe the evidence of Mr. Amisshah supported as it is by the action of Mr. Russell and I therefore declare in favour of this Codicil.

(To be continued)

**THE FOUNDATION DRAIN CONSTRUCTOR.**

To the Editor of the "Gold Coast Leader."

Sir,—In your last issue I noticed an article having reference to the construction of the new drain at Salt pond Road under the supervision of the Foreman of Works here, Mr. Jardine the expert foundation drain constructor of the Colony.

The skill of this Foreman of Works is no wonder to those who had read a similar article on his work which appeared in the issue of the G. C. A. of April 15th and March 30th of 1901, and to all those who may happen to take a walk at Saltpond Road.

Judging from the nature of the work I can say without the least exaggeration that a person below the rank of Mr. Jardine who has no experience of such a work could be able at once to say that the handling of the work is far beyond his ability and deserves a good comment.

In places where drains are constructed or in other words where such things are necessary, a reasonable allowance of space is given to houses in the direction of the drain without having re-course to dig closely to the foundations of houses as to cause danger and ruin when there is a heavy fall of rain which will necessitate an overflow, and before undertaking the work he should have consulted the owners of houses in that way as a means to find out the extent of the fall of rain—there is no occasion however for him to find any difficulty in arriving at the conclusion in his own judgment and of the drains as it generally happens. In this way there is plenty of room for him to make better calculations as an expert man for the work. The wideness of the street and the line drawn from the Bank downwards if the same had been followed by him would have saved him from any public criticism or individual attack as he would have got in fairly to the drain just before the telegraph pole in front of the Wesleyan Cemetery, instead of this one could see that at almost every few yards the digging course assumes a different aspect and shows how puzzled he is about the work and from the end of Arkah's house to the pole referred to above is a disgrace to whoever is supervising the work, it is so plain enough to any human eye to detect it—the error—and no sensible man who takes some pains over his work could have taken his cue from this telegraph pole for his line up to the Bank sticking pegs on the ground to guide himself and his men throughout the work.

To blame Mr. Jardine much would be a waste of time for any writer on the subject who thinks that the work is not being carried out properly. But the Government should know the class of Foremen of Works to entrust such works with for the nastier the work the more disgraceful it is to the Government, and the dearer it will be at the end and a waste of the public revenue.

At Elmina sometime ago the same cause was adopted by Mr. Jardine to the ruin of houses and on the arrival of the then Governor, it was brought to his notice but luckily for him he was away having been transferred to Cape Coast and the trenches as they were then called were afterwards filled up. This is sufficient in itself.

I trust therefore Mr. Jardine will in future take pains to study things for himself and follow the good works of his predecessors whenever he is called upon for any work so as to gain the approval of all without making himself open to frequent unfavourable criticisms and I further trust that the saying "A word to the wise is enough" will be his future guide throughout his other stations in the Colony. Yours truly,—CHIN-CHIN. Cape Coast, 11. 9. 02.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for the publication of my letter of the 14th ult. and in respect of the "dissentient" spoken of, I write the following in the interest of Appolonia, as well as for the information of the public at large.

I mentioned in that letter that unless something is done to check the self-made Chiefs trouble would befall the Country, and so it has happened.

Yamikey Quacoe one of the self-made Chiefs has leased lands attached to the Stool of Bayin, and has thereby laid claim to about 60 miles of territory. he has opposed the King of Bayin in a certain concession granted to Messrs. J & O. Clinton & Co. since 1895, and has got the King of Attuashoe to back his claim as co-opposer, and on the 22nd ult. judgment was given against him and the King of Attuashoe with costs.

The attitude of Attuashoe has caused a great deal of uneasiness, but the King of Bayin having a profound respect for law with a habitual exercise of that degree of patience which trustfully awaits for remedy of abuses through the efficacy of slow but constitutional measures has forbore the outrage, and indignity offered to his person and Stool. Yamikey Quacoe went so far as to ignore the authority of the King of Bayin over him and placed himself under the King of Attuashoe, and by so do-

ing has created a misunderstanding between Bayin and Attuashoe, which would have resulted in a very serious consequence if the judgment had not been in favour of the King of Bayin. I hope the Authorities would keep their eyes open for the sake of equity and public policy about Appolonian affairs as we Appolonians are too much neglected.

I intend sending you a copy of the proceedings of the case for publication in my next.

Yours faithfully,

K. A. ANKOR

Axim, Aug. 25. 1902.

**WEST AFRICAN MEDICAL SERVICES.**

FORMATION OF A BRITISH WEST AFRICAN

MEDICAL STAFF.

[FROM THE "BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL"]

(FROM NO. 8.)

The allowances are as follows:

(a) Duty Pay.—A deputy principal medical officer or senior medical officer will receive duty pay at the rate of £100 a year while acting for the principal medical officer. Duty pay of £60 a year will also be paid (1) to each deputy principal medical officer or senior medical officer while employed in Ashanti or the Northern territories of the Gold Coast, and (2) to not more than two officers of either of those ranks in Northern Nigeria, when similarly employed in outlying districts, at the discretion of the High Commissioner.

(b) Horse or Hammock Allowances.—An allowance of 2s 6d. a day will be paid to every medical officer for personal conveyance while on duty at his station for any period during which he was required by Government to keep, and has actually kept, a horse, carriers, etc., for the purpose.

(c) Transport of Stores.—The Government will carry free of cost a reasonable amount of stores for every medical officer, the amount in each case being fixed by the local Government.

(d) Travelling.—Medical and other officers travelling on duty in a Colony or Protectorate are entitled to repayment of any actual out-of-pocket expenses which they may necessarily have incurred. In some cases in lieu of the repayment of expenses, a travelling allowance is given, which is estimated to cover the average cost of travelling.

(e) Field or Bush allowance.—An allowance of 5s a day will be paid to all medical officers, whatever their rank, while employed in the field or bush, away from recognised stations. Officers, while in receipt of this allowance, will not be entitled to any repayment or allowance under (d) above.

(f) Allowance on a Military Expedition.—All Medical officers, whatever their rank, while employed with a military expedition will be paid an allowance of 10s. a day, and will be given free rations, or an allowance of 3s. a day in lieu of rations. While in receipt of these allowances, medical officers will not be entitled to any repayment or allowance under (d) and (e) above.

(g) Outfit Allowance.—An allowance of £12 will be paid to every medical officer on first appointment for the purchase of camp outfit (see under "Outfit").

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE, PASSAGES, ETC.**

Medical officers will be in general subject to the Colonial Regulations, Chapter XVIII, the main rules in which are:

1. The ordinary tour of residential service is one year, followed by leave with full pay during the voyages to and from England, and for four or two months in England, according as the officer is returning or not.

2. An officer detained beyond the year receives additional leave with full pay for ten or five days, according as he is returning or not in respect to each completed month before twelve.

3. If invalided before the end of the first year the leave with full pay is for the voyage and for ten or five days in respect of each completed month according as he is returning or not.

4. "Return leave" is leave granted on the understanding that the officer will return, and any pay drawn in respect of such leave is liable to be repaid if he does not return.

5. Leave may be extended for a limited period with half or no pay on the ground of ill-health.

6. Free passages are given to all officers granted leave as above, and also on first appointment, and half pay is given during the voyage out on first appointment.

A copy of Chapter XVIII, of the Colonial Regulations can be obtained free on application to the Colonial Office. It is also contained in the annual Colonial Office List (Messrs. Harrison and Sons, 55, Pall Mall, W.). (To be continued.)

Sept. 13. The P. Generals have returned to Holland and begin their tour of collecting funds for the relief of the widows and orphans of the late Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic.

WANTED at this Office a reliable and good Compositor, he must be smart and sharp at setting.

# The Gold Coast Leader.

VOL. 1.  
No. 13.

CAPE COAST, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1902.

Price 3d.  
Including postage 4d.

## THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS.

### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(Payable in advance.)

	Cape Coast.	Abroad.
Annual	10 6	14 6
Half Year	5 6	7 6
Quarter	3 -	4 -

### ADVERTISING SCALE.

Advertisements should be sent to the Office at Saltpond Road, at least three days before the day of publication.

Twelve lines and under	5/-
Additional line	- 6
Birth, Death or Marriage	2 6

Special arrangements can be made for advertisements for longer periods.

All Communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Business Communications and remittances either in Cheques or Post Office Orders should be sent to the Manager, "Gold Coast Leader" Office, Saltpond Road, Cape Coast, West Africa.

For copies of the paper please apply to the Stores of Mr. JAMES E. ARTHUR, at Chapel Square, and at Intin Street.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

## Read! Mark! Learn!

### THE WEST AFRICAN AGENCY,

(Agence de l'Afrique Occidentale.)

BRUXELLES & LIVERPOOL

Is the only true medium between West Africans and the English Manufacturer. The Management is in the hands of old and experienced traders and buyers who have been connected with West Africa for the past fifteen years.

Orders executed with prompt despatch against Produce, Specie, or approved Bills, Indents accompanied by 50% deposit will be executed and balance collected through the Agent or the Bank.

Quality, Cheapness, Despatch.

For further particulars, references, and quotations apply to

J. D. ABRAHAM Esq.,—(Agent,)

Auctioneer.

Cape Coast.

Agents wanted at outposts Liberal Terms to Good and RELIABLE gentlemen.

The undersigned begs to inform the Public, that he is prepared to attend patients, in his or their own houses on applying to him. He has in his possession certificates from patients he has treated, which may be seen on application and he begs further to refer them to George Hughes Esq. (photographer) and Mr. J. W. Idun.

ROBERT EGAY  
Native Doctor.

KAWENPADO  
Cape Coast, 19. 9. 1902.

## WANTED.

To find "THOMAS SMITH" Fanti cook to Mr. Bennett for 3 years on Kubi Kur afterwards went with him to Bibiani.

Will Smith hold himself in readiness to join Mr. Bennett at Secondee (on receipt of wire) about 1st. October to work for him near Tarkwa. Advise Miller's.

### GENERAL NEWS.

Azrael, the Angel of Death nowadays always busy with us has been extra busy this week and turned many a house into a house of mourning.

Among his victims has been Miss Elizabeth Davis who died on the 16th instant at her residence at Amisa Ekyir, daughter of the late Samuel Davis of Bentsir, and sometime the wife of Blankson "the Caper" of Anamabu.

Miss Davis is perhaps the last of her generation in this town of the ever-to-be-lamented Nana Waldron's school girls and a near relative of Burpu the brave King of Cape Coast.

The bereaved family has our sincere sympathies. "They are not dead who live in the hearts of those they have left behind."

Two notable robberies committed this week; one was at Mr. Derby's, (Derbyville) when his iron safe was removed and found the next morning somewhere near the Tantree Cemetery.

Mr. Fred. Ogoe and a friend who usually take their morning constitutional that way, came upon some bank notes, some of the contents of the safe. This we learn, is the only thing in the safe found correct. The notes amount to £150.

The other robbery was at the Post Office, where some £34 worth of stamps were found missing on Sunday morning.

Two of the clerks, suspected have been arrested. Here is a practical proof that the Public have sufficient grounds to complain of their missing letters, papers &c, complaints that have as usual, fallen unheeded on the ears of the Post Office Authorities. What do they intend doing in this instance now that this touches them?

If there is any department where they should have some discrimination in taken men it is here, and if they offer good pay, they will be sure to get the right sort. Cheap things after all cost dearly in the end.

Mr. Barber James has our sympathies, being quite a new man; if the thieves are found out, and found out to be clerks there, they should be made examples of. The Public have suffered enough, and Mr. James' kindness to them as his subordinates should not be thus repaid.

We understand that His Worship C. A. O'Brien Esq. our genial D. C. has sent out a circular letter to "The Headmasters of the Government, Catholic, Wesleyan Grammar School, and Secretaries of Native Clubs" to the effect that he has fixed different days for cricketing at the Parade Ground for the European and Native Cricketers. We hope to be able to publish same in our next issue.

"It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth."

Abula Kesi has been celebrated in the bush; want of space forbids our reproducing from the G. C. People an article on this great native festival.

Last Thursday morning a certain young man arrived in Town from Agony murderously beaten by a highway man, and a sheep led to take away from him a sheep he was carrying.

This is the second time we have heard of this man, and when we first heard it, as such a public property, that we thought the Police had taken steps for his apprehension by now. We hope the Police Authorities will see to it, as his presence there threatens the safety of women going to Agunai and travellers to Anamaboe &c.

Number of deaths this week is registered at 10.

"Many seek the Ruler's favour; but every man's judgment is from the Lord."

### NATIVE TROOPS' GREAT LOSS.

A party of the native troops in England for the Coronation who had been to see Westminster Abbey were thrown into a state of consternation, by finding on their return to Aldershot that their barrack room had been entered and their Coronation medals stolen.

Several of the victims are West African and Trinidad men. They are bitterly grieved at their loss, as the medals were prized above everything else they had because they received them from the hands of the King.

Investigation is being made into the robbery.—Daily Mail, —15/8/1902.

### CHAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Trade is distressingly dull here.

Rumour has it that the Catholics intend re-establishing here. If this be true, we hope this also will not be a nine days' wonder.

The Chamas have been celebrating their native Christmas the *apar* during this and last week.

We understand that a five-hands canoe containing nine souls, (a certain man and his family coming from Axim to Ampenyi to succeed the late King) capsized in the sea just at the point of Anankor River between Chama and Sekundi, and only two persons survived to tell the dismal tale.—Since this dreadful catastrophe happened none of the persons drowned has yet been discovered. More of this anon.

### ELMINA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. D. C. O'Brien arrived here from Cape Coast on the 9th instant for the purpose of holding certain inquiries into the extent or limits of the prestige of the King of Elmina over the surrounding district. The late King Esianor of Yamoransa, who, by his rights, claims suzerainty over the people of the Komenda passed here some weeks ago with a large train of followers, it is stated, for the purpose of disenthroning the present King Yuwan alias Kroo. This action, however, led to a fracas between Yuwan's adherents and the new comers, which called for the intervention of the police. Esianor was asked to leave the district. Yuwan is held in high esteem by the Government. But whether he is under the sway of the King of Elmina or not the latter did not seem to know anything about it. The D. C. passed some remarks about the general slovenly appearance of the town and asked the King to see that the place is kept clean. He also strongly recommended to the people, the rearing of live stock as a sure means of money making.

Whatever the Government may have in view with regard to the destiny of Elmina, at all events something ought to be done at present to remedy the host of evils which surround us and give this old town that everlasting sickening appearance. If we turn back to history as far as 1870, we notice in those days a great difference as compared with the existing times. From the time of the transfer in 1872 up to the present things have been fast assuming very inauspicious aspects. We are already tired of crying out for drains, proper street lighting and what is more important, a sea wall to protect the town from the rapid inundations of the sea. For some time past, the sea has been making dangerous encroachments on the town owing to the fact that the surf has washed away the best part of the little breakwater at the entrance of the lagoon. This has also caused the silting up of the river, consequently its holding capacity has become so small that several houses in New Town are in jeopardy.

Trade is very dull owing to the lack of proper trade roads; and there is very little business going on. It is even astonishing how people manage to make both ends meet. At one time we heard Elmina Castle was to be turned into a prison. At another time we hear of the construction of proper landing stages and wharves and the laying of a light railway to connect this place and Cape Coast Castle. How far these rumours are true we are unable to vouch, since we have no documentary authority to back them up.

There is at present, no foreman of Works here. Consequently the work on the Bridge has been stopped; save the raising up of the landing place which is being done in wish by prisoners. The Temporary Bridge has been removed and the New Street Bridge is now open to general traffic.

Dr. Osborne Browne, our District Medical Officer

has perhaps found out from a recent research that when mosquitoes are white wash of they never breed; consequently he has introduced a system of getting every water cask in town whitewashed. The keratinic scheme has, however, proved to be a failure. As another precautionary measure against mosquitoes, the doctor has caused the public well in the West of the Castle to be blocked up and it is being conjectured as to whether the same thing is not going to be done to the tanks. If this *modus operandi* prove successful, Dr. Browne will surely cut a big figurehead in the service.

According to a young young beaten the other day, by order of the King, for general information, the "Stray Cattle Ordinance" has been repealed.

The Wesleyans held a Camp meeting at Ankwashie about seven miles from town, on Sunday 14th.

Twelve convict prisoners were brought here under escort, from Sekondi, on the 15th instant, to do time in St. Jago.

The Elmina portion of Cape Coast road requires paying attention to. At present one can only take it for a bush path.

A report comes to us that a Money Order system is going to be introduced in connection with the Post Office here. We hope this may not be another Canterbury Tale.

The Wesleyan School is badly in need of funds, to meet the demands of the teachers, whose pay has been in arrears for a considerable length of time. A special meeting was held the other day in the School Rooms to suggest some means of relieving the School from this financial embarrassment. Subscriptions are being raised; but the School is at present hanging by a thread.

The dearth of postage and judicial stamps is at present the leading feature of the day. The cause of this extraordinary irregularity has already been explained in the *Gold Coast Leader* of August 9th last.

ANAMABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

As in the Roman Catholic calendar, festivals follow one another here in rapid succession. It was only on the 5th instant that the King's Stool festival was finally brought to a close; and now the district is once again engulfed in excitement on account of the Black Christmas which commenced on the evening of Thursday the 11th with the customary Bontaka dance. Good feeling and fellowship prevail everywhere; and dancing, here and there, seems to be the programme of the season. The principles of law and order being uniformly observed.

The District Commissioner has duly inspected the bush roads, and has found them in good order. The roads are (1) from small Cormantine to Anamaboe; and (2) from Anamaboe throughout Dadaga to the end of the King's jurisdiction.

The provincial Assizes held at Saltpond are over. Judge Smith, on passing up to Cape Coast, halted here and inspected a plot of land which is the cause of an action now pending.

Mr. E. I. Weyland (Messrs. Edwin Weyland & Son, Liverpool) is in town.

The American Barque "Woodruff" consigned to Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy arrived in port on Monday the 15th instant.

SALT POND.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The D. C. Mr. Lloyd with the Registrar Mr. Obens left here on the 8th for Insuam on inspection.

His Honor Judge Smith brought his sittings to a close last Thursday the 11th, and with his Registrar Mr. Barnako left for Cape Coast on Saturday.

Dame Rumour's report has not been true then. There are some prisoners here from Cape Coast and Elmina for street repairs.

When the *Bontaka* was in last Thursday (the 11th) for a long time she could not be boarded, and consequently the mercantile houses would not be allowed to work. The plea was, there were no boatmen to be had, the men engaged for the work, being at Kromantine, about a mile off. It may be so, but the revenue obtained from this town, is enough to enable the local authorities to have a boat of their own, and a set of men always at hand.

AXIM.

SUICIDE OF A SOLICITOR.

On Wednesday morning, an inquest was held on the body of R. E. Moseley, Solicitor, who committed suicide on the previous night by cutting his throat. The deceased arrived in town on the 1st instant, to relieve Mr. Blease of Messrs. Lawrence Jones & Co. (Law firm). But the poor man was never sober one day, and all Tuesday he was seen

moving here and there aimlessly.

It had been decided by the firm to send him back to England by the *S. S. Olenda* due here on Tuesday. Verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned accordingly.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Nearly every writer who must show to the world that he too can write a book, at least on Africa, delights in showing up the Negro as the laziest quadruped contaminating the fair face of the globe. Indeed in some circles, laziness is anonymous with *negro*. What hard cruel things have been said at times, if only to let their work 'take,' or make a good reading at leisure hours. At the bottom of all the fuss over the Labour Question, you find this—the native will not work unless you kick him, beat him about, fine him, or do him out of his wages, most of these things being done and said to suit one's purpose.

To find, that it is possible for workmen in civilized countries to take seven days, seven weeks to make four doors seems to us to prove conclusively that slowness or laziness is not an inherent quality with the Black race only. *Lady Dudley's Bill*, we produce in our columns will show this. But it may be said, this is an exceptional case. Granted. It does seem strange, however, that only in the "Black Countries," there are no exceptions to a rule, but everything is the rule. We shall revert to this subject again.

Mr. Pearmain's dismissal referred to in our last issue by our Elmina Correspondent needs some consideration at the hands of the Director of Works. The alleged cause for this dismissal is said to be a wanton waste of public money. Is such a thing known by the authorities then? From facts before us we think a gross injustice has been done to Mr. Pearmain. Here is a man who has been out for the first time,—a Foreman of Works—entrusted with a work, requiring the skill of an Engineer, and who according to our Correspondent, did his level best, doing his share of the work, at all events better than a senior officer, sent home for some alleged cause.

To say that this is hard is nothing, it is cruel if true. On the other hand you have a man, who has been in the service for a longer period, whose work has been condemned by successive Governors, against whom complaint after complaint has been made, against whom blackmailing can be proved any day, going scot free, if anything, promotion smiling on him. Some people are lucky. Poor Pearmain! made a veritable scape goat of. Take this advice from us without "the lawyer's fees" for we are no lawyers, if ever your eyes should meet this: when next you seek to enter into the Government service, make it a point to get a back-stay, or better still, try to be sure of your "Boss."

To dismiss or rather to send home a 'white' official is very rare indeed in the Service. We find it impossible to believe that Mr. P. has been subjected to this harsh treatment because of the Elmina Bridge, we are rather inclined to believe, that it was because of something else unknown to the public. By the way how secured, subordinates who enjoy the favour of the Heads of their departments, only those who are thus privileged can tell. There may be Pharoshs who may not know Joseph yet, and besides—

Can it be, that the local Chamber of Commerce (?) not finding sufficient business, to transact at their meetings, and not wishing to waste their precious hours, has thought best to constitute itself into an Advisory Board for the Government? How will their Principals who send them out for commerce and not for politics, take this. Possibly this is with their consent and approval. We should like however to bring to its notice what we take to be directly against the interest of Commerce.

It has been reported to us again and again, that traders going up into the bush with their goods bought from the coast, are badly treated by men who call themselves "Soldiers of the King," the Hausas to wit, the Wangara carriers and even by some of the Whites now flooding the bush, or with their approval. Their goods are looted, then beaten and sent adrift. If coming down to the Coast, they are searched, and moneys found on them taken from them. Such doings it appears, have been going on for sometime and is still going on. The result is trade, has suffered for some years and is still suffering; because the traders naturally turn to the French and German Protectorates for trading pur-

poses. Do the Agents of the European Houses want the public to believe, not one of them has heard of this? Not likely.

It is a mistake to think, that all is well, so long as some sales are made, and goods come &c. &c. those who have been connected with the commercial life tell us, despite all the show, trade is going down, and this is one of the principal causes. What a contrast one finds between the merchants of these days and days gone by? Then, they *worked* all round for their Houses, now the idea seems to be that so long as they strut about in their offices, and chiefly bully the native clerks who work away like niggers, and goods are landed, (steamers keep coming) and letters go 'home,' and some profits are shown what does it matter, if the traders having bought from them suffer on their way home, or what the Government would do against the interest of their Principals? But is this right, is it fair, remembering you are their Representatives, though paid Representatives. It seems to us, that there is this difference, because the merchants of those days were themselves interested in the firms,—partners, and nowadays it is not so. But it must be so, since Gold Coast, must prove to be the stepping stone not only for officials but for merchants also, who seek to be in favour of "the Court," not to be knighted, but to be "Honourable'd," and it is certainly a thing to be envied at even in a West African Colony, to be seen in the Society of the Representative of His Britannic Majesty and to be his "P. C."

This goes to explain the mysterious conduct of a good many natives as well but, pray, let us stop here! Are we not in a Crown Colony?

One thing, since the colour prejudice must live beyond the tomb and the merchant in England would naturally believe more in his colour and takes all he says for gospel truth, than in the native, no matter how much he may have killed himself for him and on his behalf (if the native can only have such confidence in his colour also) it will be much better that they send out experienced men, who have seen something of life and are likely to give some consideration to fitness and not colour to represent them, and not inexperienced *meas*, who may be invariably intoxicated with their unexpected positions, and leave undone what they ought to have done.

REUTER'S TELEGRAM.

Sept. 16—For the Aro expedition the following honours have been bestowed.—Major Festing C. M. G., Captains Hodgson, Hokeker, Carleton, Gillman, Graham, Rose Mayne, Goldie Knowles, Campbell and Thompson, the D. O. S.

The Government is giving an additional two millions of pounds to assist the distressed Britishers, Foreigners who were neutral, and the natives who suffered in the late war.

Sept. 17—The German Government has finally authorized the Concession Railway at the Cameroons.

There is a serious outbreak of rinderpest and glanders in South Africa which will hinder prosperity.

WANTED at this Office two reliable and good Compositors, they must be smart and sharp at setting.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.

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 Thursday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

The Gold Coast Leader. CAPE COAST, SEPTEMBER 20, 1902.

THE KING'S OATH AND ITS LESSONS.

BEYOND recording how the principal Towns in this Protectorate celebrated His Majesty the King's Coronation Day, we have not burdened our columns with any thing that took place in

England, in London itself, nor is this necessary, for every body has more or less enjoyed the elaborate, and minute accounts of the great historical event in English papers. From beginning to end the great functions of the Coronation time passed off in the happiest way. King Edward has been crowned amid a scene of splendour and magnificence such as has never been seen before by this generation, or indeed in the history of the English nation: and we the loyal and dutiful subjects of His Majesty in this part of his great Empire, most cheerfully and enthusiastically joined in the acclamation, "Vivat Edwardus Rex! Vivat Rex! Vivat Rex!"

In reading any of the accounts of the Coronation Day, there is one fact which more than all others presses itself upon our mind and that is, that the ceremony of the crowning of an English Sovereign is a most religious one—and, says Cowper:—

*Religion if in heavenly truths attired  
Needs only to be seen to be admired.*

In that admiration we, his West African subjects desire to have a share. If the ruling of a King who has passed through such a ceremony be not compatible with that ceremony then a large percentage is taken off from all that display leaving it a mere bauble. It will be well for the Representatives of his Dominions beyond the Seas to remember this.

Of all the events that took place in the Abbey on the Coronation Day there was none as important as the King's Oath: and His Majesty took that Oath irrespective of the races under his sway—if "the Dominions thereto belonging," mean anything. The aged Archbishop asked His Majesty, "Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the People of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on'.....Will you to your Power cause Law and Justice, IN MERCY to be extended in all your Judgments? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God....." To all this we are told the King replied in a voice full of manliness and power, in clear, full, resonant tones, *The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep.* Then he kissed the Book, and afterwards signed a parchment form of the Oath brought to him for that purpose by Lord Carrington. This is significant of much. Speaking as His Majesty's West African subjects (he having bound himself thus to all his subjects) yielding to none in our loyalty to his Throne, we claim the rights and privileges guaranteed to those subjects by these words—and we too will admire his Rule. Seeing that we also are his subjects, it must be given us to be his subjects in every thing and not in some things only.

But the onus of this, lies on his Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Governors sent out to administer the government of those Colonies. If these on assuming offices bind themselves by any oath to be true to the King in the discharge of his duties such as he has entrusted them with, then as gentlemen and men of honour, they should "maintain, perform and keep" that Oath conscientiously.

It is an open secret, that if all that is done and said in the name of the Sovereign, are known to him exactly as they are, or even to his Parliament, Greater Britain would be enjoying more peace, liberty and prosperity than what it is now their privilege to enjoy. The onus of the King's Oath then, as far as the Colonies are concerned lies on his Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Governors of those Colonies, and if these happen to be, gentlemen, honourable men and true, feeling the weight and responsibility of representing such a King of such a nation, our beloved Empire will certainly grow in extensiveness, wealth and prosperity without having any recourse to the Martini Henry, or the Gatlin gun, as far as the native is concerned though it may be otherwise with the civilized nations themselves in their scramble for "Sphere of influence." LONG LIVE KING EDWARD.

THE POLICE BILL.

Despite the repeated remarks that have appeared in these columns on the objectionable

conduct of the policemen stationed in this town one sees no change for the better. We are almost forced to conclude that the authorities are determined to take no notice of this glaring reprehensible behaviour of these so-called officers of peace, who seem to be nothing but a handful of men pledged to disturb and annoy the public and insult all decent and well-behaved persons.

The class of men now in the force is a disgrace to the government. Hausas and Wangaras of redoubtable repute and some Akims. The first two don't understand our language, nor, are they taught it—and all of them are not only ignorant of this part of our extensive and wide, wide "Colony" or Protectorate but hostile to the Fanti nation. To look at the men is to despise them. Their filthiness—person and dress—the stench one endures when close to them, is quite peculiar and seems reserved to only the Gold Coast Constabulary.

There seems to be no care or pains taken of these beings who stalk about our streets with an air of almightiness that reminds one of Robinson Crusoe—I am lord of all I survey, my power there's none to dispute. It is nonsense to say that mere mechanical drill is all that is required, and of even this goodness only knows how much of it they get and how much of it they know.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Superintendent Coppin is not the same now as he was when he first came and practically took the command. We have noticed a certain fall-off, a marked neglect of strictness to discipline and duty with his subordinates that we cannot understand. The way this model superintendent took up the police when he first came among us, and actually brought order out of chaos, commanded the respect and esteem of all classes of the community at large, and every body talked of and thanked "Mr. Coppin" for making the police behave well to the people and give no offence to passers-by. Strange to say, however, that the sow has returned to her mire, and that, with the very man at the helm. "A police force, like any other large body of men, is very much what its leaders make it," so writes an authority, and so it is. Our police are kept in crass ignorance of their duties. To see how they bring about, or foster rows, make mountains of mole hills, insult innocent and respectable persons, or those whom they might have justly and rightly apprehended when taking them to the police station is an INSULT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. Can't they be taught better? Why, only the other day some of them were creating a disturbance in the street and the D. C. himself had to ask them to go away, and they, not knowing him—"tell it not in Gath—were about to insult the D. C. who had to tell them "I am the Commissioner." What else do we want to prove the regrettable and deplorable state of the class of men we have as policemen? They do not know even the first man in this town—the representative of the Government—and they are not newcomers. Wonder of wonders! Why, we are ashamed to make this public. It is amusing to see them standing to attention and even presenting merchant clerks and some of the Mining Engineers in town. They don't know their own officers, these men. And then their "leaders," why dont they teach them? Why uphold and back them when in the wrong, as they almost always are? We have an Inspector of Police besides the Superintendent. Can it be that Mr. Coppin himself is handicapped? This man has given the public conclusive proof that he knows his duty—is he then denied a free hand in carrying it out? We fear so: and if that is the case, as is frequently is, when a whiteman who knows little or next to nothing about the duties of his department, is placed over a black official well up in his duty, the latter is generally made to know rather to feel, that he is nobody and must "take orders" and so forth, which invariably results in nothing being done, because the man to order, does not know what orders to give. The sad state of our police reflects badly on their Superior officers. People begin to doubt and justly so, the abilities of a schoolmaster, whose pupils always fail in examinations. To draw a salary is one thing—to do the duty for which the salary is drawn is quite another. We pay our Inspectors of Police decent salaries on the whole and we, therefore, expect them to do their duty, but to be romies in even what little of it, the very elementaries that they should know is not only a disgrace to themselves but a cheat to the public that pays them.

We want fairly intelligent, fairly principled and well-conducted men. Men of moral intelligences. And these when obtained should be simulated, trained, informed and utilised. The mode of enlisting men, the pay they get and the class of men from which they are recruited is such, as makes it impossible for any man of self-respect to join the force. Compared with the disciplined and trained

constabulary of the sister Colonies, the police of the Gold Coast cuts a bad figure and is at most a new creation.

SCRUTINEER.

Experience—we are told—is the best teacher. And what hard, trying and irritating lessons it often teaches! Of late we have been passing through the bitter experience of witnessing the administrative incapacities and obstinate persistency of governors sent to protect our lives and property.

In this connection it is forcibly remarkable that however good, impartial, conscientious, experienced and capable a governor may be reputed to be elsewhere, once he sets foot on our soil he either transforms or is transformed.

Some think they arrive with preconceived notions of the natives. Some think the shape of the emolument exercises a dire effect on their brains. Some think the distance of the territory from home is taken undue advantage of, since the distance coupled with calculated-to-convince despatches could always lend enchantment to the views of those at home. Whilst others consider they are transformed on their arrival here into other beings in thought and action, by some hard-working black and white flunkies, tale-bearers and Secret Societies whom all respectful and impartial men rightly qualify as blackguards and administration-spoilers.

Personally I am inclined to vote with the last thinkers, and were I a governor I would make it criminal for any of these wild spirits to appear near me they being dreadfully contagious that any personage associating with them, by hook or crook becomes infected by their vices.

Our lives are somehow protected though I doubt if it is done in the spirit as well as in the sense of the word. And let those who would pooch-pooch these observations do so in the light of such monstrosities as the "Compulsory Labour Ordinance," the kicking and flogging that had been going on at the railway-works—wherein we are told the European dignity of labour is taught; and the high-handed and savage actions of the Police. If protecting a subject's life means making it wearisome and not worth living, we then have protection indeed.

Means and pretensions have been sought to dispossess us of our properties, than to protect them. And the sentiment underlying these is COVETOUSNESS!

One governor imagines there are "unoccupied lands" which might be properly invested in the Crown. Another thinks all the lands in the Protectorate would be better administered by the Government, and though his immediate successor entirely disagreed with him going so far as to characterize his "Lands Bill" as too arbitrary and unnecessary for the natives to accept he on the other hand was suffering from a mania for regal prerogatives and was as eager to sit on a "golden stool" as Jason was to possess a Golden Fleece.

Governor Nathan now steps on the stage and initiates the doctrine that the Government must now distool all Kings and Chiefs who do not carry out its instructions. They are not to question the sanity, wisdom necessity and feasibility of instructions or orders but are to carry them out. In short, They are not to reason why

They are not to make reply  
They are to do or be distooled.

Such a doctrine! Emanating from a British administrator! And at this time of our existence. But as the "Crown Lands Bill" the "Lands Bill" and other monstrosities departed with their authors so surely will this doctrine depart with its author. Fairbill's will be the first and only one, no doubt.

But here the question arises, what satisfaction or recognition of services do the Kings and Chiefs receive that deserves all these troubles?

How long then are we to tolerate all this tomfoolery? How long shall we sit unconcerned whilst our villages and towns are being fished for railway works and settlement of whitemen? When our Kings and Chiefs are being distooled for daring to demonstrate to the Government that they are not only Allies of the King-Emperor but not conquered or colonised races? When our buildings are being demolished to create Parks for whitemen: and for compensation our lands are valued at one penny per foot? When our buildings are being unnecessarily undermined by capricious and quack Engineers in carrying out their so called public works, I ask how long are we going to suffer ourselves to be so oppressively ridden on?

To what measures are we going to resort for the redressing of these anomalies? Have we so soon forgotten or forsaken that ever-invincible weapon freely bequeathed to us by the good author of the "Lands Bill" and which we wield with such credit to wit, UNITY?

Prejudices, selfishness, ill-feelings and personal grudges are, I suppose, as necessary to life as sorrow and gladness, for all men are more or less ser-

vents of these vices. And in these vices we are not as bad as worse than other nations. But our only fault lies in carrying them to where they should not be.

They are disagreeable to Patriotism as fire is to powder.

Ought we therefore not to carefully avoid bringing these two combustibles together? For as fire and powder always bring destruction on their object, so do these vices and patriotism always end in failure.

Were a foreign foe to besiege this country who would be so prejudicial, selfish or traitorous as to appear undefensive? Yet we display these actions unwittingly in our every day political lives.

While others would spend and be spent for the averting of an encroachment on certain rights, others would be actually bruising the heels of those combating the evil, discouraging their efforts and attempting by all means to render abortive their patriotic aims.

Others having talent and sometimes the means or nice nerves would either supply "follow the crowd" or slumber in indifference. Others would go further and refrain from helping because he is not in terms with Kwame or Kofi one of them. And lastly another would not act as he was not invited—What a general conflagration sweeping on and may ultimately touch your house but would not help to extinguish it because your assistance has not been invoked!

These are some of the diseases that have been killing us so unmercifully. It is in our power to cure them and we should for oppression's sake.

Yours faithfully—A.TOO.

GOVERNOR HODGSON AT BARBADOS

Sir Frederick Hodgson, Governor of Barbados, is again in hot waters with the House of Assembly. Quite recently I referred to the discussion upon his arbitrary punishment of a policeman who, being no respecter of persons in the performance of his duty, conscientiously stopped the Governor himself from driving along a road which had been closed to all vehicular traffic by a regulation issued under his Excellency's authority. Now another hubbub has been raised by the following passage in the Governor's proclamation in the *Official Gazette* regarding the arrangements at a Coronation service in the Cathedral—

His Excellency will lead the procession into the Cathedral and will be followed in order of precedence; Officers of the Army and Navy will follow after the Chief Justice and before the Executive Council and will take their seats in the Choir...

There is quite as much touchiness upon questions of precedence among legislators and officials in the Colonies as among those at home, and in order to prevent unseemly squabbles the Colonial Office has made certain regulations by which Governors are enjoined to guide themselves. In these regulations, which are set forth in the Colonial Office List, positions are assigned to the officer commanding the troops in the Colony and the officer commanding the naval forces on the station, but is expressly laid down that, with those two exceptions, "no other military and naval officers have any place at all in the general table of Colonial precedence." It is clear from this table that the members of the Executive Council and of the House of Assembly should have followed the Chief Justice, and to put them behind all the officers of the Army and Navy in Barbados was a distinct breach of the regulations.

When the House of Assembly discussed this outrage upon its dignity, the Acting Attorney-General defended the course adopted by the Governor on the ground that the military and naval uniforms in the front of the procession would add to the brilliance of the spectacle. But who ever heard of official precedence being determined by aesthetic considerations? The House of Assembly, as might have been expected, refused to be appeased by the Governor's explanation and, by seventeen votes against three, passed a resolution, which was practically a vote of censure upon his Excellency for his contravention of the Colonial office regulation. Sir Frederick Hodgson is said to be most punctilious in the assertion of his gubernatorial rights and privileges. Judging, indeed, from his previous exploits in West Africa as well as in the West Indies, he would be the last man to consent to occupy a back seat at a public function for the sake of decorative effect and it shows his usual want of tact and judgment that he should have supposed the House of Assembly would submit to such a snub.—*Truth*, 21.8.02.

LADY DUDLEY'S BILL.

IT TOOK SEVEN MEN SEVEN WEEKS TO PUT UP FOUR DOORS.

Further marvellous disclosures about the ways

and methods of the British workman—when he is employed by West End firms—were made before Mr. Pollock, as referee, to-day, Georgina, Lady Dudley, it will be remembered, is being sued for a bill of over £10,000, by Mr. Bertram, a Soho house decorator, the bill for work done at No. 53 Grosvenor street.

The Countess has paid half the amount into Court, alleging that that sum is all Mr. Bertram is entitled to.

After the case had lasted for a week the official referee adjourned the case for several days as he was not well.

Three large wooden boxes full of bills and papers were taken into the Court to-day, and then Mr. Hume, who sub-contracted with Mr. Bertram for the plumbing, gave evidence. The matter under discussion was his "prime cost" charge of £1,032 for a work done.

He first admitted that out of forty-eight hours' work charged against Lady Dudley's account on October 28, 1898, four and a half were consumed in putting in a lavatory at 3, Prince's-gate.

Out of another forty one hours charged for plumber's work the said plumber had put in lavatories at quite another house—7, Summer's place.

This reduced the "prime cost" considerably; but it was further reduced when Mr. Brown got up, and admitted that in casting the account Mr. Hume had made a mistake of £30.

The official Referee: Which way is the error? Mr. Brown: In your favour Mr. Chitty said that he made no suggestion against Mr. Hume.

Peculiar as Mr. Hume's admission had been, they were not nearly so startling as what came out when Mr. Bessant gave evidence. Mr. Bessant is the gentleman who manages Mr. Bertram's carpentering department.

Mr. Chitty said that it had taken seven men seven weeks to put up four doors at No 53. Moreover all the "cutting" "moulding" and "mitring" connected with the doors had been by another firm! Mr. Chitty: "How could they take so long, Mr. Bessant?"

Mr. Bessant: "It would take me a long time to explain."

Mr. Chitty: "What another seven week?"

Ultimately Mr. Bessant did attempt to explain, and gave a little lecture on "mortises" and "mitrea."

He added that he thought the seven weeks quite a fair time.

During Mr. Bessant's evidence it also came out that each of the drawing room window took eighty-seven hours to fix, and those in the library 120 hours.

From statements made by council it appears that they intend to go on arguing the case for some time to come.

The case was adjourned. *Evening News*, 1.4.1901.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

Dear Sir,—Your "open letter" to our Kings in your issue of the 16th August calls to remembrance the fact that if our Kings show rigid impartiality in the administration of Justice we will all adhere to our own native courts instead of referring so often to that of the government. Take for instance the case of Niwill Kofie Kwaku Allotey, Messrs Swanzy's Factor at Manu (Wassaw District) which came on at King Enimill's Court at Benu. This trivial case arose through cricket playing. It happened that during the course of a play which was going on in some part of the village a ball accidentally hit a girl in consequence of which Niwill took it and refused to restore it notwithstanding the remonstrance and apologies of the whole team, adding that the Factor would not give goods on credit. He started at the same time abusing Allotey and on a brother of his questioning his right of abusing him and seizing the ball at the same time, he fell out with him and though lot of the elders of the place were standing by not one of them endeavoured to separate them. Mr. Allotey himself afterwards succeeded with the help of the foreigners in the village to restore peace and order. After this Mr. Allotey thought of writing his Boss at Sekondi about this occurrence, whereupon he was implored by the villagers not to take any legal proceedings. Nothing transpired till the next day when one of King Enimill's sword bearers came and informed him that he had been summoned by Niwill Kofi at Benu and that he was to attend the Court at 8 o'clock the next morning. Accordingly he attended the next morning but was not allowed even to state his case being ordered there and then to pay the sum of £10 17. 6 as costs. The youngster was thus extorted of his last penny. Well, there is no way to appeal and there the matter might probably end. I shall therefore be much obliged Mr. Editor, to have this inserted in your paper for the information and guidance of travellers in Wassaw District. I would now take the liberty of asking the "Aborigines Rights Protection Society" to advise our Kings in dispensing Justice among ourselves, blacks, to do same in the spirit of impartiality without any tribal prejudice whatever. Thanking you for space allowed.

Sekondi  
27.8.1902.

Yours truly  
J. H. CHANSON.

Sir,—Since the publication of your valuable paper I have been a constant reader and have read with much interest the instructive articles therein and as a son of the soil I feel it my duty to help in every way I possibly can.

First of all I must offer you my sincere and heart-felt congratulations on the noble efforts you have made to edit the paper and I wish the "Leader" all manner of good luck and support, and hope it will not share the fate of other papers which unfortunately failed, I presume, from want of funds.

Is it true, that on a certain town hall in Accra there is a notice placarded to the effect that "niggers and dogs are not admitted"? If it is true I can only say in the words of a great wit on a somewhat similar notice,

"Who e'er wrote this—hath writ it well"

For the same is written on the gates of Hell? Is it because of the colour of his skin? If so I must inform the writer of the said notice that we do not look to the skin but the brains and Education.

The educated African has on this Coast at all events held his own with the European and is gaining more and more the respect and consideration of the latter, of the right sort.

I remain, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
W. F. HURCHISON JR.

A DISPLAY IN THE SEKONDI-TARKWA RAILWAY.

Sir,—As a passenger in the above train to Tarkwa I was quite surprised at the conduct of certain policemen who could hardly utter a word in Fanti and whose general behaviour was very insulting to the rest of the passengers, barring Europeans, throughout the journey. To me it was incomprehensible why policemen should be allowed to offend the native passengers whilst they pay in common with Europeans the same fares. "Skin may differ but affections are all the same."

But what I really want to point out is the following display by the policemen in question which was annoying and high-handed in the extreme.—There was a certain passenger who in company with his boy joined the Train at Sekondi. It happened that a Essuanu the train halted for passengers and the man slipped down to urinate but on his return found that his boy had been thrashed by the policemen for no other reason than complaining that the seat one of them was occupying was for his master. In short they were masters of the situation and all the native passengers were at their mercy. And why should policemen endanger and make uncomfortable our lives even in a Train?

Thanking you for space allowed  
Yours truly,—J. BRAXTON JOHNSON.

Kotra Verchay Camp.  
via Tarkwa—10.8.02.

Sir,—I have an intention of writing to your paper as often as I can, and for the present I think I cannot do better than send you an extract of a speech delivered on the 28th of August last to the Headmen, Captains and people of Manu by D. C. Philbrick which runs as follows:—"You must clear your roads within a fortnight as, if I return by that time and find you have not done so you will be fined £50. Another thing I should like you all to turn your attention to is the new School which will be known as the Lower Wassaw School; I hope you will support it as much as it lies in your power. Formerly you were poor now you are all rich. Educate your little boys and the time will come when they will fill the offices of station masters—as this gentleman I have with me. So you see the advantage of Education for if this man had not the knowledge he could not have been here. I expect to receive a letter from the Governor before the instalment of your new Chief which I shall send to Cudjoe Bonful for your information. But the new Chief must be a good man and must also carry out instructions received from the Government."

Thanking you for space allowed.  
Manu  
29.8.02.  
Yours truly,  
A LISTENER.

Sir,—I am pleased to find some of the house owners at Saltpond Road intend to take the Jardine drain construction up more seriously than I thought.

I have it from a reliable source that they will either petition the Governor about it, or contest the case in Court. For my part, I hope they'll take the latter course. Mr. Jarbne has not only seriously endangered their houses, but also unquestionably encroached on private property. Won't it be a treat to get him in the witness box for five minutes to answer a question or two on drains? Oh my!

I said in my last letter that the poor man is going from to worse and so he is, for I find he has stopped the plastering of the mud drains of his, just by Grant House remarking that "the people of Cape Coast, do not deserve any consideration." What on earth is the matter with this man—can't he see, he is ruining himself? He has instructions to plaster (with cement) the whole length of his drain, supposing it to be allowed to remain as it is, yet, because his hand-work is complained about he is actually disobeying his superior officer's orders and apparently does not care a d—, for isn't he Jardine and who can call him to account.

Of course, no one—and none knows that better than himself, hence the ducks and drakes he is playing with private property. Poor Gold Coast, any thing will do for her, and a sarline is as good as a sole—but we will see, if this is to continue for long.

Sept. 1902.  
Yours truly  
NARDINE.

# The Gold Coast Leader.

VOL. 1.  
No. 14.

CAPE COAST, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1902.

Price 3d.  
Including postage 4d.

THE GOLD COAST LEADER.  
PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS.

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For copies of the paper please apply to the Stores of MR. JAMES E. ARTHUR, at Chapel Square, and at Intin Street.

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The undersigned begs to inform the Public, that he is prepared to attend patients, in his or their own houses on applying to him. He has in his possession certificates from patients he has treated, which may be seen on application and he begs further to refer them to George Hughes Esq. (photographer) and Mr. J. W. Idun.

ROBERT EGAY  
Native Doctor.

KAWANUPADU.  
Cape Coast, 19. 8. 1902.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

In the matter of the Estate of  
JACOB WILSON SEY, (Deceased.)

Pursuant to an Act passed in the 22nd. and 23rd. years of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria intitled "An act to further amend the Law of real property and to relieve Trustees."

NOTICE is hereby given that all creditors and other persons having or pretending to have any claim or demand upon or against the Estate of JACOB WILSON SEY late of Cape Coast and Anamaboe in the Gold Coast Colony who died at Cape Coast aforesaid on or about the 22nd. day of May in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and two and whose last Will and Testament with three Codicils thereto annexed was on the 1st day of August 1902 proved in the Supreme Court of the Colony aforesaid by Andrew William Parker, William Edmund Pietersen, Richard Acquah Harrison and Robert Cann, the Executors named in the said Will are hereby required to send in particulars of their claims and demands in writing to the undersigned at Westgate Chambers, Chapel Square, Cape Coast in the aforesaid Colony on or before the 31st day of March 1903 at the expiration of which time the executors of the said Estate will proceed to pay and distribute the assets of the said Testator or any part thereof having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice.

And all persons indebted to the said estate are required to make immediate payment to the undersigned at Westgate Chambers, Chapel Square aforesaid.

Dated at Cape Coast this 22nd day of September 1902.

C. J. BANNERMAN,  
Solicitor for the Executors.

VOS & WAGNER,—HAMBURG,

The German Company.

The public may have warning that the Firm of Messrs Vos & Wagner Liverpool has become bankrupt: this English Firm was an entirely separate concern, she was capitalised by her owner Mr. Herman Willem Vos and there were no mutual liabilities: the business principles of this English concern were such that we were compelled already a year ago to call in the law for cessation of the name Vos & Wagner.

We in Hamburg are carrying our business on as hitherto under the style of Vos & Wagner the German Company Hamburg, Germany and we shall continue giving satisfaction entirely to every body.

For further particulars apply to

H. C. DERX

Representative of Vos & Wagner,  
Perseverando Chambers, Elmina.

## GENERAL NEWS.

Last Saturday as we go to press, a hideous noise in town announced the fact that the highway man we spoke of has been caught, by some men coming from the bush.

A boy got drowned last Sunday afternoon.

The Colonial Cemetery at the Elmina Road is quite overgrown. We call the D. C.'s attention to it.

Judge Nicol is here from Axim for the appeal Court. His Honour will probably proceed on from here to his new sphere of labour.

The appeal Court fixed for the 25th has been postponed Sir William Brandford, the Chief Justice

not having arrived from Accra yet.

Chief Coker returned home by the *Nigeria*, last Tuesday morning. He had a splendid reception from his bandmen and workmen.

We learn that Mr. Superintendent Coppin, succeeded the other day, in getting one of the Derbyville burglars to show him where he hid his portion of the money stolen: but it cost him dearly.

Amanquah, a nephew of the late Prince John Ansah died suddenly at Abowinim last Tuesday.

The Moree people are having their annual custom.

We learn that the Bentsira are now not only claiming, that portion of Kawanupadu over which they had a law-suit with the late Mrs. Smith, and which they lost, but all the other portion too known as Amankrah's land, where the Kwofiea, Hughes, and Acquah's Hotel are.

Is it not likely that it is going to be *Etasin dudu* a *otuto* with these men?

The skull of a man, unearthed in Kansas, is pronounced by scientific men to be 35,000 years old.

Burns once said that "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

It was Hugh Stowell Brown who in his lecture on "Fair Play" said—Of the many virtues in the practice of which Englishmen are apt to think that they excel all other nations on the face of the earth, "Fair Play" is one.....and everything unfair John Bull is in the habit of denouncing as "un-English."

"The English love of fair play" is a favourite phrase for the Englishman; if so, then,

The things that we see and the things that we hear

Are un-English you know, quite un-English you ken.

The King of Beyin is in town.

Mr. Giles Hunt once a D. C. of Axim is in town. We understand he is practising in the Protectorate as a private Solicitor.

It is reported from Axim that the barque *J. A. Garfield* which wrecked a few weeks ago there has been purchased by Mr. Sam for £800.

£300, it is said has been recovered out of the amount robbed from Derbyville.

Number of deaths this week is registered at 7.

## TARKWA

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

In accordance with the notice placarded from the Colonial Secretary's office the lands in Tarkwa were sold by public auction on the 22nd July after due notice had been given to the owners to quit from their houses and payment of compensation also made. Three or four days after, the houses were all set on fire and burnt to the ground; those who were slow to remove to the new station granted by the Government had to suffer severe damages by the fire. Of course for the new site given by the Government the people are to pay taxes. A house that contains four rooms and a hall the occupier is to pay £3 a year whilst a similar house was valued by the Government as its worth, 20/- compensation.

Tacquah and Abosso Gold Mining Co. which was for sometime the most important Mining Co. in the district and which stopped working have once more started.

Through the introduction of the Diamond Drill which is of American manufacture the Effuanta Mines Ltd. have been making steady and progressive prospecting work.

There is an action between Ex-Chief Kwamina Faibill as plaintiff and Essel Cudjo his successor on the Apimiso stool as defendant in recovery of the Apimiso stool. The case is before His Honour Mr. Justice Nicol in the Axim Court. Both parties with the paramount King and his Regent have left for Axim.

Chief Kwamina Bassyin of Mansu on the recommendation of his people has been put off the stool for drunkenness and bad behaviour; his successor has been recommended to the Government and will be entooled in due time.

The Concession Court at this place is being closed

as His Honour Mr. Justice Percell is due to leave the Colony within a fortnight, meantime all Concessions before him in this Court are once more transferred to Axim Divisional Court and the Tarkwa Court, closed. The Court here was opened sometime in April this year by Mr. Justice Percell and over 200 concession claims have been dealt with and the usual Survey Order granted. The system adopted by His Honour the Judge I believe is the simplest way that should the other Courts adopt same more work would be done than at the present. When once a Chief comes to Court after having been notified to attend in an enquiry for one claimant, after dealing with the particular enquiry on account of which he came, the Court proceeds to take his evidence in all the other cases he is supposed to be the grantor, after this is done, the Court then grants the Survey Order conditionally pending the full settlement by the claimant of all rents and consideration money which may appear in evidence to be owing by the claimant including the Court fees if any, then the Order is handed him. In this way the Court thereby relieves the Chief from travelling up and down over and over again. Of course when there arises any opposition or disputes with regards to the area of the concession or any misunderstanding the Court adjourns the enquiry *sine die*.

**SEKUNDI.**

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

His Honour Mr. Justice Percell, Lawyers Crowther Nicol, Ross and Blease with Mr. Registrar Dadson arrived from Tarkwa on the afternoon of 1st instant with the train for the Sekondi Assizes which was opened on the 2nd at 8.30 a. m. precisely. The calendar consisted of nine criminal cases which contained 20 prisoners. Except two cases of burglary the whole cases were for stealing. Mr. Barrister Nicol appeared in three cases for defence and Mr. Ennis the Assistant D. C. was for the Crown. In one of the cases *Hex v. George Wilson* who was charged with stealing a quantity of gun powder belonging to the Gold Coast Government Railway at Essansa, His Honour the Judge in summing up the case for the Jury stated *inter alia* that a gentleman is neither black nor white man, rich or poor, literate or illiterate but what King David of old has defined in his 15th Psalm; in saying this he took a copy of the Common Prayer Book and read the verses out very solemnly.

The juryman after retiring, returned with the verdict of "not guilty" and prisoner discharged. I may say this prisoner is a very respectable gentleman of high standing in the Railway employment as chief clerk.

The assizes were closed on Friday the 5th instant and the Judge and suits returned to Tarkwa.

**ELMINA.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. D. C. O'Brien with two other officials passed here on the 12th instant en route for British Komenda to make further enquiries into the Essamor-Yawan case. It is stated that of the five native Companies of Komenda, only No. 5 and part of No. 3 are against Yawan's authority. The D. C. returned to Cape Coast on the 22nd, having, we are told, left a guard of a few policemen at the place to maintain order.

Several persons, about twenty in number were summoned and fined from 5 to 10 a head, at D. C.'s Court on the 23rd by Dr. Browne, for having neglected to cover up their water casks with tarpaulin in accordance with the *Mosquito doctrine*. Dr. Browne, like a person who is seldom in command has the reputation of carrying his iron away with a high hand. We have on record certain fines which were ordered by the head of the judicial department to be refunded when he was last acting as D. C.

Mr. Superintendent Coppin paid a flying visit here last Tuesday.

**WINNEBAH.**

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Reading your Correspondent's article in the Sept. 5th issue on the unreasonable seizure of fish by the King of Elmina from fishermen for going to fishing against his orders it becomes necessary for me to apologise to you for not having communicated to you before now that Winnebah fishermen are also experiencing the same sort of thing.

The facts which have brought the Winnebah trouble are, that, as most of your readers will remember, not very long ago the King of Winnebah (*Akwadzi*) went to law with Prince H. J. Gharley (son of the late King Gharley of Fanti. Consideration fame) the former challenging the latter's title to two vast pieces of land which the latter had acquired some years previously. The case evoked a large amount of general interest for various reasons, such as the importance of the site, the amount claimed for mesne profits (over £1000) and the number of adherents each side appeared to be possessed of.

Your readers might further remember that such

little pains did the Winnebah public take to hide its indignation and contempt for one side and sympathy with the other and so widespread was the ebullition of public feeling which the case called into play owing to the importance of the issues at stake, that at one time the Authorities feared a breach of the peace was imminent and took their precautions accordingly. I do not ask your readers to recall to mind the details of the trial as the less said of them the better. It will be sufficient to say that His Honour the Chief Justice saw through the dodge and found that it was more the impulse of the Concessions fever than a sense of public duty which had prompted the bringing of the action. The net result was, the King not only lost his suits but found that he was "in" for Prince Gharley's costs, the exact amount of which I am not certain of but which certainly resolved itself into a princely sum of some three figures. Other costs had to be reckoned with, such as solicitors' charges &c (Mr. F. A. Dove being for the plaintiff and Mr. T. Hutton Mills for the defendant) and in the end a most miserable one became the lot of the poor "Winnebah fisherman" for though the King is said to have paid up in the first instance he is in hopes of getting reimbursed by this personage.

The Winnebah fisherman is supposed to be of the most influential and the most enlightened class in the town and is supposed to have been the one to give full authority, consent and every other impetus to the King to raise the action, and of course the fertile and speculative brain of the Winnebah fisherman is supposed to have originated the scheme of action, for his intelligence is superb. Any how he is quietly "stumping up" on the whole except in some cases when he gets cross for no reason at all and refuses to pay up, then he is prohibited from patrolling his favourite haunts for fish, and he expressly forbidden visiting his own beloved nets at sea. Should he allow himself to be caught contravening this ambiguous order he is liable to a heavy fine.

An instance occurred lately in which a man contravened this order and his canoe was seized; but the King has afterwards found it wise to let go his prey seeing the "woods were being stirred," and signs of a storm were evidently not wanting.

The opinion expressed by your Elmina Correspondent on the policy involved in these seizures is fully shared in over this way and his questions are certainly worth answering by our Native Potentates who order these seizures and who, we expect ought to have the courage of their convictions.

Were each Winnebah or Elmina fisherman to neglect paying these "taxes" how are those of the community who care for fish to exist considering fishing is prohibited? This little question might be added to the others for Their Majesties to ruminant upon, and speak out.

Mr. C. C. Lamptey the customs officer here, has been superseded for an alleged neglect of duty.

The Eason Street leading to Salaga needs some attention.

**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Mr. Crankson's letter which appeared in our last issue on the court fees of our Kings and Chiefs, needs the careful consideration of all parties concerned. The usual complaint of the people which makes them prefer the Magistrate's Court to those of the native kings, is the fleecing of some of these courts of the parties that may appear before them. The procedure at these native courts is what, of course, the native can more intelligently follow. If our kings and their courtiers will only ask for reasonable fees, allowing impartiality to have its full play, we think one out of every ten cases which go to the courts of law will never be there.

In some courts the fees are reasonable, and the nature of the cases determine them, while in others it would seem that the object of the courtiers is more of money-making than the restoration of peace and order. Whatever these charges or fees used to be, as "Times are changing" and we with them there should be some prudence in determining them.

The writer suggests that the *Aborigines Society* should take up the matter, and see that there be some uniformity at the courts of our kings as far as this is practicable. But it cannot be denied that owing to the undue influence of the Authorities, these native courts have lost a good deal of their prestige. The people do not respect their kings and chiefs as it used to be—a by, subjects have been known taking their kings not even to the Supreme Court but to the D. C.'s. In fact this question involves us in a subject we cannot do justice to at present.

Mr. Listener's correspondence also makes a revelation which needs a careful consideration at the hands of those of us who have been born and bred in the littoral towns of this colony, or who have spent the greater portion of our lives in them. The Wassewa are interesting themselves in Education. Thanks to the efforts of a certain prominent native, and the speech of Mr. D. C. Phulbrick. If all

D. C.'s will do this, it will go a long way to help on the education of the Country.

Say what you will, Education is about the most important factor in the making of a Country, and and yet at this time of the day, you can hardly find a place where educational matters are at a more disadvantage than this. Hitherto the people have left the education of the country entirely in the hands of the Government and the Missionaries, the former you now find are doing all they can to discourage education—their Schools are not to go beyond Standard V reading, writing, and arithmetic of some sort but be the teaching; and the Missions—take the Wesleyans, for instance, who have taken the lead in educational matters, they have all their Schools without a single exception, on the down grade. The amount of correspondence from Axim right down to Winnebah that have reached this office on this subject reveals such a state of things, one can with great difficulty give credence to.

A country with its educational affairs in such a condition is sure to come to grief, though it may be flooded with millionaires and all sorts of money-makers. Then the youngsters, who have had adieu to the School room, and those gradually creeping into *MANHOOD*, these, what are they doing for self-improvement and better equipment for the Battle of Life? When one looks around him, and sees what he sees what does he discover? Enough to throw a deep cloud of pessimism over whatever optimism he may possess. The thoughtful can only sit and sigh, and hope against hope.

There may be a silver lining in our educational affairs yet. It sent a thrill of joy into us the day when one whom we have known to have said some of the worst things that can be said against education (and is this possible) a devotee at the shrine of Mammon, remarking "after all Education is the thing." "If others also can see this," we said. While other countries are making rapid strides in educational matters, encouraged by their Government and Missionaries, and PEOPLE, we sit and bemoan our own.

Young man! for your own sake, think. Parents and guardians, never more let the exception be the rule with you. Kings, Chiefs and People, it has been said "a little learning is a dangerous thing," and if you want a proof of this, look around you! In the name of all that looms before us in the near future, for better or for worse, let us appeal to you on behalf of EDUCATION.

**REUTER'S TELEGRAM.**

- Sept 22—Lord Salisbury is ill at Switzerland. The martial law has been repealed at the Cape. There is some anxiety at the Natal, there being some unrest among the Zulus.
- The Boxers have massacred a number of Christians at Szebbwan.
- Lord Salisbury's indisposition is slight.
- Their Majesties are to make a royal progress throughout the streets of London on the 25th proximo.
- The Peary and Sverdrup expeditions have both returned neither of them having beaten very much further to the north.
- Sverdrup has made a record, having been ice bound since 1898.
- The Queen of the Belgians is dead.
- Sept 24—Their Majesties are to attend a Coronation Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's on the 26th proximo.
- A false alarm at a negro Baptist Church in Alabama created a panic, 115 persons were killed including three preachers.

**WANTED** at this Office two reliable and good Compositors, they must be smart and sharp at setting.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

- Intelligent correspondence on matters of interest touching the welfare of the Country is invited.
- We do not however hold ourselves responsible for the views or opinions that may be expressed by our correspondents.
- 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 Thursday.
- Rejected communications cannot be returned.
- Communications to which replies may be expected must be accompanied with Stamps.

**The Gold Coast Leader.**  
CAPE COAST, SEPTEMBER 27, 1902.

**WHAT IS THE ABORIGINES SOCIETY?**

WHAT sort of a Body is the Gold Coast

Aborigines Rights Protection Society?" This is the question asked by the Special Correspondent of our esteemed contemporary *West Africa* on the Gold Coast in his letter of April last, and he replies—"It is a Society that was solemnly and regularly called into being about 1897 in accordance with native laws and custom by the exigencies of the times." The italics are our own. This is quite true; if the late Governor Maxwell had not taken up the land question with the arbitrariness of a Turkish despot and so roused the country, there would be no Aborigines Society to-day: but a greater evil than that of the land question threatens the country at this moment. A greater evil because a more subtle one—the axe is laid at the root of the tree and is being doggedly used, albeit in such a subtle manner that ere we know where we are, the tree would have been felled without the ghost of a possibility of its existing again. The greater evil is, the undue, uncalled for, and unnecessary interference of the Government with the immemorial rights of our Kings and Chiefs. The disgraceful policy—to call it by a very mild name—which the British Government invariably pursues among natives of the countries within their sphere of influence, namely, that of disintegration, setting one Chief especially a minor, against another Chief or a King, and siding with one of them whom they have previously got round by presents and sweet words to foolishly believe his interest is dearer to them, and thus creating discontent, restlessness, and rivalry, with all the evils that attend them, where all was peace, quietness and order, and so step in as peacemakers (!) and rid both parties of their power over their people and gain the ascendancy—this shameful, disgraceful policy which, in a large measure has weakened the Fanti nation, in fact the whole of the Gold Coast is being pursued more nakedly, and recklessly and with barefaced and more determined steps than hitherto: nor is the reason far to seek.

We say this is a greater evil than the "Lands Bill" that called into existence the *Aborigines Rights Protection Society*, greater because its aim is to disunite us, to destroy the authority of our Kings and Chiefs, to shatter the whole constitution of the people. Take the latest instance of this pharisaical peacemaking business of theirs—the Kommenda misunderstanding. By what right has the Governor taken the action he has, telling Essandor King of the Nkusu-kooms not to go again to Kommenda which is, and has been from time immemorial a portion of his own kingdom—in other words that he has no longer any authority over Kommenda, these very Kommendas with whom he has fought many a battle side by side as their king and together as allies of the British Government, and that simply because King Essandor on hearing of a dispute between Wewan, his minor king at Kommenda and his people, goes to settle matters between them; but Wewan who is widely known to be one of those discontented or made-to-be discontented and quarrelsome Kings being clearly in the wrong, dares to refuse Essandor's order to appear before him, and rushes to the Government who are backing him to assert his false independence, and Essandor complains of his conduct to the government.

## WHY WE COMPLAIN.

### EDUCATION.

#### I.

In the instructions issued by Her Majesty to Major Stephen John Hill, Governor and Commander in Chief of this country, in 1851, and bearing date 1st April, 1851, it was provided in paragraph XI that the Governor should, to the utmost of his power promote Education amongst the native inhabitants of the settlement and its Dependencies.

It is forty one years since these Instructions were issued, and issued not only for execution by Major Hill, as Governor, but of all who *ex-officio* should be called upon to administer the affairs of the settlement. This in fact is provided in the Instructions. But what do we find? Nothing whatever commensurate with the needs of the inhabitants of the settlement has been done. For a population estimated at a million and half there are provided but two schools which we are told, afford instruction to a thousand pupils. The ratio is as one to a thousand and five hundred, and where such an extraordinary number is educated and shares the direct care of the Government, can we expect civilisation and enlightenment to grow in the country? The existence of assisted schools, which the Government aids according to results, forms no justification to

the Government why it should shirk off its duty and not perform it creditably. If anything, it ought to be an incentive to the Government to perform its part and this is primarily its duty. But let us turn to other Colonies to see what is the state of things with regard to education. Mauritius which is a Crown Colony like ours, having about the same constitution, has, besides a Royal College for higher education, 71 schools which the Government entirely supports. Besides these, there are denominational assisted schools (76) under the patronage of the Government. The provision in the Government schools is for 7,880 pupils out of a population of 429,302; nearly four times less than that of this country. The total expenditure on Education in 1889 was Rs 413,147, and there are 356 masters and mistresses employed.

The case of Trinidad is even more satisfactory and worthy of notice. The population is 196,172 but for this a provision is made for the instruction of 7,156 pupils and besides the Queen's Royal College, training colleges for male and female teachers, there are in the Island 65 schools supported entirely by the governing power. These are of course exclusive of Government assisted schools which are in number 111. The staff of masters and other instructors number 249 (Colonial Office List 1891).

In this country however there are not more than two Government schools as previously mentioned, and the Government assisted schools do not number more pupils than those in Trinidad with a population eight times less than that of this colony, or in Mauritius. The expenditure on Education is only £3,905 as compared with Rs 413,147 of Mauritius. (We do not give the amount of Trinidad as we should because we fail to see it in the Colonial Office List where we have picked up the amount for Mauritius).

If it be said that the Revenue of the two colonies is higher than that of this colony, it will nevertheless be found that difference in the revenues does not account for all the difference in the respective provisions made. The revenue of Trinidad is about 2½ times more than that of this country, and if the provisions made had respect to the proportion of Revenue this colony should have at least one-third the number of schools in Trinidad twenty one.

It is in fact a shame to see the complacency with which the Government of this country folds its hands, and looks to private philanthropic efforts to educate the people under its rule, plod wearily along the path of raising them from their ignorance and superstitions, under the great disadvantages which want of funds entails, when the people are perpetually contributing funds by means of which they may be elevated through the disadvantages of Education. The Government does not seem to recognise its duty in this respect (if it does in other respects) but whether it does or not, this is its obligation. We want a large provision made for the education of the people we do not want the simplest elementary instructions, as has obtained hitherto, but the highest Education (including Industrial) which a Government can give.

When we charge the administration with neglecting the interests of the community and only painfully careful to collect a revenue which it enjoys, the charge is repudiated, and it is represented that our complaints are groundless, and are the outcome of a discontented spirit that is never satisfied, but is ever garrulous and cavils where it ought to be quiet. But we submit, here is a clear case of deliberate neglect. And the late Mr. Eiloart takes this unassailable and unanswerable position in his *Land of Death*. "The Governors keep the Colonial Office as much as possible in the dark and what little light comes to the Colonial Office never finds its way to Parliament," and he asks the question: "Then..... if the Government do not educate... do not suppress disease and do not make roads, what do they do?" They draw their pay, and this is the position we think any one outside the official circle, who looks impartially into the affairs of the colony and protectorate will come to take.

We say the disproportion between the provision made in this country for the education of its thousands or millions and that made in the colonies above cited is so great, that whatever the government shall urge as extenuating circumstance, it can with justice be stigmatised as recreant to its acknowledged duty and unfaithful to its obligations.—*Gold Coast People*, 29.8.02.

## THE D. C. AND THE CRICKETERS.

The following letter has been sent out to Cricketers by Mr. D. C. O'Brien: all things considered, it is a very interesting edict, with all the pomposness his position can lead to it:—

District Comr's Office  
Cape Coast Castle  
17. 9. 02.

Gentlemen—I beg to inform you that I have fixed the following days for cricket on the parade ground.

For European Cricket Club Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

For natives, School boys and Native Clubs, Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

I have informed the European of these days.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. O'BRIEN,—D. C.

To Headmaster

Government School  
Catholic School  
Wesleyan Grammar School, Secretaries,  
Native Clubs.

Possibly as it stands, there is no harm in such a circular letter, and yet if we look carefully at it there is a good deal. No doubt, the athletic exercise which Swanzy's Christlieb displayed on the grounds the other day has occasioned this, for our D. C. has been with us long enough to issue out such a proclamation, and he has not done so till now. The objection we have against this letter is, we consider the matter entirely out of the jurisdiction of Mr. O'Brien, a D. C. he may be: if there had been any necessity for this, it could have been easily arranged by the Secretaries of the European and Native Clubs. We do not think the D. C. should compromise his position which he does, in such matters, that will be belittling his responsible position. A public recreation ground must be utilized as such, and all who find their need for it, at any time on any day, have a right to go upon it—European or Native without any fixture of days. It is this sort of things that breeds discontentment and foster race prejudice: from time immemorial, European or Native players have been seen enjoying a match without any hitch. D. Cs have been joining in it: at no time was it found necessary to fix days, unless we are to be told it was left for the present D. C. to do that. Comparatively speaking some finer and better cricketers (European) Naval, Military and civilian have come and gone, and they were quite at home with the native players. It shows how the tide is turning, and the very person to whom we shall turn when we have occasion to think we are being wronged, is the party who after consulting the other side only, pins us down to certain days. Cycling like cricketing is a very healthy exercise: are we to look forward to the day also when the D. C. shall issue out another circular telling the native-cyclists what days to ride, and what days they are not? Can the Governor himself, whom he represents do this? Tush, he is not going to waste his valuable time over this. If our D. C. will see that the pond is opened, or the market shed for the poor women set up, and a hundred other things pressing demanding his magisterial attention be attended to he will confer a more beneficial boon on his subjects. The present one we think goes off the tangent. If it is thought that this is done for peace and quietness sake, we fear it will have the opposite effect.

Of course we know the D. C. can do anything, but our English Histories tell us, that even in England they have a limited monarchy, and therein lies her power.

Saturday, one of the days fixed for the Europeans is usually the day here for matches and other games, it's a half holiday, as we all know and the only day available for great matches: in accordance with this inexorable law, all else must give way to a European cricket match! This is rank selfishness, and an undue advantage taken of the natives who form by far the greater portion of His Worship's 'subjects.' Sometime ago, we heard that Sir William Maxwell, our late Governor had given, the Accra cricketers a place in the neighbourhood of Victoriaburg for cricketing; we, as Secretary of a Native Club, took advantage of one of his visits here, and asked him to have the parade ground extended and properly laid out for cricketing, for all who enjoy the game, School Boys including His Excellency, personally inspected the place one evening (we saw him do this ourselves) to see what could be done, and was in every way disposed to grant us our request, but the next day a reply came, that he regretted his inability to do anything in the matter, because the then D. C. could not recommend it, and this D. C. gave it out as his reason (not to the Governor, of course not) for not recommending it, that we did not send our application through him. If he had thought less of self, and more of his European and Native cricketers, there would have been sufficient room for all of us to-day. How some people abuse their position, thinking no doubt they will be there always. What a plight both the Axim cricketers and those they came to play would have been in, if they had met Mr. D. C. O'Brien's letter in full force. We hope His Worship will re-consider his mistake, for it will serve as an official action to discourage the natives about the proposed park taking Mr. Christlieb's for the civilian.

## SCRUTINEER.

A few weeks back I had the occasion of remarking forcibly on the autocratic system of administration that prevails here. The matter is of such vital importance that it should, above all considerations, engage the utmost attention of all loyal natives and especially the Aborigines Society.

Indeed, the question had been one brought before the Colonial Secretary of State without any success, but the Society ought not to despair but consider that no great reform has been ever accomplished without numerous drawbacks and disappointments, and that these do in no way whatever spell relinquishment.

We are all well aware of the number of years spent, amount of talent displayed, sufferings, public oppositions and personal tribulations endured even from their own countrymen, by such great Leaders of men as Simon de Montford, William Wilberforce and a host of others in effecting such memorable and beneficial reforms as the present "Constitution of England" the "Abolition of Slave trade" &c.

And it must ever be borne in mind that until we have a full voice in the administration of the Government, a control over its finance and a regulation over the appointment of its officials there would ever be, No Peace! No Improvement! No Liberty!

A form of responsible Government as that in vogue in South Africa and other British self-governing Colonies is what we desire and must have if we would only work in unity. For in Unity is strength and where there is a will there is a way, even if it leads to the grave.

In the Report of the Deputation that waited on Mr. Secretary Chamberlain in 1898 the following reply is reported to have been received on the question of representation:—In view of the many grave objections to the proposed change in the constitution of the Gold Coast Mr. Chamberlain is unable to hold out any prospect of his being able, even if he received the Petition through the Governor to advise Her Majesty to accede to it (vide Report pp 15).

Now, this obviously betrays the fact that Mr. Chamberlain was in no way indisposed to "accede" to the "Petition" for representative Government but "in view of many grave objections," though what these "objections" might be he never divulged so as to grant our representatives the advantage of contending the unreasonableness thereof. Probably the Right Honourable Gentleman always takes these "objections" and like reports as conclusive. What a strange and unsafe policy!

The administration of the Colonies and Protectorates under the sway of Downing Street is evidently guided by 'Despatches,' and the Secretary of State exercises his judgments and tactics by them. But why should there be any other way of getting at Colonial public opinion than through these and European casual visitors, hypocritical missionaries, Utopian writers and after dinner orators it is impossible to say.

There is a way of getting at public opinion in this part of the world, as it is in England, and that is through our Journals. The Secretary of State in Downing Street therefore, has an easy way of learning the opinions, the requirements and grievances of his Negroes and of granting us the advantage of viewing his reputed championship of the much troubled negro. Yours faithfully—Ato.

## AMONG THE CHURCHES.

### THE CATHOLIC.

We understand that the Rev. Father Lang Pro Vicar of the Catholic Mission here has been appointed to succeed Bishop Pellet as Vicar Apostolic of Benin (Lagos). He is titular Bishop of Paracelis in Asia Minor, and Vicar Apostolic of this Mission. He has decided to be consecrated in Lagos and the ceremony will D. V. take place about November when Bishop Pellet of Retimo, at present Vicar general of the Society of African Missions in Lyons, France, assisted by the Bishops of Elmina (Gold Coast) and Porto Novo (Dahomey) will perform the ceremony. *Lagos Standard* 3. 9. 02.

The Rev. Fathers Peter and Berg visited Chama on the 19th inst. They held Mass at 8 a. m. on Sunday morning at the premises of the West African Gold Mining Corporation Ltd. Father Peter was the preacher, Mr. J. E. Anah interpreting. There was service held in the afternoon also at 4 p. m. which was largely attended.

There are no fewer than 11,000 rooms in the Vatican at Rome and many of them never receive a ray of sunlight.

### CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Christ Church extension work is getting on very well.

The Rev. N. H. Boston has returned to Accra, the chaplain being still away. Mr. Britton as usual proving a worthy substitute.

The *Rock* says that the rumour of the impending retirement of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Temple) has no foundation.

Dean Bradley of Westminster Abbey has retired. It is said that St Paul's Cathedral is in a perilous state.

Mr. Eugene Stock, Editorial Secretary of the Church Missionary Society has been married to the Hon. Mrs. Finnes.

One of the suggested intercessions for this month by the Bishop of Rochester is, "That those who bear the English name in South Africa may not dis-

honour it by intemperance, avarice, and evil living."

### METHODIST

The Superintendent Minister Rev. Parker, visited Morsee last Sunday.

Messrs. Barton and Gush were amongst those received into full connection at the last conference.

Rev. Findlay who passed down to Lagos sometime ago has been received into the Legal Hundred.

The Jubilee School Jubilee that suffered during the rains, is being repaired.

According to Stations of Wesleyan Ministers confirmed by the Manchester Conference, the Preachers for Cape Coast are, Thomas Hannah, Educational Department, George Walker, Andrew W. Parker, James B. Graham, African Ministers: Supt Robert G. Jones.

We infer from this that Mr. Barton is not to come out again.

Rev. David Hincheliffe is not coming out again. At a meeting for returned missionaries held at Bolton he pathetically declared "I shall see those dear people no more".

It will not be a bad idea if the adherents of the above churches make it their duty to read some of the principal papers of their churches: it will be to them as an eye-opener. We recommend *The Catholic Times*, *The Church Times* or *The Rock* and *The Methodist Recorder* or *Times*.

## GOVERNOR HODGSON AND THE POLICEMAN.

Sir Frederick Hodgson, whose foolish Quest of the Golden Stool brought about the last war in Ashanti, is now Governor of Barbados. It will be remembered that Sir Frederick, when Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, made a speech to the chiefs at Kumasi in which he told them, in effect, that they must look upon him as their King and give up the Golden Stool. In the West Indies, as in West Africa, the attributes in sovereignty are being claimed for (if not by) this redoubtable official. The Barbados House of Assembly recently discussed the action of the Governor in having a policeman punished by fourteen days' confinement to barracks. It appeared that on the occasion of the opening of an exhibition, police regulations were made, with the authority of the Governor himself, prohibiting all vehicular traffic along certain roads. The Governor drove upon one of these closed roads, and the policeman, being no respecter of persons, obeyed his orders and turned the carriage back.

In defence of the Governor's action an attempt was made to show that the man was punished, not for stopping his Excellency's carriage, but for doing so in a clumsy and stupid manner.

The Acting Attorney General seems, however, to have recognised that this explanation was a little weak, and he went on to enunciate the extraordinary doctrine that the Governor in Barbados stands in the same position as the King in England—that he is not only above mere police rules and regulations, but above any statutes passed by the local Legislature! This is pernicious nonsense, for which there is not a vestige of constitutional authority, and in order to prevent further misunderstandings in Barbados, where the Governor's vagaries have already excited much criticism, it would be well for the Colonial Office to point out once and for all that Sir Frederick Hodgson's appointment does not carry with it Regal or even Viceregal dignity and prerogatives.—*Truth*, 24. 7. 02.

### AHUBA KESSI.

From tradition we learn the Fantis are not the first dwellers of this country. They say our ancestors dwelt far inland in a tract of Country called Takierman, and that when the Mohamedans invaded their country with Islam religion our ancestors migrated towards the sea. The people of Akoomfi, Anamaboo, Aburah, Inlesukum, Mankeasim being real Fantis are called Borbor people. The other Fantis are the Gomsa, Edwimaku and Ayan. They are one people and as such they keep the festival Ahuba Kessi once a year, twelve weeks after the celebration of Ahuba Kuma.

Others believe in another tradition which says that the Fantis had a great general named Ahur whose protection they had enjoyed for a long period. At his death the nation went, men and women, to bind upon the arm of the dead prince strings of gold armlets as a token of honour and respect, saying 'Yerubo Ahur ni ba du,' it being a custom in those days to bind gold armlets on the arms of dead bodies, instead of putting gold ring on the fingers as is the custom this day. After the lapse of twelve weeks, it is said, the funeral custom for Ahur was closed and thanks were rendered here and there to deserving people, or those who had bound some gold nuggets on his arm, or done other acts of honour, or rendered some service at his death as is done even at this day, seven or twelve weeks after the decease of a person. The death of this great prince was commemorated annually in all the years following, to this day, it is said, under the name of 'Yerubo Ahurba du,' we are binding up strings of gold armlets on the arms of Ahur,

which words it is supposed, have been corrupted now into 'Yerubo Ahuba' we are celebrating Ahuba."

The Ahuba Kuma therefore according to this tradition, was primarily to commemorate the season of Mourning for Ahur, and the Kessi, which takes place twelve weeks after that, to commemorate the time when the nation finished mourning for him.

The reader must please himself with either of the foregoing traditions about the origin of the custom, and believe which of the two appears to him credible.—*Gold Coast People* 29, 8, 92.

## THE SEY-WILL CASE.

(Continued from No. 12.)

The last Codicil is one dated the 17th March 1902 two months prior to the death of the Testator. The only evidence as to the mental condition of the Testator about this time is that of Dr. Pitt. I say the only evidence, because the information derived from Mrs. Ferguson does in no way disprove the capacity of the Testator to make a Will on that date. Dr. Pitt informs the Court that after February this year Mr. Soy was not able to transact business of moment and about the latter part of March he Dr. Pitt told Mr. Soy's wife and daughter that Mr. Soy was not to be worried with business. Notwithstanding this the Dr. admitted that Mr. Soy might have been in fit condition to make a will in the month of March. If in the opinion of the Doctor he was mentally deranged from illness as to be unable to make a will, much less a codicil of a simple character covering half a page of the paper on which it is written, the Court must assume that he was mentally capable. The validity of this codicil turns therefore on the question whether or not it was executed in conformity with Law. There are two witnesses to its attestation, Amissah and Intchful the evidence of one contradicted by the other. Both are men who can read and write, the statement of the one, that is Amissah is consistent with the attestation clause under which he signs the other in direct opposition thereto. Intchful says he merely signed because Amissah told him the Testator requested him to do so and without taking the trouble to see the Testator who in the next room and ill at the time, he being the nephew of the Testator he signed and went away. Not even did he stop to enquire of his uncle how he was. Viewing the contradictory evidence of the two attesting witnesses the Court ought upon the circumstances to give credence to the affirmative rather than to the negative testimony and in the circumstances not only in connection with the execution of the codicil but in the subject matter with which the codicil deals and with the relation to the Testator of the object of his bounty the Court feels bound to give credence to the affirmative evidence of Amissah rather than to the negative evidence of Intchful. I also declare in favour of this Codicil.

(To be continued.)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

Dear Mr. Editor—I shall thank you for the insertion of this in your columns. I understand there arrived in town a short while ago a determined officer leading an expedition against mosquitoes. May I briefly and submissively ask the authorities what success has been achieved so far by this curious and beneficial expedition. I must point out that since the advent of this Anti-mosquito expedition I have suffered more from their worries than before. And how is it? Have the authorities signed an unbidding treaty with them; or they have not succeeded in capturing all their generals? Some of them are so obstinate as to follow me to my office attacking all the people in the neighbourhood—And why?

Thanking you for space allowed.

Cape Coast,  
30. 8. 02.

Your suffering servant,  
MITSI BI DA.

## TO THE MERCHANTS OF CAPE COAST.

Gentlemen,—Not having the opportunity of addressing you individually I have thought it proper to call your attention through these columns to the false assertion made by some Firms in this town about dullness of trade. I desire to point out that the assertion is a deliberate falsehood, and that lucrative business could be done here under good management. Though, undoubtedly there are no produce yet the cash trade could be apportioned as much as among twenty factories that would establish here. Since the re-establishment of the Firm of Swanzy through their able Agent Mr. H. Mensah I understand proceeds of £200 to £300 have been remitted to Cape Coast monthly. The new Firm of F. W. Rust is also making about £100 a month. Therefore I think if merchants will not listen to ill advices of pioneer merchants and agents but would make experiments through honest Agents they will find things out for themselves.

I remain, Gentlemen

Elmina,  
1. 9. 02.

Yours faithfully,  
KUPON ANON.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Judging from a sanitary point of view do consider the situation of the latrine at the market place at Low Town? I presume latrines are to be erected at places where they would not be dangerous to the public health, but as the present one is, it will surely be offensive to the poor women selling there. And would the Foreman of Works have meditated erecting a latrine there if a European happened to be a resident in the vicinity? I would respectfully call the Health Inspector's attention to the removal of this to a better place.

Thanking you for space allowed.

Cape Coast,  
4. 9. 02.

Yours truly,  
C. M.