

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Attabubu Expeditionary Force, Abetifi,
November 7, 1893.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a letter I have received from the Basel Mission missionaries at this station.

There is, without doubt, much truth in what they say regarding Kumasi.

I am personally of the same opinion, and feel sure that if the tribes immediately to the north, north-east, and east of Kumasi, who are not already in the Protectorate, were given our protection, Kumasi itself with but little pressure could be induced to follow. I accordingly recommend that steps be at once taken in this direction.

2. In another Despatch I am forwarding you an application from the town of Agogo to join us, and I am informed that messengers from Koranza are within a day's march from here with, it is not improbable, a similar request.

I sincerely trust that the Government will see the necessity of finally doing away with the power of Kumasi, and will take advantage of the opportunity which now exists to effect this end.

I have, &c.

The Hon.
The Colonial Secretary.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

The Rev. F. RAMSEYER to Colonel Sir FRANCIS SCOTT.

SIR, Abetifi, November 2, 1893.

THE undersigned missionaries at Abetifi in contemplation of your march towards Ateobu (Attabubu) and Ashantee beg to be allowed to lay before you a few remarks.

They can only rejoice at the display of forces which is made, and which can only strengthen the great prestige the Government possesses, till far in the interior; but in regard of the great expenses at the cost of which the expedition is made, they have only a prayer and a request; it is that the expedition may be the last stroke to make Coomassie powerless for ever, and *this can be done only by bringing Coomassie under English jurisdiction.*

The reasons which move us to say so, are:—

1. The Ashantees, although very few in number compared with their former power, have, nevertheless, not ceased to this day to give trouble to the Government by their constant quarrels and to bring even disturbance in the Colony.

2. By our experience while working in the towns surrounding the Ashanti frontier (in Asante Akem) and by visiting some of the towns belonging to Coomassie, and by the reports of our agents placed just at the boundaries of Coomassie territory, we know that the people of Ashanti are longing and crying after the English to bring peace in the country. Alone, the King and his mother, perhaps, and a few of his Chiefs would not be very much inclined to bring themselves willingly under English jurisdiction. But it is as the people say; the King cannot and will not ask to be taken in the English Protectorate, but if he is brought to do it he will accept it.

3. Knowing the Ashantees since so many years we are of the same opinion as all those around us (among which many Ashantees), and as our agent at Bompata who few days ago wrote that if the Ashanti's are fined only, they will soon boast again, and bring trouble in the country; they say that they are ready to pay any amount. There is no doubt that to fine them only will have not at all the results expected.

4. The steps to bring Coomassie under British jurisdiction, can be done, in our opinion, without a shot being fired, for as we hear from everywhere, the Ashantees are most frightened and are so few in number.

5. Already two places of Ashantee, Ahiasm (Konomgo) the town of Yow Sapong and Agogo on the West, have asked to be received in the Protectorate. What is now remaining? Coomassie and a few surrounding places, which I think would very willingly surrender. Besides that, if Nkoransa is made Protectorate, what ought to be done, what remains of the former Ashantee kingdom? We think that in consideration of all these points, there are reasons enough, besides the point that the Ashantees have not yet paid the war indemnity and that they have not ceased the human sacrifices, to declare to them that on the ground of all this and the great expense they brought upon the Government,

the time has come for them to accept the English Protectorate and that they are from this hour placed under English power and laws. This step would, after our opinion, not bring much more expense, as till now, for once a resident at Coomassie as Commissioner, the post at Prahsu would be unnecessary. These our remarks we beg to excuse and to pardon us to have taken the liberty to bring them so openly before you. In doing so we do not believe that it is our duty to influence in any way the instructions of the Government but we believe, that having worked so long among this people, it is our duty to say what we know and to lay before you how things stand.

We do so all for humanity's sake, and for the blessing and welfare of the whole Gold Coast, having, of course, in view the spreading of the Gospel. Keeping firmly to the words of our Lord that the Gospel must be brought to all nations.

We have, &c.

F. RAMSEYER.

ED. PERREGAUX.

I. HAASIS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

Colonel SCOTT to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Attabubu Expeditionary Force, Abetifi,
November 7, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the enclosed letter from Mr. Ferguson, which, according to your instructions, I opened and read.

A letter containing much the same information was received from Mr. Ferguson the day after in answer to the letter addressed to him by Captain Aplin.

Since receiving the above communications I have written to Mr. Ferguson enclosing messages and letters to the Kings of Nkoranza and Atabubu, and to the fetish priest of Kraki. The priest I have ordered to leave Atabubu at once, together with his followers, and I have further informed him that in the event of his giving me any trouble I would have him seized and sent to the German authorities for being in our Protectorate with armed followers. I am daily expecting news from the Coast, and in case there should be any important information from yourself I have deferred sending on half the force, which is my present intention. I shall, however, not wait more than two or three days.

Supplies appear to be extraordinarily scarce between this and Atabubu and provisions* for the Hausus will have to be procured from here and carried. The quantity decided on will then be served out daily in lieu of subsistence.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

Mr. G. E. FERGUSON to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Attabubu, Friday, October 27, 1893.

IN continuation of the letter which I addressed to your Excellency from Abetifi, I have the honour to report that I have arrived here on the 18th instant.

Road Report.

It rained every afternoon, and prairie was surcharged with water, which found its way into the narrow footpaths hollowed by long use. Thus throughout the whole of the journey we waded through gullies, swollen rivers, and in many cases through overgrown prairie.

Progress.

I submit the following notes of the progress of the Mission.

October 5th.—Arrived Aframsu. Raining.

October 6th.—Arrived Jwafuabutan. Raining all night.

October 7th.—Arrived Ohimenaboma.

October 8th.—Arrived Suminsu, at noon. River overflowed, and covered the usual camping butts, and obscured the approaches to crossing.

* Rice and ground nuts chiefly.

- October 9th.—Bridged Sumi River. Left noon, arrived Nkaneku.
- October 10th.—Arrived Papeisu. Heard that King of Nkoranza is at Wiasi. Decided, therefore, not to take the Enyinewafi route to Atabubu.
- October 11th.—Arrived Sene River 4 p.m. River overflowed more than usual. Backwater 300 yards on either side of main channel has concealed the usual crossing points. Learnt from travellers waiting on the right bank that the river has stopped all communication for nearly twenty days up to the time of my arrival.
- October 12th.—Surveyed river to find its channel, and, where narrow, to bridge the same. There are no canoes.
- October 13th.—Cutting and collecting logs and vegetable ropes for bridge.
- October 14th.—Forded backwater (breast deep, 250 yards across) to main channel, 173 yards wide at point selected by survey.
- October 15th.—Constructed bridge. Finished 6.23 p.m. Raining.
- October 16th.—Forded backwater, and party crossed bridge under heavy shower of rain. Arrived Nfrana; some cases of small-pox in the town. Met here a Mr. Benson and messengers from the King of Nkoranza to the Governor.
- October 17th.—Arrived Wiasi Sam. Met Effrim, the King of Wiasi. Many cases of small-pox in Kofidente; the patients are not isolated. Heard Dente is at Ntorobosu. He is the commander of the federate forces. Stayed here to gather information from Nkoranzas as to the Ashanti Army. Seen several cases of small-pox here (Wiasi).
- October 18th.—Left Wiasi; arrived Atabubu; arranged with King of Atabubu *re* spies.
- October 19th.—Received intelligence from spies sent by Chief of Abease that the Ashantis pursued the Nkoranzas to the Pru River and retired to Kuntampo. Abeasi, and villages between Trowhe and Kuntampo destroyed. No food. Kuntampo is three days' journey from Atabubu.
- October 20th.—King of Atabubu deputed four men to reconnoitre the road to Koranza, and four others to reconnoitre the road to Kuntampo *via* Abease, under my direction. They are to report the actual position of the Ashanti Army.
- October 21st, noon.—Leaving for Wiasi to ascertain object of the Chief Priest of Kraki Dente. Received intelligence that messengers from Kumasi are on their way to Atabubu.
- October 22nd.—Arrived Wiasi.
- October 23rd.—Interviews with various persons.
- October 24th.—Fetish priest of Kraki Dente arrives at Wiasi. Resides at Kofidente.
- October 25th and 26th.—(For proceedings see body of this letter.) Will leave here 27th to ascertain result if spies have returned.
- October 27th.—Left Wiasi 5.30 a.m. Arrived Atabubu 2:10 p.m.

Information respecting Ashanti Army.

1. The Ashanti army is composed of forces from the following places:—

Kumasi:—

By Asufu Buaki.

Aduntinhene:—

Bantana.

Asamoaquanta.

Bekwai (King Yow Bebresi):—

Mampon.

Nsuta.

Abissim.

Ofinu.

Juabin at Koningo:—

Forces placed by the King under the command of his chief called Ampetsi.

Kumawu.

The King is called Krapa. He detailed his Chief Kwamin Tawa to command.

Jissu.

Agogo.

Kwamain.

Asokari (in Ashanti).

2. Detachments from Nsuta, Asokori, and Kumawu are to command the roads to Kwahu to intercept the King of Nkoranza when proceeding to Kwahu.

3. The main body is encamped at Kuntampo. Kuntampo is three days' journey from Atabubu.

4. The strength is variously stated at between ten thousand and seventeen thousand men, not including camp followers. They are armed chiefly with the long flintlock guns. Though some of the neighbouring tribes north of Ashanti use the horse in war the Ashantis have not secured their alliance. A few Snider arms, stated at between 300 and 700, are in possession of the Ashantis. Food is being sent to the camp at Kuntampo from Ashanti, and a reinforcement of 2,000 strong was sent to Kuntampo about a fortnight ago.

5. In the last engagement after pursuing the retreating army of the Nkoranzas as far as the Pru River the Kumasi army stayed nine days at Abeasi and returned to Kuntampo. All the sick at Abeasi were killed by them.

6. In the three engagements which took place, the casualties on the part of the Nkoranzas were:—Five killed, and about 400 very slightly wounded; all recovered.

Evidently the arms are not very effective.

7. The food (cultivations) have been destroyed by them at the following places, viz. :—

Abeasi.
Kabompa.
Keurumu.
Kunshi.
Kokronsu.

8. Road to Kuntampo on which supplies can be obtained is as follows :—

(a) *Via* Kumfa, Fakosi, Druma, Nkoranza.

The Nkoranzas and allied Forces.

9. The King of Nkoranza is at Wiasi together with the Chiefs of Yegi, Prang, Abeasi, and Druma who took part in the war. A portion of the Nkoranza army is at Koro and Brumasi. In the engagement with the Kumasis they received the alliance of the people of Mo.

10. The Fetish priest of Kraki Dente (as federate head of the Confederation composed of Atabubu, Gwan and Basa, and the Brong tribes) is at Wiasi with 1,200 men armed with the long flintlock guns, the King of Nkoranza having secured his alliance. He is resolved to proceed to Atabubu.

11. Food in Gwan and Basa has been wasted and destroyed by the refugee Nkoranzas and adherents of the fetish priest.

12. In order to secure the cultivation at Atabubu for the use of the force which your Excellency may send up, and to afford time to make your preparations, I had an interview with him (the priest) yesterday and cautioned him that he ought to send to inform your Excellency before making Atabubu a base of operations against the Ashantis, and requested him to defer proceeding to Atabubu until he heard from you.

13. *State of affairs and relations of the different people to one another.*

Atabubu.—The people of Atabubu profess a neutrality which is not understood by the other federate tribe, nor by the refugee Nkoranzas, who look upon Atabubu as an enemy, because the King of that country did not send to aid him in his war with Ashanti.

About a month ago messengers were sent by the King of Ashanti to say as follows :—

“ To punish the King of Nkoranza was the object of the war, and he may now return to serve me. Atabubu is not in the programme. The King of Ashanti has nothing ill against that of Atabubu.” This message was delivered at Ejira to two Court officers of the King of Mampon (at Atabubu) to be conveyed by them to King of Atabubu. The King of Atabubu sent his linguist, Yow Yami, to inform the other Brong Chiefs at Wiasi of the message. The linguist returned to Atabubu with four messengers from Wiasi, viz. : one from the King of Nkoranza, from Chief Effrim, the King of Basa, and from the fetish priest of Kraki respectively, to say that “ if the King of Ashanti is sincere in his representations the messengers from Kumasi should proceed to Atabubu.” This message was conveyed by the two Court officers of the King of Mampon to the Ashanti messengers at Ejira. Whereupon the messengers are said to have stated that “ it is sufficient for us to discover that the King of Nkoranza is with you, the Brong tribes, and that his messenger accompanied the linguist of Atabubu from Wiasi to Atabubu. The King of Atabubu will hear further from the King of Ashanti.” The messengers then left for Kumasi.

On the 21st instant I received the intelligence that messengers from Kumasi are on their way to Atabubu, and yesterday I learnt that they had arrived at Patira.

Nkoranza.—The conduct of the refugees as well as that of the "irregulars" brought by the chief priest of Kraki Dente, is intolerable to the inhabitants. They take the food of the country by force, even to the extent of shooting the owners and robbing them of personal effects. And now famine threatens Gwan and Basa. The King is assuming a domineering attitude over the inhabitants, and has threatened an invasion of Atabubu on his return to Nkoranza.

The fetish priest of Kraki Denti. There are intestinal feuds between Kraki and Atabubu which the chief priest is coming to avenge himself of here. The arrival of the force here in good time to counteract his presumptions will be very beneficial indeed. Cases of human sacrifice under his connivance, and the seizure of goods being brought here for sale, have been represented to me.

I have, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

Enclosure 3 in No. 43.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Atabubu Expeditionary Force, Abetifi,

November 7, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the messengers from Koranza have arrived here, and I have interviewed them. As I surmised, they desire to enter the Protectorate. They are at present putting their request into writing. Mr. Ramseyer's post, however, is now ready to leave, and I am afraid this letter will not be written in time. The Agogo application as well is not yet finished. I shall not, therefore, be able to forward them on this occasion.

The question, however, remains the same, and I shall feel obliged by your letting me know whether the Koranzas and the Agogos are to be taken into the Protectorate or not. The town of Agogo is willing to consider itself under the King of Kwahu, who again is agreeable to have it under his authority.

2. I have not learnt much from the Koranza messengers, except that the Kumasis are about to make overtures to the people of Salaga. I do not like this. Salaga is already jealous of Krake, and would gladly join or help to reduce the increasing market importance of the latter place.

3. If the British Government is willing to have Kumase at all, the quicker it is done the better. The Kumasis are undoubtedly nervous of our intentions at present, and I think an ultimatum addressed to the King to the effect that he must now come under the British Flag or suffer would be successful. The Kings of Akwamu, Krobo and Akropong might be told to make preparations for war as also those to the westward. The news would, of course, spread at once all over the country, and if, combined with this, the ultimatum were sent, I little doubt but that Kumase would immediately conform to your wishes.

I am not aware, of course, what answer Mr. Vroom has returned with from Kumase; whatever may be its tone, however, peaceful or otherwise, there is no doubt that they are disturbing the whole country, and as high a hand as possible should at once be taken with them.

I should like a message concerning Salaga to be sent at once to Kumase, to the effect that no political communications must take place with that town.

With regard to the ultimatum, I propose addressing you in a separate Despatch, which I shall send later, and in which I shall review the whole question, stating what I consider should now be done, and recommending the Government to do it.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Commanding Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 4 in No. 43.

REV. RAMSEYER to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Abetifi, November 5, 1893.

MAY I be allowed to inform your Excellency that in contemplation of the advance of the troops towards Attabubu, we, the missionaries of Abetifi, have taken the liberty of writing a few remarks addressed to Sir Francis Scott in which we allow us to state what our opinion is. We repeat in it what your Excellency knows already, that in consideration of our long experience, we can only pray that this expedition may be the last stroke to make Kumasi and his people powerless for ever, and this can be done *only* by bringing Kumasi under English law and power. We beg to excuse us if we have taken this great liberty, the more we think that our letter will probably be communicated to your Excellency.

We know that *every one* expect that this is the best step, and it has been already said that if this could not be done it would be regarded as a failure, and I am afraid it would not be for the prestige of the British Government. Even if the Ashantees did not attack Attabubu they have forced by their constant war the English Government to such great expenses, and it is time for them to stop all disturbances, and to dictate to them the Protectorate. I cannot otherwise as to repeat and beg that this great display of forces about which we rejoice so much, but made at the cost of such expenses, may be not a failure but have full success in bringing Kumasi under English jurisdiction and opening the whole country. Nkoranza, too, ought to sign a treaty at once.

I beg your Excellency again to be indulgent with me in taking this great liberty and to believe that my sole object is the blessing and the peace of the whole Gold Coast.

I have, &c.

F. RAMSEYER.

To his Excellency the Acting-Governor,
Victoriaborg, Accra.

P.S.—Just now the messengers of Agogo have come back, and we rejoice much upon their desire to place themselves under the Protectorate.

As soon as the treaty will be signed I hope to be able to place some catechist there.

F. R.

It is reported, too, that the Ashantees are trying to get the help of the Salagha people and march against Krake. A reason more for the step we ask for. If once strengthened by the Salagha people not only Krake will have to suffer but all the surrounding tribes, Ateobu and Braing, and so on. I am really afraid if Ashanti is not punished and made powerless at once. If the aim of the expedition is only to show that the British Government is able to protect Attabubu and the troops return without having put the English flag at Kumasi the Ashantees would laugh at them, and what a failure! I beg once more to excuse me.

No. 44.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received December 14, 1893.)

[Answered by No. 53.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 18, 1893.

IN continuation of previous Despatches, I have the honour to report, that on the 8th instant, Colonel Sir Francis Scott sent Captain Larymore to me with the letter, dated the 8th November, of which I enclose a copy, and which reached my hands on the 14th instant. In it he states that the Ashanti army has been, and still is, in Attabubu, and that it has destroyed Abease, and one or two smaller villages to the north-west of it, all of which are said by the Nkoranza messengers referred to in paragraph 8 of my Despatch of the 14th instant,* to belong to Attabubu. The Nkoranzas are interested parties, and their statement must, under the circumstances, be received with caution; they would be glad to enlist the active sympathy of the Government in behalf of the Attabubus,

* No. 43.

and therefore against their enemies the Ashantis, and if this could be done by means of a declaration not strictly accurate, they would probably not stop from making it. The places in question are not included within the boundary given to the country of Attabubu by Mr. Ferguson in his map of December 1890.

I have requested Mr. Ferguson, in the letter of which I enclose a copy, acknowledging the receipt of the report a copy of which accompanied my despatch of the 14th instant,* to ascertain whether the boundary is correctly given in his map, and whether the towns of Abease, Kumfa, and villages in their neighbourhood, ought not to have been included.

I enclose a copy of a letter dated 8th November from Colonel Sir Francis Scott, forwarding the message from the King of Nkoranza, taken down in writing by Mr. Ramseyer. The message is substantially the same as the previous messages. With regard to this application, I have addressed to Colonel Sir Francis Scott the letter copy enclosed, in which also I have referred to the statement made by him in his letter of the 7th November, that the King of Ashanti is contemplating an alliance with the King of Salaga.

The King of Salaga referred to, is probably Kabatchi. It is quite possible that the information in the hands of Colonel Sir Francis Scott with regard to this matter may be incorrect, but it is not by any means improbable, because the Salagas would not be averse to getting the opportunity which would be afforded by an alliance with the Ashantis to destroy Kontempo, and to divert to their country the large trade from the interior which now goes to Kontempo.

In his letter of the 8th instant, already referred to, Colonel Sir Francis Scott states his views as to the course which in the interests of the Gold Coast should be adopted with regard to Ashanti. He advises the despatch of a further ultimatum to Kumasi with a view to the inclusion of Ashanti within the Protectorate—a step which he considers can be taken at the present time without bloodshed.

But an ultimatum must be based upon some clear and distinct injury to the party sending it, and as I view the present situation there are only two matters upon which an ultimatum can be based namely,—

- (a) A demand for an indemnity to cover the expenses of this Government arising out of the attitude of the King of Ashanti's forces towards a country within the Protectorate and the loss of trade inflicted upon the Gold Coast, and
- (b) The destruction of Abease and other Attabubu towns by the Ashanti army, should the further enquiry which I have ordered to be made with respect to them show that they are Attabubu towns without doubt.

I entirely agree with the opinion expressed by Colonel Sir Francis Scott that the present juncture is favourable to the adoption of a forward policy with regard to Ashanti and I have endeavoured to place that opinion as clearly as possible before your Lordship in my Despatch of the 13th instant.†

I am not altogether in accord with Colonel Sir Francis Scott in his opinion that Ashanti can be brought into the Protectorate without opposition. Although the principal Kings of the Ashanti Confederation desire peace by incorporation within the Protectorate I am decidedly of opinion that King Prempeh and his party, which consists of the Kumasis, Adjisus, Ofinsus, the remnant of the Mampons under their new King, and a few others, wish to keep Ashanti entirely independent of this Government. I believe they will yield only to force, but I believe also that their powers of resistance are insignificant and they could make no determined resistance. They are wretchedly armed and without money. It might prove to be the case that British troops would not be wanted but such a contingency has to be provided for, and I am not prepared to advocate the despatch of a further ultimatum to Kumasi unless it is.

I have addressed to the Inspector-General the letter of which I enclose a copy.

On Wednesday the 15th instant I saw the messengers from the King of Ashanti in the presence of Captain Powell, R.N., and the officers of H.M.S. "Phoebe," Commander Festing, R.N., and the officers of H.M.S. "Blonde," the Chief Justice, Acting Treasurer, and other officers of the Government, when I delivered to them the message of which I enclose a copy, and the terms of which will, I trust, meet with your Lordship's approval.

I submit a copy of an application made to the Inspector-General by the Chiefs of Agogo that their town may be taken into the Protectorate, a copy of Colonel Sir Francis Scott's covering letter, and a copy of my reply.

* No. 43.

† No. 42.

Enclosure 1 in No. 44.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Abetifi, November 8, 1893.

WITH reference to my Despatch of yesterday, I have now the honour to review the whole question, regarding the existing troubles caused by the Ashantis, and to recommend the policy which I consider should at once be adopted.

There is no doubt that the Ashanti army has been, and in fact is now, in Attabubu territory.

The Koranza messengers who arrived here yesterday, distinctly state that Abease belongs to Attabubu, also one or two smaller villages to the north-west of that place, and which, together with Abease, have been destroyed. Mr. Ramseyer corroborates the messenger's statement. In Mr. Ferguson's map, these places are placed outside the red line which apparently denotes the Attabubu country. The map must therefore be inaccurate.

The Ashantis are said to have captured 2,500 Koranza women. The King of Kumase has therefore not only allowed his army to enter our Protectorate, but has laid waste villages belonging to our people.

The following remarks will show how matters stand in a geographical and political sense.

I will first mention the villages which are in Attabubu jurisdiction beyond the limit shown on the map:—Yagi, Prang, Trawhe, Abease, Kabompa, Kewuwumu and Kumfa.

The country to the east, Gwan and Basa, between Attabubu and the Volta River, are said to be subject to Krake, and should be taken into the Protectorate.

The King of Mampon is in the town of Attabubu, and wishes to join us. He proceeded there with a following, with a view to aid the Koranzas. His people afterwards fell away, leaving only women and children at Attabubu. His younger brother has been placed on the Stool by those in favour of Kumase.

The Nsutas are also reported to be anxious and willing to come into the Protectorate.

There is but Juabin left, and Yow Sapong, the King, has already applied for British protection. Considering that the Koranzas have fled into our territory, I do not see how we can refuse them our protection, having in view a permanent settlement of the question. I therefore now recommend that all the above places I have mentioned viz :—Koranza, Mampon, Nsuta, Kuman, and Juabin, together with the territories of Gwan and Basa on the east of Attabubu, be taken into the Protectorate.

This would mean Kumase being completely hemmed in. In conjunction with the above steps, I should recommend messengers being sent to all our most reliable and powerful kings, both to the eastward, westward, and south, telling them to hold their forces in readiness to advance on the Ashanti frontier, upon the receipt of further instructions. At the same time an ultimatum should be addressed to the King of Kumasi; he should be clearly shown how matters stand, and that the only solution of the question so as to avoid repetitions of these troubles, is to include Kumase within the Protectorate. Unless Kumase belongs to us, I see no possible prospect of the Ashantis not giving trouble whenever it so pleases them.

The cost of the above action would be incomparable with the expenditure that would be necessary were British troops sent for, and until it is tried and fails and nothing is left except actual war I would defer applying for an Imperial Force.

In the opinion of those best acquainted with the policy pervading the mass of the Ashanti people no objection whatever will be made. I recommend, however, that a hundred Hausas be applied for from Lagos and that the Prahsu Detachment be reinforced by this number. If at the time that the ultimatum was sent to Kumase, even a dozen marines or sailors, with an officer, could be sent up as far as Prahsu it would be all the better.

I feel sure from all I hear that the opportunity has now arrived, if the British Government is so minded, to take the whole of Ashanti into the Protectorate, and I firmly believe it can be done without bloodshed.

I think it is of such consequence that you should thoroughly see the meaning and purpose of this despatch that I am sending Captain Larymore to Accra as its bearer. He will be able to give you all information that may not be included in it, and is in a position to inform you of my views on any other point that may not have been referred to.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,

Inspector-General,

Commanding Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

The Hon. the
Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 2 in No. 44.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to MR. FERGUSON.

(EXTRACT.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 15, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your first report from Attabubu dated the 27th October. It contains valuable information and clearly shows me that you have made good use of your time. A copy of it has been sent to the Secretary of State.

Now that Colonel Sir Francis Scott has arrived with the Expeditionary Force in Kwahu I request that you will address all reports to him, and he will transmit them to me after obtaining from them such information as he may require.

I wish you to ascertain whether the boundary given to the country of Attabubu in your map of December 1890 is correct or whether the towns of Abease, Kumfa, and villages in their neighbourhood which are shown in the Map as beyond the boundary ought not to have been included. This is important, because I hear that in addition to destroying the food crops, as stated in your report under acknowledgment, the Ashantis have also destroyed the towns and villages in question.

Enclosure 3 in No. 44.

Colonel SCOTT to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Abetifi, November 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying letter from the King of Nkoranza, who is now at Wiasi, east of Attabubu.

2. I strongly recommend that his appeal for protection be favourably considered and that his country be taken into the Protectorate.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

His Excellency

The Acting Governor, Victoriaborg.

The KING of NKORANZA to Colonel SCOTT.

SIR,

Wiesee, October 26, 1893.

HAVING heard that you are on the way coming to Attabubu, I send this Chief of mine by the name of Akwasi Chintoh, and my clerk, A. W. Benson, to meet you and to beg you not to delay, but to hurry up to see me and to place my town under British jurisdiction.

2. Last year the Ashantie fought with me and were bitten by me and retreated.

I then sent my men to Accra with some present to the Governor, who promised to send a special man to my town, but before my messengers whom I had sent to Accra returned, the Ashantis gave me another attack, and had a lot of battle fought with them, two times; in want of powder I was obliged to retreat into Fghuang or Attabubu country.

3. The Ashantis did not satisfy with their conquest, and besides the 2,500 captive amongst whom are women and children they have carried away to Kumasi as their trophies from Inkuamassah (Koranza?) but they are still pursuing me.

4. And if I am not protected by the British Government, then I and my country are done for, and would either cut into the pieces by the Ashantis, or we should be taken as captives to Kumassi. I and my Chiefs and all the country of Inkuamassah beg you to hurry up and take our town into the British Protectorate.

5. I am at Wiasi at present. The Ashantis delayed their attack owing to the fulness of the River Pru. And they are waiting at Inkuantaro for the abatement of the river.

I have, &c.

KING COFIE TOOH.	×	their
CHIEF KWASIE CHINTOH.	×	
ANONIME SACKZEE.	×	
		marks.

A. W. BENSON,
Clerk. The writer.

To Colonel Sir F. Scott.

Enclosure 4 in No. 44.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 17, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 13th instant of your letter of the 7th instant, in which you report the arrival of messengers from the King of Nkoranza once more requesting that his country may be taken into the Protectorate. I have received also at the hands of Captain Larymore your further letter of the 8th instant, forwarding the King's message taken down for you by Mr. Ramseyer.

2. This is the third application which has been made by the King to the Government; both the previous applications were answered by a statement to the effect that this Government could not take his country, but that should he and his people be driven out of it by the Ashantis an asylum would be found for them within the Protectorate as has been done for the Kokofus, Nkwantas, and other Ashanti tribes which have had to seek protection from King Prempeh and his party. The Secretary of State has approved of the policy thus adopted, and unless the English Government is prepared to alter its policy with regard to Ashanti, I feel sure that it will not change the decision which has already been come to with respect to that country.

3. You must, therefore, tell the King that this Government is not prepared to take his country with all the responsibilities attaching to it at present, but that it will find a place within the Protectorate where he and his people can live until times change and they can safely return to their country.

4. It will be most undesirable to allow the Nkoranza refugees to remain in Attabubu and upon your quitting Attabubu to return to Accra, they must be brought away with you. A place can, I think, be found for them at the extreme south of the country of Kwahu; it is unoccupied land and not unfertile. It will be necessary for you to arrange this matter with the King of Kwahu and to send one of your officers in advance to select the site for their town. They will have to be located there and warned against mixing themselves up in intrigues against the Ashantis or doing anything to disturb the peace and order of the district in which they live.

5. I have written separately to you as regards the application made by the Agogos.

6. You are quite right in supposing that it is very undesirable that the Ashantis should form an alliance with the Salagas; and in conveying to the messengers from Kumasi the message which the Secretary of State instructed me to send to the King of Ashanti, I used the following words:—"I desire you to impress upon the King that the Queen of England will view with disfavour his forming an alliance with the King of Salaga, with whom I hear he is in communication. I say again, let him show the Queen that he desires peace and the development of trade by ceasing from endeavours to form alliances for the purpose of continuing war."

7. I am dealing with the subject of paragraph 3 of your letter under acknowledgment in my reply to your letter of the 8th instant.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

Enclosure 5 in No. 44.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to Colonel Scott.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 17, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE duly received at the hands of Captain Larymore, who arrived at Accra on the 14th instant, your letter of the 8th November, in which you place before me your views with regard to the policy which should be pursued towards Ashanti.

2. Before dealing with this matter it will, I think, be convenient for me to place you in possession of Mr. Vroom's report, the King of Ashanti's reply to the ultimatum, and the telegraphic correspondence which I have had with the Secretary of State. I enclose copies of them, as well as a copy of the message which I delivered yesterday to the messengers whom King Prempeh had sent to Accra to emphasize the message which he had forwarded at the hands of Mr. Vroom.

3. You will observe that King Prempeh states that the King of Attabubu sent men and arms to the King of Nkoranza for the purpose of assisting him against the Ashantis. It will be necessary for you to make inquiry into the accuracy of the statement, and if necessary warn the King of Attabubu that now that his country is within the Protectorate he must on no account mix himself up in the troubles of his neighbours, and that when in difficulty as to the proper course to pursue in certain circumstances he is to apply to this Government for advice.

4. I notice that you state that the information in your hands indicates the Ashanti army to be in Attabubu. The King of Ashanti, however, asserts positively that his army has been recalled to Kumasi, and that it has never impinged in any way upon British territory. The messengers whom he sent down said the same.

5. In my letter to Mr. Ferguson of which I enclose a copy, I have requested him to make particular inquiry as to whether the boundary line of the Attabubu country given in his map of December 1890 is correct, or whether the towns of Abease, Kumfa, and villages in their neighbourhood ought not properly to be included. If it be found that they are actually Attabubu towns it will be necessary for you to so acquaint me.

6. I think it would be as well for you to proceed to Attabubu for the purpose of letting the Ashantis see that the country is to be defended. My orders were that you were not to go there if the Ashanti army had occupied it; but it is not perfectly clear that the army has occupied it, nor is it clear that the army is in the country or near it. The King says the army has been withdrawn to Kumasi.

7. I have given directions to Mr. Ferguson as regards making treaties with the tribes on the right bank of the Volta which are outside the Neutral Zone, and which do not owe direct allegiance to the Ashantis, as do, for example, the Nkoranzas and Agogos.

8. I approve of your giving instructions for the Fetish Priest of Kraki and his armed party, to quit the Protectorate and recross the Volta, and I have written to the Governor of Togo, asking him to give the Priest instructions not to meddle with affairs within the British Protectorate.

9. As regards the policy of this Government towards Ashanti, I have the honour to repeat what I have stated in my letter of the 15th instant, with regard to the application of the Agogos to be taken within the Protectorate, that what is known as the Ashanti question is regarded as an Imperial question, and that this Government has no power to deal with it. I am in agreement with you in thinking that the question is ripe for settlement, and that a forward policy would very probably result in the annexation of Ashanti without bloodshed. I have so written to the Secretary of State, and I have endeavoured to place before his Lordship reasons for the adoption of such a policy. But the policy hitherto pursued has been a policy of abstention, and I gather from the telegram addressed to me by the Secretary of State on the 8th November, pointing out that this Government must not rely upon assistance from England, that the policy in force has not materially changed. It is, under the circumstances, quite possible that my views, which are essentially in agreement with those you have expressed, may not meet with favour, and that I shall be instructed to take no further action with regard to Ashanti. I have asked for a reply by telegraph.

10. Should the reply be in the negative, I shall at once recall the Expeditionary Force, and you will bring with you to the selected site the refugee Nkoranzas, in accordance with the instructions given in my letter of even date. Should the reply be in favour of a demand for an indemnity, I shall send you word to that effect without delay, as it may in that case be desirable for the force to remain in Attabubu.

11. You will, I trust, recognize that the Ashanti question is an Imperial question, and that this Government cannot act with respect to it without definite instructions from the Secretary of State. No countries of the Ashanti confederation, such as Mampon, Juabin, Nsuta, and so forth, can be taken into the Protectorate until a settlement of that question has been arrived at and the settlement can only take place after the receipt of instructions from England.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

Enclosure 6 in No. 44.

MESSAGE delivered by the ACTING GOVERNOR to the MESSENGERS from the KING of ASHANTI on Wednesday, November 15, 1893.

I have asked you to come here to day to hear the message which the Queen of England sends to King Prempeh. You will understand that, by means of the telegraph, the message which you brought from the King, and that which he sent to me by Mr. Vroom, have been conveyed to the Queen, and Her Majesty's message to the King has been sent out to me in the same manner. (The Acting Governor here gave a simple explanation of the telegraph to the messengers.) The Queen of England has instructed me to request you to tell King Prempeh that she is glad to hear that he is anxious for peace, and has withdrawn his army from the neighbourhood of Attabubu; further that Her Majesty will expect the King to continue to maintain peace, and to refrain from any threatening action against countries under British protection, as should he not do so, he will incur great risk. The King has stated that his chief desire is for peace, and the fostering of trade. If his acts are in accordance with his wishes, he will not involve himself and his country in trouble, and I am to tell you, that if his desire for the Queen's friendship is genuine, he will at once desist from further war against the Nkoranzas, he will allow safe and free passage to traders throughout Ashanti, and will save the lives of the Nkoranza women and children whom his army captured. If they are killed at Kumasi in order to satisfy some native custom, the Queen will hear of it, and how then can she regard as a friend a King who allows innocent people to be sacrificed? The King says that he sent a message to the King of Attabubu, asking him not to mix himself up in the war. I wish you to tell the King that that message should have been sent to me, and that I cannot permit him to communicate direct with the Kings of countries within the Protectorate. He must communicate with the Governor. I have heard, notwithstanding the King's assurance, that his army has not been entirely withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Attabubu, and I have heard further, that the army has burnt Abeasi, and villages belonging to Attabubu. Should either or both of these reports prove to be correct—and I have requested the officer in command of my army to enquire and let me know—the King will probably hear further from me.

I desire you to impress upon the King that the Queen of England will view with disfavour his forming an alliance with the King of Salaga with whom I hear he is in communication. I say again, let him show the Queen that he desires peace and the development of trade, by ceasing from endeavours to form alliances for the purpose of continuing war.

Unless he acts up to them, his words are idle words, and his messages which are filled with protestations are useless. Tell King Prempeh that is what I say. The King will remember that this Government helped to place him in the position he now holds, and has therefore a friendly feeling towards him, but if he causes trouble to this Government by not listening to the messages I have now requested you to take to him, how can he expect that friendly feeling to last? You will, I trust, remember all I have said and convey it correctly and faithfully to the King.

Enclosure 7 in No. 44.

Colonel SCOTT to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Abetifi, November 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Chiefs of Agogo, a town lying to the north-west from this place, praying that their town be taken under the protection of the Gold Coast Government and directly subject to the King of Kwahu. The King of Kwahu has expressed to me his readiness to receive them as his subjects.

2. It will be noted that in paragraph 2 the King of Kumassi appears to have threatened the Agogos on the termination of the war in Koranza.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,

Commanding the Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

His Excellency
The Acting Governor, Victoriaborg.

Enclosure 8 in No. 44.

The CHIEFS of AGOGO to Colonel SCOTT.

SIR, Abetifi, November 8, 1893.
 WE, the undersigned men, humbly beg to bring before you for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

1. That after the first Ashanti war our late King Asamoa gave himself to the King of Okwau, in order to be his subject and to tell the Governor to give us a flag, and to be English subjects as well as the King of Okwau.

2. But his brother Koffi Amponsa, reported him to the King of Kumassi, who persuaded some of the elders to dethrone the said Asamoa and gave the Stool to Koffi Amponsa.

Koffi Amponsa therefore threatening us badly and killing people without cause. And lately the King of Kumassi sent message that we may come to join the army to Nkoranza, we refused that we could not for we are tired of fighting. Koffi Amponsa, the Chief, then reported this to Kumassi King who sent us message that after he has finished war against the Nkoranzas will punish us. Upon this we took away Koffi Amponsa from the Stool, and we have not yet got another King.

3. I, Koffi Aka, the brother of the ex-King, Chief, and the undersigned elders represent the Queen and the people of our town Agogo, beg your worship to save us and to take us into the Protectorate and under the King of Okwau. If you will not save us our town will be in ruin.

4. We would have school already in our town, but we are afraid of the King of Kumassi; but we humbly beg the missionaries too that they may send a teacher into our town.

We are, &c.	their
KOFFI AKA.	×
KWAME HEMEN.	×
ATA KWAME.	×
	marks.

To Sir F. C. Scott, Colonel, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Enclosure 9 in No. 44.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
 November 15, 1893.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 14th instant, of your letter dated Abetifi the 8th November, transmitting a copy of a letter addressed to you by the Chiefs of Agogo asking that their town may be included within the Protectorate and placed under the King of Kwahu.

2. As Agogo is a town owing allegiance to Ashanti the Chiefs' request cannot be complied with unless the Secretary of State should, upon consideration of the views with regard to Ashanti which I have placed before him in a Despatch dated the 13th instant, decide, in connexion with the general question, that the time has come for adopting a forward policy with Ashanti with a view to its absorption into the Protectorate. What is known as the Ashanti question is regarded as an Imperial question, and it is not in my power to act with respect to it without direct instructions from England.

3. I have asked for a communication by telegraph after the receipt of my Despatch referred to, and when I receive it, I will lose no time in acquainting you with its tenor, and in taking such action on it as may be called for.

I have, &c.
 F. M. HODGSON.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 26, 1893.)

[Answered by No. 53.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
November 22, 1893.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 18th instant* with regard to Ashanti affairs, I have the honour to transmit two letters dated the 11th and 13th November, which have been addressed to me by the Revd. F. Ramseyer, the Basel Missionary at Abetifi (Kwahu), in the latter of which he encloses reports addressed to him by his Catechists at Bompa (Asanti Akim) and Patransa (Asanti Akim). The latter town is spelt Patiriansa in the Intelligence Department Map of 1887 and lies half-way between Abetifi and Kumasi.

The letter from the Catechist at Bompa refers to the attitude of the Juabins under Yao Sapon at Konengo (Asanti Akim), and that from Patransa shows that the Ashanti Army was recalled to Kumasi, not, as King Prempeh has said, for the purpose of preventing its overrunning Attabubu, but in order to protect Kumasi against a possible attack by the forces of the Government.

The object of the despatch of messengers from Kumasi to Inspector Bayly in charge of the constabulary detachment at Prahsu, to which reference is made in my Despatch of the 13th instant†, is given in both letters.

King Prempeh has, according to the statements in Mr. Boama's letter, already sent messengers to Yao Sapon, King of the Juabins, and to the Chief of Agogo warning them not to waver, but the former has, it would seem, sent them back with an unsatisfactory reply.

Although Mr. Ramseyer says that King Prempeh and the Kumasis are only boasting, my own opinion is that they have no intention of letting Kumasi pass into the Protectorate without resistance. The resistance is not likely to be determined or strong, as stated in my Despatch of the 18th instant‡, but nevertheless it must be considered in connexion with any action which is contemplated.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that at 9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 15th instant, I privately interviewed Kofi Yami, the King of Bekwai's linguist, who came with the messengers from Kumasi. He states that the Bekwais desire to be under the protection of the Queen but that the Kumasis are strongly against it, and that before any King of the Ashanti Confederation would openly oppose his opinion to that of the King Paramount Kumasi must be in the hands of this Government. He stated that when Mr. Hull went to Kumasi, as reported in Governor Sir B. Griffith's Despatch of the 3rd June 1891,§ the King of Bekwai was at Kumasi and argued in favour of placing Ashanti under British protection, but that King Prempeh and his party would have nothing to do with such a movement. King Prempeh, in order to prevent any intrigue on the part of the King of Bekwai in the direction of protection, made him "drink fetish." Kofi Yami said that the Beckwais would not fight against the Government forces if they were sent to Kumasi, but this I doubt. He stated also that the Agogos have eight towns and are fairly numerous. Further, that King Prempeh recalled the Ashanti army to Kumasi as soon as he heard of the preparations this Government was making, being afraid that the objective of the force despatched towards Attabubu under Colonel Sir Francis Scott was Kumasi.

I enquired whether Abeasi is or is not an Attabubu town and Kofi Yami stated that it was, and that the Ashanti army would have overrun the whole of Attabubu but for the timely march of the Hausas.

Enclosure 1 in No. 45.

REV. RAMSEYER to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Abetifi, November 11, 1893.

COMING back this evening from a visiting journey of three days at the foot of the mountain where many Ashantees are living, I had the pleasure to welcome Mr. Phillips,

I beg to thank your Excellency for having sending him as long as the troops are here, for I have no doubt that his work will go on much more smoothly.

The Chief of Obo died five days ago, and there are, it seems, some little disturbance with regard to a successor, the townspeople being divided in their wishes.

If I dare add only two words more to my last letter, it is to say that all those with whom I have spoken on my journey, are one to declare that even if the King Prempeh agrees to pay any amount, this will never hinder him to begin again as soon as the occasion will be at hand. *Everybody* expects the expected last blow. And, indeed, the hour is at hand and will never offer itself again in such a way—*Ashantee is ripe.*

I have, &c.

F. RAMSEYER.

Enclosure 2 in No. 45.

REV. RAMSEYER to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Abetifi, November 13, 1893.

I DARE not add anything to my last letters in the "burning question," but take only the liberty of enclosing here two letters arrived yesterday from Bompata and Petrenza (on the boundary of Kumase territory) which show that our opinion is right, and what the people round about think and how the Ashantees, although trembling, are yet boasting.

With most respectful salutations,

I have, &c.

RAMSEYER.

MR. BOATENG to REV. RAMSEYER.

MY DEAR SIR,

Bompata, November 10, 1893.

HEREWITH acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 31st October by Mr. Odee, with all the contents well noted and with much thanks.

I was not quite well the last week, but as you want the answer of the letter as soon as possible, so I did try for all my best and go to Yao Sapong last Tuesday. He was very glad to see me there. He came with his aunt alone to me, asked me privately the best news I brought. I explained every bit, and examined them for one hour good and I saw that they are true in all, but not playing tricks; he will be *totally* with the Governor, and will have nothing at all to do with Prempe. He said he formerly joined Coomassie, only he is afraid of them, because he had once been taken as a captive to Coomassie, but now if the Governor will humble Coomassie, and some officers should be stationed there altogether, then there is nothing to be feared.

After this he called me before all his Chiefs and elders; and I did explain them the reason why I came there. King Yao Sapong together with all his Chiefs and elders repeated the same words. We want to be *tetally* with the Governor, and have nothing to do with Prempe; and we earnestly begging you to write all these to Rev. Ramseyer in order to be so kind and plead for us to be under the English flag and send a teacher here, then everything will be right. But the only remark is, we are afraid of Coomassie, but if she will be humbled and some officers will be established there, then everything will be carried on peaceably. In short I beg to say I believe King Yao Sapong together with his Chiefs and elders are speaking the truth, but not playing tricks. You wrote the Home Government seems not willing to force Coomassie to serve the English but nevertheless you push that this must be; I beg to say it is absolutely necessary to push the most; lest I assure you it would be very fearful for the people here only some weeks after, as soon as the Ashante people will learn that the English troops have returned without submit Coomassie quite under the English Government and leave none of the officers at Coomassie. Because this is the only request of the young men and even most of the Chiefs of Ashantees that the English should force Coomassie to serve the English, and some officers should stay there. Some of the Chiefs want to send to the Governor to receive them under the English as well as Yao Sapong but they are only afraid; perhaps the English will not show their power this time and will return to the coast. If it happens so then they have to suffer bitterly from the Coomassie King; so they are

all waiting to see whether the English can submit Coomassie under the English Government or not. So the English may not think at all it would be a hard job before bringing Coomassie under the English Government; this can be done in a moment.

Prempe has sent to tell his Chiefs that they may not be afraid in hearing about the English forces, not at all; because he has sent away the officer who came to Prasu, the English are only coming to beg for some money, but as soon as they hand over some they will return. I beg to say I stop here, knowing how things are going on at Ashantee and always have reports from those who are coming from Ashantee, so I dare say it is absolutely necessary that the English should punish Coomassie this time and put a heavy sum upon them to be paid as I did write the last time; because most of the Ashantees are now and then shedding tears that the English Government is not to be trusted, because they are too much tired of fightings and human sacrificings, but the English Government never put stop to it. So I beg to say these earnest requests should be granted this time by the English Government.

As King Yao Sapong want me to send his answer as soon as possible, in order to be able and plead for him so he gave me a boy of his to send, in order that he can receive soon your answer whether you will do your best to help him or not; because most of his people are so afraid and have run to Okwau, Akem, &c. So he will be thankful if you do your best for him to be receive under the English flag and especially that the English will promise to protect him.

You asked how much the land at Patirensa will cost? I beg to say I haven't yet bargain it; because you wrote me only to try for a piece of land, and if you come then we can buy it. I told to the Chief, who is thinking to get much for the land, that we have bought one at Bompata so there is no difficulty to buy the second one.

In case if you have no time to come as you thought, and you want me to buy it, then please to let me know per the return of the carriers and send me the paper of the land of Bompata in order to know how large and what I have to pay, &c.

The people of Asante Akem are even so afraid, so they will now clean the Bompata way as far as to Fommanso, and from Fommanso to Akwasidu belongs to the King of Obo, so please to tell him to see that his part should be cleaned too.

Now the Chief of Patirensa has given two boys; and Kwaku Kru too has given one here, and promised to give one at Patirensa.

With my best regards, &c.

To the Rev. Fr. Ramseyer.

SAMUEL BOATENG.

Mr. BOAMA to Rev. RAMSEYER.

DEAR SIR,

Patriansa, November 9, 1893.

WITH this I wish to let you hear of me, that I am quite well with my family; although nothing bad concerning me, yet I do not justify myself, but simply to say that by the Grace of God, none of us is sick. You know that I am a new labourer, and moreover I didn't study much that I can write you everything correctly; but as you have counted me amongst your labourers, through the Grace of God I will write what I can by the same Grace.

What I have heard and found myself is what I am writing. About two or three weeks ago I heard white men are coming to Ashantee, so all the people near Okwau and Akem, &c. have prepared their things, the white men are now at Okwau. All the people are shaking with fear.

All the young men and slaves are longing for peace, saying white men may (come) bring us peace for we are tired; and as for me I am writing you only what I have heard, because you know I am not far from Kumase, so I hear many things from the place.

Some of the Ashantees say, no one can rely on the saying of a white man, we all like to serve the Queen. How can white men say that they rule over our countries when the town Kumase is not subdued? Many of the Ashante Akems wish to be under the subjection of the British Government but they are afraid of Kumase. So if our Gracious Queen wishes indeed to pity the West Africans here, there is no other way than to fine the Ashanties a good amount of money, say thousands and thousands of pounds sterling, and after this build there if she like. What causes me to say this is, about three days ago we were visited by some relatives of my wife from their town near Kumase, and when I asked them something about the Ashantees, they said you alone are afraid of white men, that you shake when you hear of them, but as for us, the Kumasees, we are

not afraid at all of them; then they said in addition, white men are coming to Kumase only for the sake of money, if the King will give them money they will soon go back, therefore we shall never fear them, and we can do whatever we like after they have got what they want and gone.

All those troops sent to Nkoransa have been called back and the King has stopped every way saying that all his army may stay, that when the Governor comes and talk any foolish word to him he would not agree. Again he has sent his message to the officer at Prasu that he may be quiet there, if not he will learn him sense, and this officer has been quiet. So none of his subjects has to fear. To affirm what I am stating I went to preach in the town of Yow Sapon, there I met with some messengers from Kumase, with the said errand, also I heard some have been sent to Agogo with the same message, this proves that he is indeed not afraid. Those messengers who came to Yow Sapon returned shamefully because Yow Sapon did not agree with them. So now Yow Sapon is afraid. When I visited him at his Court, he asked me, if I am sure the white men can protect him against the power of Kumase, and I told him they can, if God please, because everything comes from above. This is what I can say, although am a new comer, that if it is the real mind of our Government to bring peace into all our countries except Kumase has been destroyed. Because if Kumase will still maintain its power, it will be useless to advise them with mere words. There is a proverb which says: "A sword doesn't work without its sharpness," that means, whatever matters may be, Ashantees will do what they like. If the officers at Okwau now will return to the coast without destroying Kumase, then people in these quarters will hereafter suffer, especially the Ashante-Akems. They all will be killed at once by the Ashantees before the officers will get to the coast. If you tell them we have mission stations at Ashante-Akem, then they say, once there was school too at Adanse, but it was crushed down by the Ashantees when they puffed up, when they fought with them the white men didn't say anything. Therefore if the Ashantee-Akems will not obey the Kumasees they will suffer the same, they will come upon them in one night as black ants (come upon attack men) in midnight.

Boasting with the mouth, but trembling in his heart, just as of old.—F.R.

These Kumasees are to be compared with Pharisees and the Scribes, as our Lord spoke about them, they will neither take the word of God themselves nor allow any one to take it.

Wherever I go they used to tell me, we have a master, if we will say we like it, we shall be killed at once. Once when Mr. Boaten and myself went to Kumawu the King there said the same to us: Although I like it, but my master doesn't like, if I express my wish I shall be killed with my people. And it is true.

In order to let all these countries live in peace is that Kumase may be quiet.

Dear Sir, I do not speak as a child, but what I am saying is quite true.

So far I can write, so try to push them forward because I am sure if the Ashantees will take the word of God, all the other countries will do the same, because they have the will, only they are afraid of the King of Kumase.

To the Rev. F. Ramseyer.

I remain, &c.

JAMES S. BOAMA.

No. 46.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received January 13, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Inspector-General reports by messenger Salagas under command of Kabachi Wula contemplate attack upon Yeji, because giving support to late king; Bandos assisted by Ashantis have been defeated by inhabitants of Mos (?) who are allied with Nkoranzas: former endeavouring to form alliance with King of Bole. Ferguson has been despatched to Bole by Inspector-General, requesting that king should not give assistance. If Salagas and Bandos succeed in hostile operations respectively, Nkoranza will be absorbed by Ashantees and Salagas, and greater portion of trade at present passing through Kuntempo to Gold Coast will be diverted. This is another very strong argument for dealing with Ashanti at the present time so as to endeavour to prevent alliance of Ashantis and Salagas.

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

[Answered by No. 50.]

Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C.,
January 13, 1894.

MY LORD,

THE West African Trade Section of this Chamber had again under its consideration at its meeting on Tuesday the 12th idem, the desirability of the construction of a railway in the interior of the Gold Coast, but, as on a former occasion, agreed that the discussion of the subject should be adjourned, pending the report of Captain Lang and other engineers, who have been surveying the interior on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, and I am now directed to inquire whether Captain Lang and his colleagues have furnished a report to the Colonial Office, and, if not, when your Department hopes to be in possession of this document.

I am also to state that the main subject of consideration at the meeting I have just referred to, was the disturbances, and their effect upon trade, which have lately taken place in connexion with the region formerly occupied by the Kingdom of Ashantee, and which was finally placed within the British sphere of influence by the agreement with Germany of 1887, and that with France of 1889. As a result, I am directed to urge in the strongest possible terms, that in the opinion of merchants engaged in West African trade, the present is a most opportune time for the Government of the Gold Coast Colony to establish in that region such a system of administration as will afford better security for life, liberty, and property to the natives desirous of carrying on trade with Europeans.

The merchants interested are, of course, quite alive to the fact that such a course would involve considerable expenditure, although I am desired, in this connexion, to draw your Lordship's attention to the large yearly surplus of revenue over expenditure that exists at present, but they, at the same time, also feel most strongly that such a step would put an end to the continual risk of attack from the Ashantees to which the Colony of the Gold Coast has in the past been subject, and which cannot even now be said to be at an end, and they have no doubt that the large development of trade which would follow the establishment of greater security and more peaceful conditions would fully recoup the expenditure involved.

Expressing the hope that this matter will receive the most careful consideration at your hands and those of Her Majesty's Government,

I am, &c.

KENRIC B. MURRAY,
Secretary.

No. 48.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received January 15, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 53.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
December 7, 1893.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 22nd November* as to the situation of affairs with regard to Ashanti, I have the honour to submit a copy of a further report which I have received from Mr. Ferguson, whom, as already stated, I sent to Attabubu to watch the movements of the Ashanti army, and obtain and supply me with information.

Mr. Ferguson, from the inquiries which he has been able to make on the spot, has compiled, in the form of a Memorandum, a very useful record of the history and position towards Ashanti of Nkoranza and the Brong tribes (of which Attabubu is one) up to the present date.

It appears clear from this report that the King of Ashanti, besides taking active measures against the Nkoranzas, had determined upon the subjugation of the Brong

tribes, not excluding Attabubu, which, as shown in paragraph 14, was mentioned by name in the oath taken by Amankwatia Kwamin who was placed in command of the Ashanti army. It appears from the statement in the same paragraph, that the Nkoranzas were very decisively defeated by the Ashantis, 2,000 to 3,000 women and children having been captured and sent to Kumasi as well as the State Stool and Umbrellas. The fate of these unfortunate captives it is not difficult to forecast, but I took the opportunity of referring to them in the message which I delivered to the Ashanti messengers on the 15th November, a copy of which accompanied my Despatch of the 18th November* and I trust what I said may not be without effect.

I observe that Mr. Ferguson mentions a King of Abeasi so that it would seem that Abeasi, which is referred to in paragraph 2 of my Despatch of the 18th November as possibly an Attabubu town, cannot really be so.

It appears from paragraph 15 of the Memorandum, that the King of Nkoranza, doubtful of the good-will of the King of Attabubu, has passed with his followers into Wiasa.

In paragraph 16 Mr. Ferguson refers to a message sent by the King of Ashanti to the King of Attabubu desiring him to take the oath of allegiance to him, and acquainting him that, should he not do so, he would order his army to invade his country.

It appears (paragraph 17) that the Nkoranzas, finding, after their arrival at Wiasa, that the Brong tribes were too weak to be able to render any assistance to them, conceived the idea of subjugating them, and, by bringing them again under the influence of the King of Ashanti, to get back by that means to their own country without molestation. This idea had, however, to be abandoned upon its becoming known that this Government was sending a large force into Attabubu.

The presence of the fetish priest at Kraki with an armed party at Attabubu is referred to in the enclosures to my Despatch of the 14th November.† Your Lordship will be glad to note that he returned to Kraki upon receipt of Colonel Sir Francis Scott's order given to him through Mr. Ferguson.

Mr. Ferguson's Memorandum closes with a reference to the arrival of messengers from Ashanti at Attabubu, and to an interview which, in conjunction with the King of Attabubu, Mampon, and Nkoranza, he had with them in the town of Attabubu on Monday the 20th November.

Mr. Ferguson urges that the country of Nkoranza should be taken into the Protectorate, but I have pointed out to him that the extension of protection to it means, as Nkoranza is at war with Ashanti, that this Government must be prepared to face Ashanti and to deal, if needs be, with that country also; that the Ashanti question is an Imperial question and cannot be dealt with by this Government; and that under the circumstances it is not in my power to take any step such as that of extending protection to Nkoranza which might, and probably would, have the effect of forcing the hand of the Imperial Government. I have, however, written to him as follows:—

“I see no reason why a treaty of friendship and freedom of trade should not be made with the King of Nkoranza so long as he understands clearly that it is no more than that, and that it does not involve any obligation on the part of this Government to afford protection to him from the Ashantis; and I authorise your making a treaty with the King accordingly.”

The conclusion of such a treaty will impose no obligation upon this Government, and will pave the way to a closer relationship hereafter.

Mr. Ferguson having informed me in a letter dated the 24th November that in a letter which I addressed to him on the 23rd October, I had used the word “protection,” in connexion with the treaties which I had directed him to make with the Chiefs of various tribes on the right bank of the Volta and outside the neutral zone, I have now informed him that I used the word in error, the treaties which he has been instructed to make, being treaties of “friendship and freedom of trade.”

In a further letter addressed by Mr. Ferguson to the adjutant of the Attabubu Expeditionary Force he states that “the news of a contemplated invasion of Ashanti by British Forces advancing from Prahsh has reached the King of Ashanti” and “that he has sent to recall his troops from Kontempo.”

I enclose a copy of a report, made to Colonel Sir Francis Scott by Captain Lang, R.E., whom he had sent to Bompata (Asanti Akim), a town in the Protectorate some 40 miles east of Kumasi, and 25 W.S.W., of Abetifi. There is no doubt as Captain Lang says, that by far the majority of the people of Ashanti, are yearning for the peace and quietness which would follow the inclusion of Ashanti into the Protectorate, but I do not

* No. 44.

† No. 43.

altogether agree with Captain Lang in thinking that King Prempe and his party would gladly come to terms with this Government. I think he would offer resistance, and although it would be a feeble resistance, he would not in my opinion let the forces of this Government march into Kumasi without firing a shot.

P.S.—8th December.—I have to-day received from Colonel Sir Francis Scott the further letter of which I enclose a copy. He has, as your Lordship will observe, stationed a section of Hausas at Bompata.

F. M. H.

Enclosure 1 in No. 48.

Mr. FERGUSON to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Atabubu, November 24, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the attached Memorandum on Ashanti and the Brong tribes. It is a historical sketch of what has transpired here recently, and shows that the King of Ashanti should be made responsible for the cost of the present expedition. The policy of the King of Ashanti in this part of the Colony is to destroy our prestige. I very respectfully submit that a determination to hold our own will have great moral effect in crippling this policy and this can be gained by taking the King of Nkoranza and his country under our protection.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

His Excellency F. M. Hodgson, Esq., C.M.G.,
Acting Governor

P.S.—The matters referred to in this letter have all been communicated to the Inspector General in detail together with the evidences on which the statements are founded.

MEMORANDUM.

ASHANTI and the BRONG TRIBES, or the ATABUBUS in their relations with the Kingdom of ASHANTI and with the FETISH PRIEST of KRAKI.

1. The geographical positions of the countries coming under notice in this historical sketch must be borne in mind, since it was this which brought the various tribes into contact with their neighbours. The strong sympathy existing between fetish priests of different countries as well as the influence of religion or superstition over savage minds are potent political agents: the predominance of a fetish country is often in the predominance of its deity, and it is from this circumstance that Kraki and Krobo derived their importance. Nor must the influence also of commercial relations be overlooked; Atabubu, Nkoranza, and the Brong tribes stand between two countries with great trading predilections, namely the kolanut-producing country of Ashanti on the south-west and the Mahommedan states of the north-east, which send forth annually their caravans with cattle and slaves &c., to be exchanged for kolanuts. The influence of race and language is exerted more on the Brong tribes than on the other states of this part, for the Brongs are identical in language with Ashanti. Kiripon is spoken by the people of Kraki, while the Hausa is the medium of commercial intercourse at Salaga. Native customs—or rather their motives and not the customs themselves—when properly understood explain the importance of certain political events, hence in this sketch customs relating to administration of justice, acquisitions of territory by acknowledgment &c., will be alluded to and explained according to the interpretation put upon them by the Natives themselves.

2. Ashanti proper was made up of the provinces of Mampon, Kokofu, Bekwai, Juabin Nsuta, Nkoranza, &c., the Kings of which were arranged according to rank and precedent thus:—the King of Nkoranza is below Mampon in the scale:—Nkoranza, Atabubu, Gwan, Basa, Yeji, Prang, and Abeasi comprise the Brong tribes. They speak a dialect of their own, which is slightly different from Ashanti proper. They are in league together for offence and defence against a common foe. That league is founded on the greatest oath. They may be described as lying to the north and east of Ashanti, and occupying

political
influences.

the Brong
people.

the country bounded on the south by the Sene River, on the north by a large tributary of the Volta, which, taking its rise from the Gaman country, curves northward to join the "Daboya-Kraki-Ada" Volta. Kraki is on the eastern or left bank of the Volta. Banda lies between Gaman and Nkoranza. The King of Nkoranza possesses the territory to the west and north-west of Atabubu, while Mampon and Nsuta are situated to the south-west of Atabubu. Recently the territories on left bank of the Volta River have been brought under German protection; the English Protectorate being situated to the west of this boundary and a "Neutral Zone" immediately to the north of it.

3. Nkoranza and Ashanti proper were formerly separate kingdoms, they were brought together by an alliance formed between Opok Wari, the King of Ashanti, and Bafu Pim, King of Nkoranza, when the Ashantis asked the Nkoranzas to assist them in a war against a King of Takiman, called Ameo. From an ally the Nkoranza kingdom developed into an Ashanti province. All the countries referred to in the preceding paragraph were formerly under the sway of the King of Ashanti. His conquests extended as far as the Gonja and Dagomba territories, and from all these countries also he received yearly tributes. Salaga was the only market then, and from there tolls were collected for him. The markets at Kuntampo and Atabubu had not then been established. But the Fetish Dente, of Kraki, was already recognised, and appeal was made to it from Ashanti and surrounding countries in matters relating to fetish and religion, to divination and charms, teleology, as well as in health, wealth, and disease; but there was no trade done in Kraki. Like most other savage tribes Ashanti did not keep a standing army, but for the maintenance of authority one country was deputed to punish another, and about the middle of the present century an expedition commanded by Dewia, the King of Atabubu, was conducted against Kojo Gyeyini, the Fetish Priest of Kraki, to subjugate the Krakis who had revolted. Kojo Gyeyini, the father of the present priest, was taken prisoner and slain by the King of Atabubu. Between all these several tribes there are also accounts of great and bloody wars, and shortly before the Kumase war of 1873-4 one of these ensued between Gaman and Banda, in which war the inhabitants of the latter country were driven from their ancient habitat to take refuge in Nkoranza territory. The Bandas then formed an alliance with the Kumasis.

The political relations described in this paragraph are those which immediately preceded the Ashanti War of 1873-4.

4. When however the British forces entered Kumase in 1874, and dictated terms of peace to Kofi Kalkali, the Ashanti King, the bonds which united the various countries to Ashanti were loosened. Atabubu with the members of the Brong tribes, except Nkoranza, threw off their allegiance to the King of Kumasi and formed a confederation with the priest of the Fetish Dente of Kraki at the head; the Gonjas killed all the Ashantis in their territories, and Dagomba made captives of those in that territory. Kofi Kalkali was deposed by his subjects, and Mensa was placed on the Stool of Ashanti. But Juabin, Kokofou, Mampon, Nsuta, &c., continued to be Ashanti provinces. Nkoranza, though one of the Brong tribes, remained under an indifferent sort of subjugation to Ashanti, in fact it preferred to be independent, and it is stated that Atafa, the King of Nkoranza, never after the Kumase war set his foot in Kumase, though messages were exchanged between the monarchs of the two countries. Markets were established, one at Kuntampo by Atafa, and another at Atabubu, by Jan Kwaku the King of Attabubu, from which the kings derived a handsome revenue.

5. After the Kumasi war the fetish priest of Kraki and the confederate Kings sent tusks of ivory to the Governor of Accra. The native expression for this act is "Makoto aban mu," meaning "I have deposited in the Fort," a token of acknowledgment of fealty to the conqueror. In fact the argument used by the natives runs thus: "The Ashanti monarch was formerly our master. The English fought with him and entered his capital; Ashanti with all that pertains to it became the trophies and captives of the conqueror. We can assert our independence of Ashanti, but will only serve the English who delivered us from the tyrannical rule of a bloodthirsty African monarch." Such is the prestige which was gained by the Ashanti War of 1873-4. The Ashantis themselves know this and acknowledge the application of native law and custom to this matter.

6. While Kalkali was King of Ashanti his relations with the King of Nkoranza were very friendly, so much so that the former conferred upon the latter court decorations, consisting of gold sandals, state umbrella and accoutrements, articles which, according to the prescriptions of the customs of Ashanti were, when made of gold, hitherto beyond the rank of the King of Nkoranza, and which he was not privileged to use. This act of Kalkali naturally produced a certain amount of sympathy between him and the King of Nkoranza, and when Kwaku Dua and Kalkali became rival claimants to the

Political relations preceding 1873-74.

Kumasi war, 1874.

Events after Kumasi war, 1874.

Stool of Kumasi upon the death of King Mensa, Kalkali received strong support from Opoku, the new King of Nkoranza, who had meanwhile succeeded Atafa. Kwaku Dua was, however, elected King, but he died shortly afterwards, and Kalkali, being suspected of having caused his death, was killed by the Ashantis. The usual course of succession to the Stool of Ashanti was, however, not again undisturbed and rival claimants again appeared in the persons of Prempe and Achrabuanda.

7. The Kings of Mampon, Nsuta, and Kokofu supported Achrabuanda; the people of Kumasi preferred Prempe, while the King of Nkoranza withheld his support from any except a favourite of the late Kalkali. Prempe, however, under the moral support of the Gold Coast Government, was placed on the Stool of Kumasi. But the other four provinces broke out in open rebellion against Prempe. One by one Mampon, Nsuta, and Kokofu provinces were overrun by the Kumasis, and though a great deal of vindictive blood has been shed, the suppression of the revolters has not been effected with any advantage to Ashanti. Nearly all of them have taken refuge in the British Protectorate, while portions of them found their way eventually to Nkoranza, to which country the attention of Prempe was soon directed. Prempe also prescribed a policy to destroy the prestige gained by us, and tried to make out that England would transfer all the people back to him.

8. About the early part of the year 1888 Prempe called into question the independence of the Nkoranzas, and requested Opoku, the King, to "drink water" with him that is to "drink fetish" with him which means that Opoku was to "take the oath of allegiance" to Prempe. Opoku made an evasion, and represented that there was no reason to doubt his loyalty, to prove which he swore that he would recover for the King of Ashanti his authority over the Brong tribes which was lost in 1874 when those tribes asserted their independence. The King of Ashanti was very pleased, and presented Opoku with a gold sword and other decorations. To re-assert his authority over those countries which were formerly under his sway has been the dream of Ashanti since 1874. In some cases the intention has been veiled by other pretexts, such as those connected with the threatened invasion of the Colony in 1881; in other cases the intention has been avowed, as when it was published by the Ashantis in 1891-2 that the Gold Coast Government had accepted gold from the King of Ashanti to give up to Kumasi the Ashanti refugees as well as the other tribes formerly ruled by that monarch, the motive being to lower the prestige of the Government so that the people (mostly those of the far interior), having lost confidence in the English as their protector, might be compelled to serve their old master. Opoku did not drink the fetish so as to concede his allegiance to Prempe.

About
1888-89.

9. It was shortly after the King of Nkoranza had represented his loyalty to that of Kumasi that Mampon and Nsuta were overrun by the Kumasis. A portion of the people of Nkoranza fled to Nkoranza while the Nsutas and the remaining Mampons took refuge in Atabubu. After feathering (sheltering?) himself at Atabubu, Senkere, the King of Mampon, demanded from the King of Nkoranza the return of the refugees, but the request was refused, upon which war ensued between the Mampons and the Nkoranzas. Senkere could not prevail on Kwabina Asante, the King of Atabubu, to assist him. Opoku, who had been ailing when Senkere made his demand, died before the preparations for the war were completed, but his people turned to Kumasi for alliance. However, before the aid from Kumasi reached Nkoranza, a decisive battle had been fought, Senkere was defeated, and he returned in disgrace to Atabubu, while part of the trophies captured by the Nkoranzas were on their way to Kumasi. One after another the adherents whom Senkere brought with him to Atabubu have deserted him and gone to Mampon in Ashanti, and there they have set up a new King called Osunche.

About 1890.

10. As regards the King of Nsuta and his people they all continued to reside in Atabubu until the relations between them and Kraki became strained in 1892. It is affirmed that the subjects of the king of Kkoranza disrespect the oath of the fetish priest of Kraki. Now "abjuration [adjuration?] by a memorable event in the history of a king, "chief, or country" or "taking their oaths," as this is termed, is the means of putting the native laws into operation. Thus in a dispute between two parties if any of them makes such an abjuration it is the duty of the king to whom the fact of the taking of the oath is reported or represented to investigate the matter, whether the person be his subject or not, and then having done so to inflict fine on the guilty one. If the oath appears to have been violated or perjured the person taking it is fined, which, when collected, is sent to the person whose oath was taken. The latter can, moreover, depute another king to collect the dues for him. It was represented by the fetish priest of Kraki that when the Nsuta people residing at Atabubu took his oath the dues were not forwarded by Edu Tre, the Nsuta king, to him. The King of Atabubu complained to the priest that he could not receive the dues from Edu Tre. To pay himself, the

fetish priest seized at Kraki, under various pretences, about sixty of the subjects of the Nsutas, and he threatened to take similar steps towards the Nsutas residing at Atabubu. Edu Tre, knowing the friendly relations which existed between the priest and Kwabina Asante, or rather recognizing that the acquiescence which Kwabina Asante gave to the overbearing influence of the Kraki priest was about to produce undesirable complications between the Nsutas and the Atabubus, preferred to treat for peace with Prempe. When the country of Atabubu was taken under the protection of England on the 25th of November 1890 the Kings of Mampon and Nsuta were both residing there, but two years afterwards the circumstances referred to compelled Edu Tre and his people to make a sudden departure for Ashanti. Yow Effrim, one of the Chiefs of Nsuta, preferred, however, to remain in Atabubu; he resides at Mem, and his relations with Senkere, the refugee King of Mampon, who resides at Atabubu, are sympathetic and friendly.

11. When Kofi Fa, the present King of Nkoranza, succeeded to the Stool of his ancestors after the short anarchy which supervened during the war between the Mampons and the Nkoranzas, Prempe took advantage of the appeal which the Nkoranzas had made to him for help to renew his policy prescribed against Nkoranza, and sent to Kofi Fa to ask that the relations between them should be cemented by Kofi Fa "drinking fetish" with him. The King of Nkoranza again refused, and preferred that they should be better friends apart. Whereupon Prempe called upon him to send to Kumasi all the Kokofus, Mampons, and Nsutas who had fled to Nkoranza, together with the Kumasis who made Nkoranza their residence after the war of 1874. Kofi Fa did not comply with this demand, and so Prempe determined to reduce the independence of Nkoranza by force of arms and declared war against that country about the middle of 1892.

War between Kumasi and Nkoranza.

12. Gifts for securing alliances were soon distributed by the King of Nkoranza. He sent 12 slaves and gold to the fetish priest of Kraki, who in response sent charms and medicated gunpowder to Kofi Fa. The King of Atabubu, pressed by the advice of two of his principal councillors Prasibene and Kofi Do, acquiesced in the order of the fetish priest of Kraki and sent thirty men under Kwamin Akojina to aid the Nkoranzas, though it is represented by Kwabina Asante that that force was to watch the Atabubu frontier. The King of Nkoranza also sent to the Governor of Accra to take him under the protection of the Queen, and as an earnest of his declaration he sent (Koto aban mu) four tusks of ivory and 13 peregrins of gold (value 86*l.* 8*s.*) to the Government. He expected the alliance of least of the Government. And he also expected support from the people of Mo, a country to the west of Kuntampo. The expected alliance of the Governor of Accra did not arrive; by a strategic advance of the Kumasi army the support of the people of Mo, on which he had counted, was severed from him, and he was obliged to accept battle in that situation. Engagements took place near Kumfa where the Kumasis suffered severely from the fire of the Nkoranzas in the swamp and marshes in the neighbourhood. Three hundred of them were taken prisoners and slain by the Nkoranzas, and they retired to Kumasi while the Nkoranzas returned to their country, burnt by the Kumasis. But the Kumasis retired to Ashanti, to return with augmented forces in the middle of 1893. Meanwhile soon after the Nkoranza war with Kumasi, the King of Nkoranza went and fought with Banda to punish them for their alliance with Kumasi, and at the close of the war Kofi Fa sent a court wickerwork, in which native Kings are carried, together with two slaves, to the King of Atabubu as a recognition of the services rendered by Kwamin Akojina, whom he had persuaded to go with him to Banda. Kofi Fa also sent twelve slaves, gold, &c., to the fetish priest of Kraki to thank the god Dente, as the success in both these wars was ascribed by the Nkoranzas to the powers of the fetish Dente.

1892.

13. Senkere, the refugee King of Mampon, was at this time getting tired of his stay in Atabubu, and, becoming very anxious to secure the pardon of Prempe, thought the relations between Nkoranza and Kumasi a favourable opportunity to represent to Prempe that he would secure the subjugation of the revolting Nkoranzas and also work out from Atabubu the re-annexation by Ashantee of the Brong people. He was accordingly taken into the confidence of Prempe, and henceforth the King of Ashanti conducted his negotiations through Senkere. Senkere is said to have sent to the King of Ashanti that he was present when the treaty of 1892 was executed with Atabubu, and that he thought that Ashanti invasion of the Brong people was feasible if only Atabubu were excluded, for he had discovered during his stay here that the British Government refrained from exercising active territorial jurisdiction over those tribes who had "Koto aban mu," except such as it had "made paper with" or executed treaties with. But Senkere, mindful of the late war between him and Kofi Fa, was

Early part of 1893.

ominous of the failure which would attend his scheme if he dealt direct with the King of Nkoranza. Knowing, however, the influence which the fetish priest of Kraki exercised over affairs in Nkoranza he tried to make a tool of the priest in conducting conciliatory negotiations between the Nkoranzas and Ashantis. Senkere therefore sent his messengers, called Kwabina Re, Kwamin Diene, Kwabina Wusu Ansa, Kwesi Adai, to the fetish priest of Kraki. It is not necessary to repeat, nor indeed can one translate into English, the eloquence with which the message was clothed: suffice it to say that he asked the priest to advise Kofi Fa not to fight; that the priest should represent to the Nkoranza monarch the fate not only of Senkere himself, but the fates of Asafu Ajei of Juabin, Asibe of Kokofu, and Edu Tre of Nsuta, and that the Nkoranzas should be induced to yield to their sovereign. But Akwesi Jantradu, the fetish priest, and an excellent man of business besides, would not lose the slaves and gold which accompanied the appeals of Nkoranza for help against the common foe. He then said to the messengers, "Your king has fought with the King of Ashanti, he also fought with the King of Nkoranza; what sympathy has he with either Nkoranza, or Kumasi, or what interest has he in their reconciliation?" Thereupon the messengers and their followers, numbering 19, were seized and 12 kegs of powder with 7*l.* 4*s.* confiscated.

June.

14. Meanwhile war preparations were not relaxed by either the Kumasis or the Nkoranzas. The Kumasi army was composed of contingents from Mampon, Nsuta, Abissim, Ofinsu, Kumau, Ajissu, Agogo, Kwamain, and Asokori. The Juabin King at Koningo furnished his quota and placed Ampetsi the son of the late King Asafu Ajei, in command: from this it will be seen that the relations of Juabin and Kumasi are not unfriendly; though the Juabins at Korforidua declare that Yow Sapon, the King of Juabin, who is at Koningo, has no hands in the war. Yow Bebresu the King of Bekwai fully supported Prempe and contributed his share of forces. Amankwaitia Kwamin was placed in command of the Ashanti army, whose intentions, as settled in the Council at Kumasi, are expressed in the oath which Amankwaitia Kwamin swore before the King, Council, and people, when proceeding to the theatre of operations, viz. :—"I will proceed to Nkoranza or wherever the King of Nkoranza may be and bring him to you. I will visit Brumasi, I will take my breastplates ('osen') from the King of Prang, Yegi and Gwan. I will encamp at Atabubu, where the shady trees will give shelter to my troops, and on my return I will bring Atabubu, Nkoranza, and all the Brong nation with me to you as part of your kingdom by conquest." On the part of Nkoranza, Kofi Fa (of Nkoranza) moved from Nkoranza to Kuntampo, so that he may not again be severed from Mo; he sent to the fetish priest for support, but the priest in his turn ask Atabubu and the Brong tribes to take up arms to assist the King of Nkoranza. But the injunction was ineffectual: excepting Kwabina Kru, the King of Abease, not one of the confederate Kings stirred. However the roads to Ashanti were closed by the order of the Priest of Kraki, and, it is alleged, to prevent surprise by the Ashantis. Traders from Atabubu could not proceed to Ashanti, and messengers sent by the King of Mampon to the coast were sent back from Wiasi and Nframa, King Efrim of Wiasi affirming that the priest had sworn that not one of the Mampons at Atabubu should escape his resentment, and that the roads to the coast should be closed against them. But while the priest of the Fetish Dente and the members of the Confederation oscillated towards one another the Kumasi army was advancing to Kuntampo.

July.

At the same time the King of Ashanti sent his messengers Akwa and Opoku to Kwabina Asante of Atabubu and all the Brong people. When the messengers arrived at Ejira they sent one Kwami Ejei, a subject of the Mampon refugee King, with the following errand: "Tell the King of Mampon and the King of Atabubu that the King of Ashanti presents his compliments to them. That the King of Ashanti sends us Opoku and Akwa to inform them that he is at war with Nkoranza, and that he cautions the King of Atabubu not to aid the Nkoranzas, and that should Kwabina Assante do so he, Prempe, would destroy his country. Prempe cautions the Brong people not to join the war. If the King of Atabubu is for peace Prempe was for peace." The fetish priest ordered that the messengers should not be allowed to come to Atabubu. Kwabina Assante and his Chiefs then met in Council. Prasibene and Kofi Do opposed every measure except what was in consonance with the dictates of the fetish priest, though they (Councillors) were all satisfied upon one point which they express as follows: "We know the artfulness of the Ashantis, we were once ourselves members of the kingdom before: in some cases while negotiations are being conducted their forces are being disposed to the best advantage, in other cases though you may keep perfect neutrality, yet when the Ashanti army returns the conqueror pretends are invariably found to include you in the captures of the war." Thus the assurances of the King of Ashanti were doubted. Kwabina Assante and his Linguist Yow Yami

preferred to adhere to the Governor's advice not to engage in war with a foreign country, Prasihene and Do swore that they will assist the King of Nkoranza and the fetish priest to the last. Some of the Mahomedan settlers of Atabubu left Songo for the coast and the Atabubu inhabitants prepared to desert their country. Kwabina Asante sent to acquaint the Governor of Accra of the state of affairs. He also spoke to Kwamin Ejei as follows:—"I have never received messengers from Kumasi since I severed my connexion with them, and now that Premepe is at war with Nkoranza why should he send to me? Premepe knows that we are all one members of the Brong tribe. If Premepe desires peace he should offer to and make peace with the King of Nkoranza. I understand that the King of Nkoranza has asked for the protection of the Governor of Accra. In that case he is my brother, and if Premepe desires peace he should offer it to my brother, but if Premepe fights him notwithstanding then it is possible his operations may be extended to the other members of the Brong tribe." Kwamin Ejei then went to Ejira and told these Kumasi messengers what the King of Atabubu had said. Kofi Fa again turned to the Governor for alliance, but he was disappointed, and the Nkoranzas had to accept battle with only the people of Mo and Abease for their allies. After two engagements were fought near Kuntampo the King of Nkoranza retreated to Abease, from which messengers were sent to Kwabina Asante asking him to come and assist him and to the fetish priest of Kraki to acquaint him of his disaster, but before the messengers returned to the Nkoranza camp the Kumasis had gained a decisive victory. They lost five men killed, and 2,000 to 3,000 women and children were taken captives to Kumasi, the Nkoranza Stool and the State umbrellas became trophies of the conquerors. The King of Nkoranza with a few adherents crossed the Pru River, others flew to Brumasi, Koro and neighbourhood, while the King of Abeasi took the road to Wiasi by way of Prang. Soon after crossing the Pru River, forces which Kwabina Asante detailed to give assistance to Kofi Fa were met, but from the procrastination of the Atabubu, the Nkoranzas had discovered that the King of Atabubu was playing duplicity towards them in his endeavour to keep terms with them and with the Governor of Accra. The King of Nkoranza then made haste for Atabubu; when the people of Prang and Yegi, heard that the King of Abease had gone ineffectually to the help of Kofi Fa they buried their cowries and ran away to Wiasi.

About end
of July and
early part
of August.

15. When the vanquished Nkoranzas came to Atabubu they were received with hospitality by the King of Atabubu. The inglorious monarch was presented with a fat cow, four sheep, and several loads of yams. But because Kwabina Asante had not gone to the aid of the Nkoranzas as ordered by the priest, and because Kwabina Asante is supposed to have held communications through the King of Mampon with that of Ashanti, in addition to the falsehood which he played towards them, the sincerity of the Atabubu friendship was doubted, and after a stay of a few days the King of Nkoranza proceeded to Wiasi, where he met the Kings of Abease, Yegi, Prang, Gwan, Basa, and Wiasi.

Middle of
August.

16. To the Kumasis, however, it was not known where Kofi Fa had fled to, and it is evidently with a view to discover his whereabouts that messengers were again sent to Atabubu, for, shortly after Kofi Fa passed through Atabubu for Wiasi, messengers from Premepe arrived at Ejira. From Ejira the Kumasi messengers conducted their negotiations through the medium of Senkere, and sent one Ejei subject of Senkere to say as follows to the King of Atabubu and to the King of Mampon (the army of Premepe was then at Abease, only one day's journey from Atabubu):—

September.

"The King of Ashanti presents his compliments to you all. He has heard that the people of Atabubu and the Brong people are deserting their country, they should stay in their country. If they like peace Premepe is for peace. If they like war they will have it. Premepe desires that the King of Atabubu and the King of Mampon should return to serve him; that they should eat fetish with him, after which they are to make peace between him and the King of Nkoranza or else give up the refugee King of Nkoranza. That the King of Atabubu, the King of Nkoranza, and the Brong people should take their oath of allegiance to Premepe. Should they not do so they are not for peace with Ashanti. If they are for peace the King of Ashanti is for peace. If the messengers return with unfavourable reply to their King the army then at Abease would proceed against Atabubu and the Brong people. Should the invasion of Atabubu and the Brong people as well as the capture of the Nkoranza King not be feasible now the army would retire to Kuntampo and wait there till it can fight them." Five days were given to consider the demands of the King of Ashanti.

The King of Atabubu communicated the message which was brought by Ejei to the Kings of Gwan, Basa, the rest of the Brong people, and to the Priest of Kraki, and they all invited the Kumasi messengers to proceed to Atabubu. When, however, the

messengers heard that Kofi Fa was at Wiasi, they left for Kumasi without proceeding to Atabubu. Why they left is not difficult to conjecture; it is probable that they came to discover where the King of Nkoranza had fled to, so that orders may be given by Prempe to the Kumasi army. However, the messengers themselves put the following explanation for their sudden departure, namely, that they were sent to the King of Atabubu and the Brong people and not to the King of Nkoranza, but as they have found that the King of Nkoranza was here it is possible that after they have delivered their message the question may be asked them respecting the intentions of Prempe concerning the Nkoranzas; they went to ascertain the pleasure of their King in the matter.

October.

17. At Wiasi, and in fact wherever the Nkoranzas have taken refuge, the weakness of the Brong tribes was soon discovered by them, and they assumed a domineering attitude over the inhabitants, indeed to such an extent that the people began to pry into the reason. They soon discovered that it was the intention of the King to persevere in this attitude till an acknowledgment of fealty was made to him by the Brong people, and so, having accomplished by moral coercion what he thought to do by force of arms, Kofi Fa would return to his country forgiven, and be received into favour by Prempe. However, this policy was altered when it was known that the Government was sending a large number of forces to Atabubu. All the desire of Nkoranzas is to occupy their ancient land, and they will do so at all costs.

18. About the middle of October the messengers sent by Prempe left Kumasi and arrived at Petira about the 26th of October. Akwa and Opoku have come to deliver the message borne by them in September last and to ask whether the King of Nkoranza is now willing to give his allegiance to Prempe. And also to emphasize on the point that Prempe has the most friendly intentions towards the Brong people.

November.

19. The fetish priest and his followers are proceeding to Atabubu to hear the message brought by Akwa and Opoku. The priest was cautioned by me at Wiasi on the 24th of October not to enter into Atabubu with arms. I remonstrated with him on the 5th of November, and told him he will be responsible for any aggressive acts committed in British territory, but persuasion unbacked by coercion is of no use. At Wiasi the Chief Priest of Kraki swore to the Nkoranzas that he will restore them to their country and would make Atabubu his base of operations against the Ashantis.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

November 9, 1893.

20. On the 14th November the Fetish Priest of Kraki arrived at Atabubu with his forces, but I delivered to him the written order of the Inspector-General to leave British territory, and sent him away immediately.

21. On the 18th instant the messengers from Kumasi proceeded to Atabubu without being invited to do so, and obtained a hearing of the message entrusted to them by the King of Ashanti. They said "A subject of the King of Ashanti, called Adunkwa reported " to Prempe that the Atabubus are deserting their towns." My king, said Akwa and Opoku, "Go and tell the King of Atabubu and the Brong people that I have no palaver " with them, so why should they leave their homes. I have no enemy among them. " My operations will be conducted against Nkoranza only. It is not during my reign " that the Brong people have severed their connection with Ashanti. They did so in " the time of my predecessors. I am a young king. I do not know them, and they do not " know me, no messenger of mine has been to see them, nor has theirs come here. Go " and tell them that I am on the best of terms with them, and that after my forces, now " at Kuntampo have returned I shall send to give them my compliments and exchange " peaceful relations with them.

" So Prempe spoke. On the way I met Kwamin Ejei at Ejira. Kwamin Ejei is a " subject of Akwesi Senkere, King of Mampon, who is now at Atabubu. I told Ejei to " go and tell the King of Atabubu that the King of Ashanti has sent me to him. " Kwamin Ejei returned to say that the King of Atabubu and the other Brong people " did not want to see me. Then I returned to Kumasi.

" While I was at Kumasi the King of Ashanti said he had heard that the people of " Atabubu were leaving their country. The report was made to the King by three men " who had run away from Amananting to Ejira. I was therefore sent again to Atabubu " and the Brong people. When I arrived at Ejira the second time, I met Ejei again, and " sent him to Atabubu to let the King know I was there. Ejei returned with an " invitation from the Brong people to come to them.

" When Ejei came I heard from him that the King of Nkoranza was at Wiasi. I " said to myself, when I delivered this message to the Brong people, they may ask me

“ questions concerning the Nkoranza people respecting which I will be unable to give a reply, so I returned to Kumasi to ascertain the King's mind.

“ I have now returned the third time. I am sent to tell the King of Atabubu and the other Brong people that my king is at peace with them. I am to ask the King of Nkoranza whether he will now return to Nkoranza to serve Prempe.”

21. As will be observed the representations made by Akwa and Opoku do not explain why the Ashanti army is still encamped at Kuntampo. The army was seen there on the 12th November instant. My spies were fired upon by a man in ambush when they were returning from Kuntampo to this place. The message as delivered by Akwa and Opoku did not allude to what happened in September last, and as it appeared on the whole to be an afterthought message I determined to enquire whether Kwamin Ejei was sent to the King of Atabubu with the message referred to as delivered in September last. It was admitted by the Kumasi messengers that they did send Kwamin Ejei with the message stated in previous paragraphs of this memo. I attach in original the notes of the meeting as was taken down at the time. The admission made by the Kumasi messengers is in perfect accord with the oath taken by Amankwatia Kwamin, the Ashanti general, with the statement made by runaways from the Ashanti camp and by prisoners captured by the Nkoranzas, besides the support given to the statement of Kwamin Ejei by the conduct of the King of Mampon, and the attitude previously assumed but now abandoned, by the King of Nkoranza, all of which show the intention of Ashanti to invade Atabubu, &c.

24/11/93.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

Atabubu, Monday, November 20, 1893.

PRESENT :

KWABINA ASANTE, King of Atabubu.
 KWAKU MENSA, Chief Prasihene.
 KWAMIN AROJINA, Chief.
 KWAMIN AMOAKU, Chief.
 KOFI AMOAKU, Commander Rear Guard.
 KWABINA TUA, linguist.
 YOW YAMI, linguist.
 AKWESI OWUSU, linguist.
 KOJO OWUSU, Janahine.

Mampon.

SENKERE, King of Mampon (Refugee).
 KOJO FOJO, Chief.
 KWABINA PIE, Landlord Chief.
 YOKODUA, Jasihine.
 SEYA ARWESI, Konahine.
 YOW EFFRIM, Chief of Essaman.
 KWAKU OWUSU, Chief of Abankwia.
 TUFU, Chief of Mamponтин.

Nkoranza.

KOFI FA, King of Nkoranza.
 KWAKU DOHINA, Ankobiahine Chief.
 KOJO ANKUMA, Sesamanhine Chief.
 KOJO KEMARE, Chief of Amanting.
 KWAKU TUA, Captain main body.
 KWABINA DONKOR, Chief of Jeima.
 KOJO CHUM, Rear Guard Captain.
 KWESI JIRA, linguist.
 EDU KWABINA, linguist.

Ashanti.

Messengers from Prempe :

KOFI AKWA, Court Crier.
 OPOKU, Sword Bearer.
 GEORGE E. FERGUSON, Government Officer.
 THOMAS H. ODONKOR, Interp. A. Exp. Force.

The King of Atabubu to Kwamin Ejei.—Relate to us all what has taken place between you and the messengers from the King of Ashanti since your connection with them.

Kwamin Ejei.—Sometime ago I went to Ejira for the purpose of buying some kolanuts. I met messengers from the King of Kumasi there; one of them called Kofi Akwa is a court crier, and the other, called Opoku, is a sword bearer. The messengers said to me, “ We would like to send you to Attabubu,” I agreed to go. Then they, the messengers, said to me, “ Go and tell the King of Mampon and the King of Atabubu that the King of Ashanti presents his compliments to them. The King of Ashanti sends us to inform them that he is at war with Nkoranza, that he cautions the King of Atabubu not to aid the Nkoranzas, and that should Kwabina Asante do so he, Prempe, will destroy his country. Prempe cautions the Brong people not to join in the war.” The message was to be delivered to all the Brong tribes. The messengers said if the King of Atabubu was for peace Prempe was for peace.

I, Kwamin Ejei, then came to Atabubu. I delivered the message. Kwabina Asante, the King of Atabubu, replied, I have never received messengers from Kumasi, since I severed my connection with them, and now that Prempe is at war with Nkoranza, why should he send to me. Prempe knows that we are all one members of the Brong tribe. If Prempe desires peace he should offer and make peace with Nkoranza King. I understand that the King of Nkoranza has asked for the protection of the Governor of Accra; in that case he is my brother, and if you desire to make peace offer it to my brother, but if you fight him notwithstanding this, then it is possible you will extend your operations this way against the other members of the Brong tribes. I, Kwamin Ejei, again went to Ejira. I met the messengers there a second time. They said to me that I should come and deliver the following message to the King of Atabubu, and to the King of Mampon (Senkere) viz. :—"The King of Ashanti presents his compliments to you all. He has heard that the people of Atabubu and the Brong people are deserting their country, but that they should stay in their country. If they like peace he is for peace, if they like war he will have it. He desires that the King of Atabubu and the King of Mampon should return to serve him, that they should eat fetish with him, after which they are to make peace between him and the King of Nkoranza, or else give up the refugee King of Nkoranza. That the King of Atabubu, the King of Nkoranza, and the Brong people should take their oath of allegiance to him; should they not do so they are not for peace with Ashanti. If they are for peace the King of Ashanti is for peace. If the messengers return with a favourable reply to their King the army then at Abeasi would proceed against Atabubu and the Brong people. Should the invasion of Atabubu and the Brong people as well as the capture of the Nkoranzas not be feasible, then the army would retire to Kuntampo and wait there till they can fight them. Five days were given to consider the demands of the King of Ashanti. The King of Ashanti swears three great oaths of Opoku Wari, Sai Tutu, and Fedu Ajumani." The King of Atabubu then sent one of his linguists You Yami to acquaint the other members of the Brong tribe of the message from the King of Ashanti. They gave the linguist their messengers to come to Atabubu to invite the Kumasi messengers to Atabubu. But when I, Ejei, went to Ejira the messengers said they did not know the King of Nkoranza was at Atabubu, they have found this out and they would return to ask the wishes of the King of Ashanti in the matter.

The messengers then left for Kumasi, but returned again. I, Ejei, was then sent to ask them to come to Atabubu; they arrived at Atabubu, and have now come to Atabubu town.

Ferguson.—Is the statement of Kwamin Ejei correct?

Akwa and Opoku.—Yes.

Ferguson.—Is it true that while the Kumasi army was at Abeasi you asked that within five days a reply should be given by Atabubu and the Brong people to the demand of the King of Ashanti that they should all be one and take the oath of allegiance to serve Ashanti, and in short whether the statements made by Ejei in this respect are true or not.

Akwa and Opoku.—We confirm the statement of Kwamin Ejei, and it is the message which we are sent to give.

Ferguson.—Is this all the message?

Akwa and Opoku.—Kwamin Ejei has related the message up to the time of our second arrival at Ejira. This is the third time, and I am to add that if the King of Nkoranza desires peace he, the King of Ashanti, is for peace. Nkoranza King is one with Ashanti King by relation, and if the former wishes to come and serve him then there will be peace.

Ferguson.—I must reiterate to you what I said on the 18th that this territory is British, and if your master, the King of Ashanti, has sent you it is but right that you should wait for the King of Atabubu to refer the matter to his master, also so that a reply may be given to you in due course by the master of the King of Atabubu in answer to the message entrusted to you by the King of Ashanti.

Akwa and Opoku.—I was not sent to the white man; had I been sent to the Governor I should have taken the road to Accra and seen him there.

Mr. Odonkor.—As British territory, Atabubu is as good as Accra, Akim, and Fanti, and any questions respecting the refugee Nkoranzas and Mampons should be referred by King of Kumasi to Governor of Accra, and if the King of Ashanti is really for peace he should wait for the white men at Abetifi.

Akwa and Opoku.—We are not sent to the white man.

(The messengers then took leave of the meeting.)

The King of Nkoranza said that when war was declared against him by Ashanti the General of the Ashanti army, called Amakwatia Kwamin, took the following oath before the King of Ashanti, viz. :—“ I will proceed to Nkoranza or wherever the King of Nkoranza may be and bring him to you. I will visit Brumasi; I will take my breastplates from the Kings of Prang and Yegi and Gwan. I will encamp at Atabubu where the shady trees will give shelter to my troops, and on my return I will bring Atabubu, Nkoranza, and all the Brong nation with me to you as part of your kingdom by conquest.” Kojo Tando was present and he heard the oath sworn.

Ferguson (to the King of Atabubu).—How is it you have never mentioned to the Government that while the Kumasi messengers were at Ejira the Ashanti forces were at Abeasi, and you were threatened with an invasion of your territory should you not take the oath of allegiance to the King of Ashanti?

The King of Atabubu.—The message was in the first instance from Kwamin Ejei, a trader. I preferred to hear it from the lips of the Kumasi messengers themselves or confirmed by the King of Kumasi's messengers. This has been done to-day, and my messengers will leave forthwith to represent the matter to the Governor. The Governor has told me that I should not think the Ashantis will attack my country, nevertheless, as you will observe, they do not let me have peace in my country.

20.11.93.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 48.

Captain LANG to Colonel Sir FRANCIS SCOTT.

SIR,

Abetifi, November 30, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your instructions I left Abetifi on the 14th instant, and arrived at Bompata in Ashanti-Akim on the 17th.

At Bompata, I received an invitation from Yuow Sapon, King of Juabin, to visit him at Ahiyaim. This I declined, but made arrangements for a meeting on the 21st at Petransa. His reception was most cordial; he repeated his earnest appeal for protection, and explained to me at some length his position with regard to the King of Kumasi, and pointed out that although he sent a few men to join the Ashanti army against the Nkoranzas, he did so entirely through fear of being himself attacked in case of refusing to comply with the King's demand. The King is well aware of the action Yuow Sapon has taken and will assuredly take the earliest opportunity of punishing him.

Yuow Sapon is quite in earnest in his appeal for protection, and from information I received from fugitives from Asikori, Insuta, Mampon, and Kumahu the people are all anxious to be taken into the Protectorate. They are simply waiting, hoping we will go to Kumasi, yet fearing that on this, as on previous occasions, no active measures will be taken against the King of Kumasi. The news that Kumasi is to be occupied would meet with general rejoicing, and thousands would immediately join us. Even in Kumasi itself we would be gladly received by a large number of the inhabitants. The King would gladly come to terms.

Leaving out the advantage to this Colony that would follow the acquisition of the whole of Ashanti, which can be brought about without firing a shot, it is our bounden duty as a civilizing power to put a stop to the many barbarous customs still prevailing there, and to restore peace, which all the people earnestly desire. Our failing to do so now will mean the loss of prestige, of confidence in us, and of the feeling of security in the territories already in the Protectorate.

I have, &c.

J. IRVINE LANG,

Captain, R.E.

To Colonel Sir Francis C. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B.

Forwarded to H. E. Acting Governor,

F. C. S.

30.11.93.

Enclosure 3 in No. 48.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Abetifi, December 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency, that I am leaving here en route for Atabubu next Wednesday the 6th instant.

The Second Division under Captain Aplin left here for Atabubu on the 29th November.

2. I wish further to inform you that I have considered it advisable to station a couple of sections of Hausas under Captain Boisragon at Bompata.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Inspector-General,

Commanding Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

No. 48A.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received January 15, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 53.]

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,

MY LORD,

December 14, 1893.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 7th instant* I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter from Colonel Sir Francis Scott, dated from Abetifi, the 4th December, forwarding a letter addressed to him by the King of Ashanti and a copy of his reply to it. The statement in the King's letter about robbing traders of their goods is one very commonly made, but it is nearly always untrue, and in this instance is certainly so. It is probable that the object of the King's letter was to ascertain what instructions Colonel Sir Francis Scott held with regard to the tribes in the neighbourhood of Atabubu.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,

Acting Governor.

Enclosure in No. 48A.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Abetifi, December 4, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward the accompanying letter I have received from the King of Kumasi. I also attach a copy of the reply I sent to the King.

I have, &c.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Commanding Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

The KING OF ASHANTI to the CAPTAIN COMMANDING THE FORCES.

CAPTAIN,

Kumasi, November 25, 1893.

I HAVE received some unfair report from my Ashanti traders, that pass through Kwawhu and Akim to the coast for trade, that you are frightening my people and compelling them to sign treaty of protection with Her Majesty's Government; I may say that if the report is true, it is not fair for such treatment, but I do not believe such report, for I know that white men are very civil people, and if anything done wrongly, it is his black followers, and I am glad to say; do kindly entreat your men to discontinue same and also to cease from disturbing the traders with their goods, taking half of the goods in saying that white men say, we must take to make road.

2. I am sorry I have reported the matter officially to his Excellency the Governor, for I am a peaceful king with Her Majesty the Queen of England.

To the Captain
Commanding the Forces at Kwawhu.

I remain, &c.
KWAKU DUA III. My
King of Ashanti. X mark.

The INSPECTOR GENERAL to the KING OF KUMASI.

KING, Abetifi, December 4, 1893.
THE reports you have heard are quite untrue. None of your people have been frightened, and no one but the Queen can make treaties.

You know the reason I am here; it is to protect our country and people whom you threatened.

The King of Kumasi.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel Commanding Forces.

No. 49.

FOREIGN OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, Foreign Office, January 18, 1894.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you herewith a letter from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of trade in the Gold Coast, and the extension of the British Protectorate in the rear of that Colony. I am to request that in laying these papers before the Secretary of State for the Colonies, you will suggest that in view of the fact that the matter to which it relates is one of Colonial policy, the letter should be answered by your Department.

The Chamber of Commerce has been informed that their letter has been transmitted to you.

I am, &c.

H. PERCY ANDERSON.

Enclosure in No. 49.

[Answered by No. 52.]

"Affairs of the Gold Coast Ashanti, &c."

African Trade Section of the
Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool,
January 9, 1894.

MY LORD,

REPRESENTATIONS have been made recently to this Chamber respecting injury to the trade of the Gold Coast Colony, arising from frequent disturbances between the Ashantis and other tribes beyond the northern limits of the Protectorate, but apparently within the British sphere of influence, as delimited by agreement with France and Germany.

It is stated that the result of such circumstances has been to divert trade from the British ports to those of Germany and France, east and west of the Colony.

This Chamber when actively moving in the spring of 1892, with the support of other leading Chambers, for the retention and extension of British spheres of influence in connexion with the West African Colonies, was requested by Lord Knutsford to specify the countries which it desired should be brought under British influence, who promised that he would consider what action it was possible or desirable to take.

I may be permitted to draw your Lordship's attention to a copy of the reply made to Lord Knutsford, which is printed on pages six to eight of the enclosed Report of the proceedings of the African Trade Section in the year 1892.* It was therein recommended that the British sphere behind the Gold Coast should be extended over the basins of the rivers (the Volta for instance) which discharge themselves into the sea within the limits of the Colony.

* Not printed.

I am directed to say that the African Committee beg to renew the recommendation and to urge upon the Government that Ashanti, and other countries adjacent, which come under more active British influence than the distant parts of the interior, may be taken under British protection, and a British Commissioner be appointed to reside at Commassie.

The Right Hon.
The Earl of Rosebery, K.G.,
&c. &. &.

I have, &c.

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 50.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[See No. 62.]

SIR,

Downing Street, January 19, 1894.

In reply to your letter of 13th inst.,* I am directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acquaint you that the report of Captain Lang, R.E., with respect to the possibility and expediency of the construction of railways on the Gold Coast has not yet been received.

Captain Lang has been recently employed with the expeditionary force which it was necessary to send up to Attububu on account of an anticipated attack on that country by the Ashantis, and this may not improbably somewhat retard the completion of his survey and the preparation of his report.

I am, &c.

R. H. MEADE.

No. 51.

THE GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

[Answered by No. 54.]

The Right Hon. the Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers in the City of Glasgow, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783, confirmed in 1860.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWNETH—

THAT the Directors of the Chamber having received communications from firms of West African merchants of standing in this city, trading with the Gold Coast Colony, have, on report by their Committee on Foreign Affairs, given very careful consideration to what is set forth in the Memorial which the firms in question, viz. :— (Messrs. Alex. Miller, Brothers and Co. ; Taylor Laughland & Co. ; W. B. McIver & Co.) addressed to your Lordship, of date 7th ult.,† as to Her Majesty's Government extending a Protectorate over the Ashantis, and Tribes on the Northern Frontier of the Gold Coast Colony.

The Directors are informed that disturbances among the Ashantee and Frontier Tribes are of frequent occurrence in the region placed by the Agreements with Germany in 1887, and with France in 1889, within the sphere of the influence of Great Britain, which not only have a most injurious effect on trade, but are also a serious cause of danger to life and property in the Colony.

The Directors understand that even under existing circumstances, the annual revenue derived from the Gold Coast Colony more than suffices to meet its expenditure, and that a large increase of revenue would ensue from the improvement and development of trade certain to result from greater security to life and property.

Your Memorialists would therefore respectfully urge, through your Lordship, the necessity and expediency of Her Majesty's Government taking into their early and earnest consideration, the subject of establishing a system of Administration by

Protectorate over the region in question, or in such other way as the Government may deem most effective for preventing the disturbances complained of and their injurious effect on trade, as well as for the protection of the lives and property of the natives desirous of trading with Europeans in the Gold Coast Colony.

And your Memorialists will ever pray, &c.

(L.S.) Signed in name, on behalf, and by authority of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of Glasgow, and sealed with the common seal thereof this Twenty-sixth day of January, 1894 years.

DAVID BANNERMAN,
President.

No. 52.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,

Downing Street, January 26, 1894.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acquaint you that he has received from the Foreign Office your letter of the 9th inst.,* addressed to the Earl of Rosebery, on the subject of trade at the Gold Coast, and the extension of the British Protectorate in the rear of that Colony.

In reply I am to acquaint you that the matters to which you refer are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, however, to observe that it would be impossible to extend the British sphere of influence over a great portion of the basin of the River Volta, as the upper portion of that river is embraced within the neutral zone which was established by the Agreement with Germany of 1887-8.

The greater part of the right bank of the Lower Volta is under the control of Great Britain, but the left bank from the River Abo to the Daka River forms the boundary between the British and German possessions under the Anglo-German Agreement of 1890.

I am, &c.
R. H. MEADE.

No. 53.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON.

[See No. 57.]

SIR,

Downing Street, January 30, 1894.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatches noted in the margin and also your telegram of 13th instant,† furnishing information with respect to the relations of the Colonial Government with Ashanti, and the condition of affairs in the interior, and urging that the time has arrived when action should be taken with a view of bringing Ashanti under a British Protectorate.

Nov. 13, '93.
Nov. 14, '93.
Nov. 18, '93.
Nov. 22, '93.
Dec. 7, '93.

In reply I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government, while fully appreciating the ability and judgment which you have displayed, and the clearness with which you have placed your views before them, are not inclined to adopt the policy which you advocate, which they consider would greatly increase the responsibilities of the Gold Coast Government.

Moreover, Her Majesty's Government could not sanction the adoption of any course which might involve the employment of British troops. and as, in your Despatch of 18th November, you have stated that "such a contingency has to be provided for" and that you "are not prepared to advocate the despatch of a further ultimatum to Kumasi " unless it is," they find it impossible to authorise you to send such an ultimatum, or to entertain the question of assuming a Protectorate over Ashanti by force.

At the same time they are fully alive to the risk, which under present conditions, constantly exists, of Attabubu, and other territories which are under the protection of Her Majesty, being invaded by the Ashantis, and they are therefore anxious to ascertain

* Enclosure in No. 49.

† Nos. 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 48.

whether some *via media* cannot be found whereby the object of controlling the power of Ashanti may be attained without the use of force.

I have, therefore, to request you to consider and report to me whether, in your opinion it would be possible to get the King of Kumasi, and the principal Chiefs, to accept stipends, which might be fixed at a liberal rate, on condition that they should consent to receive a British Agent at Kumasi, and should agree to refrain from making war upon or disturbing any of the tribes, beyond a certain frontier which should be laid down by the Governor of the Gold Coast and which should exclude from Ashanti the Nkoranzas, Bekwais, and other tribes who have asked for British protection.

In case of any dispute between the King of Kumasi and any of these outside tribes the matter should be referred to the agent, who should enquire into it and give his decision, and if he found that the Ashantis were in the right the question should be referred to the Governor of the Gold Coast, who would require the offending tribe to make such reparation as he might deem expedient.

The agent would, of course have a strong guard of Hausas, under one or more white officers, for his own protection, but it would be clearly understood that he must interfere as little as possible with the domestic affairs and policy of the country, but would confine himself to the duties mentioned in the preceding paragraph, of inquiring into disputes between the Ashantees and tribes beyond the border, of preventing the outbreak of war and disturbances, and of using his influence and authority to promote the development and security of trade.

I have to request you to communicate your views on these proposals, if possible by telegraph, and, pending a decision, I have to authorise you to exercise your discretion as to keeping the expeditionary force in Attabubu, or withdrawing it. In the event of its withdrawal, you should send a messenger to the King of Kumasi, saying that this step has been taken on the faith of his assurance that he has no intention of invading any portion of the British Protectorate; he must, however, understand that the question as regards his conduct, is not concluded by the withdrawal of the troops for the present, and that the question of what action should be taken in the future has been referred to the Queen, and that her decision, will, to a great extent, depend upon the King's conduct, as he cannot be allowed to continue with impunity to make war upon and destroy his neighbours, and that if he desires in any way to avoid Her Majesty's serious displeasure he must remain quiet and desist from further warlike operations.

I have, &c.
RIPON.

No. 54.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,

Downing Street, January 31, 1894.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial, dated 26th January,* signed by you on behalf of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, urging that steps may be taken to place the Ashantis, and other tribes on the Northern Frontier of the Gold Coast Colony, under British protection, with a view to preventing the disturbances which are so injurious to trade.

I am to acquaint you, in reply, that the matters to which you refer are engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
EDWARD WINGFIELD.

* No. 51.

No. 55.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 9, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 61.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
January 9, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copies of two further letters from Colonel Sir Francis Scott dated from Attabubu the 24th and 25th December respectively, together with copies of two useful reports from Mr. Ferguson on the condition of affairs in Attabubu and the attitude of the Ashantis.

It has been ascertained definitely that Abeasi, which is referred to in my Despatch of the 18th November* as having been destroyed by the Ashanti Army, is not an Attabubu town, that the boundary given by Mr. Ferguson to the country of Attabubu, as shown in his map of December 1890, is substantially correct, and that the Ashanti army did not cross the boundary or impinge on country within the Protectorate.

The King of Attabubu has been informed that he acted wrongly in sending an armed force to assist the Nkoranzas against the Ashantis or as he puts it "to protect his frontier," and he has been warned against mixing himself up in affairs outside his country.

Sir Francis Scott again urges that the Nkoranzas should be taken into the Protectorate. Both he and Mr. Ferguson state that Nkoranza declared its independence of Ashanti in 1874, at the same time that Attabubu shook off the yoke, but if it did so the declaration was not observed, and the King of Nkoranza was constantly in communication with the King of Ashanti as shown in Mr. Ferguson's memorandum which accompanied my despatch of the 7th December.† I have already expressed the opinion that the absorption of Nkoranza into the Protectorate is out of the question unless this Government is prepared to reckon with Ashanti, and I see no reason to alter that opinion. It would, as I have stated in previous despatches, be for the welfare of the people of the Protectorate and to the interests of trade and civilization that Ashanti should be reckoned with, but, until Her Majesty's Government is prepared to break away from the policy hitherto followed as regards Ashanti, Nkoranza must, until it has definitely asserted and obtained its independence, remain outside the Protectorate. I have, as stated in my Despatch of the 7th December,‡ authorised the signing of a treaty of "Friendship and Freedom of Trade" with the King and Chiefs of Nkoranza but, as matters stand now, that, I consider, is the extreme point to which this Government can go.

The King of Nkoranza and his people will not leave their country to seek an asylum within the Protectorate, and, from the information which I obtained subsequently to instructing Colonel Sir Francis Scott to offer them that alternative to further war with Ashanti, I do not think that they would do so.

Mr. Ferguson in his report dated the 20th December explains the cause of the war in Salaga which has resulted in the flight of the King and the triumph of his opponent Kabachi Wula. The King, it appears, was assisted in the early part of the war by the people of Yeji, and Kabachi Wula is stated to be meditating an attack on that town in which case the Yejis will probably cross into the Protectorate. In paragraph 4 of my Despatch of the 18th November* I referred to a possible alliance between the Salagas and Ashantis and the result which would ensue from such an alliance. Mr. Ferguson refers to such a contingency as being contemplated. It would, in my opinion, be most unfortunate for the trade of the Gold Coast were the alliance to be made; Kontempo would cease to exist as a market town, and the greater part of the trade which now finds its way to the Gold Coast would be diverted. The possibility of an alliance between Salaga and Ashanti is a strong argument in favour of a forward policy with regard to the latter country and its absorption within the Protectorate.

Mr. Ferguson refers in subhead (D.) paragraph 1 of his report of the 20th December to the Bandas having assisted the Ashantis in fighting against the people of Mo—allies of the Nkoranzas—and to an engagement in which the latter were victorious, Kukrantumi the chief Stool-bearer of the King of Ashanti, and Seidu Nji, the heir apparent to the Stool of Banda, having been killed.

* No. 44.

† No. 48.

In his report of the 25th December, Mr. Ferguson states that he has ascertained from a reliable source that the Bandas had obtained the alliance of the people of Bole to enable them to continue the war against the Mos, and that the Ashantis, by way of encouraging the Bandas, had promised the latter a large portion of the country of Nkoranza. The Boles are stated to have started on the campaign and to have reached a town called Asisesu, the Ashantis and Bandas being encamped at Babato, a town in Nkoranza.

Colonel Sir Francis Scott in his letter of the 25th December states that in order, if possible, to prevent the Boles from allying themselves with the Bandas and Ashantis and thus playing into the hands of the Salagas, he has assumed the responsibility of sending Mr. Ferguson to the King of Bole with a request that, as a friend to this Government, he will desist from entering into any alliance proposed to him by the King of Ashanti. In the interests of trade, apart from other considerations, it is very desirable to prevent the war from spreading, and, taking all the circumstances into consideration, I think that Colonel Sir Francis Scott has acted rightly in endeavouring to check the Boles from joining the Bandas, and I shall so inform him.

In paragraph 2 of his letter of the 25th December Sir Francis Scott mentions that the Boles received an English flag from Major Ewart in 1888. He states also that he learns from the Nkoranzas that the King of Bole signed a treaty brought to them by Mr. Ferguson in May 1891. This is, of course, the treaty which was signed in 1892.

With regard to paragraph four of Sir Francis Scott's letter of the 24th December, I am anxiously awaiting an expression of your Lordship's views as to the policy to be now adopted towards Ashanti. Until I receive it I do not propose to take any action for the withdrawal of the expeditionary force from Attabubu.

I may mention that the Rev. F. Ramseyer of Abetifi was in Accra a few days ago, and in the course of a conversation which I had with him as regards Ashanti affairs he informed me that it was within his knowledge that Asibi, King of the Kokofus, had accumulated a large store of gunpowder and guns preparatory to his joining hands with the King of Ashanti, and that he considered it to have been an excellent stroke of policy in preventing that alliance by the withdrawal of Asibi and Prince Atcheriboanda to Accra.

Enclosure 1 in No. 55.

INSPECTOR-GENERAL TO COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(EXTRACT.)

Attabubu, December 24, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since last writing I have interviewed the Kings of Nkoranza and Attabubu.

I enquired of the latter the reason he had sent men to help the Nkoranzas. He assured me the men were sent solely with a view to protecting his frontier against the Ashantis. I, however, warned him to be most careful in the future and not mix himself up in affairs outside his country.

I further elicited that Abease was not in Attabubu territory and that the Ashantis destroyed nothing that either belonged to or was in that territory. The King, nevertheless, is assured that were we, in the present state of affairs, to leave his country, it would, without doubt, be invaded after our departure.

The messages, to the following effect, that King Prempe is sending about would appear to confirm this belief:—

"The Whiteman I know means to do nothing, he always carries about plenty of ammunition, he will shortly return to the coast and then," &c. &c.

The Attabubu are indeed so confident of the above misfortune befalling them when we leave that they have asked to be allowed to accompany us. This, of course, I consider as out of the question.

With regard to the Nkoranzas I can only most strongly recommend their being taken into the Protectorate. They are a fine people and, with the Government to back them, would be able to defy Kumasi; indeed had they not, during the late war, run short of powder, it is extremely probable that the Kumasi army would have been driven back with heavy loss. As it is, one of their Chiefs, who had only 20 men with him and lay in ambush, is at present enjoying the reputation of having caused the whole of the Kumasi Forces to turn and run. Nkoranza is not in any way subject to Kumasi, and has not been so since 1874. The country is considered as being part of Brong (this the King himself assured me of), and considering the fact that Attabubu

was, until taken into the Protectorate, similarly situated, and that it is now under protection and further that treaties are about to be made with the Brong people, I cannot see any objection under this head why Nkoranza should not also be included.

I also considered that if it is decided eventually to leave Kumasi once again unpunished the fact of Nkoranza belonging to us would very much simplify future troubles being dealt with, troubles which I am sure, with Kumasi left as she is now, are certain to occur. The Nkoranzas are gradually returning to their country, feeling they will not be molested while we are here and fondly believing that before we go our flag will be hoisted in their capital and their troubles will have ceased. There are about 6,000 in this town, including women and children: the army, however, or most of it, is at a place called Brumassi and numbers roughly 12,000. The King, or his people, will not accept the offer of land farther south in the Protectorate; they are a prairie people and would be quite at a loss in a densely wooded country such as Kwahu. Their country, besides, is a very wealthy one and possesses many gold mines and it is hardly to be expected that they will give up all this without another fight for their freedom. A fight, moreover, they are determined shall take place if we do not take them over.

I enclose a letter addressed to me by Mr. Ferguson with reference to the affairs in Salaga. I yesterday received an urgent application from the Chiefs at Yegi, asking to be protected. The town is about to be attacked by Kubachi Wula, a rival for the Stool of Pembi. As Yegi, however, is north of the boundary of the neutral zone I am unable to do anything in the matter.

I am expecting your despatch, with the Secretary of State's final decision, in about a fortnight from now. If, however, it is contrary to the above recommendation regarding the Nkoranzas I shall take the responsibility of waiting here until a further reply to this letter, as I am so thoroughly convinced that, even if nothing further is to be done with Kumasi Nkoranza should be taken into the Protectorate.

Mr. FERGUSON to the ADJUTANT of the Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Atabubu, December 20, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that spies having been despatched by me to:—

- (A.) Yegi, on the Salaga Road.
- (B.) Insuta, in Ashanti, via Enyinewofi.
- (C.) Nkoranza and neighbourhood, via Kumfa, Druma, &c.,
- (D.) Kuntampo, via Abease, Kokronsu, &c.,
- (E.) Mampon, in Ashanti, via Petira, Amanting, &c.

the following is the intelligence brought by them, viz. :—

(A.) Koji Tua, Akwesi Amoaku and Bini, spies from Yegi, stated on the 29th November with regard to affairs in Salaga that the war between Kabachi-Wula and the King of Pembi is not yet over. The King of Pembi has taken flight, it is not known where to. Kabachi-Wula advanced to near Yegi and his Yendi allies crossed the Volta and captured three Yegi people because Yegi in the earlier part of the war was inclined to aid the King of Pembi. The King of Kabachi (Kabachi-Wula) bears very strong jealousy against the Atabubu trade and had you (Ferguson) not come here in time the consequences of the war at Salaga and Nkoranza would have been the absorption of the Brong people into it, including Atabubu. The Brong people would be subdued and Salaga would do direct trade with Ashanti. As to the cause of the war it is stated that a long time ago, when Salaga was under Kumasi rival claims in the Stool of Pembi were made by Sempi-wula, Kunaka-wula, in which both claimants fought with vacillating results. The King of Ashanti ordered Dewia, King of Atabubu, to settle the matter and it was arranged that the order of succession should be, Pembi-wula, Kanjasi-wula, and Kanko-wula. However, when it came to the turn of Kanjasi-wula to be King of Pembi, he was done out of it by the people of Pembi and the people of Kanko. Now Kabachi-wula is a brother of Kanjasi-wula and he has now espoused the cause of his brother; and for himself to come King hereafter. The people of Pembi determined to kill Kabachi-wula in order to destroy the claim. The traders of Salaga preferred to be neutral and are now scattered at Yegi, Koro, Debre, Boyamsu, Kraki and Pabia. It is likely they will return to Salaga after the war.

(B.) (1.) Abu Bukari and Wanzau—spies—"Saw on Saturday the 25th November a few men of Nsuta return from Kuntampo with their Dane guns. The rest of the men were said to be coming from Kuntampo but had not yet arrived at Nsuta."

(2.) Kwaku Kiebe and Yow Menza.—“No one has passed from Ashanti to Enynewofi since the Nkoranza war. We saw two wounded men arrive at Kwamain about the 25th November.”

(C.) On Monday 11th December 1893 Kofi Kra, &c., (persons named below) brought intelligence from Nkoranza and neighbourhood.

Route of spies:—Duabon, Kymia Fakosi, Druma, Edumasa Buabinmai, Yakukrom, Ehunja, Nkoranza.

Report.—Yarkukrom, Abunju and Nkoranza were burnt and razed by the Ashantis—no people there. There are few persons in the farms at Kumfia; six men were at Fakosi.

Druma.—Here we saw the remains of a woman, dead. No living person in the town. Not burnt.

Ehudasa.—Nobody; not destroyed.

Buabinmai.—Not burnt. One of our party, called Kofi Amanku searched here for one Kwamin Tua whom he knew. He found Kwamin Tua in a farm—Kwamin Tua said the Ashantis were gone, they were seen by him when he foraged to Ahunju. The Ashantis seen by Kwamin Tua were four in number, had no guns but tried to catch him when he fired on them.

Nkoranza.—Spies reached here on Monday, 4th December. All shade trees burnt, oil palms cut down and made into latrines. All houses in town burnt. We fired four rounds each ten of us, to invite any enemy in the town. We stayed from early morning till late in the evening, saw no Ashantis and returned to Buabinmai, or Buama, on our return journey. We fired two rounds each when some people of Bombir came, five men, they enquired news of us and we told them we were come to look at the place. They stated to us that the Ashantis caught some Nkoranzas from Jeima and Kankrope, about 120 in number; on the way to Ashanti one of them escaped and reported that King of Ashanti sent to camp at Kuntampo, but the army said they were bound by their oath to bring back the King of Nkoranza with them as well as invade Atabubu and the Brong people; the army said they were engaged in collecting Nkoranza prisoners. The King of Ashanti sent four times and the fourth time he sent a Chief of consequence in Ashanti to swear his great oath to say that the white man was coming to Kumasi, what for was not known, and therefore that all of them should return. The escaped Nkoranza further said that an Nkoranza Prince called Kwaku Fuokuo was with the Ashantis. Kwaku Fuokuo is a usurper to the Nkoranza Stool. The Ashantis propose to make Kwaku Fuokuo King of Nkoranza, give half the captured Nkoranzas back to him and send him to reign in Nkoranza because the Ashantis had heard that Kofi Fa, the present King of Nkoranza was gone to Kwahu and would not return there again. The escaped Nkoranza also reported that Akwesi Dumfe and Kukurantumi had gone to give fetish (to offer the oath of allegiance) to the people of Mo but they both were killed in a battle which ensued.

(Spies.—Kofi Kra, Kofi Ankuma, Kofi Bo, Kwamin Chim, Esuom, Kofi Bain, Kwamin Ankuma, Kojo Donkor, Abuaji, Kwamin Buodu, Yakudom, Kwaku Fuokuo, sent to examine all the towns in Nkoranza. Above is summary of their reports).

The Nkoranzas are gradually returning to their villages.

(D.) News from Kuntampo: Akwesi Bo brought the following intelligence to the King of Nkoranza from the Nkoranza Prince at Kokronsu called Yakudom, 5th December 1893. “The heir apparent to the Stool of Banda called Seidu Nji sent to tell Kukur—antumi the chief stool bearer of the King of Ashanti was with the Commander Amankwata Kwamin in the camp at Kuntampo, that forces should be sent to him to fight the people of Mo, who had crossed to the other side of Volta.” Three hundred men were sent but Kukurantumi said it was too small and Akwesi Dumfei, the Chief of Asamankwa, was deputed with forces to augment the others. Engagements took place and the Ashantis were defeated. Kukurantumi was shot and fell into a pit dug for gold, but he was taken out and beheaded. Seidu Nji was also caught and killed.

(E.) A man from Mampon called Kofi Du arrived at Petira on the 19th instant. He told the King of Amanting that he was sent to him by the King of Egira who was acting under instructions from the King of Ashanti. Kofi Du said to the King of Amanting, “I am sent to you by the King of Ejira. The King of Ejira wants you to remember the history of your ancestors, your ancestors served Ashanti and you should do the same, whenever there is a little dispute between Ashanti and Nkoranza, you run away to Atabubu. This time should the white man go back without any harm to Ashanti you will have to square it with Ashanti. They, the white men, always carry ammunition with them, they do not mean anything this time, and you had better decide to return to Ashanti or after they are gone you will have to answer to Ashanti.”

2. It takes five days to go to Kuntampo from Kumasi, and reckoning that messengers were sent four times to the camp at Kuntampo by Prempeh before the forces were withdrawn, it appears that this would be about 30 days after the arrival of Mr. Vroom at Kumasi: that is to say, the Ashanti army reached Kumasi about the 24th of November.

3. The King of Amanting desires me to remind Colonel Sir Francis Scott about his application to be taken under British protection. The Kings of Enyinewofi, Abease, and Druma are here with a similar request. They are none of them under allegiance to the King of Ashanti. Abease and Druma do not owe allegiance to the King of Atabubu, they were not represented in the Treaty with Atabubu, and the boundary of Atabubu as given in my map of 1890 is correct. As you will have learnt from my previous reports, Nkoranza also severed its connection with Ashanti in 1874 in the same way that Atabubu did.

4. Captain Aplin, with the advance guard, arrived here on Sunday the 10th December a week before the arrival here of Colonel Sir Francis Scott on the 17th. Before your arrival I had had the town well cleaned and made healthy, my carriers had been employed in making camping sheds; quarters for officers and men were accordingly ready on their arrival.

5. It will be necessary to define the extent of territories of those Kings with whom treaties may be executed.

6. In the second paragraph of His Excellency's letter of the 15th November 1893, I was informed that my reports will be transmitted to His Excellency through the Honourable Colonel Sir Francis Scott. I therefore beg that you will kindly place the foregoing intelligence before His Excellency the Acting Governor.

I have, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

The Adjutant,
Atabubu Expeditionary Force,
Atabubu.

Enclosure 2 in No. 55.

Colonel Sir FRANCIS SCOTT to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Atabubu, December 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to forward you a letter I have received from Mr. Ferguson since addressing you yesterday.

As matters might become seriously complicated by the alliance which the King of Kumase is endeavouring to bring about between the Bolés and the Bandas in order to enable the latter to continue the war against Nkoranza, I have decided to send Mr. Ferguson to the former tribe to remind them that they not only received a flag from Major Ewart about 1888, but have, according to the Nkoranzas, signed a treaty with this Government when Mr. Ferguson passed through the Nkoranza territory on his way to Bolé in May 1891, and to request them as friends to desist from entering on any alliance that the King of Kumase might propose.

It is clear that Prempeh is not to be trusted, and that with all his assurances of peace and good will on the coast he is playing a double game up here.

He has promised the Bandas a portion of the Nkoranza country, should they prove victorious, and is supplying them with arms and money, and further by negotiating with Bolé he is once again in touch with Salaga, as a great part of Bolé is Mahomedan and possesses the same sympathies as Salaga.

If I can succeed in stopping the Bolés from taking any part against the Nkoranzas the Bandas will not dare to fight without their assistance.

As stated in my letter despatched to you yesterday, the Nkoranzas are gradually returning to their homes, and if through our intervention the Bolés can only be induced to remain neutral, confidence in us will be much increased throughout the country.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Inspector-General,
Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force,

Mr. FERGUSON to the ADJUTANT of the Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Atabubu, December 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report as follows, for the information of his Excellency the Acting Governor, viz. :—

1. The application of the people of Amanting, which I referred to you, having been favourably considered by Colonel Sir Francis Scott, I executed a treaty with them on the 21st December at noon.

2. On the 23rd December intelligence was received through Chief Effrin of Wiasi that Kabachiwula is about to attack Yegi. Should he be victorious, it is very probable that the people of Yegi will also fly to this country for protection.

3. On the 23rd news reached me from a reliable source that the Bandas had obtained the alliance of the people of Bole against Mo, and yesternorning I had an interview with a man who was present at all the operations of the Ashantis and also at the last one reported in my letter of the 20th December (D.) in which it was stated that Seidu Nji and Kukutantumi were killed. I was informed (by Wro Wela from Banda) that private messengers were sent a few weeks ago by Prempeh to the camp at Banda; the Bandas were requested to continue the war, and were promised a large portion of the Nkoranza country; the Ashantis have obtained the alliance of the King of Bole; the Ashanti army is composed of contingents from the Ashanti towns of Wenchi, Boasi, Bawem, Ntrubodom, Nchraa, Badukiom, Opima, Beidu, Nsoko and Wuansi; these towns lie to the north of Ashanti; the Boles have left their town, and are encamped at Asisesu about a day's journey from Longoro (Mo). The Ashantis and Bandas are encamped at Babato, Nkoranza town. The people of Bole are strongly sympathetic with Salaga, they have espoused the Ashanti inceptions of the war, and it is the general belief that if the alliance is not checked it will necessitate the Atabubu Expeditionary Force being detained to give confidence to the people here, and to watch operations. Bensari and Kofi Jesi, from Mo, reports that messengers have come from Bole to Mo, telling them to prepare for battle in 7 days time.

The Adjutant, Expeditionary Force.

I have, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

No. 56.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 9, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 61.]

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
January 11, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 9th instant,* on the subject of affairs in Attabubu, and the attitude of the Ashantis, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters which I have addressed to Colonel Sir Francis Scott, commanding the Expeditionary Force in Attabubu, dated the 15th December and 10th instant; a copy of my letter to Mr. Ferguson to which reference is made in paragraph 3 of the former letter was forwarded to your Lordship in my Despatch of the 18th November.†

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,

Acting Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 56.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
December 15, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 14th instant, of Mr. Ferguson's Report, dated from Attabubu the 24th November, in which he furnishes

a useful record of the history and position towards the Ashantis of the Brong tribes, including Attabubu, and of the events which have recently taken place in the countries of those tribes up to the present date. I am in receipt also of Captain Lang's report of the 30th November and of your letter of the 1st December, in which you report that you are leaving Abetifi for Attabubu on Wednesday, the 6th instant, and that you have placed two sections of Hausas under Captain Boisragon at Bompata.

2. I have forwarded copies of these reports and letters to the Secretary of State in a Despatch dated the 7th instant.

3. In answer to Mr. Ferguson's separate letter of the 24th November, which is endorsed by you as having been seen on the 30th November, in which he refers to the making of treaties with the Kings of the Brong tribes and also with the King of Nkoranza, I have the honour to forward to you, for your information, a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Ferguson on these and other subjects. You will observe that I have authorised his making a treaty of friendship and freedom of trade with the King of Nkoranza so long as the King understands clearly that the treaty is no more than that, and that it does not involve any obligation on the part of this Government for protection to him from the Ashantis.

4. I observe that Mr. Ferguson in his report, or as he calls it, memorandum, mentions a King of Abeasi, so that it would seem that Abeasi, which has been before referred to as possibly an Attabubu town, cannot really be so.

5. I am glad to learn that the Fetish priest of Kraki has left Attabubu with his armed party.

6. I observe that Captain Lang is of opinion that King Prempe and his party would gladly come to terms with this Government and that the acquisition of the whole of Ashanti could be brought about without firing a shot; but I feel quite certain that the King and his party, which is not inconsiderable, would not quietly acquiesce in the country being taken within the Protectorate. The policy of the King and his party has been to consolidate their power and to extend it wherever it has been thought possible to do so. They have been strong enough to drive out of the country in succession the Kokofus, the Nkwantas, the Nsutas, the Mampons and the Daniasis, and although the continued fighting has now weakened them I feel sure that they would offer resistance and that they would not let the forces of this Government march into Kumasi without firing a shot. The resistance would possibly be feeble, but, nevertheless, there would be resistance, and I am not prepared to recommend any advance in the direction recommended unless the Secretary of State is prepared to comply with the requirements with regard to British troops which were embodied in your letter of the 2nd October.

I have, &c.

Colonel Sir Francis Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B.

F. M. HODGSON.

Enclosure 2 in No. 56.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,

January 10, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 24th and 25th December, together with Mr. Ferguson's reports of the 20th and 25th December which accompanied them, on the subject of the condition of affairs in Attabubu and the attitude of the Ashantis.

2. I note that it has been ascertained definitely that Abeasi is not an Attabubu town, that the boundary given by Mr. Ferguson to the country of Attabubu as shown in his map of December 1890 is substantially correct, and that the Ashanti army did not cross the boundary or impinge on country within the Protectorate. I note also that the King of Attabubu has been informed that he acted wrongly in sending an armed force to assist the Nkoranzas or, as he puts it, "to protect his frontier," that you have warned him against mixing himself up in affairs outside his country, and further that a treaty has been signed by Mr. Ferguson with the King and Chiefs of Amantin.

3. I have forwarded copies of your letters and of Mr. Ferguson's reports to the Secretary of State.

4. With regard to your remarks about extending protection to the country of Nkoranza, I regret that I cannot give you any other decision than that conveyed to you in paragraph 2 of my letter of the 17th November. You will, however, have received my letter of the 15th December in which I forwarded to you a copy of a letter which I

had addressed to Mr. Ferguson authorising him to make a treaty of "Friendship and Freedom of Trade" with the King of Nkoranza. This treaty, the terms of which do not include protection, is all that can be done by this Government unless Her Majesty's Government is prepared to change its policy with regard to Ashanti, or until the independence of the Nkoranzas is acknowledged by the Ashantis, which, it is obvious, is not the case at present. You must, I am sure, recognise that were protection to be extended to the Nkoranzas this Government would at once find itself face to face with Ashanti as well as with the tribes in alliance with Ashanti against the Nkoranzas and that, under the circumstances, it is not in my power to take the step you recommend, however much I may think it desirable in the interests of the Protectorate, of trade, and of civilization.

5. I had already formed the opinion, subsequently to my having instructed you to offer an asylum to the Nkoranzas within the Protectorate, that they would not leave their country, and the statement made in paragraph 3 of your letter of the 24th December makes it clear that they will not do so, and, further, that the proposed site for their location, had they elected to come into the Protectorate, would have been unsuitable.

6. I regret to learn that Kabachi-wula, the present King of Salaga, meditates an attack on Yeji in consequence of the support given by the people of that country to the late King, but although any step which brings the Salagas nearer to the Ashantis is much to be deprecated you have acted rightly in taking no action, having regard to the fact that Yeji is within the neutral zone. I have already represented to the Secretary of State the extreme desirability, indeed necessity, of preventing an alliance between the Salagas and Ashantis, and I have now again done so. Were such an alliance effected Kuntempo would cease to exist as a market town, and the greater part of the trade which now finds its way into the Gold Coast would be diverted. The possibility of such an alliance is a very strong argument in favour of a forward policy with regard to Ashanti and its absorption within the Protectorate.

7. I approve of the action which you have taken in sending Mr. Ferguson to the King of Bole for the purpose of inducing him to desist from rendering assistance to the Bandas and Ashantis in their war against the Mos. It is very desirable in the interests of trade, apart from other considerations, to prevent the war from spreading.

8. I regret to inform you that up to the present date I have not been informed by the Secretary of State of the decision which has been come to as regards the policy to be adopted towards Ashanti henceforth, and I am unable, therefore to give you instructions with regard to your further movements. I have, as you are aware, suggested that a forward policy should be adopted and that the King of Ashanti should be called upon to pay an indemnity of 2,000 ounces of gold in respect of the expenses incurred by the Government in despatching an expeditionary force to Attabubu. I shall communicate Lord Ripon's decision as soon as I receive it and, in the meantime, I desire you to remain in Attabubu so that confidence may be restored among the natives in that part of the Protectorate.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

I have, &c.
F. M. HODGSON.

No. 57.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 20, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 58.]

Agree entirely with proposals contained in your Despatch of 30th January.* I intended to make suggestions of a similar kind in the event of previous proposals not approved. I have Vroom at head-quarters in immediate readiness to proceed to Kumasi. Request permission to send (him) at once, with Despatch embodying terms proposed. I shall now issue necessary orders for withdrawal of greater portion of Native troops.

* No. 53.

No. 58.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON TO ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON.

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 22.—In reply to your telegram of 20th February* you have authority to send Vroom as proposed.

No. 59.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received February 27, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
January 29, 1894.

REFERRING to previous correspondence with regard to the relations between the Gold Coast Government and Ashanti, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further report from Colonel Sir Francis Scott. It is dated from Attabubu the 16th January, and reached me at 8 p.m. on the 26th January.

Sir Francis Scott still argues most strenuously in favour of taking the country of Nkoranza into the Protectorate, and I should be exceedingly glad to be in a position to instruct him to do so, but it is, as I have already pointed out, a matter for your Lordship's decision, having regard to the facts mentioned in my despatches, and to the situation which would be evolved from such a step.

It is satisfactory to note that Mr. Ferguson's mission to Bole, which I reported in my despatch of the 9th January† has been completely successful, the Bole forces having fled on hearing that a Government Officer was on his way to the King. Sir Francis Scott does not say whether Mr. Ferguson went on to Bole, and interviewed the King on the subject of the overtures made to him by the Ashantis, or desisted from doing so on learning that the Bole forces had retired. On this point I will make inquiry.

Sir Francis Scott states that, as he is experiencing difficulty with regard to his food and water supplies, he has, upon the advice of the principal medical officer attached to the expeditionary force, sent a detachment of 100 men under Inspector Mitchell to Amantin, which is shown on Ferguson's map of December 1890; Amantin is, I notice, some 30 miles distant from Attabubu and on the road to Kumasi. Were a forward movement on Kumasi contemplated the position selected is, I should say, a good one. Detachments of Hausas are now at Prahsu, Bompata, and Amantin, and King Preme and his adherents with him at Kumasi must be getting nervous as to a further development of the situation. Sir Francis Scott thinks, from information he has gained, that the arrival of the Government force at Kumasi would be welcomed and that he could enter without firing a shot. I do not alter the opinion which I have already expressed in this regard.

Enclosure in No. 59.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Atabubu, January 16, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th December, together with a copy of a letter addressed by you to Mr. Ferguson authorising a treaty of friendship being made with the Nkoranzas.

This will be carried out immediately. I still, however, maintain that they should be afforded protection, and am hoping that a final decision regarding this, in answer to my letter of, the 24th December, will be to this effect.

The awe with which the Government is regarded in these parts will, I am sure, prevent the Kumasi-Nkoranza war recurring, once the latter is known to have our protection.

* No. 57.

† No. 55.

I am convinced of this and did not advocate the step without considering the point you mentioned in regard to forcing the hand of the Imperial Government by the Nkoranza war becoming our own.

2. With reference to my letter of the 25th December, regarding the Banda-Bole alliance, I have the honour to report Mr. Ferguson's return. His mission was successful in so far as the whole of the Bole forces fled on hearing of the advent of a Government officer and a force of Hausas.

Mr. Ferguson had one non-commissioned officer and two privates with him. The alliance is accordingly at an end, the Boles having returned to their country. As I presumed, the Bandas have not dared to act alone and have also retreated.

3. My latest information from Kumasi, procured on excellent authority, is to the effect that the dissatisfaction in the town is considerable. The young men state openly that, were the forces of the Government to advance to-morrow on Kumasi, they would refuse to fire a shot, indeed would gladly welcome us, and refer us to their Chiefs who have caused them so much trouble lately by continual fighting, of which they themselves are heartily tired. There is undoubtedly much truth in the above report. Kumasi is no longer the Power she is credited to be on the coast.

4. Owing to the difficulties I am at present experiencing with regard to water and supplies for Hausas and carriers, I have found it necessary, on the recommendation of the principal medical officer, to send a detachment of 100 rank and file to Amantin under the command of Mr. Mitchell. Amantin is one of the few places which has not suffered from the depredations of the Nkoranzas and Krakis. Mr. Mitchell has full instructions in regard to the boundary of the Protectorate. Amantin is about 30 miles from this place.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.
F. C. SCOTT, Colonel,
Commanding Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

No. 60.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 3, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

March 3, 1894. Vroom left for Kumassi this morning.

No. 61.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 6, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hodgson's despatches* noted in the margin, forwarding further reports and documents on the subject of affairs in Attabubu and the attitude of the Ashantis.

I have to refer you to my despatch of the 30th January,† in which I explained the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
RIPON.

* Nos. 55 and 56.

† No. 53.

No. 62.

THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received March 8, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 64.]

Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, E.C.,

March 7, 1894,

SIR,

YOUR communication of the 19th January,* in reference to the report of Captain Lang upon the expediency of the construction of railways on the Gold Coast, was laid before a recent meeting of the West African Trade Section of this Chamber, and I was directed to call your attention to the fact that your letter does not make any reference to the administration of Ashantee, which was dealt with in my letter to you of the 13th of the same month,† and of which your letter was an acknowledgement.

I have, &c.

KENRIC B. MURRAY.

Secretary.

No. 63.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received March 10, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 66.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,

February 12, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Sunday, the 4th instant, Kofi Bua, a sword bearer, and Kudjo Tano, a court crier, arrived as messengers from the King of Ashanti, accompanied by Yow Deabeh despatched by the King of Bekwai, bringing with them the letter of which, together with its enclosure, I transmit copies. The enclosure is a copy of the letter addressed by the King to Colonel Sir Francis Scott which, with that officer's reply, I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch of the 14th December.†

I interviewed the messengers on Monday, the 5th instant, and on Saturday, the 11th instant, I handed to them my reply, of which I enclose a copy. The terms of this reply were carefully considered and approved in Executive Council on the 8th instant. I thought it desirable, as treaties of friendship and freedom of trade are being, or have by this time been, signed with the Brong tribes, to take the opportunity of referring definitely to them in paragraph 3 of the letter, and in the advisability of doing so members of the Council were unanimous.

When handing the letter to the messengers I took the opportunity of requesting them to tell the King of Ashanti that a treaty of friendship and freedom of trade had been signed with the King of Nkoranza (I suppose it has by this time) and to convey my advice to him that he would do well to desist from further war. The messengers informed me that the King's letters were written by Osoo Ansah who, from what they said, appears to be the King's secretary and principal adviser. He is called in Ashanti Ohin Nana, and is no doubt the real author of the present troubles in that country.

The messengers travelled in no state, and might from their general appearance have come from any petty Chief. They were without sufficient means and begged for money to assist them on the way when returning. I told them to tell King Prempeh that the embassy was not such a one as should have been sent to the representative of the great Queen of England, that I had some hesitation in receiving it, and that in future he must pay more respect to the Governor of the Gold Coast if he wanted his letters to receive attention.

I may state that the conversation which I had with Kofi Bua impressed me with the feeling that King Prempeh was very nervous as to the action we were going to take, that he is without the means of providing himself with sufficient munitions of war, and that he desires peace because he feels his weakness.

* No. 50.

† No. 47.]

I enclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Inspector-General in Attabubu on the 8th instant in which I have authorised him to withdraw the expeditionary force from Attabubu and to return to Kwahu, should he consider it desirable to do so, in view of the scarcity of food and water supplies in the former country.

Enclosure 1 in No. 63.

The KING OF ASHANTI to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR,

Kumasi, November 25, 1893.

I AM really surprised to learn, when I have returned your native District Commissioner together with my messengers, bearing the true explanation for the charges made against me, that I have contemplated an attack on Attabubu, which is untrue and soliciting at the same time to recall your officer and men you send out for that purpose through Kewawhu to Attabubu, and my messengers have not yet returned from you; when suddenly, I am informed, that your officer whom you send out is frightening my people and compelling them to sign treaty of protection with the British Government such as my subjects of Akim Agugu which are my loyal subjects, I beg to say it is not fair with my good friend to treat me such, and I beg to state if any of my subjects are willing to come under the protection of Her Majesty's Government, kindly let me know of same.

2. I have sent my messengers with my letter to your officer asking him to be civil to my people that may pass his way to the coast to trade; a copy of the letter* I herewith enclosed.

3. I think I am justified in saying it is not your white officer that is frightening my subjects, but his followers, the bad and cruel treatment that are giving to my Ashanti traders, since this affairs took place, I am sorry to say too numerous to mention, therefore I beg to say for the sake of peace and tranquillity make a strict enquiry about same, and soliciting you at the same time to recall your officer and men.

Receive the assurance of my personal regards.

His Excellency F. M. Hodgson,
Acting Governor.

I have, &c.

KWAKA DUA III.

King of Ashanti.

My
×
mark.

Enclosure 2 in No. 63.

ACTING GOVERNOR to the KING OF ASHANTI.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,

February 10, 1894.

KING,

YOUR messenger Kofi Bua, accompanied by Yow Deabeh, headman from the King of Bekwai, arrived at Accra on the 4th February with your letter of the 25th November, having taken upwards of two months to come down. It would seem that under the circumstances you cannot have attached very much importance to the subject of it.

2. I beg to state, however, in reply to the letter that you have been misinformed as to the action of the officer whom I despatched with an army into Attabubu. If the people of that part of Ashanti which adjoins Attabubu, are, as you say, frightened, the cause must be attributed to your having disturbed them with your own forces, the commander of which had, I am aware, boasted that he would do great things, and had sworn he would not return to Kumasi until he had brought the Brong tribes under subjection. Those of your people who live near the Queen's country and know the benefits of peace and good government, as for example the Agogos, to whom you refer in your letter, do not want war, and it is not unnatural that they should be frightened when they see your fighting men, being aware by a long sad experience of the trouble which war brings upon them.

3. The Brong tribes, of which Attabubu is one, do not serve you, and I see no necessity for communicating with you with respect to them. I recognize them as free to act as they think best in their own interest, and you will do well, King, to remember that, and not again trespass on the forbearance of this Government, as you did when your army menaced Attabubu in your avowed scheme for conquering those tribes.

4. The commander of the Queen's army in Attabubu sent a reply to the letter which you addressed to him on the 25th November. What he says in it is correct, and I have nothing to add to it excepting to state that so long as you and your advisers are always wanting war so long will those of your people who desire peace and know the benefits of it want to break away from you, and get clear of the terrible troubles and poverty which war brings.

5. When this Government helped to place you in the position in which you now are it was to be supposed that you would have sought the advice of the Governor from time to time and relied upon it, but you have thought yourself able to act independently and have gone on in very much the same way as your predecessors.

This Government has watched your career with regret. If, finally, you are brought into serious trouble you will, at any rate, only have yourself to blame for it.

I am, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

The King of Ashanti.

Enclosure 3 in No. 63.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoriaborg, Accra,
February 8, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo, a copy of which has been sent to the Secretary of State.

2. I am glad to learn that Mr. Ferguson's mission was successful, and that the Boles have severed themselves from the Bandas, but I beg to be informed whether Mr. Ferguson actually proceeded to Bole and had an interview with the King, or returned to Attabubu when he had obtained authentic information of the flight of the Bole forces.

3. Your action in sending a detachment of Hausas under Inspector Mitchell to Amantin is approved.

4. I have received a telegram from the Secretary of State informing me that a reply to the several despatches which I have addressed to him on the situation with Ashanti has been sent to me by the mail leaving Liverpool on the 31st January, due at Accra on the 19th instant. It will, I hope, indicate the policy to be pursued by this Government and contain instructions as to the further steps to be taken at the present juncture. I will communicate with you immediately on its receipt. If, in the meantime, in view of the scarcity of water and food supplies in Attabubu, and you have completed treaties with the Brong tribes as well as placed the country of Attabubu once more in order, you think it desirable to return to Kwahu, you are at liberty to do so without waiting for further instructions, but should you do so I beg that you will advise me and state the probable date of your arrival at Abetifi.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

No. 64.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 13, 1894.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 7th instant,* and in reply I am to acquaint you that the relations between the Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti are engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government, who are in correspondence with the Governor on the subject, but that Lord Ripon is not in a position at present to give you any further information with respect to it.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

* No. 62.

No. 65.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 20, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 74.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
February 21, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, with reference to previous Despatches on the subject of the relations of this Government with Ashanti and the condition of affairs in Attabubu and the neighbourhood, a copy of a further report which I have received from Colonel Sir Francis Scott together with copies of the enclosures which accompanied it.

I feel sure that your Lordship will learn with regret the fact that the flourishing market town of Kontempo exists no longer. It has been visited by Mr. Ferguson who states that the town, which must have contained more than 5,000 inhabitants, is now in ruins. Such a catastrophe cannot but disturb the trade between the Gold Coast and its hinterland, and is in itself a cogent reason for putting a stop to the useless and ruinous wars undertaken by the King of Ashanti. It is some satisfaction, however, to note that the Hausa Chief and the principal traders of Kontempo under him have migrated into the Protectorate, and that Colonel Sir Francis Scott has been able to find a suitable place for them at a point near the Volta River in the locality of the new road for which Mr. Ferguson holds instructions to make a survey as soon as he has completed the special mission upon which he has now been sent. There, I hope, they will start a new market town and attract to it much of the trade which now goes to Salaga and as much as possible of that which formerly went to Kontempo.

A treaty of friendship and freedom of trade has been signed with the King of Nkoranza, and Sir Francis Scott states that the King and his people were greatly pleased, and expressed the hope that at no distant date their country would be included in the Protectorate.

King Kabachi-Wula of Salaga has been diverted from his intention to attack Yeji, a matter which I referred to in my Despatch of the 9th January.*

From paragraph 6 of his report, dated the 16th January, I gather that Mr. Ferguson did not consider it necessary to proceed as far as Bole, the Boles, who had been sent by the King of that country to assist the Bandas in their war against the Mos, having deserted their camp and returned to Bole upon hearing of Mr. Ferguson's near approach.

Mr. Ferguson states that he went over the Ashanti-Nkoranza battlefields and found traces of slugs (of volcanic scoriæ) having been used and that not a single vestige of a Snider cartridge was apparent. It may, I think, be inferred from these facts that the provisions of the General Act of the Brussels Conference, which are embodied in Gold Coast Ordinance No. 3, of 1892, supplemented by Ordinance No. 4, of 1892, are now well at work, and that the Ashantis are without proper munitions of war.

It is melancholy to have to note that Mr. Ferguson heard on reliable authority that the Nkoranza prisoners taken by the Ashantis were sacrificed during the "custom" held in memory of those of the Ashanti Chiefs who fell in the war.

Enclosure in No. 65.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

(EXTRACT.)

Atabubu, February 7, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 9th and 10th January respectively. These only arrived here last night. It is to be regretted that a separate small escort was not told off for the mails alone, in which case they would have reached me on or about the 22nd January, and I should accordingly have been in possession of your instructions with reference to Mr. Ferguson's mission so much earlier. The majority of load carriers to Mr. Ferguson had been sick on the journey and had thus delayed the whole party.

With reference to the special mission about to take place, I have carefully noted your instructions. Mr. Ferguson is away at present but will be back here in a day or two.

I will direct Captain Lang to conclude the treaties that have not already been made with the people east of this to the Volta.

The treaty of friendship with the Nkoranzas has been effected.

The King and his people were immensely pleased, at the same time sincerely trusted that the present treaty was but a forerunner of the protection which they so wished for.

I really believe, however, myself that surrounding tribes will be unable to understand how anyone who has received a flag and "made paper" with "the white man" can be otherwise than under his protection.

You will be glad to learn that I succeeded in dissuading Kabachi-Wula from attacking Yegi. This was done in a purely private manner.

I enclose a report received from Mr. Ferguson after his mission to the Boles.

P.S.—The bearer, Private Musa Fulani (2), is an exceptionally good runner, having arrived here some days ago in 10 days from Accra. I therefore recommend his being employed should you require to communicate with me urgently.

Mr. FERGUSON to the ADJUTANT, Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Amanting, January 16, 1894.

WITH reference to the instructions contained in your letter of the 26th December 1893, I have the honour to report that on the 26th December I left Attabubu at 4 p.m. and proceeded in a general direction of W. by N. $\frac{3}{4}$ N. (Compass) to Duabon or Dompodua—

distance	4.7 statute miles -	-	-	-	-	4.7 miles
	27.12.93, Dompodua to Fakosi, W.N.W.	-	-	-	-	23.5 "
	28.12.93, Fakosi to Druma, W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N.	-	-	-	-	19.7 "
	29.12.93, Druma to Ahunju, W. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.	-	-	-	-	14.2 "
	30.12.93, Ahunju to Nkoranza, S. W. $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	-	-	-	-	4.2 "
	30.12.93, Nkoranza to Bodom, N. $\frac{1}{4}$ W.	-	-	-	-	13.8 "
	31.12.93, Bodom to Kokuna, N. by E. $\frac{1}{4}$ E.	-	-	-	-	} 23.1 "
	31.12.93, Kokuna to Nante (farm) N. E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.	-	-	-	-	
	1.1.94, Nante to Kintampo N. $\frac{3}{4}$ E.	-	-	-	-	10. "
	2.1.94, Kintampo to Amansara, N.W. $\frac{3}{4}$ N.	-	-	-	-	19.5 "
	3.1.94, Amansara to Longoro	-	-	-	-	1.2 "
	Total distance traversed about	-	-	-	-	<u>134</u> "

The intermediate villages are not mentioned.

2. There were enumerated to me more than 120 towns and villages (not including hamlets) in the Nkoranza territory. These will be embodied in a map showing my traverse and other roads in Nkoranza which I am preparing.

3. The route followed by me led through the ground on which engagements between the Ashantis and Nkoranzas were fought. The marks left on baobab trees show that in many cases slugs (of volcanic scoræ) were used. I searched carefully for Snider cartridges but discovered none. The evidence on the field indicates that the Ashantis suffered more than the Nkoranzas and the information already communicated to you on this point was verified. The Ashantis have, however, burnt every thing in Nkoranza. The market town of Kintampo, which must have contained more than 5,000 people, is now in ruins, and the Nkoranza capital town is entirely razed. Many of the Nkoranzas who were taken prisoners to Ashanti have been sacrificed during the "custom" for those Chiefs who fell in the war with Nkoranza: this information was received from a reliable source, and before leaving Kintampo I am informed that great dissatisfaction was expressed by the Ashanti army, that they were tired of the prolonged wars carried on by Prempeh.

4. When I reached Amansara and Longoro, I found nobody there. The men of Mo were encamped against the Bandas and the women were concealed in little farms on the banks of the Volta. The presence of our forces at Attabubu was known and the people had also heard that the King of Nkoranza was returning to his country.

5. In order that my stay at Mo may not be protracted I sent a runner from Nante to acquaint the people that I was coming. On the 3rd and 4th January 1894 I held interviews with them at which the following Chiefs were present, viz :—Kwamin Gua, Linguist; Kofi Yangira, Yow Donko, Abrantea Kujo, Yow Bofu, Kojo Sadu, Akwesi Bouma, Akwesi Bordi, Kojo Kraa, Kwesi Mpra, Kwa Donko, Kwamin Amua, Kofi Mante, Eso Kojo, Dange, Jei, Ejei, Kofi Wei, Jin Dinkra and Akwesi Kuma. These Chiefs stated to me :—“When your runner arrived to acquaint us that you were coming there were two Banda prisoners here. The prisoners had been captured some time ago. On the night of the day when your messenger arrived the two prisoners ran away. The news of your coming to Longoro reached the camp of the Boles simultaneously with the news that the King of Nkoranza was returning to his country; it was taken there by the two prisoners who escaped from our camp. We captured yesterday another man. He told us that the two men who escaped had represented that the King of Nkoranza had obtained the alliance of the white man and was coming upon them with a force of 300 soldiers. Thereupon the Boles refrained from taking part in the war and deserted their camp.”

6. Thus, when I reached Longoro, three days after my messenger sent from Nante the camp had been deserted. I proceeded to the camp and observed that the contingent from Bole deserted their camp in great confusion. The camp would not contain more than 1,500 men. My party of three Hausas was, as you will observe, represented as 300.

7. On the 4th I noticed a number of women and children returning to Amansara and Longoro. They told me that inasmuch as the white man who conquered Ashanti had sent his party through the country, they were confident that the country was safe. A large number of Nkoranzas were met by me going to Nkoranza from Brunasi and Koro.

8. I left Longoro early in the morning of the 5th and arrived at Attabubu on the evening of the 11th January. On my return journey I passed through Nkoranza and met the people who had returned engaged in clearing the overgrown town. There were two villages of Nkoranza already occupied by a few Ashantis and the King of Nkoranza had sent to tell them to leave them.

9. I made a verbal report of the foregoing to you on my return to Attabubu.

I have, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

The Adjutant,
Attabubu Expeditionary Force,
Attabubu.

No. 66.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 21, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hodgson's Despatch of 12th ultimo,* and to express my approval of the letter which he addressed to the King of Ashanti under date of the 10th February.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

No. 67.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received March 26, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 74.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
February 26, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch of the 30th January,† conveying the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the

action to be taken towards Ashanti. I regret that it has not been deemed expedient to adopt those which I ventured to put forward; but although the *via media* which has now been suggested will, if carried through, as I trust it may be, involve the Government of the Gold Coast in some additional expenditure in the work of controlling the power of Ashanti, it is undoubtedly the best course to be taken under the circumstances.

In anticipation of a possible rejection of the proposals of this Government I had thought out an alternative plan of action which was almost entirely in harmony with that sketched out in your Lordship's Despatch, and I had taken the precaution of having the means at hand of carrying it out without delay. I was therefore able to telegraph at once my acquiescence in the proposed arrangement and to ask permission to proceed to carry it out.

It was partly in view of the contingency that this Government might have to resort to negotiations, that I had brought to Accra Asibi, King of Kokofus, and Ateheriboanda, King Prempeh's rival to the Golden Stool of Ashanti. I felt that in negotiating with King Prempeh much might be done by playing off his rival against him.

I enclose a copy of the instructions which I have given to Mr. Vroom, the officer whom I have selected to proceed to Kumasi, and a copy of my letter to the King of Ashanti, together with a copy of the agreement drafted by Mr. Bruce Hindle, the Queen's Advocate, for the King's signature in the event of his consenting to the proposals now put before him.

For the reasons stated in my instructions to Mr. Vroom, I have made no reference in the King's letter to the question of granting stipends, nor have I mentioned Bekwai as a country to be considered outside of Ashanti in the proposed frontier. The King of Bekwai, who made overtures to this Government, was the late King, and for doing so he was deposed, if not murdered, as stated in my Despatch of the 23rd September,* the present King having been placed on the Stool because of his supposed loyalty to King Prempeh and because he advocated Prempeh's scheme for the reconstitution of the Ashanti Empire and power. This being so I thought it doubtful policy to mention Bekwai specifically and decided to omit all mention of that country.

Mr. Vroom will leave Cape Coast on or about the 2nd March and should be back from his mission about the 2nd April. I have however, told him that if he sees that the object of the mission can be gained by not too much hurrying King Prempeh, he may delay.

It does not appear to be necessary, especially having regard to the expense which is being incurred by the Government, to continue any longer the occupation of Attabubu by an armed force or to maintain the present situation of guarding the frontier against possible attack by the Ashantis, and I have therefore sent to Colonel Sir Francis Scott the letter of instructions of which I enclose a copy. The movement of the troops will commence about the 10th March, some two or three days before Mr. Vroom will arrive at Kumasi. It is certain to be reported to King Prempeh who will not be aware of the cause of it or of the destination of the force and it will, I think, therefore assist Mr. Vroom in his negotiations.

Enclosure 1 in No. 67.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to MR. VROOM.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,

February 23, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have once more selected you to proceed on a mission to the King of Ashanti. On this occasion the mission is a most important one, having for its object the securing of the consent of King Prempeh to a British officer being placed at Kumasi as the agent of this Government and his friend and adviser.

2. I feel sure that I can rely upon your proceeding in this matter with the utmost tact, discretion, and judgment, and that you will do all in your power to bring the negotiations with the King to a successful issue.

3. I enclose the letter which I have addressed to King Prempeh, and I desire you to read it to him publicly and impressively, explaining carefully any portions of it which may not in the first instance be perfectly clear to him. I have embodied in the letter the

* No. 31.

conditions which Her Majesty's Government requires him to subscribe to in the event of his accepting the proposals as regards the establishment of a British Agency at Kumasi. Reliance must not be placed upon a verbal acceptance; the matter must be the subject of an agreement and I have therefore had the necessary agreement drawn up. I enclose two copies of it to both of which the King must place his mark and you should, if possible, obtain to it the marks of the King of Bekwai and the Kings of other countries, if present, as well as the marks of the principal Court officials who would, according to native custom, be required to sign with the King and be parties to an arrangement made by him.

4. The Secretary of State has authorised the negotiations being conducted on the basis of the grant of stipends to King Prempeh and the principal Kings of Ashanti, and you will probably find the task before you lightened when the King comes to talk over the conditions with you and knows that he will be recompensed.

5. Acting upon your advice, I have not mentioned the matter of stipends in the letter which I have addressed to King Prempeh as to do so would, you told me, cause him to be suspicious, and his councillors to think that he and his country were being bought by British gold. With that advice I entirely agree.

6. You are at liberty to pledge this Government in the matter of stipends to the extent of 1,500*l.*, or even, if necessary, 2,000*l.* a year, and I would suggest the following as suitable stipends:—

	£	
To the King of Ashanti -	600	(50 <i>l.</i> a month.)
" " " Mempon -	200	} These are the four principal Kings of the country and the stipends in the case of those who are now fugitives from Ashanti would be paid upon their return to it.
" " " Kokofu -	200	
" " " Bekwai -	200	
" " " Juabin -	200	
" " " Queen Mother Yakia -	80	

7. I desire you to let King Prempeh understand that the agent will be an officer who will assist him in putting his country in order, a matter which cannot but be one he has at heart; that with the arrival of the agent wars will cease and the country will in time again become flourishing and the people happy and contented, knowing that their lives, homes, and property will be safe.

8. You are at liberty to tell King Prempeh that this Government has made a treaty with the king of Nkoranza and with all the tribes known as the Brong tribes, as well as with the King of Bole.

9. In my letter to the King I have mentioned more than once his rival, Prince Atcheriboanda. This Prince is still considered by the Kings of Mapon, Kokofu, and other fugitive tribes to be the rightful heir to the Golden Stool of Ashanti. He is living in Christiansborg with the King of Kokofu, and you should let King Prempeh understand that he is in constant communication with me, and that a word from me, if I like to give it, would bring the Kokofus, Dadiassis, Inkwantas and Daniassis back to Ashanti, in support of his claim from the South, the Kings of Juabin and Mampon, with their people, from the East, and the King of Nkoranza with his people, as well as the Mos, from the North; that his present position is, under the circumstances, a hazardous one; and that it is to his interest to draw close to the Governor of the Gold Coast in the manner which he has now been requested to do.

10. I intend to give you an escort of 20 Hausas under Native Officer Dambaru, and will be very careful to see that they are kept well in hand during the whole time that they are with you.

11. I shall permit you to draw a travelling allowance of 2*l.* a day, and I give you two advances, one of 30*l.*, for the subsistence of the Hausa escort and your hammockmen and carriers, and one of 100*l.* to enable you to purchase suitable presents at Cape Coast to take with you to Kumasi to be given to the King and such other persons as it may be necessary to make gifts to in the event of the agreement being signed.

12. I rely upon your carrying out your mission with expedition. The date of your departure must be notified to me by telegraph.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

H. Vroom, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 2 in No. 67.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to KING KWAKU DUA III.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,

February 23, 1894.

KING,

ONCE more I send to you my trusted officer, Mr. Vroom. He comes to tell you that the Queen of England has been further considering the message which you gave to him to bring to me, as well as the message sent by your messenger, Yow Nkuma. Those messages were to the effect that you were anxious for peace, for the maintenance of trade, and for the continuance of Her Majesty's friendship.

2. The time has now come, King, for you to show to the Queen's representative, the Governor of the Gold Coast, that your messages did not contain idle words, but that they accurately represented your thoughts and wishes.

3. You have more than once said that your actions have been misrepresented to the Governor, but, be this as it may, there is no doubt that you and your people would be much benefited were you to avoid all chances of misrepresentation by now allying yourself more closely to this Government than you have done in the past. In the letter which I recently sent to you by your sword-bearer, Kofi Bua, I pointed out to you the great responsibility you had incurred, and the risks you had run by acting continually without the advice of the Governor, and as if you could afford to neglect the hand which helped to place you on the Stool.

4. I am now to inform you that the Queen of England has directed me to say that she desires to place a British officer at Kumasi to act as the agent of this Government, and as your friend and adviser in all matters in which you may require help. The following are the conditions, which will have to be observed:—

- (a.) The King of Ashanti will agree to refrain from making war upon or disturbing any of the tribes beyond a certain frontier which will be laid down by the Governor of the Gold Coast and named to him by the agent. The frontier will exclude from Ashanti, Nkoranza, Mo, and other countries which have either obtained or asked for British protection.
- (b.) In the case of any dispute between the King of Ashanti and any of the tribes outside the arranged frontier, the matter is to be referred to the agent, who will inquire into it and give his decision. In the event of the decision being in favour of the King of Ashanti the question is to be referred to the Governor of the Gold Coast who will require the offending tribe to make such reparation as he may deem expedient.
- (c.) The agent will be instructed to interfere as little as possible with the domestic affairs and policy of the Ashanti Kingdom, and to confine himself to the duties mentioned in paragraph (b). He will, however, give advice in all matters in which it is sought by the King of Ashanti; he will prevent the outbreak of war and disturbances; and will use his influence and authority to promote the development and security of trade.

5. The arrangement now proposed is in every way so advantageous to you and your people, because it will bring peace and prosperity to Ashanti, both of which have so long been absent, and will be the means of bringing all the tribes back again to their respective countries, that you will, I feel sure, not hesitate to agree to it. There is no wish to force you to do so. Prince Atcheriboanda, who is now living here with the King of Kokofu, a loyal friend to the Governor, would, I doubt not, subscribe to the arrangement and would loyally carry out the wishes of the Queen in the event of his succeeding to the Golden Stool, for which step he has, as you know, very powerful supporters. But you were selected by the Governor for the position you hold, and it is only right that you should be kept in that position provided you conform to the wishes of the Queen of England. I now ask you to do so, and to show Her Majesty that your protestations of friendship were sincere.

7. I have placed the arrangement now proposed to you in the form of an agreement which it will be necessary for you, the Queen Mother and your principal officers to subscribe to. In the event of this being done, I shall engage to ensure that Prince Atcheriboanda will not be allowed to intrigue against you or to interfere in any way with your position as King of Ashanti, in which position you will be kept so long as you abide loyally by the arrangement now proposed to you.

8. I desire you to come to a conclusion in this matter without delay. It affects you personally and need not therefore be the subject of a long debate in your Council. It affects your people in this way, and I have desired Mr. Vroom to make the fact as widely known as possible, namely, that upon the arrival of a British officer at Kumasi as the agent of this Government, and as your friend, all further wars will cease and they will live hereafter in peace in their homes with their wives and children, and they will know that their lives and property will be secure.

His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III.,
Kumasi.

I am, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

Enclosure 3 in No. 67.

THIS SOLEMN COMPACT is made and entered into at Kumasi in the kingdom of Ashanti this day of 1894 between HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, her heirs and successors, by Her Majesty's loyal subject Hendrick Vroom, an officer in the Civil Service of the Gold Coast Colony, acting under special instructions received from his Excellency Frederic Mitchell Hodgson, Esquire, Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Acting Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, also a loyal subject of Her Majesty of the first part; KWAKU DUA III., KING OF ASHANTI, for himself and his heirs and successors, and on behalf also of all the Chiefs, headmen, and people in any way subject to his authority of the second part, and

(in order to bind themselves as they now do separately and respectively by the terms of this compact so far as such terms in any way affect or concern them, and for the purpose of testifying their approval of the compact by their execution of the same) of the third part.

Whereas in order to more closely connect the kingdom of Ashanti and the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, to establish peace, order, and well-being and to promote the development and security of trade and the continuance of friendly intercourse it hath been agreed by and between the parties hereto to enter into this solemn compact.

Now, therefore, in consideration of the stipulations herein-after contained, and on the part of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress (herein-after referred to as Her Majesty) to be observed and performed, the King of Ashanti agrees:—

1. That he will from time to time, and at all times henceforth, receive without opposition or hindrance at Kumasi an officer selected by Her Majesty for the purposes of this compact and herein-after referred to as the British agent, that he will properly and suitably accommodate at Kumasi any and every such British agent and his party and will allow them or any of them to remain there and to go or come without interference or molestation in any way, and that he will keep open communications so and in such manner that any and every officer, messenger, or other person employed by or on behalf of Her Majesty may freely, safely, and speedily proceed to or from Kumasi and to and from the British agent, and that he will not in way prevent necessary supplies.

2. That he, the said King, will not make war upon or disturb any country or countries beyond a frontier to be determined by the Governor for the time being of the Gold Coast Colony from and after the communication to him, the said King, by the British agent or otherwise of such frontier determination which shall exclude any and every country or tribe which has obtained or has asked for British protection and may also exclude any other country or tribe whatsoever.

3. That in case of any dispute between him, the said King, and any outside native tribe the matter shall be referred to the British agent to be enquired into and decided by him, and if he shall find the said King to be in the right the question is to be referred to the Governor for the time being of the Gold Coast Colony who may require the

his services in view of the fact that so many of the officers at present with you are either due for leave or nearly so.

8. You will probably think it best to leave Inspector Mitchell in charge of the company detailed for duty in accordance with the new disposition, placing the detachment at Bompata under a native officer, but with orders that the Commanding Officer or Captain Davidson Houston is to visit the detachment periodically.

9. You are at liberty to acquaint the Brong tribes and others who may fear the outbreak of fresh troubles upon the withdrawal of the force under your command that this Government is in negotiation with the King of Ashanti with a view to the prevention of further wars on his part and that an officer is on his way to Kumasi to make arrangements with the King, the result of which will be, it is hoped, to ensure peace not only on the frontier but throughout Ashanti and to bring prosperity once more to the people of that country.

10. I may add that Dr. Murray should return to head-quarters with the main body and Dr. Lenehan should remain with the company detailed for further duty—this arrangement being in accordance with the wishes of the Chief Medical Officer, whom I have consulted on the subject.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON.

The Hon. the Inspector-General.

No. 68.

ACTING GOVERNOR HODGSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received April 2, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 74.]

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
March 5, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of messengers from Kumasi on Friday, the 2nd instant, bringing with them the letters of which I enclose copies. Both the messengers were under the influence of drink when I granted them an interview on the following date, and I therefore declined to recognise them, or to return an answer by them.

2. I have sent a fast runner to Mr. Vroom bearing the reply of which I enclose a copy, with a letter to that officer instructing him to read and deliver the reply to the King of Ashanti.

3. It is, I fear, the case that refugee Ashantis are interfering with traders in the neighbourhood of Prahsu, and before the arrival of the messengers I had sent Mr. Hull, Travelling Commissioner, to look into the matter and as far as possible to find out exactly what is taking place, so that steps may be taken by the Government to put a stop to the interference. The cure of the evil lies in the return of the Ashanti tribes to their respective countries, a matter which, however, can only be satisfactorily brought about by using the influence and control of this Government.

4. The consolidation of the Ashanti Empire, or in other words the return of the fugitive tribes to their respective countries, can be secured only in two ways, namely, by the absorption of Ashanti into the Protectorate, in which case each tribe and country in Ashanti would be regarded as independent the one of the other, or, as such an arrangement is not deemed desirable by Her Majesty's Government, by the election of a King to the Golden Stool, through the influence of the Government, acting through the medium of a British resident at Kumasi.

5. King Prempeh, as I have stated in a previous Despatch, has not been placed on the Golden Stool, he is not therefore King *de jure*. The King is placed upon the Golden Stool only after the performance of very elaborate native ceremonies in which it is an absolute essential that the Kings of Mampon, Kokofu, and Bekwai, who are the principal Kings of the Confederation, should take part. The Kings of Mampon and Kokofu are fugitives from their countries, and as they regard Prince Acheriboanda as the rightful heir to the Stool the British Resident will find it difficult to induce them to abandon their views and throw in their lot with King Prempeh, against whom, moreover, they have a distinct grievance, inasmuch as it was through him they became fugitives.

6. As soon as I received your Lordship's Despatch of the 30th January,* with regard to taking steps for placing a British Resident at Kumasi, and had despatched a letter to King Prempeh on the subject, I sent for Asibi, King of the Kokofus, to sound him as to whether, in the event of a British Residency being established at Kumasi, and a guarantee for peace in Ashanti being thus secured, he would return to his country of Kokofu, and abandoning his support of Prince Acheriboanda, would take his usual place in a native custom held for placing Prempeh on the Golden Stool; further, whether, having placed him there, he would serve under him and regard him as King paramount of the confederate tribes. He fenced my questions with much skill, confining himself at first to the latter and less important question, saying that having received the hospitality of the British Government for so long he and his people were British subjects, and would do as the Governor of the Gold Coast desired. When at last I brought him face to face with the main question he said he would act as regards Prempeh as the King of Mampem acted. Finally, when I put the matter to him in this way, that assuming Her Majesty decided that Prempeh should be elected to the Golden Stool and in that event that his return to his country would depend upon his taking his place in the election of Prempeh, he said that for the good of his people, who yearned to get back to their old homes, he would do so and carry out the wishes of this Government, but, he added, "your Excellency can see how hard it is for me to assist in the election of Prempeh to the Golden Stool."

7. The election of King Prempeh—and either he or Prince Acheriboanda must be elected, if peace in Ashanti is to be secured—upon the return of the fugitive tribes will require the exercise of much patience, tact, and judgment on the part of the Resident. My own opinion now is that although the King of Kokofu had decided upon returning to his country at the invitation of King Prempeh it was his determination to try conclusions with him at the first favourable opportunity after his arrival. With a British Resident at Kumasi more or less directing affairs and controlling the power of the King paramount, he, as well as other malcontents, will be kept quiet if they are properly handled.

I have, &c.

F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 68.

King KWAKU DUA III. to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR,

Kumasi, January 22, 1894.

It is with my greatest pleasure that I write to report to your Excellency the present state of bad treatment received by Ashanti tradesmen going down the coast to trade. It is reported to me that there are certain Ashanti refugees in the Protectorate, who have come to live between Prahsu and the coast, and when they find the Ashanti tradesmen going down the coast the refugees try to find fault with them, and impose fine upon them; if the poor tradesman refuses to give the fine the refugees make uses of my great oaths upon the tradesman and this great oaths of my Ashanti Kingdom is most sacred with the Ashantees, and when it is used the poor tradesman is bound and compelled to give the fine.

May I therefore call your Excellency's kind assistance in this matter, to inquire diligently those Ashanti refugees that are carrying on such bad habits, and when they are found to warn them, or confine them in such places, that our road to the coast may be safe in future. for I fear that if your Excellency do not put an end to such bad habits, I am sorry it will disturb the trade.

Wishing your Excellency "A merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."

I remain, &c.

my
KWAKU X DUA,
mark
King of Ashanti.

* No. 53.

Enclosure 2 in No. 68.

King KWAKU DUA III. to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR,

Kumasi, February 7, 1894.

I WROTE your Excellency on the 25th of November last, reporting the treatment given to my Ashanti subjects by your officer whom you send out through Kwawhu to Attabubu, and soliciting your Excellency at the same time to recall your officer and men when this day I am apprised of the coming of that officer to Kumasi, which I am really surprised at such treatment.

2. Your Excellency will remember that when his Native District Commissioner was sent out to me last year your Excellency requested him to make certain remarks, that I have sent to certain native Kings in the Protectorate, and therefore if the report is true I must discontinue same; it is the same feeling with me, and I will consider this in future as a good policy, that when any official is send out to visit me he must come through the main road, as has been done alway, but any one that has been sent out to countries either in the interior or not within my Ashanti Kingdom that I have nothing to do, or interfere, I am sorry to say, it is not polite that he should pass through my capital, for if they had passed from my capital to the interior, surely they may pass through here to the coast, therefore, as your officer did not pass through here to Attabubu, I beg your Excellency most sincerely to send to recall your officer, for it is not my wish that he should pass through my capital from Attabubu.

3. I am always ready and willing to receive my friends (the white men) at my capital whether visits of pleasure or on political matters, and I think I am justified to say, that as my late grandfather, King Kwaku Dua I., was so friendly with Sir George McClean, then Governor of the Gold Coast, and received the kind advice of Her Majesty's Government, so likewise I imitate the footsteps of my late grandfather, that I am a peaceful King with Her Majesty the Great Queen of England.

With my sincere regards,

I am, &c.

His Excellency F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G.,
Acting Governor.

my
KWAKU × DUA III.
mark
King of Ashanti.

Enclosure 3 in No. 68.

The ACTING GOVERNOR to KING KWAKU DUA III.

Government House, Victoriaborg, Accra,
March 4, 1894.

KING,

I HAVE duly received your letters of the 22nd January and 7th February in the former of which you complain that Ashanti traders are molested within the Protectorate and in the latter that my officer in command of the army in Attabubu has notified that he would come to Kumasi. Your letters were brought to me by Kwabina Antchi and Akuayena, both of whom came into my presence very much under the influence of drink, an offence which, I think, reflects but little credit upon the present Government in Ashanti in selecting such messengers to send to the Queen's representative.

2. I refused to give the messengers an audience, but out of courtesy to you I will reply to your letters.

3. The fact that Ashanti traders are being molested by their own countrymen only shows how necessary it is that there should be a British officer in Kumasi who can settle the country, and by settling it put a stop to the differences which have arisen between the various tribes by the useless and bloody wars in which you embarked as soon as Captains Lonsdale and Barnett left Ashanti.

4. I shall not, of course, permit the molestation to continue, but if it be put a stop to where it now exists I have no doubt that it will break out again elsewhere, because it is dictated by hatred of your tyrannical rule. The only cure is for this Government, by having a resident officer at Kumasi, to get the tribes back to their own countries in Ashanti, and to arrange for a compact of friendship and peace between the Kings who would then restrain their men.

5. Your own power is now at a very low ebb, due entirely to your having acted throughout without the advice of this Government and at the instigation of men whose bad counsels have embarked you in enterprises which could do no possible good, and have on the contrary brought serious harm both to you and your country.

6. As to the subject of the second letter I can only say that if I should consider it necessary to order my army to march into Ashanti my officer in command of it would do so and would proceed at once to Kumasi. If he notified to you that he was coming, which I doubt, as he has had no orders as yet to do so, it was a warning given to you for which you must thank British frankness. No doubt the present situation of British troops being at Amantin, Bompata, and Prahsu is not a pleasant one for you to contemplate, but it is the result of your having had the presumption to menace Attabubu and to think that this Government would let you do so.

His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III.,
Kumasi.

I am, &c.
F. M. HODGSON,
Acting Governor.

No. 69.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received April 11, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to my Despatch of 5th March* Vroom under date of 28th March has written as follows: I am in receipt of letter dated 4th March 1894, as well as one addressed to Kwaku Dua III. in reply to his two letters. On 19th March, after I had read carefully contents of letter sent to King of Kumasi, and had explained it to him and the chief authorities present, King of Kumasi promised to send a further communication on various subjects connected with letters sent to him, but to this moment he has not done so. Any further communication I may receive from King will follow this.

Despatch follows by mail.†

Inspector-General of Constabulary with greater portion of expeditionary force returned to head-quarters 3rd April; Scott, Larymore, Cramer, Clements embarking for home by mail steamer "Cabenda" 22nd April, Lang by mail steamer "Bonny."

No. 70.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received April 16, 1894.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
March 22, 1894.

MY LORD,

REFERRING to the Despatches‡ noted in the margin upon the subject of the relations of this Government with Ashanti and the condition of affairs in Attabubu and the neighbourhood, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Colonel Sir Francis Scott, together with copy of a Minute which I made in relation to his inquiry as to the re-establishment of the Volta patrol.

2. I think the Inspector-General will arrive at Accra early in April.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Act. Gov.
Feb. 21, '94.
Feb. 26, '94.
March 5, '94.

* No. 68.

† No. 74A.

‡ Nos. 65, 67, and 68.

Enclosure 1 in No. 70.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Attabubu, March 5, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of the following letters from you:—

- (1) Of the 21st February.
- (2) Of the 20th February.
- (3) Of the 21st February.

2. With reference to the first mentioned I have to acknowledge the receipt of the book packet and letter for Mr. Ferguson. They have been duly despatched to overtake him by two Hausas he left here for the purpose.

3. With regard to your letter, No. 2, I have already forwarded to Captain Lang copies of extracts from it in respect to the settlement, within the Protectorate, of the Salaga Princes and traders, and have instructed him to have their assurances in writing that they will not in any way interfere with the new King of Salaga, that they will recognize their new settlement as a permanent home, and that they will live peaceably with their neighbours.

4. I have further to report that the instructions contained in your letter No. 3 have been noted. It is with extreme regret I learn I am not to advance on Kumase. The surrounding country expected it, and I am informed on good authority that Kumase itself regarded my eventual advance as a foregone conclusion and were prepared to submit peacefully to whatever terms were proposed.

I fear British influence in these parts will not be strengthened by the retrograde movement. I leave this on my return journey next Monday the 12th instant, and expect to arrive at Abetifi on or about the 24th instant. I shall then carry out your instructions regarding the detachment which is to be stationed in Kwahu.

5. I should feel obliged by your informing me whether the Volta patrol is to be re-established, in which case I could send the necessary number of non-commissioned officers and men to that district when I reach Akropong. The European officer, however, who is to command the patrol would have to be sent from Accra or elsewhere and should meet me at Akropong. In the event of this officer being a new arrival in the Colony, I can spare Capt. Cramer to assist him in posting the patrol.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

F. C. Scott, Colonel,

Inspector-General, G.C.C.

Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

Enclosure 2 in No. 70.

The GOVERNOR to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

INFORM Sir F. Scott that the Volta patrol will be re-established, but that I prefer, for weighty reasons, that the detachment for the purpose shall proceed from Accra upon the return of the expeditionary force from the interior.

W. B. G.

20/3/94.

No. 71.

THE LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received April 25, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 72.]

AFFAIRS OF THE GOLD COAST COLONY.

The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool,
Liverpool, April 24, 1894.

MY LORD,

REFERRING to the representations recently made to you by this and other Chambers on the subject of the commercial affairs of the above-named Colony, as affected

by the disturbances between the Ashantis and other tribes, I am directed by the Committee of the African Trade Section of this Chamber to inquire whether any steps have been taken in the direction of the appointment of a British Commissioner to reside at Coomassie.

I have, &c.

THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

No. 72.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

SIR,

Downing Street, April 27, 1894.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 24th instant* enquiring whether any steps have been taken for the appointment of a British Commissioner to reside at Coomassie, and in reply I am to acquaint you that his Lordship is expecting shortly a report from the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, and that he is not in a position to give any further information at present.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 73.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received April 30, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 75.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 5, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter, received on the 1st instant, from Inspector General Colonel Sir Francis C. Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B., commanding the Hausa Constabulary of this Colony, in which he refers in a very gratifying manner to the behaviour of the force under his command on the expedition to the interior of the Protectorate, from which he was returning to Accra when he wrote to me.

2. From my own experience of travelling in the Colony and its outlying Protectorate I can well understand that Sir Francis Scott and the force under his command had to contend with great discomfort and privation, whilst the want of potable water and suitable vegetables must have been keenly felt. But, Sir Francis observes, "Notwithstanding these trials, the conduct of all was everything that could be wished," and he specially requests "that a particular note be made regarding the list of names" of officers he submits in his letter, while he makes a comparison between the difficulties he had to contend with, together with his force, as against those of the Red River Expedition, and states that "many who were employed with it received no small recognition."

3. I feel sure, my Lord, that no one will more readily appreciate than your Lordship the good service which has been rendered to this Colony by Colonel Sir Francis Scott and the officers and men under his command in the duty they have recently been engaged upon.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

* No 71.

Enclosure in No. 73.

Colonel SIR F. SCOTT to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Komfrodwa, March 31, 1894.

WITH reference to my letter covering the Report on the Attabubu Expedition which I forwarded from Abetifi, I have now the honour to bring before you the general conduct of all who accompanied me.

I have much pleasure in stating that the behaviour of all ranks afforded me every satisfaction.

We were six months absent from Accra, and during this period I had ample time and opportunities of judging the respective merits of both officers and men.

Although there happened to be no fighting, I can assure your Excellency that the hardships were no less. For weeks at a time we were without proper European food, such as biscuits, flour, rice, tea, cocoa, &c., and had nothing to drink but water which was by no means good, as our filters proved. The country vegetables as well were all used up; and had it not been for the sheep brought down from the north by Moshi caravans I should have been unable to remain in the district as long as I did. Notwithstanding these trials, the conduct of all was everything that could be wished, and I would specially request that a particular note be made regarding the list of names I now submit.

I wish in no way to over-rate the work done by the Expedition. I will, however, in conclusion, draw a parallel with the Red River expedition under Sir Garnet, now Viscount, Wolseley in which there was also no fighting, but when, although the climate was perfect and the transport difficulties nil in comparison to those in West Africa, many who were employed with it received no small recognition.

The names I would specially bring to your Excellency's notice are as follows:—

HAUSA CONSTABULARY.

1. Inspector Captain Aplin.
2. Captain and Adjutant Larymore.
3. Assistant-Inspector Captain Crame
4. Pay and Quartermaster Mr. Clements.
5. Quartermaster and Sergeant Plange (Acting Transport Officer).
6. Native Officer and Native Adjutant Mr. Mardah.
7. Gunner Native Officer Mr. Akkerre.
8. Store Labourer James.

SPECIALLY EMPLOYED.

Captain Lang, R.E.

MEDICAL STAFF.

Dr. Murray.
Dr. Lenehan.

I have, &c.

His Excellency
The Governor and Commander-in-Chief.F. C. SCOTT,
Colonel,
Inspector-General G.C.C.,
Commanding Attabubu Expeditionary Force.

No. 74.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

Sir,

Downing Street, May 2, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Hodgson's Despatches of the 21st and 26th of February and the 5th of March,* relating to the affairs of Ashanti.

* Nos. 65, 67, and 68.

2. I approve of the instructions, dated the 23rd of February, which were given to Mr. Vroom with regard to his mission to Kumassi, and of the instructions to the Inspector-General of the Constabulary, dated the 21st of February, with regard to the withdrawal of the force which had been sent to Attabubu.

3. I approve also of the instructions which Mr. Hodgson gave to the Inspector-General, as reported in the Despatch of the 21st of February, with reference to the princes and traders from Salagha who had taken refuge in the Protectorate, and of the answer, dated the 4th of March, which he sent to the representations of the King of Ashanti, as to the molestation of traders, as reported in the Despatch of the 5th of March.

I have, &c.
RIPON.

No. 74A.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 16, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
April 12, 1894.

REFERRING to Mr. Hodgson's Despatch of the 5th March,* I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter dated 28th March, received from Mr. Vroom, by the Colonial Secretary, on the 8th April. The contents of this letter were embodied in a telegram which I despatched to your Lordship on the 11th instant.†

Enclosure in No. 74A.

Mr. VROOM to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Kumasi, March 28, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, as well as the one addressed to King Kwaka Dua III. in reply to his two letters brought to you by Kwabina Antchi and Akuayena.

2. On Monday, the 19th, the contents of the King's letter was read and explained by me to him and the Chiefs assembled. The King promised to send a further communication on the subject of the letter, but up to this moment he has not done so.

3. I therefore return the Hausa runner to Accra with the Government stick he brought with him; any communication I may receive from the King will follow this.

I have, &c.

H. VROOM,
District Commissioner, G.C.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.,
Victoriaborg.

No. 75.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR,

Downing Street, May 30, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 5th ultimo,‡ forwarding a report from Sir Francis Scott, K.C.M.G., on the behaviour of the force under his command during the recent expedition to Attabubu.

* No. 68.

† No. 69.

‡ No. 73.

I have to convey to you the expression of my entire satisfaction with the excellent service rendered on this occasion by Sir F. Scott and the officers and men under his command, under the arduous and trying circumstances with which they had to contend.

I have, &c.
RIPON.

No. 76.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 30, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra.
May 7, 1894.

MY LORD,

REFERRING to the correspondence mentioned in the margin,³ I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter dated on the 7th of April, addressed to Mr. Hodgson by Kwaku Dua, King of Kumasi, and delivered to me by Mr. Vroom on the 24th of April.

2. Mr. Vroom arrived at Kumasi on the 17th of March and left it on the 10th of April after a stay of over three weeks, without being able to get the question he went there to try and have dealt with even touched upon, beyond the hearing by the King of Mr. Hodgson's letter when read. It will be seen by the King's reply that the "District Kings, Chiefs, and principal men" were to be at Kumasi "about the middle of April for some very important business, when the subject of the British Government which is not a small case, would be discussed and an express messenger sent" to me "with a final decision of the subject."

3. I understand from Mr. Vroom that the "important business" is the placing of Kwaku Dua on the Golden Stool, whereby he will be regarded as "King of Ashanti," two puppets having been set on the Kokofu and Mampon Stools in order to enable this sham ceremony to take place.

4. I have the honour to enclose herein a copy of a letter which I addressed to the King of Kumasi, of even date with this Despatch, and in view of circumstances within my knowledge generally, from information I had received, I considered it judicious to state to the King that I trusted I should hear from him again in a short time with reference to the subject matter of Mr. Hodgson's letter to him, adding, "it is a matter of serious import to you; and I may as well tell you frankly that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government cannot be trifled with."

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 76.

King KWAKU DUA III. to the ACTING GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Kumasi, April 7, 1894.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd of February last, per your officer Mr. H. Vroom, Native District Commissioner, and in reply, I beg to state that my District Kings, Chiefs, and principal men, will be here about the middle of this month for some of our very important business, when the subject of the British Government, which is not a small case, will be discussed, and an express messenger will be sent to your Excellency with a final decision of the subject.

I remain, &c.

my
KWAKU DUA X King of Ashanti.
mark.

His Excellency F. M. Hodgson, C.M.G.,
Acting Governor, Accra.

Enclosure 2 in No. 76.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
May 7, 1894.

KING,

MY Commissioner, Mr. Vroom, whom I sent to you on a special mission, delivered to me on the morning of the 24th April your letter, dated the 7th of that month, in which you acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Hodgson's letter of the 23rd February last, and stated that your District Kings, Chiefs, and principal men would be at Kumasi about the middle of April for some of your very important business when the subject of the British Government, which was not a small one, would be discussed and an express messenger would be sent to me with a final decision of the subject.

2. I trust that I shall hear from you again in a short time with reference to the subject matter of the late Acting Governor's letter to you, already referred to, as it is a matter of serious import to you; and I may as well tell you frankly that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government cannot be trifled with.

I remain, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor, Gold Coast Colony.

His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III.,
Kumasi.

No. 77.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 30, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
May 7, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of even date,* I have the honour to submit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, Mr. Vroom's report, dated the 24th of April, of his visit and mission to Kumasi, undertaken in accordance with instructions received from Mr. Hodgson in his letter of the 23rd February which had its origin in your Lordship's Despatch to him of the 30th of January.†

2. Mr. Vroom, unfortunately for the purpose of his mission, arrived at Kumasi at a time when the King and Chiefs were mourning for a princess who had died on the 13th of March, "and," Mr. Vroom observes, "on account of whose obsequies and "perhaps human sacrifices, on such occasions indispensable, the King of Ashanti "evidently endeavoured to keep me away from his town for some time."

3. I think it best, instead of quoting at any length from Mr. Vroom's report, to leave it to commend itself to your Lordship's notice, as it contains information of an interesting character, faithfully described, I should say, but I would ask attention to what he states from paragraph 15 to paragraph 23 included, and with regard to what is stated in some of these sections, I shall have again to address your Lordship both with regard to Kwaka Dua and to the man Ansah.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 77.

Mr. VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Christiansborg, April 24, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that, in accordance with Feb. 23, '94 instructions contained in the letter as per margin, I left Elmina on the 3rd March and arrived in Kumasi on the 17th with a party as follows:—

Mr. Damburnu, Native Officer, Gold Coast Constabulary, 25 non-commissioned officers and men, 26 hammockmen and carriers, one messenger.

2. From Pra-sue the messenger preceded me to apprise King Kwaku Dua III. of Ashanti that the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony had sent me to him on an im-

* No. 76.

† No. 53.

portant business, and to request him to assemble all the Kings and Chiefs representing Ashanti to attend a public palaver which I intended to hold immediately on my arrival in Kumasi.

3. Arriving at Bekwai on the 12th ultimo, I halted for one day, first to allow the King of Ashanti time to collect his Chiefs, and secondly to make further inquiries into the alleged murder of Kwaku Ababrase, ex-king of Bekwai, as Mr. Hodgson verbally instructed me to do.

4. The result of my inquiries confirm the statement made in my report on last October's mission to Kumasi. Kwaku Ababrase was identified on the 13th March last by the following Housas, viz.:—No. 890, Corporal Lawani Geshu, Gold Coast Constabulary; No. 237, private Ali Borunu, Gold Coast Constabulary. These men accompanied Mr. Hull to Kumasi in 1891, and, knowing the ex-king personally, I selected them to go to Adaisuwa village for his identity.

5. Leaving Bekwai on the 14th March, I met two messengers from the King of Ashanti in Esumju village; they desired me not to proceed beyond this village until the King's pleasure should be made known to me. I requested them politely to inform the King that I would rather not break my journey however, in courtesy to him, I would march slowly so as to reach Kumasi on the 17th ultimo, a day; I know the Ashantis regard as "lucky" for transactions of public business.

I arrived on that day in Kumasi, but at an unfortunate moment. The King and Chiefs were mourning for Princess Ekuia Bedua, who died on Tuesday the 13th, and on account of whose obsequies, and perhaps human sacrifices, on such occasions indispensable, the King of Ashanti evidently endeavoured to keep me away from his town for some time.

6. Immediately on my arrival in Kumasi the King gave me the usual public reception. This was made to appear as imposing as could be possibly done. Chief Amankwatsia, who recently commanded the Ashanti army to Nkoranza, was the only man who for a short time indulged in a war dance; the public, however, did not give him any encouragement for its continuance.

7. On Monday the 19th I saw the King and Chiefs of Kumasi. At this interview I read and explained to them the missive which was brought to me by a special runner sent from Accra.

Owing to the absence of the Kings of Mampon, Nsuta, Bekwai and the Chiefs of other districts, or their representatives, it was decided to postpone the reading of the King's letter I took with me until their arrival.

8. Tuesday, the 20th March, was the seventh day of Ekuia Bedua's death. The town was thrown into great excitement by the public appearance of King Kwaku Dua III. The wild dances of the King and his Chiefs, the sobs and groanings of the women, which suddenly gave way to singing and dancing, gave this public procession an appearance of ghastly confusion of mourning and mirth.

I visited the King and expressed our feelings of sympathy with him and his people for the sad event; in your Excellency's name I sent him, in accordance with native etiquette "funeral presents" to the value of 5*l.* 8*s.*

The King was much pleased with this observance of native custom, and sent a deputation of Chiefs to convey his thanks to your Excellency.

9. Preparatory to the public palaver, I found it needful cautiously to approach some of the principal Chiefs and linguists of Ashanti. This had to be done quietly in the night, because they mistrust each other. By these nightly interviews I was able to draw some of them to our side, and mould their minds into the right way of viewing the proposals contained in the King's letter. I was able to show them its advantages and the advisability of its acceptance by the Kings and Chiefs. The establishment of British Agency in Kumasi, I showed them, is intended for the good of the people. I do not regret the nights I spent in Kumasi with these Chiefs; and if the present negotiations end successfully I think its success might be traced to these nightly visits.

10. The public palaver did not take place until the 28th March last; that is fourteen days after my arrival in Kumasi. The delay was explained by the public mourning consequent on the death of Ekuia Bedua, and the absence at a distance of some of the important Chiefs. The Kings of Mampon, Nsuta, and Bekwai were represented at this palaver by their linguists; the meeting itself was one representing all the present districts of Ashanti.

11. At this palaver I publicly read and explained to the King of Ashanti and the Chiefs assembled the letter I carried for the King. Points that appeared somewhat

abstruse to native minds were made clear and intelligible to them by carefully selected illustrations.

Having impressed upon them the importance of the business, and the expediency of considering the question favourably, and bringing their decision early, if possible, at the next palaver, arranged for the 5th instant, I left the meeting.

12. Both in my private and public interviews with the King and Chiefs of Ashanti, I was very careful not to say anything which could give them cause to suppose that the Government desires in any way to interfere with the domestic affairs and policy of Ashanti.

On the other hand, I think I had always the best of the arguments to prove to them that by accepting the present proposals Ashantis are not only saved from constant frictions with their neighbours, bringing to them sea of troubles, but that on this also depends the making of the Ashanti Kingdom.

13. The palaver arranged for the 5th did not [come?] on till the 7th instant. At this meeting the question of stipends to be paid to the Kings of Ashanti was carefully introduced. To the King of Ashanti himself the sum of 600*l.* was named and to the Queen Mother 80*l.* a year. To the other Kings 200*l.* each per annum, in the event of their subscribing to the agreement I took with me, and which was also read and explained to them.

14. It appears to me that in their assembly on the night of the 5th instant Mr. J. O. Ansah, whose assumed office and supposed influence retire into the shade with a British Agent resident at Kumasi, and those few councillors whose counsels to King Kwaku Dua III. are influenced by self-interest rather than honest devotion to the King or his country, set their wits to work to thwart at the last moment the negotiations terminating successfully, in order to gain time further to plot and intrigue.

15. From my confidential man in Kumasi I learnt that these men are counselling an embassy to Christiansborg, headed by some of them (and perhaps with Mr. Ansah as the spokesman), to dictate to, and force upon, the Government certain terms which they think will secure to the Kings of Ashanti better advantages than those contained in the present proposals.

16. At the palaver of the 7th the linguist asked me to return to the coast and inform your Excellency that King Kwaku Dua III. is preparing to make the funeral custom of his brother the late King of Ashanti; that on the arrival of the other Kings to the custom the suggestions made to them will be considered and messengers sent to your Excellency with their decision.

17. I told the King that if he would put the message in writing I shall send the letter to your Excellency; but before leaving Kumasi I must first communicate to you the progress of the mission and ask for further instructions.

18. My stay in Kumasi during the coming custom was no doubt very distasteful to those bodies who oppose the residence of a British Agent in Kumasi. Another palaver was arranged for the 9th instant. At this palaver Chiefs Amankwatsia and Asafu-Buachi figured most conspicuously. Its object was to beg and press for my return to the coast and wait for the messengers which they say were soon to follow me.

I took no notice of their solicitations of clamour until King Kwaku Dua III. himself reluctantly spoke. I replied to the King that, taking his request as a modest command, I had no alternative but to leave his country at once and report my proceedings to your Excellency.

The King was so perplexed with this reply that he would not allow me to leave the meeting until he got a promise from me not to represent to your Excellency that I was driven away from Kumasi; and I myself do not intend to be inferred that King Kwaku Dua III. sent me away from his country.

19. I must here remark that the message sent by the King of Ashanti was dictated to him by the parties mentioned in paragraph 14 of this report. It was delivered without the knowledge and consent of the other Kings or Chiefs or their representatives. It was cleverly invented, I think, to get Kwaku Dua III., placed on the "Golden Stool" before dealing with the proposals of the Government. At present King Kwaku Dua III. has no right to veto the decisions of the other Kings and Chiefs when they are in majority. He could exercise this prerogative only when enstooled on the "Golden Stool."

20. I am of opinion that this device will be defeated by the parties who side with us; and that, before taking part in the ceremonies of the enstoolment, they will demand the settlement of the question of a British Agency in Kumasi.

The enstoolment takes place forty days after the "funeral custom," which, I understand, begins in the first week of May next.

21. It remains to be seen when the messengers will come down. On their arrival it will be for your Excellency to decide whether they should be received at Prasu or in Christiansborg. I would humbly recommend the former.

Any messenger below the rank of a Chief, I humbly submit, should not be honoured with a direct interview with your Excellency.

22. It was very pleasing and satisfactory to me to note the disappointments of a good many of the Chiefs present at the two last palavers. Some of them could hardly disguise their disgust with the supposed message of the King of Ashanti. They appealed to me by their looks to press the matter; but I had no wish to do anything which the few opposed to us could misrepresent hereafter that the Kings and Chiefs were duressed to sign the agreement.

23. Undoubtedly the King of Ashanti feels sore with our recent treaty with Nkoranza and Mo. The messengers will perhaps bring up this and other similar questions; but I submit the Government should not give into them. On the other hand, I would venture to advocate, in case the present negotiations failing, which will not be the case, I hope, the extension of British protection to those countries who have asked for it. It is only fair that these tribes should be assisted in their struggles for freedom; and this would be the only means of bringing the King of Ashanti to reason.

I was not altogether ignorant of many things said in their assembly, notwithstanding its strict secrecy. The Queen-Mother entertains nervous apprehensions of the policy I have ventured to suggest. At a certain meeting she blamed the Chiefs who embarked into the Nkoranza war for the loss of that country to Ashanti.

24. On the eve of my departure from Kumasi King Kwaku Dua III. sent me 4*l.* in gold dust. I returned it to him, saying that, having already accepted 8*l.* 2*s.* from him, I could not take further present before the negotiations are closed. The King was very sorry.

25. In conclusion, I would beg to state that the mission entrusted to me was able to split the Council of King Kwaku Dua in three divisions:—

- (a.) Parties who oppose the establishment of British agency in Kumasi.
- (b.) Parties who favour British agency in Kumasi.
- (c.) Parties who advocate the extension of British protection to Ashanti provided the Government recognises the suzerainty of the King of Ashanti over the countries already under our protection; provided certain Kings and Chiefs are not compelled personally to attend British Courts on the sea coast; provided also that the Government does not interfere with domestic slavery in Ashanti.

26. I return herewith the agreements (in duplicate), and the Government stick and seal I took with me to Ashanti.

27. Leaving Kumasi on the 10th instant, I arrived in Elmina on the 18th and Christiansborg on the 23rd instant.

28. The Hausa escort behaved themselves very well. There were no complaints against them.

Much credit is due to Mr. Damburnu for keeping his men in hand so well.

I have, &c.

His Excellency Sir W. Bradford Griffith,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

&c. &c. &c.

Gold Coast Colony.

Hk. VROOM,

District Commissioner,

Gold Coast Colony.

No. 78.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received May 30, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

May 8, 1894.

MY LORD,

THE messengers who were sent by the King of Kumasi to accompany Mr. Vroom on his return to the coast presented to me on the 25th April a duplicate of the letter King Kwaku Dua had addressed to Mr. Hodgson, together with a letter from the King, dated on the 11th April, written for him by Mr. Ansah, as it is in the handwriting of the latter, and addressed to me. A copy of this document is enclosed. I may mention, in passing, that, on my asking Mr. Vroom how it was that King Kwaku Dua had

written to me instead of Mr. Hodgson, when I had had no communication with him and he could not have known I had come back, Mr. Vroom replied, that the circumstance of my arrival at Accra had, he understood, been promptly reported from Cape Coast to Kumasi. He stated: "From what I could gather it appears to me that the news of your return to the Colony made the King of Kumasi more nervous and caused some changes in his present policy.

"It occurs to me that the King fully remembers your connexion with the putting down of the King Mensah's attempt in 1880-1 to make war against the Government; his own position as placed on the 'Stool' by your Excellency in 1888, and the firmness of purpose which you have shown in your dealings with him generally.

"The King is therefore very cautious. In their public palavers the Linguist would say nothing hastily."

I have placed this statement before your Lordship, because the circumstance referred to in it may have had some bearing upon the first portion of the observation made in paragraph 9 of the King's letter to me.

2. Upon the receipt of this document, I at once minuted it to Mr. Vroom. I enclose a copy of what I wrote to him and of his reply. Mr. Vroom has told me that on reading the King's letter he observed there had been embodied in it, here and there, portions of conversations he had had with Anсах, who had sought him out at his house, and who was evidently acting as a spy, on his own behalf, on Mr. Vroom; that Anсах came to his house, Mr. Vroom's, one morning when the King's father was with him, and when the former left, Mr. Anсах left also, and at some little distance from the house, Mr. Vroom heard high words and a quarrel going on between Anсах and the King's father, because the latter had gone to see Mr. Vroom without him, Anсах being jealous of the man seeing Mr. Vroom alone. At a later period, in conversations Mr. Vroom had with Anсах, the statements of the latter were so palpably false that Mr. Vroom told me that it was only from prudential motives that he "refrained from telling Mr. Anсах that he was, like all his Ashanti people, a liar."

3. I brought the correspondence mentioned in this Despatch to the notice of the Executive Council on the 4th instant, and members agreed with me that the letter of the King of Kumasi should be replied to in the terms of the document of which a copy is enclosed, members agreeing with me that it was not desirable to enter into any discussion with the King of Kumasi with regard to his letter, or to say any more than it was intended to state as explained by me to the Council, to whom the draft of my letter was subsequently informally submitted, with the result that some slight changes were suggested and carried out.

4. I asked Mr. Vroom specially with regard to the wish of the Kumasis to "drive him out of their country"; and he stated that he had no doubt whatever that this was their desire, and the reasons he gives are these—

First. They did not wish him to be present when the ceremony of placing the King on the Golden Stool was being proceeded with, as he would thereby see the weakness, as regarded numbers, of the King's adherents, and see his puppets; and in connexion with this,

Second. That it was most undesirable Mr. Vroom should be in Kumasi on the occasion referred to, because there would undoubtedly be a great sacrifice of slaves on the occasion, Mr. Vroom would be sure to become aware of this, and would be a witness against the Ashantis that, in spite of all their protestations to the contrary, they still carried on human sacrifices.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 78.

The KING OF ASHANTI to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Kumasi, April 11, 1894.

LAST Saturday, the 7th instant, I handed to Mr. Vroom, your Native District Commissioner, a letter from me to deliver to your Excellency, and I beg to state that that officer's conduct to me, I am extremely sorry to say, it grieves me very much.

2. All of Mr. Vroom's official business with me, has made me believe that if I did not exercise patience it will bring a great misunderstanding between my good friend

and myself, for I know that he has written a very long report to your Excellency, according to the tenor of his words, most unfairly about me and my people, and where am I to defend, or who is there for me to defend, the misrepresentation? This causes me to write to my good friend, to remove any doubts that may exist in your Excellency's good mind about me.

3. Mr. Vroom boldly said to my Linguists that "don't you know that I am here as the representative for his Excellency the Governor, and you have driven me out of your country, and have disgraced me?" I beg most humbly to say that if such expressions are in his report you must never take it to be so from your good friend, for who can disgrace an ambassador from my friend, or drive my friend's messenger to me from my country, far be it.

4. At the first interview with Mr. Vroom on Monday the 19th ultimo, he enquired, where are the Kings of Beckwai, Mampon, Fesu, Gesu, &c., for I was deputed by his Excellency the Governor to come and negotiate with you all. I told him, if I had received previous notice before your arrival, I would have summoned them to be present; as it is now late, I shall send to request them to send their Linguists immediately, and promised to hear Mr. Vroom at the arrival of the provincial Linguists.

5. On Thursday, the 29th ultimo, I was informed that a cane bearer from Mr. Vroom was going down the coast; I send to tell Mr. Vroom to wait, for my provincial Linguists have arrived, and I am preparing to sit this morning to hear him; then he could send to the Governor. Mr. Vroom did not agree, but send the cane bearer, and send to inform me that it is not serious, but only reporting of his safe arrival here.

I send again to inform him that not that I have detained him so long in Kumasi without hearing his message, but he could remember that I sustained the loss of my sister three or four days before his arrival, and on account of his business I have stopped making the full custom of my sister deceased. However, I sat and had a general meeting. Mr. Vroom delivered his letter, read and explained before the general meeting. I despatched instantly, before Mr. Vroom, my provincial Linguists to their masters for their information, and as the matter is one of importance, I requested them to return within four days. After the four days my provincial Linguists had not turned up yet, when my friend's messenger to me began to show me some signs; Mr. Vroom send to tell me that if I am not ready for him he will ask leave to return to the coast, for I have promised to give him a reply on Monday past. I send to beg him to wait for next Saturday, for the whole of my provincial Linguists have not turned up yet, and I believe by Saturday they all will be present, and more also. I cannot give an answer without my provincial Kings, Chiefs, and principal men. He send to tell me that his daily expenses is too much, but if I could give him some reliable hopes that his mission will be successful, he would not mind to live here even a whole month, but, as he knows fully well that I and my people were dodging him, he will never wait for the Saturday. I tried very hard before I got him to agree.

6. Saturday, which was the 7th instant, I got ready with my assembly, and I send for Mr. Vroom. I told him my provincial Linguists are here, and I beg you to take my reply to my friend his Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Vroom said, "Why, I have not finished my business with you, how then that you are going to reply me, for I remember I told you at the last meeting that if you agree for the proposals the British Government have made to you there are some arrangements to be read to you; I have not read and explained the arrangements, how then you could be able to give me a reply to the Governor?" I said, Very well, read and explain the arrangements. Mr. Vroom then read and explained the arrangements. Myself and Council then told Mr. Vroom as per enclosed copy of a letter to your Excellency. Mr. Vroom replied that he knew very well that his mission will end no better than this, and he begs that he could not take His Majesty's reply to his Excellency the Governor verbally, for when he takes it verbally the Governor might think that he did not execute his business, that he might have been on the half way and returned to the coast, so he begs that the verbal reply must be written on paper, for he brought his message on paper and not verbally. I said it is quite true, I shall get a letter ready for you, and the meeting was dismissed.

7. I got a letter to be written and send it to Mr. Vroom, to take it to my good friend the Governor, he send to inform me that he has received his Excellency's letter, but after he came home he has thought proper to send his Excellency's letter per express messenger and that he is going to wait here; when I received this information, I was greatly surprised and astonished, and send to tell Mr. Vroom, that, if he had said so before the public assembly, all the provincial Linguists would have heard so and take

to their masters, but now as he has asked me to give him my reply on paper to the hearing of all assembly, I beseech him to take my reply to my good friend his Excellency the Governor, for when the Kings, Chiefs, &c., hear that he is remaining with me after it was said at the public meeting that he is going to take my good friend's letter, my people will think otherwise. Mr. Vroom refused totally.

8. I called a meeting and sent for Mr. Vroom to tell me fully before the public assembly if there is anything left behind unsaid; he said nothing left behind unsaid, but that he has thought proper to wait and hear from his Excellency. I told him, you knew that you cannot leave here without the knowledge of his Excellency the Governor, why then did you urged upon me to give you leave to return to the coast, because your daily expenses is too much. I said the offer that the British Government makes to Ashanti his Excellency says, "There is no wish to force you to do so," but if you came to force us, tell us; he said he cannot force us, when his Excellency the Governor could not force you, how then he, being merely a servant, could force you. I and my Council then told him, if you do not mean to force us, then take my good friend his Excellency the Governor's letter yourself and not by anyone, upon this he says, that I have driven him out of my country, that I have disgraced him; *far be it*. I told Mr. Vroom, that a man on political business like this must have a patient spirit, for he must know that if he says anything against me it will affect me very seriously, so he must be careful.

9. I hope, therefore, at the explanation I have made here, and, as I learn that you are an experienced old gentleman, you know the position of a ruler, I humbly beg you will not give much attention to what report your Native Officer, Mr. Vroom, will say against me to make our old friendship less, but will wait patiently to hear from me again when I shall be able to send an influential and experience Chief to your Excellency.

With regard, &c.

my

KWAKU × DUA III., King of Ashanti.
mark.

His Excellency,
William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 78.

The GOVERNOR to MR. VROOM.

MR. VROOM,

I ATTACH to this minute paper a letter received this morning at 10.20 a.m. by two sword bearers sent by the King of Kumasi. The letter is dated at that place on the 11th of April. In it you will observe that King Kwaku Duah states that he is extremely sorry for your conduct towards him as it has grieved him very much. The letter describes itself, and I request you will be so good as to consider what is written and to place on this minute paper any observations you desire to offer, with reference to the statements made in the letter, for my consideration.

W. B. G.

25/4/94.

Enclosure 3 in No. 78.

MR. VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I AM not aware that I did anything in Kumasi to give King Kwaku Dua III. any cause of complaint. I parted with him on the best of terms and with the hope of meeting him again.

With regard to paragraph 3 of this letter, upon which the alleged grievance is based, I would respectfully ask your Excellency's reference to my report paragraph 18. The matter was settled between us before I left Kumasi.

I submit your Excellency would consider this letter as coming from Mr. Ansah rather than the King of Ashanti. It was dictated and written by Mr. Ansah on the receipt of a letter I wrote to him and copy attached. It is, in my humble opinion, an invention of Mr. Ansah to get me out of the way in regard to the present negotiations with the King of Ashanti. Mr. Ansah knows his position is shaky as long as I have anything to do with the affair.

I do not think I have made any complaint against Kwaku Dua III. in my report. If so, the King should be informed of this and his mind set at ease on the subject.

H. VROOM.

25/4/94.

Enclosure 4 in No. 78.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

May 7, 1894.

KING,

On the 25th April the messengers you sent with Mr. Vroom with a copy of your letter of the 7th April, to which I have already alluded in my letter of this date, delivered it to me, together with another letter from you dated the 11th April, in which you beg to state that Mr. Vroom's conduct towards you, you were extremely sorry to say, grieved you very much.

2. I at once placed your letter in Mr. Vroom's hands in order for him to give me an explanation of the statements you have made with reference to him, and I send you herewith his reply, in which you will observe that Mr. Vroom remarks, "I parted with him," that is, with yourself, "on the best of terms and with the hope of meeting him again."

3. There are statements in your letter which I do not think is necessary to deal with at this moment, but which I shall probably have to write to you about when I again hear from you with reference to the communication which was made to you by the late Acting Governor through Mr. Vroom, which that officer handed to you, and read to you and the Chiefs assembled with you at the time, viz., on the 28th of March.

4. I take this opportunity to inform you that I have the fullest possible confidence in Mr. Vroom. I have known him for years as a man of strict integrity and honour, and I do not believe that he is capable of making any statement to me which is not strictly truthful in every respect. You will observe he refers to a Mr. Ansah, and states that he considers that your letter has come rather from Mr. Ansah than from yourself.

5. When Mr. Vroom arrived he gave me a letter addressed to me by Mr. Ansah, together with a letter which Mr. Ansah addressed to him, and Mr. Vroom also handed to me copy of a letter he wrote to Mr. Ansah in reply. I think if you saw these letters and had them correctly interpreted to you, you would very probably form a different opinion of Mr. Ansah to that which you entertain at present.

6. The difficulty in my correspondence with you is this, that you have no one to interpret the letters addressed to you by this Government but Mr. Ansah, and I am fully aware, from what I know of him, that, where there is anything in my letters which refers to himself in a way he does not like, he is not very likely to let you know it. But I will take very good care that you do know it later on, and I think you will then be rather surprised when you see the letter he has taken the liberty of writing to me.

I remain, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor, Gold Coast Colony.

His Majesty King Kwaku Dua III.,
Kumasi.

No. 79.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received May 30, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra.
May 9, 1894.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of the following documents:—

A letter from John Ossoo Ansah, dated at Kumasi, the 5th of April, addressed to me.

A note from John Ossoo Ansah, dated at Kumasi, the 5th of April, addressed to Mr. Vroom, Native District Commissioner.

A note from Mr. Vroom in reply, dated at Kumasi, the 9th of April.

A letter from the Private Secretary written by direction of the Governor, dated Accra, 7th May, addressed to John O. Ansah, and an extract from the "Gold Coast Chronicle" newspaper of the 31st March 1894.

These documents are all self-explanatory, and therefore it is unnecessary for me to enlarge upon them.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah was originally employed in the public service of the Colony, from which he was dismissed. He is a son of the late Ashanti prince of the same name who gave so much trouble to this Government, when Mr. Young was charged with its administration. He married a daughter of a Mrs. Hutchison of Elmina who, I have heard, is seeking to be divorced from him for desertion. He has also lately figured in a discreditable case tried at Liverpool, in January last, I think. He has everything to gain by remaining at Kumasi and influencing the King for evil; and he is a plausible man, with glibness of tongue, and likely to be regarded by the King, from his being able to read and write, as valuable to him.

Your Lordship will observe that, in the concluding paragraph of his letter, Mr. Ansah states that so far as his little influence goes with his people he conscientiously believes he will be the proper means of instrumentality for bringing his people into the light of civilisation, which I understand to mean that if he was commissioned for the purpose he would be "proud to live to see, and for the future welfare of his people, that the "Ashanti Kingdom is one of Her Majesty the great Queen of England and Empress "of India's territories." This is the statement made in paragraph 4 of his letter.

I think Mr. Ansah is very jealous of any intelligent officer being sent to Kumasi. He had to be publicly reproved by Mr. Hull when the latter visited Kumasi in 1891, and now he has, through the King, set himself up in opposition to Mr. Vroom. The papers relating to Kumasi since Mr. Ansah went there bear testimony to the unworthy character of the man.

Enclosure 1 in No. 79.

MR. ANSAH to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Kumasi, April 5, 1894.

EVER since I have been out of my time I have being always trying to bring my country (Ashanti) into the light of civilisation; although my people do not seem to know the good fruits which civilisation bears, and which is being enjoyed by the other civilised world, yet it is my earnest and constant prayer that the light of civilisation should smile upon this benighted land.

2. In 1889 I came out here for gold mining business, through the invitation of an Ashanti Chief; the Chief, being misguided, placed my business so backward, not until I obtained the leave and consent of all the Kings, Chiefs and principal men, as well as his Majesty the King of Ashanti. Just as I commenced my business Mr. Hull's mission to Ashanti took place, my business was again interrupted, my men I employed from the coast deserted me, and my gold mining business was a total failure; having come to this conclusion, I asked the King's leave to return to the coast, for it is useless for me to stay out here without having business in my hands to carry. His Majesty the King, Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti, solicited me earnestly to assist

them to look into the Ashanti affairs with the British Government. I refused, that inasmuch as Mr. Hull has misrepresented my conduct to you in the public assembly, that I was bad adviser, that I was misleading you, and that I shall be the cause of the future destruction of Ashantee Kingdom, which made his Majesty the King to make a brief explanation on certain points, and I was then permitted to explain myself, when Mr. Hull then publicly apologized to me before the assembly, I feared greatly to interfere any longer with Ashanti political matters.

3. Mr. Hull's mission to Ashanti might have proved successful, or somewhat satisfactorily to both parties, had he not tried to put me away; and even the consent of my replying His Majesty's letter to your Excellency according to their dictation was reluctantly given.

4. His Majesty the King, Kings, Chiefs and principal men of Ashanti, having found that without my assistance they could do no better than to leave all the business to my hands with the British Government, I was then preparing to be send to the coast to arrange matters between the British Government and Ashanti, for I shall be proud to live to see, and for the future welfare of my people, that Ashanti Kingdom is one of Her Majesty the great Queen of England and Empress of India's territories. When unfortunately the late war with Nkoranza took place, I objected to it greatly, and having no one to support me, only his Majesty the King seems to agree with me, on some points I was placed on the back ground, and they took their war. I spoke to his Majesty very strongly and explained to him the nature of what war brings; he took my advise, and I obtained the leave to go to the camp to try to bring in the warriors; I went and tried, but was not successful, and if I was present at the fight, it was merely a matter of satisfying my curiosity, and I believe if I had not been there, I fear Ashanti might have trespassed on the grounds of the British Government, for I positively told them, that if they do chase the King of Nkoranza as far as to Attabubu, Ashanti shall have to reckon with the British powers; however they took this my advise and returned from Abeasi.

5. I am extremely sorry to learn from my friends on the coast, and from Ashanti traders that return from the coast that my name is so scandilized, that it is rumoured that I caused Ashanti to go to war with N'Koranza and I fear perhaps this rumour may fall into your Excellency hearing. I beg humbly to defend my name and character; that if I am out here, I am here for the good and welfare of the country; I shall never misguide my people, but will give them the advice which will lead them to enjoy the future happiness of their country, for I believe there exists a set of people who live by inventing and propagating this kind of lies, because they find a market for them, and the best way that I can defend my name and character is, if such reports come to your Excellency's hearing, I beg that you will treat them like bad shillings; I know if I am successful in bringing my people into the light of civilization, as a prince, I shall be highly respected in a civilised circle, but what is a prince of a barbarous country? The Ashantees think that in days gone by, were days of prosperity; I repudiated the idea with them and argued that if Ashanti were to take my simple advice, and be one with the British Government they would soon see it clearly that those days that had gone by, for which they call it days of prosperity, were only days of torment, although they had not seen it to be so, but for the one which I proposes will be surely days of continual peace and happiness.

6. In conclusion, I thank your Excellency in anticipation for the precious time you have spent in reading this letter, and the kind advice which your Excellency gave me during my interview with your Excellency at Christiansborg Castle is always before me, teaches me to be very careful with my people; I think if I could manage to bring my people into a better position than now is, and if my people could take my advice, because I know the fruits of civilisation, and if I keep it away from them I believe it is a great sin on my part, and so far as my little influence at present with them, I conscientiously believe I shall be the proper means of instrumentality of bringing my people into the light of civilisation, and I believe I should have done nobly for my country and people. Mr. Vroom, Native District Commissioner, and a most trusted officer in Her Majesty's service, I believe, will explain to your Excellency more fully my opinion of staying out here.

I remain, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH.

His Excellency
William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 79.

Mr. ANSAH to Mr. VROOM.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,

Kumasi, April 5, 1894.

WILL you kindly take with you a letter I have addressed to his Excellency the Governor and send herewith under a flying seal. I trust you can vouch for the views I have expressed in this letter, and that you may be able, from your own knowledge, to explain matters to his Excellency, so as to remove any doubts he may, through misrepresentation, entertained of my conduct in regard to Ashanti affairs.

I remain, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH.

H. Vroom, Esq.,
Native District Commissioner.

Enclosure 3 in No. 79.

Mr. VROOM to Mr. ANSAH.

SIR,

Kumasi, April 9, 1894.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, written immediately after I had pointed out to you the risk you are running by the line of conduct you have hitherto pursued in Ashanti affairs, I must tell you that I cannot deceive his Excellency the Governor by endorsing statements which, so far as I know, are incorrect and contrary to your actions.

2. It is my duty to inform his Excellency the true state of affairs as I found them.

I remain, &c.

J. O. Ansah, Esq., Kumasi.

H. VROOM.

P.S.—I write this without prejudice.

Enclosure 4 in No. 79.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

May 7, 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, Sir W. Brandford Griffith, to inform you that Mr. Vroom has delivered to him a letter which you addressed to his Excellency under date of the 5th April, together with a copy of your letter to Mr. Vroom and of his reply to you.

2. I am directed by the Governor to state that it is unnecessary for his Excellency to say anything with regard to these letters at present, but he will take care that you shall hear more of them presently, and that they are brought to the knowledge of the King of Kumasi in a way in which there shall be no misunderstanding, so far as the King is concerned, of the part you are playing, which is not unlikely to place you sooner or later in a very serious position with this Government.

I am, &c.

H. M. HULL,

Private Secretary.

Mr. John O. Ansah, Kumasi.

Enclosure 5 in No. 79.

EXTRACT from the "GOLD COAST CHRONICLE" of 31st March 1894.

GENERAL NEWS.

The authorities are said to have decided upon the removal from Ashantee of John Ossoo Ansah, the son of the late Prince Ansah. John Ansah is reported to have taken part in the recent inter-tribal hostilities and which almost resulted in another war with Ashantee. It is added, moreover, that it was at his instigation that Attabubu was threatened just before the departure of Sir Francis Scott. We do not believe all the reports that have reached us with regard to John Ansah, although it may be feared that his continuance in Ashantee may seriously affect our relations with Kwaku Duah III.

But Ansah would not be so foolish as to do anything which could be construed into a deliberate effort on his part to endanger British interests. They say that the Gold Coast authorities are determined to get him out of Ashantee and to send him to St. Helena. This, we need hardly add, would be totally uncalculated. Bringing him out of Ashantee and compelling him to stay in this Colony would be a prudent step. But making him a prisoner and transporting him, in view of the doubtful nature of the evidence against him, would be altogether absurd. It is thought that Mr. Vroom is the officer who has been sent to Ashantee to bring Ansah down. We have not forgotten that, although a native of Ashantee, John Ansah was perfectly loyal to the Queen during the last war with Ashantee. He was a sergeant-major at the time in the Gold Coast Rifle Corps, a force which had the honour of taking part in the campaign of 1873-4, and it was inspected by Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley. In fact, Ansah would be the last man to foment strife. For his services in 1873-4 he received a medal.

No. 80.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received June 13, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
May 21, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my second Despatch of the 7th instant,* I would observe that it was stated in paragraph 2 of that Despatch as follows: "Mr. Vroom, unfortunately for the purpose of his mission, arrived at Kumasi at a time when the King and Chiefs were mourning for a princess" (said to be the King's sister) "who had died on the 13th of March, and Mr. Vroom observes, on account of whose obsequies "and perhaps human sacrifices, on such occasions indispensable, the King of Ashanti "evidently endeavoured to keep me away from his town for some time."

2. I deeply regret to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vroom's anticipation of what would happen consequent on the funeral custom for the King's sister appears to have been realised, for in the usual weekly return sent to the Colonial Secretary by the Constabulary clerk in charge at Prahsu, under date of 6th of May, it is stated he had been informed by a trader named Kofi Owusu, a native of Kumasi, who had crossed the river into the Protectorate, "that the funeral custom of the late sister of King Prempeh of Kumasi commenced on Monday last, the 30th April 1894, and that about 50 persons "were decapitated for the said funeral custom." The unfortunate victims were probably some of the people captured in the late attack by Prempeh's forces on the Nkoransas.

3. Mr. Vroom stated to me in conversation that he believed when King Kwaku Dua was entooled fully 200 people would be sacrificed in honour of the ceremony. It is lamentable to think that such fearful cruelty should be capable of being practised by a savage African Chief whose country adjoins the British Protectorate of this Colony and who owes his position as King of Kumasi to the friendship and kindness of Her Majesty's Government in aiding by their powerful influence his being selected to replace the former King, in the full belief that he would rule his people wisely and abstain from the cruel and avaricious practices of his predecessors; but who has apparently returned to the savage barbarism of his race and appears to be somewhat, if not largely, influenced by a British subject, John Ossoo Ansah, who, as will be seen from the transcript of his letter to me which I forwarded for your Lordship's information in my Despatch dated the 9th instant,† seems to have been taking a prominent part in the political affairs—so far as they may deserve to be so styled—of the authorities of Kumasi, and prates of his desire for the civilisation of Ashanti.

5. As having some bearing on the cruelties practised in Kumasi, I transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a memorandum which I requested Mr. Vroom to draw up upon his mentioning the particulars to me in the course of conversation. It will be observed that Mr. Vroom obtained his information by hearing it imparted by an eyewitness (one of Mr. Ansah's servants) to his (Mr. Vroom's) carriers.

6. The British Government are pledged by the General Act of the Brussels Conference to do all in their power to put "an end to the crimes and devastations engendered "by the traffic in African slaves, and ensuring for that vast continent the benefits of

* No. 77.

† No. 79.

“peace and civilisation.” It appears to me, therefore, my Lord, that if the reports of human sacrifices recently committed, and of others in contemplation, at Kumasi are to be believed, a great responsibility rests upon this Government, with the consent of Her Majesty’s Government, to put a stop, once for all, to the abominable cruelties for which the authorities of Kumasi are unfortunately notorious, and it appears to me that, if the King and Chiefs of that country should decline to comply with the wishes and advice of Her Majesty’s Government, it will be necessary *in the near future* to adopt a line of policy towards them which will compel them to obedience to a superior power.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 80.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. VROOM.

MEMORANDUM.

In Ashanti the punishment for adultery with a Chief’s wife is death, as I learn from the following story, told in my hearing by an eye-witness (one of Mr. Ansa’s servants) to my carriers, namely—

That shortly before my arrival in Kumasi a certain young man was accused of having committed adultery with one of the wives of a Chief (a Chief has many wives, sometimes as much as 10, 20, or more).

This young man was seized; to prevent him swearing the King’s oath to challenge his accusers two spearing knives were thrust into both cheeks. He was taken to a public street, cruelly tortured, and decapitated.

H. VROOM.

2nd May 1894.

No. 81.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received June 13th, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 83.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

May 22, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of yesterday,* in which I reported having received information that about 50 persons had been sacrificed at Kumasi at the funeral of the late sister of King Prempeh, I regret to have to further inform your Lordship that I received this morning from the Acting Colonial Secretary the usual weekly return from the Constabulary Clerk in Charge at Prahsu, dated the 13th of May, in which he states he had heard “from an Ashanti trader that the funeral custom “mentioned in” his “previous report terminated on the 11th instant, and that more “than 100 persons were decapitated during the custom.” The clerk’s report is dated May the 13th, and as it ordinarily takes about four days to travel from Kumasi to Prahsu, it appears to me that if the date of the return is correct, his informant must have left Kumasi on the 9th, and was not therefore in a position to assert that the custom terminated on the 11th of May, as he could not have been in Kumasi at the time, but I will direct that the clerk at Prahsu shall be called upon for an explanation.

2. Granting, however, that the information is otherwise correct, nothing can be more opposed to humanity, to possible civilisation, and to peace with their neighbours, than the atrocious conduct, if true as reported, of the authorities of Kumasi.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

* No. 80.

No. 82.

VISCOUNT WOLSELEY to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received June 30, 1894.)

Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, Dublin,
June 28, 1894.

The enclosed letter from a well-known missionary in the Gold Coast is forwarded for the consideration of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have told the writer I have done so.

WOLSELEY,
Field-Marshal.

Enclosure in No. 82.

[Answered by No. 84.]

To His Lordship the General, the Right Hon. VISCOUNT WOLSELEY, K.P., G.C.B., &c.
United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

YOUR LORDSHIP,

No doubt your Lordship will be most astonished at the reception of these lines, and probably astonished, too, that I take the liberty of writing, the more as what moves me to do so is a matter in connexion with the political state of the interior of the Gold Coast. But the matter being not only such which we missionaries in Ashantee have very much at heart, but which is, too, of the greatest importance for the welfare of the Gold Coast, I have, although with much reluctance, taken the liberty to write to your Lordship. I would scarcely have done it had I not been encouraged to do so by a military person of high rank, who assured me that your Lordship was the proper person to apply to.

It is only since a few days that we have arrived (Mrs. R. and myself) from the Gold Coast, and when in London I would have taken the liberty to call at your address, but, being very uncertain if your Lordship was in town, and our time being very short, so that I would have scarcely been able to wait for an appointment, I thought it wiser to take the liberty to bring the matter in a letter before your Lordship.

I may also mention that what encouraged me to write is the remembrance of the great kindness shown to us in 1874, and the interest your Lordship takes in the welfare of the mission work on the Gold Coast.

As it is easy to guess, what moves me to write is—the *present state of the Ashantee country* and the wish, perhaps by the high support of your Lordship, which we most humbly are asking for, to see the voices of the missionaries in Ashantee been heard at the Colonial Office or any competent place.

Well do I know that missionaries must not in any ways interfere in political matters, and we too do not wish and *will not* interfere in matters of this resort, but when we see and hear what is going on in that country, and when we missionaries, who have stayed and worked nearly 20 years among this people, know that there is only one way to bring peace and freedom in the country, I think it is not interfering in political matters when we humbly take the liberty to say what we know, and what is not known in England, and to express our opinion concerning Coomassee. I cannot describe better our position than in saying, we are like a man seeing a house burning, and who cries, "Come and help; this house is burning." I beg, therefore, your Lordship to show us the great kindness to give a willing ear to the following statement.

As your Lordship knows, in the last months of 1893 an expedition under Colonel Sir Francis Scott, with about 400 Haussa soldiers, has passed Abetifi (our beautiful station, since and over 20 years in the Ashantee province Kwahu), making Abetifi their headquarters. The expedition went as far as Ateobu (or Atabubu), a province, placed since about two years under English protection, seven days' journey on the N.N.W. of Abetifi, and which was threatened by the Coomassees. The King had sent his army towards Nkoransa (three days' journey on the west of Atabubu), a tributary state of Coomassee, which had refused to pay its tribute in slaves; they burned their towns and took, as the reports say, about 2,000 women and children prisoners. The Nkoransa having taken refuge at Atabubu, the Ashantee army, only about 6,000 to 7,000 men, was on its march towards Atabubu when the reports reached the Governor.

When the expedition passed Abetifi we were full of hope, and, with the officers, we could not think otherwise than that the last and long-expected step would be done and Coomassee made powerless for ever, in *dictating* to the King the Protectorate, *i.e.*, in placing Coomassee under British jurisdiction. We could hope this the more as, according to all what I know, this could be done without a shot being fired. In the time the headquarters were at Abetifi there came from many provinces messengers from Kings and Chiefs *imploing* Colonel Scott to help them that their country may be placed under English protectorate. One of them is the rather influential King of Djabeng, Yaw Sapong, now at Asante-Akem (14 hours from Coomassee), and at whose place, at his instant request, I have placed a missionary agent. Besides these provinces many others, in fact the whole of Ashantee (except Coomassee with very few towns) were expecting to see *at last* (as they said) the English Government bring their law and make peace reign in the country. "Why will they not make for us what they have made for others?" were they constantly asking. As I say, *the whole country was imploing* for the last step to be done, and to see the troops in returning go to Coomassee and to sign the treaty.

To our great astonishment and sorrow the step has not been done, and the troops have returned to Acra, after having been at Ateobu (Atabubu) for some weeks, and having encouraged the Nkoransa people to return to their country and build their town, giving them the English flag as sign that they had no more to be afraid of the Coomassees.

And now we are waiting with the whole country to see if this is the last word about the expedition, and if, nevertheless, a step will be done with Coomassie. If not, then I can assure that the display of force, which, for a time, made the King tremble, will have been in vain.

Seeing how the state of things is, we missionaries of Abetifi, who are working among the Ashantees since and over 20 years, and knowing the pitiful state of the tribes around us, which, as I say, are imploing us to help them, cannot otherwise than to say that, should Coomassee remain as it is, it will have the most deplorable effects on the whole Gold Coast; for—

1. By the return of the troops without any sign of a step towards his capital, the King has become more impudent than ever, and just before leaving for Abetifi I heard that he had sent to all his Chiefs the message: "There is nothing to be afraid of; the English Governor dare not attack him, and all his troops are now returning to the coast." And we hear, too, that the Ashantees are on the point of returning to Nkoransa to drive the people away again.

2. All the surrounding tribes, especially those which have asked for the Protectorate, are trembling, for they know what they have to expect of this bloodthirsty King when left at his mercy.

3. Before leaving the country I took a journey to Asante-Akem, on the frontier of Coomassie territory, and I could hear the people say that if Coomassee does not become English there are only two ways before them, to submit again to this bloodthirsty King or to leave their beautiful country. Other Chiefs were openly saying, it is in vain that we put our confidence on the Government, for they leave us at the mercy of the Coomassees.

4. By leaving Coomassee as it is now, I am obliged to say openly that the English prestige—which since 1874 has become so great that they speak of it very far in the interior—will receive a blow which will be felt on the whole Gold Coast, and will bring much uneasiness among the tribes, if not severe troubles.

5. I have further to add that if things are remaining as they are, this means *constant quarrels and troubles in the interior*; it means the *continuation of human sacrifices*, which have never ceased, and it means *the country shut up for commercial purposes and educational work*.

In face of all these facts and the pitiful state of the beautiful province of Nkoransa, threatened by the Ashantee, your Lordship will surely feel with us and understand that as Ashantee missionaries—although not wishing to interfere in politics—cannot otherwise than humbly beg *that the very important question of Coomassie may be taken in consideration*, and to see what step is to be done to the end that peace may be established on the whole Gold Coast, and Ashantee with its capital open for trade, educational and mission work.

That this can be done, and very easily, there is no doubt about it; it can be done perhaps without any further display of force, for Coomassee and the few towns faithful to the King are nothing compared to what it was before.

From several persons, and even official persons, I have heard that in the next six months a great change would take place with Coomassee; it will be made powerless, and this most probably on diplomatic ways, and perhaps with a resident there. If this will be done, what a blessing for the whole country, and how glad shall we be! It is all that we could wish. For I may as well say it here, not only we expect to keep our two posts where we have placed agents lately, Odumase (Djabeng) and Agogo, but we wish very much to extend our work as far as Nkoransa.

Your Lordship will say that mission work has nothing to do with political change or arrangements. I understand it so too, but if the Home Government could see the good which our work has done in the Kwahu (Ashantee) province, what the Governor of the Gold Coast did more than once acknowledge, it would not hesitate to say that it is to be wished that the whole of Ashantee may receive the blessing of the mission work.

But my letter is much longer than I thought at first, and I most humbly beg your Lordship to excuse the great liberty I have taken, and to see if it would be possible that our humble voice may be heard when we plead for the welfare of the poor Ashantee country.

May God our Lord, whose work we are doing in that country, bless your Lordship for your Lordship's great kindness towards us and our mission.

I have, &c.

FR. RAMSEYER,
(Ecluse, Neuchatel, Switzerland.)

Neuchatel, 19th June 1894.

P.S.—Just now I have received the report of one of our missionaries of Abetifi, who came back from a journey to Atabubu and Nkoransa. He writes that the people of this last town are in a most pitiful state, have scarcely to eat, and are most of them naked and without houses, all their towns having been destroyed. Nevertheless, and although trembling, they are beginning to build their town again. He adds further that the reports say that the King of Coomassee has absolutely refused to allow schools in its kingdom. If this is true, what will be done? Is it not time to act towards this tyrant, who has lately sacrificed hundreds of poor innocents? For humanity sake, the English Government cannot hesitate; it ought to make a step; and if Coomassie had to remain as it is, at least may the Government declare those provinces which have *implored* the Governor for protection: *Dwabini*, with the two towns Odumase and Ahyaem, then *Agogo* and—in the north—*Nkoransa* are now English protectorate and no more under the King of Kumase. For God's sake I plead for it.

No. 83.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR,

Downing Street, June 29, 1894.

May 7, '94.
May 7, '94.
May 8, '94.
May 9, '94.
May 21, '94.
May 22, '94.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatches noted in the margin* furnishing information on the subject of affairs in Ashanti, and Mr. Vroom's mission.

I have to convey to you my approval of all your proceedings in respect to these matters, and of your communications to the King of Ashanti.

With regard to Ossoo Anseh, it seems probable that but for him there would be little difficulty in getting the King to accept a British Resident at Kumasi.

I have no doubt you will consider whether Anseh's influence might not to a great extent be neutralised by sending Mr. Vroom, or some other officer, again to Kumasi to receive the answer of the new assemblage of Kings and Chiefs, unless such a course would be likely to defeat its own object by infringing native etiquette too seriously.

With reference to the last paragraph of your Despatch of 21st May,† I must await the reply of the King to the demand made upon him to receive a Resident before I consider the question of what action should be taken with respect to the barbarous practices and cruelties which are apparently still carried on at Kumasi.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

* Nos. 76 to 81.

† No. 80.

No. 84.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the REV. F. RAMSEYER.

SIR,

Downing Street, July 6, 1894.

I AM directed to inform you that Lord Wolseley has forward to the Marquess of Ripon your letter of 19th ultimo,* calling attention to the position of affairs in Ashanti and its neighbourhood.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that the matters to which your letter refers have been, and are, engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government.

A communication of their views has been made to the King of Coomassie by the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, and the King has promised to assemble his Chiefs and advisers for its consideration, and to return an early answer.

Until the reply is received Lord Ripon is not in a position to furnish you with any further information.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 85.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received July 12, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 86.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

June 14, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Ferguson to the Adjutant of the Atabubu Expeditionary Force dated at Longoro Mo, 9th March 1894, a transcript of which was sent by the Adjutant at Atabubu to the Acting Inspector-General.

2. In this letter Mr. Ferguson reports intelligence which had reached him as to the rumoured action of the King of Kumasi with regard to those tribes who had entered into treaty arrangements with the government and had received the British flag. It will be observed that, in the third paragraph, Mr. Ferguson expresses the opinion that Ashanti might be informed of the friendship which exists between the British Government and the Treaty Kings, so as to avoid the chance of the flags which had been given to the Treaty Kings being violated.

3. I would here mention that I have received a letter from Mr. Ferguson, dated the 11th March, which, however, simply contains a statement of the number of men who were attached to his expedition, viz., 129 men, and describes the manner in which they were severally employed. By the same messenger who brought his letter of the 9th March to the Adjutant from Atabubu to Accra, one of my clerks, Mr. Brew, received a short note from him dated 4th March in which he stated that he was then 148 miles from Atabubu and did not know when he would return.

4. I also enclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter from the King of Nkoranza, addressed to Colonel Sir Francis Scott under date of the 14th April 1894, and would call attention to that portion of paragraph 7, marked "private," in which he states: "I have heard in a hint that King of Kumase will soon send his messengers to me to drink water as an oath, but if I did not drink it to his request he will send his forces again to come and drive me from the land, and I will let you know truly as soon as the said messengers of Kumase arrived here."

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

* Enclosure in No. 82.

Enclosure 1 in No. 85.

Mr. G. E. FERGUSON to the ADJUTANT, Atabubu Expeditionary Force.

SIR,

Longoro, Mo, March 9, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report that intelligence has reached me that soon after the treaty was signed with Nkoranza, and the British flag was delivered to the King and people of Nkoranza, certain countries near Nkoranza, viz. :—Boasi, Tuobodom, Bueyen, Ofumai, Nehraa, Wenki, Sronasi, Nsoko, Badukrum, Ewisa, Bradan came to ask the King of Nkoranza to allow them to be parties to the treaty; they desired to swear their oath of allegiance to the King of Nkoranza so as to be friends with the English. The King of Kumasi heard of this and sent some people, armed, to prevent the Wenkis, etc., mentioned above, from coming to make friend with England.

2. This state of affairs is similar to what happened in the case of Yow Sapon of Juabin when he heard of your forces at Kwahu, it is similiar also to the action of the King of Ejira when he heard of your forces at Amanting, it is similiar also to the attitude of those persons who at present desire our friendship.

3. I think Ashanti might be informed of the friendship which exists between us and the Treaty Kings, Nkoranza, Amanting, Abeasi, &c., so as to avoid the chance of British flags which have been given fo the Treaty Kings being violated.

4. Should you leave your post at Atabubu without some action in this regard, these unfortunate people who have accepted our friendship will be left to the tender mercies of the Ashantis, and there may be a recurrence of the present troubles when they are driven by Ashanti to our territory.

I have, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

The Adjutant, Atabubu Expeditionary Force,
Atabubu.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, a message has been sent to me by the King of Nkoranza confirming the above intelligence. I have taken the opportunity to send this letter by his messenger.
G. E. F.

Enclosure 2 in No. 85.

The KING OF NKORANZA to Colonel Sir F. SCOTT.

SIR,

Nkoranza, April 14, 1894.

YOUR note of the 6th ultimo received and the contents of which have been carefully noted.

2. In reply thanking you for your kind instructions you have given me in your letter.

3. I would have already replied to your request had not the letter kept so long at Atabubu.

4. Herewith send you per bearer, by the name Kwamine Sacikee, the nocket gold weighing eight pounds, 8*l.* sterling, and the stool you require for.

5. I would send you the biggest one, but all of my things or properties were lost during the war, also I would dress the stool with silver but sorry no goldsmith at this place.

6. However, I will try for you next time, after my country is saved by the help of the Government.

7. I am sorry the treaty was made during my clerk's absence for Attabubu, I mean my clerk, A. W. Benson, however, I will soon send him with the treaty of mine to you or Accra, to sign his name under in the presence of you or the Governor and I will also recommend him to the Governor. (Private.)—I have heard in a hint that King of Kumase will soon send his messengers to me to drink water as an oath, but if I did not drink it to his request he will send his forces again, to come and drive me from the land, and I will let you know trully as soon as the said messengers of Kumase arrived here.

8. I am rather short of writing papers and envelopes, and I shall be very thankful to you if you would spare me few per bearer.

9. I am alright, hoping you are the same condition.

I am, &c.

Colonel Sir Francis Scott, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

A. W. BENSON,
PRO KING COFIE FOA.

P.S.—I also had your letter of the 21st March per the Hausa man ; in reply I have done what you request me to do say. I have given my own express bearer to the Hausa man and to direct him to Mr. Ferguson.

KING COFIE FOA.

No. 86.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR,

Downing Street, July 20, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 14th June,* on the subject of Ashanti affairs.

If you do not hear soon from the King of Ashanti, you should consider whether it would be desirable to send up a message informing him that you are directed to state that his answer to the communication which you made to him by the order of Her Majesty's Government cannot be indefinitely delayed ; and warning him that he must not interfere with any of the Kings who have entered into treaties with the Gold Coast Government.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

No. 87.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received July 28, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
June 26, 1894.

I have heard nothing as to the proceedings of the King of Ashanti, except a rumour that further sacrifices of a large number of victims had taken place at a continuance of customs at Kumasi. Intelligence as regards Ashanti goes chiefly to Cape Coast and Saltpond. I intend to visit the former town next week, on special business, and may then be able to ascertain what is passing at Kumasi, although natives are very reticent generally with regard to what is going on at that place, and it is most difficult to obtain any reliable information respecting it.

If by the middle or end of July I should not receive an answer to the letter sent by Mr. Hodgson, through Mr. Vroom, to King Kwaku Dua in March last, to which he promised a reply after a meeting of his District Kings, Chiefs, and principal men which was to take place about the middle of April, when the subject of the letter would be discussed, and an express messenger sent with a final decision, I may think it advisable to submit for your Lordship's consideration that I should be authorised to send him a reminder by a strong European messenger, occupying a high official position, and make him understand most distinctly that the Government must not be trifled with by him and his advisers.

I think it is my duty to state to your Lordship that the prevalent opinion of all Europeans and intelligent natives in the Colony is, that, sooner or later, as a matter of supreme importance in the interests of humanity and of the Gold Coast, the provinces of Ashanti will have to be annexed to the Protectorate under this Government.

* No. 85.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received August 9, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
July 11, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that I left Accra on the evening of the 2nd instant on the s.s. "Benin."

On her way here the "Benin" anchored for a few hours at Saltpond when the District Commissioner, Mr. Adams, came off to see me. On my stating that I was anxious to know what was going on in Ashanti, but could not find anything out, and inquiring of him whether there was any news relative to Ashanti at Saltpond, he said that there was, and told me generally what he had heard. I requested him to put his statement in writing and send it to me at Cape Coast, and I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a letter which he wrote to me upon the subject under date of the 8th instant.

Yesterday, a special runner from the Clerk in Charge at Prahsu, brought to the Commissioner at this place a telegram from the Clerk, to be forwarded to me at Accra. It was worded as follows:—

"One sword-bearer, one town crier, and three servants from the King of Kumassi arrived here this day (9th July,) at 12.30 p.m., with a letter to your Excellency; I have accordingly detained him here, pending your Excellency's instructions as to what steps I am to take."

As I am going up to Prahsu, I will see the Ashanti messengers, and as soon as possible afterwards transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the letter sent by them by the King of Kumasi. It will be recollected that in the letter written by the King of Kumasi on the 7th April he stated that he was going to have a meeting of his Kings, Chiefs, and Principal Men and that he would send down a message by a distinguished Chief, but he has merely sent a sword-bearer and court crier, and I have been informed by native gentlemen of this place well acquainted with native ways that these are messengers whom I should neither see nor hold any personal intercourse with, because underlying the circumstance of such men being sent is the intention on the part of the senders to be disrespectful to the Government.

I shall leave Cape Coast at dawn to-morrow, the 13th instant, and will probably arrive at Prahsu on the 16th. I hope to be able to return to Cape Coast by the 22nd, and to Accra by the 27th, instant.

Enclosure 1 in No. 88.

Mr. ADAMS to the GOVERNOR.

(EXTRACT.)

Saltpond, July 8, 1894.

I HEAR that the King of Kumassi is collecting all his Chiefs and Captains throughout the country to come and pay a general tax, the money realised to be divided into two portions, one to go to pay to the Government the ransom of the King of the Kokofus, whom they think is being detained by the Government till a ransom is paid, and the other portion is to go to paying off the debts of the King of the Kokofus, incurred while he was in the Protectorate.

They say that Prempeh is now in a position to set his kingdom in order, and consolidate the Ashanti nation, but he first must be set on the Golden Stool, and this enthroning can only be done by the King of the Kokofus. Hence their anxiety to get him back. I hear that the custom they have been celebrating has not been for Karikari, but Quacou Duah, whose custom was never celebrated, owing to the unsettled state of the country, and which had to be got out of the way before another regal custom could be undertaken. This will be Prempeh's when he is placed on the Gold Stool, and I hear it is to surpass any custom that has taken place in Ashanti within the memory of man. It was described as "Big, big, no man in Ashanti ever see such custom." But it cannot be done without the Kokofu King.

I don't know what they are going to do when the kingdom is settled, but it seems a fact that the people are flocking to Kumassi.

The REV. F. RAMSEYER to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received August 13, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 91.]

YOUR HONOUR,

Neuchâtel, August 10, 1894.

A FEW weeks ago I had the honour to receive, by direction of his Lordship the Secretary of State, a communication* as answer to a letter† written by me to his Lordship Lord Wolseley concerning the state of things in Ashantee. In this communication, for which I wish to express to his Lordship my most respectful thanks, it was stated that his Excellency on the Gold Coast was expecting an answer from the King of Coomassee, who had assembled his Chiefs to take in consideration the message sent to him.

After having received this information, I did not think to write again, and was waiting anxiously to see what would be the result of the steps taken by his Excellency the Governor of the Gold Coast. But a letter, received to day, from my colleague at Abetifi forces me to take the pen in hand again, and I beg his Lordship the Secretary of State most respectfully to allow me to bring before his Lordship the following information.

The included letter, a true extract out of a letter by Rev. E. Perregaux, gives a pitiful description of what is going on in Ashantee. Not only has the expedition been of no result towards opening Ashantee and Coomassee to civilisation, but as the letter proves, it has come to what we were afraid of. The power of the King, instead of having been abated, has, on the contrary, in the last months, so increased, that those provinces which were *imploing* the English Government to be taken in the Protectorate, receiving no answer and seeing that their hope has been frustrated, are returning to serve Coomase. More than that, for even those provinces which are already under English jurisdiction are now so wavering, for fear of the increasing Ashantee power, that, if occasion would allow it, they would not wait long before submitting to the King of Coomassee, and accept his offers by which he is constantly trying to decoy them. This in spite of the expedition of which everyone, as well on the coast as in Ashantee, speaks of as a total failure, and which in Okwahu has been and is still a source of exasperation by the ways in which those Haussa soldiers are behaving, although in a friendly country and in the Protectorate, very often stealing and plundering the poor inhabitants. In Asante Akem, a Chief was asking our missionary: "You speak of peace, but is this peace, when the Haussa soldiers are stealing our "sheep?"

These same reports I have already received some day ago from another part of the country, and just two days ago I heard from a true source, that the King had sent to tell the King, or Chief, Yaw Sapong, that he had not to be afraid of the English troops, that they CAN'T do nothing, it is totally impossible to them to take any steps against Ashantee. This message in the same time when *in the most polite terms* he is assuring the Governor of his goodwill and his friendship. Oh! these Coomassee people! if only the English Government would see through their deceitfulness, how often have they deceived the Governor, and how sweet is their mouth!

I can only add to these few lines what I wrote lately. For God's sake, *for humanity's sake, for THE PRESTIGE* the English Government has still on the Gold Coast sake, may the Government act *at once* before it is too late, and bring peace in the whole Ashantee country and open it for the work of civilisation, for the work God has laid in their land, and for which it has been so much blessed. And these hundreds and thousands of poor innocent people who have been sacrificed in the street of Coomassee, are their voices not loud enough? Oh, do help for God's and humanity's sake! may these their cries be heard before it will be too late.

May his Lordship and your Honour excuse my great liberty, but I was constrained to do it, for Ashantee is in a most critical state.

I have, &c.

F. RAMSEYER,
Basel Missionary.

Enclosure in No. 89.

EXTRACT of a LETTER written to Fr. RAMSEYER by Reverend EDWARD PERREGAUX,
Abetifi, June 25, 1894.

Mon collègue, Mr. Haasis, vient à faire une tournée dans l'Asante Akem et eu l'occasion de se convaincre de la vérité et de l'importance des symptômes que signalaient mes dernier rapports. L'avertissement de l'expédition anglaise a mis tout le pays en fermentation. Ce ne sont pas seulement le roi Yaw Sapong et la ville d'Agogo qui cherchent à rentrer dans les bonnes grâces du roi de Coumassie, et qui lors des dernières funérailles lui ont envoyé leur tribut, mais les villes de l'Asante-Akem elles-mêmes, Ateobu et quelques chefs de l'Okwaou lui ont envoyé secrètement des messagers. Les Achantis ont reconquis en quelques mois une bonne partie du prestige qu'ils avaient perdu depuis la dernière guerre, et si comme chacun en avait l'impression la dernière expédition anglaise eut pu s'emparer de Coumassie et la soumettre sans coup férir, il n'en sera plus de même à l'avenir, *les Achantis ont repris confiance eux-mêmes et ont eu le temps de se rétablir.*

Voilà ce que nous craignons, et ce qui nous faisait tant désirer une action énergique et immédiate contre Coumassie. L'avenir est maintenant gros de nuages. Nos deux catéchistes à Odumase (sous Yaw Sapong) et à Agago sont, pour le moment, fort mal vus, au moins par une partie de la population et par les chefs. Celui d'Agago a même été cité devant une assemblée populaire et hué publiquement!

Et ce qui nous navre profondément ce sont les nouvelles qui nous arrivent de Coumassie même. Le roi, enhardi sans doute par cette retraite honteuse et par bravade, a redoublé de cruauté. Il a fait massacrer toutes les femmes de son prédécesseur et plusieurs esclaves, il a fait couper la tête au second chef d'Agona et à six personnes que lui avait envoyées le chef de Mampong pour l'occasion; en outre nombre de Nkoransas ont été sacrifiés et bien d'autres encore qui ne nous ont pas été mentionnés!

Pareilles nouvelles nous font bouillir d'indignation, et nous ne pouvons comprendre (et le officiers Anglais pas plus que nous), comment le Gouvernement Anglais, que nous avons soin de tenir au courant, peut demeurer impassible au su de pareilles horreurs! Les gens sont ci excités et si outrés contre les Anglais que leur haine se reporte sur nous, et nous rencontrons beaucoup moins d'attention et beaucoup plus d'opposition dans nos tournées d'évangélisation.

Cet état des esprits perce même dans l'Okwaou et dernièrement le chef d'Obomeng, peu satisfait d'un jugement du roi, prit les armes contre lui, et nous aurions certainement eu un conflit grave à déplorer si l'officier Anglais ne s'était rendu à la hâte sur les lieux avec ses soldats et n'avait réussi à séparer les combattants. Le roi néanmoins est si effrayé qu'il supplia l'officier de lui laisser une garde de corps!

Voilà où nous en sommes au jour d'aujourd'hui et vous comprendrez pourquoi nous regrettons tant que cette expédition Anglaise soit demeurée pacifique. Fut-elle restée chez elle nous serions certainement dans une position beaucoup plus favorable que maintenant. Eut-elle agi!

No. 90.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received August 23, 1894.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
July 26, 1894.

MY LORD,

In continuation of my Despatch of the 11th July,* I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that I left Cape Coast on the 13th instant and arrived at Prahsu on the 16th, accompanied by the Acting Colonial Secretary. On the following day, at my request, Mr. Ashmore sent for the messengers who had arrived there a week before, and received from them a letter which they had brought from the King of Kumasi addressed to me. I transmit herewith a copy of this communication, which bears internal evidence of the considerable part Mr. John Ossoo Ansah had taken in its composition.

2. I did not see the messengers, as their rank was not such as to make them worthy of having an interview with me. I left Prahsu on 18th July on my return to the

coast, and the men were directed to remain there for a reply, which would be sent to them from Accra, to Quaku Dua's letter.

3. I adopted this course, considering it best to consult with the Executive Council as to the reply to be sent to the King of Kumasi, intending to state to members such information as I had collected on my tour westward, and which bore particularly upon the course of action Ansah has been pursuing in Ashanti, and, as I have been informed, elsewhere.

4. At present, my disposition is, that, in acknowledging the King of Kumasi's letter, I ought distinctly to decline to receive Mr. Ansah. This man has incurred legal liabilities which would lead to his arrest on his returning to the coast, and he probably thinks that, if he could come in the position of a messenger from Quaku Dua, the protection of the Government would be thrown around him. In case of taking the action referred to, I should mention this reason to the King of Kumasi, together with others, showing why his relative would not be received, being objectionable to this Government, of which he is a subject (as he was born at Cape Coast, his mother being a native of that town who has never been in Ashanti, as I understand), and towards which, if I am correctly informed, he has been guilty of treasonable conduct.

5. Quaku Dua refers to Mr. Ansah as his "grandson," and I understand by this that the latter is thereby a member of the King of Kumasi's Council. But this degree of relationship is merely a local arrangement, the fact being that, whilst the King is about 24 years of age, Ansah is 43 years old.

6. Your Lordship may fully rely on my exerting great caution and prudence in the management of the relations of this Government with the King and Chiefs of Kumasi.

7. I returned to Accra yesterday from Cape Coast.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 90.

KING KWAKU DUA III. to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Royal Palace, Kumasi, June 28, 1894.

I SEND my Sword Bearer "Kofi Buar" and Court Crier "Ofori" with this to inform your Excellency that my district Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti have come to the capital, and the important subject of the British Government have being laid before them, and I am preparing to send my grandson, Prince Ansah, together with two of my influential Chiefs, Chief "Boatin," and Chief "Kwaku Fokoo," Linguist, Inkrumah, Kojo Tufoo, Akempon Daban, Sword Bearer, and Bondar, Court Crier, to you with the final decision of the important letter per Mr. Vroom, your Native District Commissioner, and I believe if I do not say anything about this important subject before the arrival of my messengers you may think that my mind is not very particular about it.

2. I am happy and thankful to inform your Excellency that after the arrival of all my loyal district Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti, and after our important business had being performed, on Adai Monday, the 11th instant, I entered at the Royal Palace, and I pray and beseech my elders, as well as my gods, and the spirits of my ancestors, to assist me, to give me true wisdom and love, to rule and govern my nation, and I beseech you, my good friend, to pray and ask blessings from your God to give me long life and prosperous and peaceful reign, and that my friendship with Her Majesty's Government may be more firm and more closer than hitherto had been done, that bye-gones will be bye-gones, that Ashanti nation will awake herself as out of sleep, that the hostilities will go away from her, that the evils which the constant wars has brought upon her, like destroying our jewels, may die everlastingly from her, and that I shall endeavour to promote peace and tranquillity and good order in my Kingdom, and to restore its trade, and the happiness and safety of my people generally, by making it to the advantage of the refugees to return, inhabit, and cultivate their respective countries, and thus raise my Kingdom of Ashanti to a prosperous, substantial, and steady position as a great farming and trading community such as it has never occupied hitherto, and that the trade between your Protectorate and my Kingdom of Ashanti may increase daily to the benefit of all interested in it.

3. In your last letter of the 7th May last, per my return messengers Sword Bearer and Court Crier, your Excellency made mention of my grandson Prince Ansah, that he has written your Excellency some letter. I am happy to say that if it is the same letter that your Native District Commissioner, Mr. Vroom, delivered to you, and not otherwise, I and my Chiefs were not ignorant about it, for before he wrote that letter Prince Ansah informed me that news have reached him that some people on the coast are scandalising his name so far as it has reached your Excellency's hearing, and asked my permission that he would like to explain himself in writing when Mr. Vroom, your officer, is returning to the coast. After the letter had been written by my grandson, Prince Ansah read and explained the letter to me and my assembly, and all his wishes he expressed in that letter was for the future welfare of his grandfather's nation, and from what I have gathered from him, as well as my district Kings, Chiefs, and principal men of Ashanti, that he is a very good assistant and a very good adviser, that if he could, and if it is in his power, he would bring up his grandfather's nation to a great and dignified state. If my grandson Prince Ansah is with us here, he is here for the future happiness of his nation, and I know there are some evil people who are misrepresenting him to you; therefore I pray you, my good friend, that if any reports reach you, you may not take it to be fact.

Receive my best regards.

I remain, &c.

His Excellency
William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

my
KWAKU X DUA III.,
mark
King of Ashanti.

No. 91.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the REV. F. RAMSEYER.

SIR,

Downing Street, August 31, 1894.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Ripon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 10th instant,* again calling attention to the state of affairs in Ashanti and the neighbouring countries, and I am to acquaint you that the matter is receiving the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 92.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

[Answered by No. 101.]

SIR,

Downing Street, August 31, 1894.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter* from the Rev. F. Ramseyer, respecting the condition of affairs of Ashanti and the neighbouring countries, with a copy of the answer which has been returned to it.†

I have to call your attention to the statements of Mr. Ramseyer as to the misconduct of the Hausas in Kwahu.

I have, &c.

RIPON.

* No. 89.

† No. 91.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received September 7, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
August 10, 1894.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 26th of July,* I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which, after consideration in the Executive Council, I decided to send to the King of Kumasi.

I anticipate that, allowing for the habitual delay and procrastination of the Ashantis, the messengers the King intends to send to me will not reach Prahsu before the end of this month, and as I consider it is unadvisable that they should have any personal communication with Asibi, Chief of the Kokofus, who is residing at the village of Christiansborg, where Quaku Dua's messengers would also have to be provided with lodgings, I intend to go to Cape Coast and receive them there, where they will be detained only sufficiently long to enable them to recover from the fatigue of their travel to the coast.

I transmit, herewith, copies of two letters from the clerk in charge of Prahsu, dated respectively the 20th and 29th of July, by the first of which it will be seen that the King of Kumasi has ordered a tax to be collected from each of the Ashantis at the rate of 10s. per man; and by the second that this tax was to be collected on behalf of King Asibi who is in the Protectorate. I have other statements relative to this tax, viz., that half of it was to be applied to the payment of debts contracted by Asibi in the Protectorate, and the remainder was to be offered to this Government as a condition of his being allowed to return to Ashanti.

I have also to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed to Captain Houston, who is in command of the detachment in Kwahu, by Yao Sapong, King of Duabin, to which I ask special reference. Of course, it would not be politic to enter into any treaty with Yao Sapong until it is seen clearly what position the Government will have to take up with regard to the King of Kumasi, but I believe that, if ultimately it became necessary to require that section of Ashanti to consent to the exercise of British influence in the country, not only Yao Sapong would gladly throw himself on the side of the Government, but that the King of Bekwai would act in like manner, for I have reason to think that he desires to free himself from the domination of the native authorities of Kumasi.

When I receive the messengers from Kumasi, I shall make such inquiries of them as may appear necessary upon various matters, and finally state to them that their King's message, or letter, will be submitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, and that, as soon as I am instructed as to the decision of the Imperial Government, I will communicate it to King Quaku Dua.

P.S.—I find I have omitted to state my belief that the assertion that a tax of 10s. is to be levied on every person in Ashanti for the benefit of Asibi, King of the Kokofus, is a mere pretext on the part of the authorities at Kumasi to raise funds for other purposes. Such a tax, if fairly collected, would amount to a very large sum. I have not heard that Asibi is in debt in the Protectorate; and the Ashantis know very well that this Government would not move from any position it had taken up for any pecuniary consideration.

In view of the collection of [the tax referred to, I would submit that it is a matter for consideration whether it might not be advanced as a strong point towards promoting a satisfactory settlement with the Ashantis that they are indebted to Her Majesty's Government for the unpaid balance of the 50,000 ounces of gold, viz. 48,000 ounces, which they agreed by their treaty in 1874 to pay as an indemnity to Her Majesty's Government for the expenses of the war they had caused.

I have instructed Captain Houston to inform Yao Sapong that his letter will be transmitted for the consideration and decision of the Queen, and that, as soon as I receive the instructions of Her Majesty's Government with regard to his application, he will be further communicated with.

W. B. G.

August 11, 1894.

* No. 90.

Enclosure 1 in No. 93.

The GOVERNOR to KING QUAKU DUA III.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

August 3, 1894.

KING,

YOUR Sword Bearer and Court Crier arrived at Prashu on the 9th of July. The clerk in charge of that station, knowing that I was at Cape Coast on a tour of inspection which was to include a visit to the Prah, detained the messengers to await my arrival. On the 17th of July, a letter dated the 28th of June, written and signed by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah in your name, was delivered by your messengers to the Colonial Secretary, and they were directed to remain at Prashu for a reply to be sent to it.

2. I have read what is stated in the communication written by Mr. John Ossoo Ansah, and observe that you will send some of your Chiefs and other people to me with the final decision which it is stated that you and your supporters have come to, upon the important letter forwarded to you by Mr. Vroom. I will not say more now upon the subject matter of that letter, but will await the receipt of the communication mentioned.

I remain, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 93.

Mr. ENNISSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Prahsue, July 20, 1894.

I BEG most respectfully to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the following intelligence which comes from Ashanti.

1. That King Prempeh of Kumasi has arranged to dispatch two of his principal Chiefs, namely:—Kwaku Faiku and Buatsin who will proceed from Kumassi to Accra sooner or later on with message to his Excellency.

2. That the King has ordered a tax to be collected from each of the Ashantis; I am told at the rate of 10s. per man.

3. I shall endeavour to ascertain the cause of this tax and report as soon as I am in a position to do so.

I am, &c.

F. ENNISSON,
Clerk in Charge.

Enclosure 3 in No. 93.

Mr. ENNISSON to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Prahsue, July 29, 1894.

ADVERTING to the last paragraph of my letter of the 20th July 1894, I beg most respectfully to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that the collection of the tax therein referred to was on behalf of Ex-king Assibey, who is now in the Protectorate, and that the same will be forwarded to Accra per Chiefs Kwaku Faiku and Buatsin, whose names are mentioned in the first paragraph of my letter above quoted.

I obtained this information from a trader named Kwamin Duro, native of Kumassi, who arrived here on the 28th instant, *en route* to Cape Coast.

I am, &c.

F. ENNISSON,
Clerk in Charge.

Enclosure 4 in No. 93.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Saltpond, to the GOVERNOR.

(Extract.)

Commissioner's Office, Saltpond,
July 24, 1894.

From what the Ashantis traders here say, King Prempeh seems to be living the life of a sable Tiberius, having completely given himself up to sensuality; and the people, sick of human sacrifice, strife, and dissension, with the consequent stoppage of trade, and ruin of the smaller people, and proud of their ancient traditions, as every true Ashanti is in a very remarkable degree, view with alarm and sorrow the sad state of the once powerful Ashanti nation, and would welcome any powerful hand that would administer the government firmly and properly, provided, as Mr. Russell says, "there be no undue interference with their established customs."

From what I have learned, I make no doubt that the approaching grand custom of Prempeh's, and which it is stated is to surpass anything of the kind ever seen before in Ashanti, and the importance of which is evidenced by his anxiety to get back the enthroning official, the King of the Kokofus, the care taken to have King Kwaku Dua's custom finished and out of the way, and the quality of the goods ordered from Mr. Frank Russell, is a final effort of Prempeh's to establish his rule, and that if the custom should any way fail, or any strife break out during the time it is being made, the country will be at the mercy of any one who chooses to take it.

The intimate relationship, however, both as regards family, language, and customs—social as well as religious—that exists between the sections of the Tchui-speaking people, the Fantis almost surrounding Ashanti, and the Ashantis themselves, the immemorial trade intercourse between these two branches which has had its inevitable result in imbuing the minds of the Ashantis with respect for British commerce, power, and uprightness in dealing with native races, combined with the popularity of the present Government of the Gold Coast Colony when contrasted in the native mind with the neighbouring foreign administrations, of the native's opinion of which I have had more than one evidence, and the prestige of the British name, owing to the capture of Kumasi in 1874, which, though weakened, is yet by no means extinct—all combine to render the Union Jack the flag of all others at present the most acceptable to the Ashanti people.

Enclosure 5 in No. 93.

YAO SAPONG to Captain HOUSTON.

DEAR SIR,

Ahyæm, July 21, 1894.

I HUMBLY beg to write these brief lines to you bearing requests as following; first of all, I might ask you to call attention to the story herein follows:

During the late hostility and war between my Grandfather Asafo Adjei, King of Duabin and the King of Coomassie, our Duabin Stool came peradventure to the possession of the British Government, and is still now under the protection of the Queen.

But during the late Expedition to Atabubu, I sent my representative and clerk with the message to the Colonel Sir Francis C. Scott, then in Abetifi, to take the British flag. He, the Colonel, sent Captain Lang to me in order that I may repeat the message brought to him; an agreement thence was made to sign a treaty.

I therefore humbly beg you to take upon yourself to write to the Governor, firstly to assure him that I am still in my promise; and secondly that His Excellency may kindly send his European Commissioner to my country to arrange everything again in order; and even to *stay with me for ever*; and the third and the last, I beg for my stool and my people viz., the Duabins in Akem and coastwise.

I say, in conclusion, that I have not failed in my promise; and I beg with the name of the Almighty and the merciful God that His Excellency may take upon heart the requests herein stated.

Yours faithfully.

YAO SAPONG,

King of Duabin.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received October 11, 1894.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,

September 14, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I considered it advisable to visit Cape Coast at this time, bringing with me the Acting Colonial Secretary, in order to see what progress was being made with the alterations and repairs of this Castle, to inspect the Cape Coast—Jukwa road, to inquire into some matters to which my attention has been called by circumstances and also, and more particularly, with the object of meeting the Chiefs whom I was informed by the King of Kumasi, in his last letter, he intended to send to me with his reply to the communication addressed to him by Mr. Hodgson, by your Lordship's direction.

2. Not being able to ascertain on my arrival here, on the 9th instant, anything relative to the mission to be sent from Kumasi, I inquired of the District Commissioner of Saltpond, a place to which Ashantis resort in large numbers, whether he could give me any information upon the subject, and I transmit, herewith, and request reference to, a copy of a letter dated the 12th instant which I received yesterday from Mr. Adams.

3. The weekly returns from Prahshu show that about one ton of gunpowder, together with large quantities of lead bars and trade guns, have been taken every week lately from the Protectorate to Ashanti, but chiefly to Bekwai; and the people passing to and fro have doubled in numbers.

4. This morning a copy of "The Gold Coast Methodist Times," of the 31st of August, was placed in my hands by Mr. Hagan, one of my clerks. I have the honour to transmit it herewith for your Lordship's information, in order, My Lord, to request your Lordship's notice of a statement near the end of the third column of the front page headed, "Ashanti," in which it is stated that Prempeh had been formally installed King of Ashanti; that four principal Chiefs had attended the ceremony, including Yow Sapong of Juabin (which I do not credit); that a consultation had taken place, lasting for two weeks, to determine how order and peace could be restored to the Kingdom "and Ashanti regain its past glory and renown"; and that large sums of money should be raised to send to the British Government for the giving back of Asibi of Kokofu, and Inkansa of Adansi. It is also stated that 400 human beings had been slaughtered on the occasion of Prempeh's installation; that each of the Chiefs had contributed slaves for sacrifice, except the King of Bekwai, "who brought gold dust instead of human victims, stating his intention to conform to British custom and practice. 'For,' said he, 'my ancestors did not prosper by their human sacrifices, and I am determined not to follow their practices.'"

5. On the 10th instant, I despatched a special Hausa runner to Prahshu to convey a small present I had promised to Inkansa, King of Adansi, whom I met at Brasiaku on my late visit to Prahshu, and also with the object of ascertaining from the clerk in charge whether he had received any information relative to the movements of the Ashanti Chiefs, who had been previously reported by him to be *en route* to the coast. The messenger arrived at Prahshu, a distance of 77 miles, in 32 hours from the time I despatched him from this Castle, and he returned yesterday in 36 hours, bringing me a letter from the clerk in charge at Prahshu, a copy of which I transmit herewith. Your Lordship will observe the statement it contains that the Ashanti Chiefs "have not yet left Kumasi, but it is stated that they will leave there on Saturday next, the 15th instant." Should this be the case, what with their large retinue and if it be true that they are bringing a large quantity of coin with them, they may take fully a fortnight, if not more time, before they reach Cape Coast, but whether or not this should be the case, I intend to wait here and receive them when they arrive.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 94.

DEAR GOVERNOR,

Saltpond, September 12, 1894.

I WAS away all yesterday at Arkra and did not get back till late at night and got the wire this morning.

I have made inquiries and find, as I said in my wire of to-day, that the mission started for Accra all right, consisting of Foku and Boatin. I suppose that is the man who came down in 1891 when Mr. Hodgson was acting.

The mission got as far as Edjuabin when they were stopped by messengers from the King and told to wait and there they are now. My informant told me that I could rely on this being true as Foku and Boatin had sent down messengers to him to buy gin and tobacco during their stay at Edjuabin, and that it was from these messengers he got his information. In fact, they are still in the town. The reason of this delay, as stated by the messengers, is as follows:—When the two men (Foku and Boatin) had started from Kumassi, the Chiefs of the Adansis sent to Prempeh saying that the Kokofus were going back to Ashanti and they would not allow it unless the Adansis were brought back also. There was a big palaver and finally it was decided that the hat should be sent round again to get funds to bring the Adansis back, and the message was sent to the ambassadors to stop until the further money was sent to them. The message reached them at Edjuardin where they are now waiting. My informant told me they expected to move about the end of the month and that he was sending up word to them that the Governor was at Cape Coast and not Accra. This is what I have heard. There seems a lull in Ashanti matters just now and a very curious one, as, although many Ashanti traders are coming down, not one will own to having been lately in Kumassi itself. I heard, though I don't vouch for its truth, that the first part of Prempeh's big custom is over. Frank Russell's valuable silks, &c. have been taken out of the warehouse. I suppose they have gone up country. I will let you know directly I hear anything.

I am, &c.
W. H. ADAMS.

Enclosure 2 in No. 94.

Extract from the "GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES" of August 31, 1894.

ASHANTI.

(From a Correspondent.)

Coronation of Prempeh.—Magnificent display of Royalty.

On the 4th of June last, Prempeh, who had been elected to the Stool in 1888, was formally installed King of Ashanti and placed on the Golden Stool, amidst magnificent display of royalty at the Ashanti metropolis. The election of Prempeh, some six years ago, occasioned much serious contention and bloodshed in the Kingdom, which led one of its principal Chiefs, Osai Esibey of Kokofu, to quit his district and flee to the Protectorate. Among the influential Chiefs present at Kumasi, on the grand day mentioned, were Asafu Buakyi, Bantuma Ewua, Etsia Yaw Buakyi of Bekwai, and Yaw Sapon of Dwabin, who turned up in State, making Kumasi look like on some memorial days gone by. After the coronation festivities, the Chiefs and King with his councillors are said to have devoted full two weeks to deliberations as to how order and peace could be restored in the Kingdom, and Ashanti regain its past glory and renown. The assembly dispersed about the 24th of June; it having been agreed to levy from the nation an amount of money to send to the British Government for the giving back to the Kingdom of Esibey of Kokofu and Nkansa of Adansi, Chiefs who have taken refuge in the Protectorate. To this end, 40 perequins (32*l.*) was to be raised by each of the great Chiefs in their various districts.

A dreadful slaughter of human victims.—It being customary with the new King of Ashanti, on his enthronement, to observe a general funeral custom for royal relatives deceased, Prempeh also, being now installed, kept the hereditary custom by slaying some 400 human beings in cold blood in honour of the royal dead, each of his Chiefs bringing him presents of human victims from their provinces, except the Chief of Bekwai, who brought gold-dust instead of human victims, stating his intention to conform to British custom and practice, "For," said he, "my ancestors did not prosper by their human sacrifices, and I am determined not to follow their practices."

Enclosure 3 in No. 94.

The CLERK IN CHARGE, PRAHSU, to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Prahshu, September 12, 1894.

I beg most respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Memorandum, dated 10th September 1894, at 10.15 p.m., on the 11th instant, together with a parcel addressed to King Inkansa of Adansi, who is now living at Brasiaku, three villages from this station on the main road, and beg to state, in reply, that the Ashanti Chiefs therein referred to have not yet left Kumasi, but it is stated that they will leave there on Saturday next, the 15th instant.

As soon as I hear authentic news of their leaving, I shall at once send down a report by a special runner.

I shall carry out your Excellency's instructions when they arrive at this station.

I have forwarded the parcel to King Inkansa as directed, and he desires me to convey his hearty thanks to your Excellency for the same.

I am, &c.

F. ENNISSON, Clerk in Charge.

To His Excellency
Sir William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony, Cape Coast.

No. 95.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received October 18, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
September 20, 1894.

Referring to my Despatch dated the 14th instant,* relating to information connected with Ashanti, I have now the honour to place before your Lordship copy of a letter dated at Prahshu on the 16th September, addressed by the clerk in charge there to the Commissioner of this District, to which I ask reference. I have since heard that the intended mission will leave Kumasi to-day. Its travel to the coast will occupy about fifteen days.

The District Commissioner furnished me yesterday with a return, of which a copy is annexed, showing the number of persons crossing the Prah from the Protectorate to Ashanti, the number coming into it from that country, *i.e.*, Bekwai and Kumasi, and the quantity of gunpowder taken by the former to Ashanti, by which it appears that from the 1st of July up to the 5th of August 2,851 persons crossed to Ashanti, and 3,120 arrived from it; and that 6,914 people came from Ashanti between the 12th of August and 16th September, and that 7,193 went there from the Protectorate, the totals being 10,044 and 10,034; while those who returned to Ashanti between the 19th of August and the 16th of September—the number being 6,594—took with them 10,810 lbs. of gunpowder, or at the rate of 2,162 lbs. or say a ton, per week in five weeks. They also took trade guns but not in any quantity. No doubt whilst the proclamation prohibiting the sale of arms and ammunition prevented Ashantis and others from purchasing the prohibited articles at Chama, Elmina, Cape Coast, Anamabu, and Saltpond they obtained their supplies from Winniba, Accra and other towns, and conveyed them to Ashanti by other roads, crossing the Prah beyond Prahshu.

Enclosure 1 in No. 95.

The CLERK IN CHARGE, PRAHSUE, to the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast.

SIR,

Prahshue, September 16, 1894.

ADVERTING to my memorandum of the 8th instant, in reply to yours dated January 1, 1894, I beg most respectfully to report, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that a trader by the name of Acquasi Addaye, native of Bequa, who arrived here this morning en route for Saltpond, informs me that the Ashanti Chiefs have now left Kumasi for Adjuman, there to await for the people who are to proceed down with them.

* No. 94.

That although he (the informant) is unable to tell me the exact date on which they shall leave that village for the coast, but still, he is quite sure that they will not prolong their stay at that place. I shall at once send a report to you by a quick runner for the information of his Excellency the Governor as soon as I hear of their approaching or leaving the village.

I am, &c.

The District Commissioner,
Cape Coast.

F. ENNISSON,
Clerk in Charge.

Enclosure 2 in No. 95.

RETURN of PERSONS crossing the PRAH for Quarter ended 30th September 1894.

Date.	Number crossing to Ashanti.	Number crossing from Ashanti.	Total weight of Powder.
1894.			lbs.
July 1 - -	443	425	
" 8 - -	410	495	
" 15 - -	586	360	
" 22 - -	387	536	
" 29 - -	479	792	
August 5 - -	546	512	
" 12 - -	599	765	
" 19 - -	841	1,124	1,200
" 26 - -	1,434	1,683	3,530
September 2 - -	1,622	1,160	2,500
" 9 - -	1,147	1,058	2,020
" 16 - -	1,549	1,124	1,560

No. 96.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received October 24, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
September 28, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, a memorandum of information I have derived from what I consider to be a fairly authentic European source relative to Ashanti. It would appear from the statement made to me that the authorities of Kumasi are pursuing a vacillating, if not a Fabian, policy, and at all events are acting with the unpunctuality which characterizes their proceedings generally.

2. As the messengers referred to in the memorandum are expected to be here within next week, or shortly after, I intend to remain at this place until the arrival of the outward mail due here on the 12th of October, and if they do not come by that time, and I have no tidings of the advent of the Chiefs whom the King of Kumasi stated some two months ago he intended to send to me, I will return to Accra, and will then decide, whether or no, as to sending a strong mission to Kumasi to require a definite reply to the communication which Mr. Hodgson addressed to King Prempeh, in March last, by your Lordship's direction.

3. In stating that I would send "a strong mission" to Kumasi, I intend to convey that its members would be officers of such strength and force of character and so fitted by their ability, experience, tact, and judgment, to deal with the matters entrusted to them, that they would, I feel assured, either bring about an amicable arrangement with the authorities of Kumasi, or show clearly the course which should be taken by this Government, with the sanction and support of the Imperial Government, to bring Ashanti into line with humanity, civilization, and order. Besides this, the mission would be able to collect information as to the position of the authorities of Kumasi to assert their opposition, should circumstances compel arrival at such a conclusion—the almost inevitable one, as I fear will prove ultimately to be the case—that Ashanti will have to be absorbed in the Protectorate of the Gold Coast.

Enclosure in No. 96.

MEMORANDUM.

Wednesday, September 26, 1894.

Had a conversation with
not yet started from Kumasi.

He stated that mission had

Would bring 2,000*l.* to pay off liabilities and expenses of all Ashantis in the Protectorate so that they might be allowed to return to Ashanti.

Ansah would not accompany mission. Was apparently in disgrace, under charge of having appropriated some of the money collected.

King of Kumasi appeared perplexed as to line of action he should take, and was vacillating and seemed unable to make up his mind what he should do.

Doubted whether a mission would be sent after all.

Kumasi is a town falling into ruins. Does not consider any resistance could be made if a determined course of action was taken.

Trade would be greatly settled and improved by Ashanti being dealt with in a decided manner.

Ashantis in Saltpond in dread of Government accepting 2,000*l.*, whereby they would be ordered to return to Ashanti. If so, their heads might be cut off, but nevertheless they would have to leave the Protectorate if so ordered by their King, Asibi of the Kokofus, and would have to abide by the consequences, whatever these might be. Informant stated that some great customs had been carried out, but some greater ones were to follow.

King desires informant should go to Kumasi to see him, but the latter had stated that that if he did so he could not remain very long. To which Prempeh's messengers replied "The King cannot be hurried."

Prempeh intends to take title of Quaku Duah II.

W. B. G.,
Cape Coast Castle,
27/9/94.

No. 97.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 15, 1894.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
October 22, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN my Despatch of the 14th of September,* I had the honour of transmitting, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," dated the 31st of August, in which it was stated that there had been "a dreadful slaughter of human victims" in Ashanti, on the occasion of the installation of Prempeh of Kumasi, as King, when he "kept the hereditary customs by slaying some 400 human beings in cold blood, "in honour of the royal dead."

2. Since my return to Accra, I have received a letter dated at Axim, October 5th, of which a copy is enclosed, from a Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah, a son of the late Ashanti Prince of that name, and a brother of the man who is at Kumasi, in which he refers to the statement made in the newspaper, and observes: "I am confident that your Excellency, from "your great knowledge of Gold Coast affairs, will not be misled by reports such as these to "take any hasty course of action," a somewhat remarkable observation, and he refers to a report which was current in 1881 that 200 young girls had been sacrificed at the time at some custom at Kumasi, virtually expressing himself as if the report was unfounded, and adding: "as my countrymen are desirous of continuing their independence, I beg here to "strongly suggest to your Excellency that it is essential that the Government ought now to "formally acknowledge Ashanti as an independent native empire, &c."

3. I consider it will be convenient for me to attach to this Despatch another copy of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," of August 31st,† and also a copy of the succeeding number of the 29th September, on the last page of which a letter from Mr. Ansah is printed, being a copy of one he enclosed to me. The statement made by the editors of the newspaper, with regard to Mr. Ansah's contradiction of what appeared in their paper of 31st August, is a reiteration of what they then asserted, and more, for they observe:—"we can assure the

* No. 94.

† See No. 94.

Prince" (Mr. Ansah), "that what we printed was perfectly true, other informations more fiendish and atrocious have since come to our knowledge." The statement that human sacrifices did take place at the time referred to is supported by a letter written to Captain Houston by the Basel Mission agent in Juabin, and by other persons who are aware of the facts. And in this connexion I enclose a copy of statement made to me by the first clerk in my office, Mr. Hagan, relative to information he recently received when at Cape Coast. I directed him to put this in the form of a memorandum, and I would also call attention to what he states in the second paragraph of his paper.

4. With regard to Mr. Ansah's allusion to the report of human sacrifices in Ashanti in 1881, I enclose, for convenience of reference, Sir Samuel Rowe's Despatches to Lord Kimberley* and the weight of information given in the last Despatch, especially in the face of the statements of Mr. Watts and Captain Lonsdale, support the view that there had been a great and murderous destruction of human life, by sacrifices at Ashanti, at or near the time the report of the sacrifice by the King of that country of 200 girls prevailed.

5. The enclosures to the Despatches referred to, and other correspondence relating to the subject under notice, will be found at pages 22 to 43 of the Parliamentary paper, "Affairs of the Gold Coast" (C. 3386) presented to Parliament, August 1882.

6. I think it will be as well that I should place before your Lordship information relating to the earlier life of Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah.

7. He accompanied Sir Samuel Rowe to Prahsu in 1881 as an extra clerk, and afterwards held some minor temporary offices until March 1883, when he was appointed to be a telegraph clerk. In this position he was most inattentive to his work, so that his conduct was brought under the Governor's notice when, having expressed regret for his inattention to his duties, he was allowed to retain his post.

8. In 1884, Ansah's conduct became so reprehensible owing "to his insolence, irregularities, and disobedience of orders," that the Governor, Mr. Young, dismissed him from the service. He then became very penitent, and on the intercession of Mr. Hughes and Mr. Mathew Jones, was allowed to return to the Telegraph Department, but on a lower grade. Ansah, however, took umbrage at this reduction in his position, and sent in his resignation, which the Governor declined to accept, and ordered that he should be discharged.

9. Since 1884, Mr. Albert A. Ossoo Ansah has not been heard of, but I understand he has been trading in a small way at Cape Coast and has gone lately to Axim.

10. I look upon his letters to me and to the "Gold Coast Methodist Times" as intended to draw forth some expression of opinion as to the intentions of the Government with regard to Ashanti, and to bring him into prominence before the local public of the Colony. He is probably, too, working in some connexion with his brother at Kumasi.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 97.

• Mr. ANSAH to the GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Axim, October 5, 1894.

It is much to be regretted that scurrilous reports of the nature exhibited in the "G.C.M. Times" of Aug. 31, should also be taken up by the "G.C. People" newspaper of Sep. 24, re the alleged atrocities in Ashanti. I have written the Editor of the first-named paper on this matter, a copy† of which I herewith submit for your Excellency's perusal, and I am confident that your Excellency, from your great knowledge of Gold Coast affairs, will not be misled by reports such as these to take any hasty course of action, for undoubtedly your Excellency might remember how a similar report turn out on investigation by the Government during the Administration of the much lamented Governor Sir Samuel Rowe. I must mention that I am forwarding a copy of this to my agents in London to have same published in Mr. Labouchere's paper the "Truth" and also a copy each to such of my correspondents in England as I may consider advisable. As my countrymen are desirous of continuing their independence, I beg here to strongly suggest to your Excellency, that it is essential that the Government ought now to formally acknowledge Ashanti as an independent Native Empire, or, in other words, engagements entered into with her similar to the understanding now

* Nos. 16, 21, and 27 in [C. 3386.] Aug. 1882.

† See Enclosure 2.

existing between Her Majesty's Government and the Ameer of Afghanistan by which annexation by any Power is rendered impossible.

To His Excellency Sir B. Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.

A. A. OSSOO ANSAH, P.

Enclosure 2 in No. 97.

EXTRACT from the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," of Sept. 29, 1894.

STR,

Re your issue dated August 31st, in an article headed "Ashanti," you observe that there has been dreadful slaughtering of human beings in Ashanti in connexion with the coronation of the present King.

I must at once write to deny this fact, for, since the above publication, I have made every inquiry and have found out that but for the national rejoicings in June attended on every such occasion at the capital nothing beyond this had taken place. And I write thus at once because as a Prince of that country I cannot allow such a fabrication, since that there's not a particle of truth in it, to pass un-contradicted. I consider it a pure bogus trumped-up business to get Christian world against our nationality, but readers of Gold Coast papers should remember that sometime in the "eighties" similar scurrilous prints were circulated to the effect that the ex-King Mensah had caused to be slaughtered over 300 (three hundred) young virgins for the purpose of utilising the blood in repairing a Royal sepulchre and which caused great commotion and was recopied into several English papers, but, on official inquiry by the Local Government, this report was found to be pure myth.

Happily the sacrifices of days gone by have long been done away with, and for the present only persons who are tried and found to be murderers and conspirators suffer the capital punishment. The administration of justice is impartially administered, and this cannot be denied by any Gold Coast native.

Yours truly,

A. A. OSSOO ANSAH, P.

Axim, September 25, 1894.

[We are very much pleased to receive the above correspondence from the Prince. He writes as only a Prince can write on a subject like this: the letter further shows a deal of interest in the welfare of his country. We trust he will use all his civilised influence to stamp out that fiendish custom in his great country, a custom which seems to us to be about the only stain on the otherwise great kingdom of Ashanti. Perhaps as the means of punishing murderers, or those found guilty of high treason, and such kindred crimes, it may be justifiable, taking it to be somewhat equivalent to the hanging of the civilised world; but such a wholesale butchery of human beings we must expose and resolutely condemn. The Prince might have made inquiries and found out that *something* was not true, but we may respectfully inform him that what did appear in our columns, to which he refers, was not a 'bogus trumped-up business' to get the Christian world 'against' his 'nationality'—a nation we greatly respect and admire. We can assure the Prince that what *we* printed was perfectly true: other informations more fiendish and atrocious have since come to our knowledge. Perhaps it will be better for the Prince to make personal inquiries into these things by going over to Ashanti himself. G. C. M. T.—EDS.]

Enclosure 3 in No. 97.

MEMORANDUM.

In a conversation which I had with one of the editors of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times," (when at Cape Coast lately with your Excellency) with regard to the article which appeared in their issue of the 31 August respecting "a dreadful slaughter of human victims," he stated that the information published was communicated to them by a correspondent who, although a native of the coast, lives in Bekwai, where he carries on business and who saw all that went on during the coronation of Prempe as he was at Kumasi at the time, and that, besides what was printed in that paper, they possessed other information as to brutality and cruelty practised at Kumasi on the occasion which was so horrifying that they did not like to publish it. He also told me that the person who supplied them with the information was

then at Cape Coast, but would leave in a day or two for Ashanti, so that if I wanted to see him on the subject before his departure I should do so at once.

Shortly before we embarked for Accra, I called to say good-bye to a friend who wished to see me before my departure, and in conversation he touched upon Ashanti affairs, and stated that were the Government to send a mission to Ashanti with the object of getting the tribes to accept British Protection, all the neighbouring countries would at once yield to the request of Her Majesty's Government, should the King of Kumasi, Prempe, decline to accept the proposals of the Government, because, with the presence of the mission, they would have nothing to fear from Prempe, who they thought would wage war against them should they come forward and ask to be taken into the Protectorate, but that the Government, instead of making a forward movement towards that end, were very slow at it. Some Ashantis lodge in this gentleman's house when they come to Cape Coast.

Governor's Office,
Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
October 20, 1894.

J. SAMSON HAGAN,
2nd Clerk, Governor's Office.

No. 98.

SIR. W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 19, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
October 24, 1894.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 22nd instant*, with regard to a letter received from Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansah, relating to the report of human sacrifices at Kumasi, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary from Axim, on the 17th instant, by the Commissioner there, in which he relates a conversation he had had with Mr. Ansah to which I ask reference.

Enclosure in No. 98.

Mr. LOY to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR. Axim, October 17, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to report that A. A. Ossoo Ansah has been trading here for some years as a partner in the firm of Johnson and Ansah.

I had a conversation with him and find he is a son of Prince Ansah.

His eldest brother is now in Koomassie and is chief adviser to the King, and is in constant communication with him; and, A. A. O. Ansah informs me, has recently sent word that there is not any truth in the rumour about sacrifices; he also says that the King is very anxious that Ashantee should be recognised as an independent kingdom, and is shortly going to send representatives to England to try to bring this about, and that he will be one or else take his brother's place in Koomassie and his brother will go to England. He is a well-educated man and speaks very good English. He asked me if I would grant him a license to carry a double-barrelled rifle, breech-loading, which his brother was sending him from Koomassie.

Your telegram of the 12th instant led me to think that some particulars might be acceptable.

I have, &c.
THOS. N. LOY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

* No. 97.

No. 99.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received 12.10 p.m., 27 November 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 102.]

As King of Kumasi is sending messenger to Cape Coast Castle and Great Britain, it appears to me that it is not necessary to despatch Special Mission to Kumasi. Colonial Secretary arrived at head-quarters 20th November. Ashmore left for England by mail-steamer "Bathurst" 22nd November.

Following is substance of statement as to action contemplated by King of Kumasi, communicated to local newspaper by Albert Ansa: He is to be associated with John Ansa and natives; they are to proceed immediately to Great Britain, in capacity of Ambassador at the Court of Saint James. It is stated that John Ansa has been acting as Prime Minister to King of Kumasi for a long time; he is not to be at the head of Special Mission. Special Embassy hope to winter in Great Britain, and after completion of Special Mission to British Government will probably proceed on a visit to Paris [and] Hague. With regard to the Ansas, both of them are British subjects, being natives of Cape Coast Castle.

No. 100.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received November 28, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
October 31, 1894.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 24th instant,* and in connexion with affairs relative to Ashanti, I have the honour to state, for your Lordship's information, that, having carefully considered the statement made by Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansa to the District Commissioner of Axim, it appeared to me clear that the object of the collection of money recently in Ashanti was not made, as had been reported, for the purpose of being presented to this Government as an inducement to allow the refugee Ashantis in this Protectorate to return to their country, but with the veiled object, no doubt at the instigation of Ansa, to make pecuniary provision to defray the expense of sending messengers to England—ambassadors as they are termed—to interview your Lordship, in the hope that you would be persuaded to acknowledge Ashanti as independent. Ansa is, no doubt, the master spirit at work in this business. He is somewhat grave and courteous, and is fluent in conversation. No doubt he has done his best to make his relations at Kumasi believe that he is the most skilful, diplomatic, and capable agent they could employ to promote the views and expectations he has put into their minds, and he is very probably looking forward to an enjoyable time in England in his ambassadorial character whether he succeeds or fails; while, posing as an African Prince, he will probably get credit from credulous people at home, and come out of the ambassadorial mission with substantial advantage to himself in the end.

Yesterday, the 30th instant, I received a telegram dated the 28th October, from the District Commissioner of Axim, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, in which it is stated that Prince A. A. Ossoo Ansa had informed the District Commissioner that a special embassy to the Governor of the Gold Coast was coming, and, after consulting with the Governor, would go immediately on to Great Britain. Prince Ansa will leave to join the others when they arrive at the frontier line.

I think it may be convenient in this connexion to place before your Lordship a memorandum relating to an interview I had with John Ossoo Ansa in 1889, when he came ostensibly as an ambassador from Prempeh, who at the same time repudiated him by the messengers who were sent to accompany him. It will be seen that at that time, according to his statement, Ansa had advised Prempeh "to hand over the kingdom of Ashanti to the English, expressing the opinion that, under the good government of the English, the tribes "who had left Ashanti would return."

I would ask reference to enclosures in my Despatch of the 9th of May last,* being copies of letters written by Mr. Ansah in April to Mr. Vroom and myself, together with our replies to him. Mr. Ansah's letters in some measure disclose the man's character. Mr. Vroom's letter to him of the 9th of April shows the opinion he entertained of Mr. Ansah.

I had intended to postpone a little longer the transmission to your Lordship of copies of papers addressed to me soon after my return to the Colony by Mr. Ferguson, Captain Lang, and Mr. Vroom, bearing upon the relations of this Government with Kumasi, but I think it is now advisable to send them with this Despatch, and I request your Lordship's consideration of the consensus of opinion between the officers named, all writing from different standpoints and without being aware of each other's action. The opinion of all points in the direction of, and to the necessity for, a strong and resolute policy being taken in dealing with Kumasi.

In connexion with the views expressed by the officers mentioned, I have the honour to submit herewith, for your Lordship's consideration, copy of a memorandum, the first 20 paragraphs of which were prepared for me when I was last in England, at my request, by my son, Mr. William Brandford Griffith, who was then at home on leave from Jamaica, and who compiled the information contained in those paragraphs, chiefly from Blue Books in the Colonial Office Library, and in some small measure from what I told him on the subject. The paragraphs from, and inclusive of, No. 21 contain statements of my own views and convictions upon the Ashanti question, and were entertained by me before I received the communications of Messrs. Ferguson and Vroom and of Captain Lang. All of the foregoing papers (4) were shown to the Chief Justice and Mr. Ashmore when we were at Cape Coast in September.

In all matters relating to Ashanti (irrespective of others) I have taken the members of the Executive Council into my fullest confidence, and since my return I have requested the Chief Justice to act as an extraordinary member at the meetings of Council, because, *inter alia*, I have all along intended that, if a mission was to be despatched to Kumasi, he should be one of its members, together with Mr. Ashmore, both of these gentlemen being exceptionally fitted for the discharge of the delicate duties they would be entrusted with, whilst their official positions would command respect from and show to the Ashantis that the Government was thoroughly in earnest in dealing with them by sending such representatives. As regards the escort of 50 Hausas, it was intended to be a guard of honour to show the high and dignified position of Her Majesty's representatives.

I have the honour to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, copy of a memorandum which I read to the Executive Council at a meeting specially convened on the 27th instant for purpose of considering our position with Ashanti. The statements put forth in the memorandum were gone carefully into and fully considered at the meeting, and finally I asked the opinion of each member of the Council—those present being the Chief Justice, the acting Colonial Secretary, the acting Queen's Advocate, and the Treasurer—as to the propriety of the policy and recommendations placed before them, and they were unanimous in expressing their hearty and strong approval and support of the recommendations made in the memorandum.

It was then arranged that I should make a communication by telegram to your Lordship upon the main subject-matter of the memorandum; but on Monday morning, the 29th instant, I heard that the African Direct Telegraph Cable was at fault and desisted from continuing to code a message.

The memorandum, which was read to the Executive Council on the 27th of October, and received the strong and hearty support of its members, fully sets forth and explains the views and recommendations of this Government—which are also supported by the subsidiary evidence of three experienced, able, and trustworthy officers. I therefore very respectfully submit them for your Lordship's serious consideration, in order to a decision being arrived at as to the course which, in all of the circumstances stated, Her Majesty's Government may determine to have taken with regard to Ashanti, as soon as this Government is informed of the reply which is expected to be sent by the King of Kumasi to the communication made to him by the direction of your Lordship, and which, in view of the delay owing to the late heavy rains, may possibly not arrive on the coast until late in November.

When Mr. Vroom was at Accra in May last, I requested him to furnish me with a memorandum as to the best roads by which to reach Kumasi from Cape Coast, Elmina, or other towns, and I transmit herewith a copy of his paper, as it may be useful at home.

In a telegram which I will do myself the honour of addressing to your Lordship in a day or two, I intend to recommend that, in view of the uncertainty of circumstances, it would be for the convenience of the public service of this Colony that the Inspector-General and Mr. Vroom should be required to remain in England until your Lordship had received and

considered this Despatch. If active operations against Ashanti are ordered, it will be of advantage to your Lordship to have the Inspector-General at hand for a few days, should his advice be required with regard to a supply of ammunition and as to local matters and arrangements; and if Mr. Ansah forces his way to England, and your Lordship should decide to grant him an interview, I think it would assist your Lordship, and keep Mr. Ansah in useful check, if Mr. Vroom was directed to be present at any such interview in order to advise your Lordship with regard to Ansah's proposals should your Lordship so desire.

In endeavouring to forecast events, it appears to me that my best course, in view of the uncertainty of circumstances, will be to wait and see whether or not any mission will be sent to this Government from Kumasi to reply to the communication made to the authorities there by the direction of your Lordship. Should I be assured that such mission is coming, I propose to go to Cape Coast and meet it there—so as to save time and expense—and on receiving the reply brought, to transmit the pith—or if it appears advisable, the whole—of it to your Lordship by telegram, detaining the messengers to await your instructions in reply to the message brought by them. Should it appear that Ansah's visit to England is to depend upon your Lordship's pleasure, I will of course await the expression of it in dealing with him. If he is made to understand that your Lordship will not receive him if he presents himself at the Colonial Office, I think that his desire to go to England free of expense to himself, and his feeling that he will never again have such a chance of enjoying himself at the expense of Ashanti, will be so strong that he will most certainly take his chance of events and proceed to England. On the other hand, it might be advantageous in various ways if your Lordship condescended to grant him an interview, for then, should he hear from your own lips the decision of Her Majesty's Government with regard to its future relation with Ashanti, it might lead to the authorities of Kumasi deferring to the wishes of the Government. But then, again, it must be kept in view that the dry season in this country lasts only from December to February, and that in this regard Ashantian trickery, faithlessness, falsehood, and procrastination, should be taken into consideration and reckoned with, or active measures, if deemed advisable, will have to be deferred for another year. I think your Lordship may rest assured that the declaration from Ashanti, in reply to the message sent, will be that the proposals of the Government made to them in March last by Mr. Vroom are declined, and that Ashanti elects to remain as she is. Should this be so, it will be only a waste of time to parley with Ansah or his principals. Therefore it seems to me that strong measures should be enforced without undue delay to compel the obedience of Ashanti to Imperial control.

As bearing upon the general question, I think that I ought to mention to your Lordship that, when recently at Jukwa, I asked the King to tell me what he thought the Ashantis were at? His reply was, "The Ashantis are fooling the English."

Enclosure 1 in No. 100.

MEMORANDUM of INTERVIEW with Mr. JOHN OSSOO ANSAH, at Christiansborg Castle, on June 13, 1889.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH; the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, F. M. HODGSON, Esq.

The Governor stated that he understood Mr. Ansah had received a telegram which compelled him to leave for Cape Coast by the next homeward steamer, but that Mr. Ansah desired to put certain information before him before he left. Mr. Ansah replied that this was so. The Governor then spoke of the interest which he personally, as well as the Government, felt in Ashanti, mentioning this in order that Mr. Ansah might speak with the utmost frankness.

Mr. Ansah said that, having been away at the Niger from 1879 to 1886, the arrival of Bunke from Ashanti during the threatened Ashanti invasion of 1881, as well as the death of his father, took place during his absence; and on his return in 1886 he proposed to visit his relatives in Kumasi, which he did in this year (1889); and that while there, seeing the ruined state of Kumasi, he advised the King to hand over the Kingdom to the English, expressing the opinion at the same time that, under the good government of the English, the tribes who had left Ashanti would return. He offered to be their representative here; the King of Ashanti consented. Documents were drawn up, after which Mr. Ansah told them that to represent them before the Governor, his Excellency must approve or rather recognise him as ambassador; and with this object the King gave

him messengers to accompany him here. It was with surprise therefore that Mr. Anseh said he heard Boatin and followers say they did not wish him to be present at the delivery of their message. Mr. Anseh added, that on his return journey from Kumasi he received a letter from his wife, stating that Ashantis had been down to the coast inquiring as to the object of his visit there.

The Governor said he could not understand the reason of Boatin's wishing to deliver his message without the presence of Mr. Anseh (a member of the Royal Family of Ashanti), and added that Boatin, in the delivery of his message, said that formerly he never used to go to Mr. Edmund Bannerman when he came down, but inquired whether he might do so now. His Excellency said that, according to the statement made by Mr. Anseh, it would appear that the Ashantis had their suspicions of him, and messengers were sent to make inquiries at Cape Coast as to the object of his visit. His Excellency then said, "Would it be worth your while to be the representative of any man or nation who treated you that way?" His Excellency observed that, action of this kind was analogous to that which brought the late Prince Anseh into collision with Mr. Edmund Bannerman about the year 1881, and, without wishing Mr. Anseh to suppose that he had been shabbily treated or that there was any want of respect for him, the Governor distinctly and frankly told Mr. Anseh that he would not recognise him as ambassador, because such a course of having a middleman to treat with between Ashanti and the Government had in the past led to misunderstanding, dissatisfaction, and party feeling in Ashanti, and the result of this might be that messages sent to the middleman might differ in their instructions from those sent direct to the Governor, the probability being that Mr. Anseh in that situation might get himself into difficulties; and, as it appeared to him, the Governor, that a straightforward course was infinitely preferable to a tortuous one, he must repeat what he had said, viz., that he declined to recognise Mr. Anseh as a representative of the King of Ashanti, and the King would be informed of this through Boatin. Mr. Anseh admitted that it would be better and easier to take a straightforward course to a certain point than a zigzag one.

The Governor informed Mr. Anseh that messengers were sent from Ashanti by the King to the District Commissioner of Cape Coast, in which they requested the loan of 80 ozs. of gold, or about 320*l.*, to purchase silks and suitable apparel wherewith the King could enter the Royal Treasury at Bantama. The Governor thought over the matter and promised a reply, which was duly sent by Mr. Lethbridge. His Excellency consented to lend the King the amount he required on condition of his signing a treaty with the English Government, because, in consideration of having supported him so far at the cost of some 3,000*l.*, they would not like to see Ashanti under the protection of a foreign nation. His Excellency added:—"We have 320 miles of coast line, and with the tribes in the interior we have as many irons in the fire as we can attend to; we do not want to annex Ashanti. Should we do that, our establishment of officers would have to be increased, also our establishment of Hausas; more doctors and district commissioners would have to be procured, and the Government would have to incur considerable additional expense without commensurate advantage." What the Government proposed was, that in consideration of the friendship and goodwill which it had shown towards, and of the support it had given to, the King of Ashanti, that country should make a treaty with the Government to the effect that the ruling authorities there should agree not to enter into any treaty with a foreign Power to take Ashanti under its protection unless with the consent of this Government, which would have a say in the matter. The proposal to assist the King with the money he asked for was not to bribe him to entering into a treaty, but this Government could not be expected to grant such a loan without some consideration. The King told Mr. Lethbridge that he would be willing to execute the treaty without the consideration of the loan being made a condition in it, as it would seem to the native idea that he had sold his country. If the King was still willing to execute the treaty with the Governor, the latter would accept it.

The Governor retired, and in the interval Mr. Anseh gave the following answers to questions put by the Colonial Secretary:—Mr. Anseh said he was 22 days in Kumasi; he could not give definite information as to the intentions of the King of Kumasi towards Yow Sapong, of Juabin, but he considered that, if the King of Kumasi made a successful interference for the return to Sapong of the Stool of Juabin held by Government, the result would be that the Juabins would return and settle in Ashanti; the Juabin settlers in the Protectorate would return to Juabin; and as to Amba Sawuah, he thought she might be made the Queen-Mother if she returned.

The Governor returned at this point, and having been informed by the Colonial Secretary of the conversation which had been taking place, his Excellency remarked on the action of Yow Sapong in detaining a subject of the King of Okwawu.

Referring to the request of the King of Ashanti for the return of the Adansis to their country, the Governor said he intended, if they went back, that they should return to settle in the same independent condition they were in before leaving Adansi.

Mr. Ansah proposed to go by the steamer, while the messengers who accompanied him would meet him at Cape Coast, where the messengers had left some of their boys.

Mr. Ansah said a word should be sent to explain Boatin's conduct in the matter of his not wishing to deliver his message in the presence of Mr. Ansah, lest he should get into difficulties at Ashanti with the authorities by it.

Mr. Ansah said there was not much trade in Ashanti. The country was rich in gold. He had been given a gold mine by the King of Ashanti, but he considered it unsafe to work it just now on account of the affairs of Ashanti not being quite settled.

The Governor said there was another thing with regard to the loan business which he did not like. Boatin wanted to lead them to believe that the King had never sent those messengers at all to the Government and that they came down for trade purposes; but this was in direct opposition to what the King told Mr. Lethbridge and Major Ewart, and the Governor remarked, "We cannot do business on the basis of deceit."

Mr. Ansah said the Ashantis, especially those at Cape Coast, Saltpond, and Anamabu, took good gold from the traders who had come from the interior and substituted bad gold, and that he complained of this dishonourable conduct to the King of Ashanti while he was in Kumasi.

Mr. Ansah further stated that the Ashantis on the coast, in order to raise money for trade, took a child or relative to a place, made arrangements for selling or pawning it, receiving the consideration money, and by a preconcerted clandestine arrangement with a friend, who would visit the buyer and tell them that the child belonged to the informant, and that if not given up, the buyer would be informed against, the Government to the child was got back home, making the other party the loser thereby, and in this way they obtained money from people.

The Colonial Secretary said that both parties—the giver and the taker—being conscious that they were equally guilty, neither party would come forward so as to lay information or give evidence to enable prosecutions to be made.

A few desultory remarks were made, in which Mr. Ansah stated that the tribes in union with Kumasi were Bekwai, Juabin, Fessu (7,000 fighting men), and Jusu (5,000 fighting men). When he left, there were rumours that Mampon and Insuta (both numbering about 1,000 fighting men) were going to fight against Kumasi. Mr. Ansah stated that he was 35 years of age, his full name being John Ossoo Ansah.

The Governor, summarising what had passed stated, "I have told you that I shall be unable to recognize you as the representative or ambassador of Ashanti, and that I will only deal directly with the King. With regard to the money the King asked for as a loan, I shall let him have it if he still wishes; it is not intended to bribe him. An English Governor is incapable of such an act; but I say he ought to make this treaty with us so as not to allow another nation to annex Ashanti, for there is some consideration due to us on account of the support which we have heretofore given to the King, and by means of which he has been placed on the Stool. I shall tell Boatin and his party what has passed between us generally in our conversation."

(Interpreted, G. E. F.)

NOTE.—On the occasion of the interview stated, Mr. Ansah was, at its conclusion, presented with 10*l.*—W. B. G.

October 30, 1894.

Enclosure 2 in No. 100.

MR. FERGUSON TO THE GOVERNOR.

SIR,

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Bombir, near Kintampo, March 1, 1894.

I AM on the move again to the hinterland, and have reached so far, but I am travelling slowly so as to insure the "Nautical Almanac," which I have applied for, reaching me before I get to the other side of the Volta.

I have had no holiday since your Excellency left. I came up to Atabubu under a few hours' notice, and the leave of absence which I had hoped to have enjoyed was foregone by me to carry on urgent public business. There is no news here except Ashanti affairs. As to these you Excellency will, before this reaches you, have read the official papers

about it. Nevertheless, as from conversation with various persons (from the Kings down to their lowest subjects), I am acquainted with the situation and with the bearings of the Ashanti question from various standpoints, I have taken the liberty in this note to communicate to you what I know. Should anything in this note appear dictatorial, I beg that I may be forgiven, as the object of thus writing your Excellency is to explain matters with perhaps more freedom than I can do in official terms. When I came up to Atabubu, I held instructions to obtain information respecting the Ashanti army as well as Ashanti affairs generally. Afterwards, I was commissioned to execute treaties with various Chiefs, and I have done so with the countries of Amanting, Abease, and Nkoranza, and have delivered flags to them; while Captain Lang is at present engaged with making treaties with countries to the south of the Neutral Zone and east of Atabubu. Now this question of flags is intimately connected with the present situation, as your Excellency will see later on. The Ashantis, as your Excellency knows, are treacherous and unreliable; their policy is a very slippery policy, and may be summed up in this, that it is full of apologies for mistakes or misunderstandings on their part, and it may be that apology may be offered in the present instance for their menacing attitude towards the King of Atabubu. But what about the heavy expense now being incurred? When your Excellency sought to improve, or rather improved, the revenue of the Colony, was it to be expended on Ashanti? I ask your Excellency's permission to say that I know that schemes for improving and advancing the Colony were your motives, and are being developed by your Excellency, and it is undesirable, or certainly a pity, that Ashanti should be allowed to frustrate the end in view by absorbing our revenue in expenditure incurred for their mistakes or misrepresentations as has been the case hitherto. Take the history of Ashanti for the past two or three decades and it will be seen that heavy expenses have been incurred without commensurate advantages being derived therefrom; in 1862-3 the relations between us and Ashanti were very strained and cost us a lot of money; in 1872-3-4 there were the complications which culminated in the expedition under Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley; in 1881 the Colony was threatened with an invasion which was nipped in the bud by your Excellency; and now in 1893-4 the King of Ashanti has demanded that Kwabina Asante, the King of Atabubu, who is a King in British Protectorate, and moreover, has a British flag flying in his country, should go and serve him, otherwise the forces of Prempeh, which were only a day's march from Atabubu, would be directed to invade that country (Atabubu). It appears that Ashanti has now turned its attention to give us trouble in the interior. Our experience shows that our relations with that country are strained every ten years, and it is not improbable, indeed it is very probable, that the Ashantis may disrespect or insult the British flags which have been given to the Kings of Amanting, Abease, and Nkoranza, and other countries who have concluded treaties with us. It is considerations such as the above that make me state that the question of flags is ultimately connected with the present situation. It is true that the treaties executed are those of friendship and freedom of trade only, but what will be the result if the British flag delivered to the Kings is violated by Ashanti? It will mean a recurrence of the present troubles and expense. Hence, the present question—the menacing attitude of Ashanti towards Atabubu—requires to be settled *prospectively*, also with regard to our relations with those countries with whom we are in treaty and to whom flags have been delivered. Ashanti has turned its attention to this part of the country, and its policy requires to be counteracted at once, looking to the distance of the seat of Government from these parts. It is rumoured that the flags delivered to these Chiefs are not genuine; of course this is an Ashanti rumour and it has its significance. Ashanti should be told that Nkoranza, Amanting, &c., have received British flags, thus the determination to hold our own will have great moral effect. It is undesirable that Ashanti should regain its power, for it will be a thorn in our side, *but this power it will certainly regain if the people here are allowed to be deluded with representations, or rather with misrepresentations, by the Ashantis that the Governor of Accra has accepted gold to bring all these tribes back under the rule of Ashanti; that Ashanti is now superior to the white man, and that the power of the English is nothing or rather has declined as will be seen by their policy; that the King of Ashanti can threaten a British Protectorate with impunity; that the King of Ashanti has driven away the Governor's officer stationed at Prahsu, &c., &c.* These may not appear to a civilized mind to be of any consequence, or to have any effect on our prestige. Though this may be so to a civilized mind, nevertheless we are, in these parts, dealing with native minds, and to them the effect of these misrepresentations and rumours set about by Ashanti is to destroy our prestige here. When it is taken into consideration that we are extending our influence into the hinterland, the motives of these representations together with their effect are what are to be weighed and considered, and not the

representations (or misrepresentations) themselves. A few days ago, messengers from Kumasi came to Amanting bearing a letter from Prempeh, which demanded that Colonel Sir Francis Scott "must" desist from certain things because the King had sent to his friend the Governor of Accra. The Ashantis made capital of the fact that they can send their messengers to any part of the country under our rule, while any officer of the Government dared not send a message to Kumasi. The Ashantis have a way of slighting Government officers and native Kings in the British Protectorate, they decline to recognise that an officer of the Government, such as the Inspector-General now at Atabubu, represents the Governor, and now the rumour has reached me from Kintampo that "the Ashantis have asked the Governor at Accra and the forces at Prahsu to come and fight Colonel Sir Francis Scott as that officer came to Atabubu without the Governor's consent and is unable to make any demand from the Ashantis." The rumour is ridiculous, but it is significant. Should the forces under Colonel Sir Francis Scott at Atabubu be recalled without some demand being made by Sir Francis from Ashanti, our influence in the hinterland would be at an end. The natives here would not understand that the matter has been settled between the King of Ashanti and the Governor at Accra, the people of Atabubu, &c. would have lost their confidence in us, the hands of Prempeh would have been strengthened enormously, and the achievements of the present expedition would have been prejudicial to our interests instead of giving confidence to the people and strengthening our influence in the interior. It is a pity that, in these days of civilisation, a savage and unreliable country like Ashanti should be recognised and respected as though it was one of the great Powers of Europe. Is it not time that a definite policy was prescribed as regards Ashanti, a policy perhaps similar to the Jebu policy? That country, Ashanti, binds the development of our Colony greatly. There is no doubt that Ashanti indulges in human sacrifices, a practice not followed at present by any nation with any pretence to civilisation, and I have received reliable information that some of the Nkoranzas who were captured in the war were sacrificed when the custom for the death of the Chiefs of Ashanti who fell in the field was performed in Kumasi. The object of the Treaty of 1874 with Kumasi to secure an uninterrupted trade to the Colony has not been secured, and, moreover, instead of demanding the war indemnity of 1873-4 the Colony is being impoverished by frequent expenses on account of Ashanti. *It was not too early when your Excellency proposed to take the Ashantis into the Protectorate.* If Ashanti is allowed to regain its power it will be a thorn on our side. On the other hand, if we accept the Ashanti provinces indiscriminately into the Protectorate this will mean a disintegration of Ashanti, while if this disintegration is carried on too far Ashanti will not be worth having, because the petty independent provinces will be troublesome to govern. These considerations lead to the question as to what policy ought to be pursued with regard to Ashanti. Should we take Ashanti into the Protectorate, or a British resident placed there, it may be argued that a large military force and civil establishment would be necessary for the enforcement of our rule or arbitration. This may be so, but how did Ashanti formerly govern its large kingdom without a large military establishment? The different States were allies to Kumasi, and when Kumasi thought proper to punish one State it obtained the alliance of the others to do so. Besides, I believe there is a mistaken idea as to the *present power* of Ashanti. In 1873 we had to deal with forces from Awuna, Krepi, Akwamu, Kwahu, Atabubu, Nkoranza, and the Brong tribes; contingents from Gaman and Sefui, also Appolonia, Chama, &c. In short, we had to deal with forces contributed by an area of roughly 150,000 square miles. The various members were also united loyally together. Now the present situation of Ashanti is quite different to what it was in 1873. Ashanti cannot be called Ashanti but "Kumasi," *i.e.*, Kumasi and its provinces: Awuna, Krepi, Akwamu, Kwahu, Atabubu, Sefui, Appolonia, Chama, &c., are now in our Protectorate; Nkoranza and the Brong tribes have accepted the friendship of England and taken British flags; Gaman, Dagomba, &c. have severed their connexion entirely from Ashanti, and what is at present termed Ashanti, but which properly ought to be called Kumasi and its provinces, is confined to an area of roughly not more than 15,600 square miles. All that is necessary is that we should foster the friendship between us and Nkoranza, the Brong tribes, and the Kings in the Protectorate; when thus united, the moral effect will tell on Kumasi and there will not be a large standing army necessary to enforce our rule of arbitration. Just now, Yow Sapon of Koningo, when he heard a rumour that we were proceeding to punish Kumasi for its menacing attitude towards Atabubu quickly showed the "flag of truce." When the King of Ejira heard that the trade road through Amanting (with whom we are in treaty) was being improved, it was taken that we were advancing on Kumasi, and he quickly made a road to meet the one from Amanting and to declare his friendship to us. All these actions point to the fact that the various provinces of Ashanti are not at all united, and if we are to undertake to punish Kumasi,

the resistance, if any, will be very weak; besides, the King of Nkoranza is very desirous to be our ally, as it is because he has offered his country to the English that Ashanti, now desirous of consolidating and extending its kingdom, proceeded to punish him. Some of the Ashanti provinces have applied to be taken under the British Protectorate. When at last the forces at Atabubu are withdrawn without its being made to make a demand from Ashanti, dark time will threaten British prestige here. Should those unfortunate people who have applied to us to be taken into our protection be refused, they will suffer when the force retires from here. There is no doubt that the towns of Ejira, Koningo, &c, will be burnt by Ashanti, the people will lose their lives and property; in short, they will be left to the tender mercies of Kumasi, all because they wished to come under our rule. I think that this is just the time when, with the disaffections in Kumasi, we can arrange matters. Should our interference be questioned I think that the local forces with a few allies can inflict the necessary punishment on Ashanti. Even the necessity for the employment of the allies I consider very doubtful, or perhaps not at all necessary, looking at the disunion in Ashanti. But this I think is a question for the Inspector-General, that is to say, arrangements might be made for Ashanti to come into the Protectorate or a British resident placed there. What ought to be the scheme for this? I venture very respectfully to throw in a few suggestions, viz. :—

(a.) In the first place, the limits of present Ashanti should be defined :—

- (1.) It should be informed that Atabubu is in the Protectorate, that Nkoranza, Amanting, Abeasi, and the Brong tribes are our friends and allies; they have accepted our flag, and their independence must be acknowledged by Ashanti.
- (2.) Those towns who have applied to us to be taken into the Protectorate might be accepted, or at any rate their independence of Ashanti might be acknowledged, and flags of friendship given to them, such as Yow Sapon of Koningo, the Chief of Nsuta and Chief of Ejira. This will show the Ashantis that Ashanti itself is ours by conquest, and it cannot be allowed to rival us in territorial acquisition.
- (3.) The boundaries of the above countries with Ashanti should be defined and settled, the presence of Captain Lang with the forces being an advantage in that regard.

By the above means, we pluck the feathers of Ashanti. But we must prevent those feathers from growing, and this can be done by our fostering our friendship with our allies. A state umbrella, or a state sword, some native insignia of office such as those worn by "oseng" (breastplates), &c., are all powerful means of cementing friendship when presented by the superior power to the inferior, and is much valued. At least this can be done until the state of Ashanti does not require such soft policy with our allies.

(b.) When Ashanti is thus reduced, there will remain Kumasi and its provinces. A resident might be placed there to influence the Ashanti politics. I may remark that Ashanti does not require to be dealt with in soft and refined policy such as has been usual in past. Their attitude in the present instance requires to be dealt with with a corresponding firm policy. While that man Ansa is in Kumasi, we will always have trouble with Ashanti, and the combination of Ashanti trickery with his, so to speak, educated roguery requires to be dealt with firmly.

Of course, if Ashanti can manage its affairs without giving us trouble, we will not interfere, but its policy has caused us so much expense in the past, and is preventing the advance of the Colony now, that self-interest dictates that we must deal with that country in a settled, firm, and prescribed policy. If a nation such as Ashanti, who has had connexion with us for centuries, does not recognise our power after it has been shown it in 1874, it will be its fault if it came into conflict with us, and it cannot be said that we have massacred savages in cold blood. Ashanti is not so ignorant as it is thought; it knows a thing or two. Had your Excellency's experience of Ashanti been taken advantage of, and Ashanti made to come under us in some way or the other, I have no doubt that when Ashanti thought of fighting with Nkoranza the matter would have been referred to our arbitration by one or other party, and the present expense saved and the money reserved for the improvements intended by your Excellency.

It is raining while I am writing, a few drops of water are coming down to make worse the already unrepresentable scribble now before your Excellency. I beg your Excellency will excuse the scribble. I am none the worse for my trip, only I feel a bit anxious to receive the "Nautical Almanac," and I am beginning to think it will be a waste of time to proceed without the book.

I am, &c.

GEORGE E. FERGUSON.

His Excellency
Sir W. Brandford Griffith,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 3 in No. 100.

NOTES ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF ASHANTI.

Until recently, Ashanti has been regarded from the standpoint of 1874, when the extent of territory governed by the King was vast as compared with the size of his territory at the present time. Before this, Ashanti power had not suffered any serious check, and they not unnaturally considered themselves invincible. This was also the dominant feeling amongst their neighbours.

2. The destruction of Kumassi by Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley was followed by many outlying provinces refusing to own allegiance to the King. Some of these have been absorbed into the Protectorate. The affairs of the country continued in an unsettled state until Prempe was placed on the Stool in preference to a rival claimant—Acheri Boanda. These would-be Kings were sons of sisters, of whom, in accordance with the universal opinion of those questioned in the matter, Acheri Boanda's mother was superior, and therefore her son had a prior claim to the Stool in accordance with native custom.

3. Prempe's accession led to dissatisfaction among many of the principal Kings. Notably among these were the Kings of Kokofu, Juabin, and Mampon. Prempe was successful against them in his wars. The Kings of Kokofu and Mampon were driven out of the country and Juabin was defeated. Many important Chiefs have sought refuge beyond the borders of the country, and, in common with those who remained, are in hopes (somewhat faint now) that peace and order will be restored to the country by the Government of this country.

4. The late war against Koranza was entered upon with two objects: First, to force the King of that country to submit himself to Prempe, and, secondly, to regain control of the trade of that region inhabited by the Brong tribes. Attabubu is included among these. The principal supply of slaves, cattle, sheep, and cloths enters Ashanti through the Brong territories, for which kola nuts are exchanged. There is no reason to doubt that Prempe—notwithstanding his assertions to the contrary—would have permitted his army, flushed with success, to enter Attabubu and also to attack the Wiasis and Basas, and in all probability the Kwahus and Ashanti-Akims, had the Government not interfered.

5. Prempe, on learning that a force of Hausas was advancing on Abetifi, at once withdrew his army from Koranza, allowed the men to depart to their homes, and afterwards made no preparations to resist a possible march on Kumassi.

6. Prempe succeeded in raising an army to attack Koranza, because the Chiefs to whom application was made were afraid to refuse lest they would be afterwards punished. Even Yaw Sapon, King of Juabin, sent a few men, and it was well known that he, with all his people, is very eager to be brought into the Protectorate. This is the case also with the people of Insuta, Assikori, Kumahu, and in a great measure throughout Mampon.

7. Were the people of these territories assured that in future Kumassi is to be controlled by this Government, Prempe would be powerless to raise an army, even were he disposed to try conclusions with force of arms. He well knows what the ultimate result would be in any case, and that any attempt at resistance would cost him his Stool, and as a consequence he would elect to come into the Protectorate, retaining his Stool, rather than fight and lose it.

8. As a means of preventing a possible union of the Kings under a popular head, thus creating an element of danger, it is considered that the refugee Kings should be restored and that each should be made directly responsible to the Government for peace within their several territories, and that the power of the Ashanti Stool should be confined to the province of Kumassi alone.

9. The early acquisition of Ashanti is of paramount importance to this Colony; the central position occupied by her enables the King to exercise much control over the trade to the coast. The country would settle down, traders would enter it in confidence, and the opening of a direct road through Kumassi to Kuntampo would afford an easy means of reaching the coast from the interior.

J. IRVINE LANG,
Capt., R.E.

Christiansborg, April 13, 1894.

Enclosure 4 in No. 100

Mr. VROOM to the GOVERNOR.

MEMORANDUM.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

THE Ashantis have been, and they will always be, the lion in the path to the moral, social, and commercial advancement of the Gold Coast Colony unless the Government now faces the Ashanti question with a firm and strong hand.

2. The elevation and culture of the Gold Coast people, contemplated and undertaken by the Portuguese, Dutch, and English since the 13th century, as your Excellency knows, remained at a very low ebb until after the war of 1874, because the Ashantis had possession of our hinterland, and kept it closed against civilization, Christianity, and commerce. Let the Kings of Ashanti have their own way and you will see the country further up shut against us directly.

3. From time immemorial the Ashantis have been known as a warlike and barbarous nation, their Kings as tyrannical and cruel, exercising the grossest tyranny, ordering decapitations on the slightest or no pretence, imposing enormous and unjust fines upon their subjects.

4. The Kings of Ashanti are as cruel, inhuman, and barbarous in our own times as in times gone by. They live by making wars on the weaker tribes. In Ashanti, a human being is almost on the same level with a brute; to avert some imaginary calamity, man is sacrificed; man is killed to honour the dead; man is even killed to satisfy individual caprices. *It is not an uncommon thing to sacrifice 200 to 400 persons or more when a King dies.*

5. In 1824, Sir Charles Macarthy resolved to crush the Ashanti power and set free the people so cruelly oppressed; that power, however, remained until 1874. With the fall of Kumasi, we found the Ashantis, who had so long groaned under the cruel and tyrannical rule of their Kings, showing a desire for more freedom and a better form of Government which would free them from despotism.

Adansi declared its independence in 1874. Juabin revolted, I think, in 1878. Between 1874 and 1878, Aowin, Gaman, Sefwhi, Kwahu, Krepi Salaga, and other countries extending eastwards to the Dahoman frontier, and which were either dependent or feudatory to the Kings of Ashanti, also revolted and declared their independence. These countries looked to the Power who crushed Ashanti for protection. British prestige was respected in all these countries.

6. England did not wish to increase her responsibilities on the Gold Coast. She did not annex Ashanti, as was expected, in 1874. She was content with the Treaty signed at Pomana on the 13th February, and which has since then become virtually a dead letter.

7. In 1881, troubles broke out again with Ashanti, which might have ended seriously had your Excellency not checked them by the action you promptly took. Ashanti was let off again with a small payment of money.

8. From 1881, the provincial Kings and Chiefs of Ashanti became more and more dissatisfied with the Ashanti rule. In 1883, the tributary Kings of Bekwai, Kokofu, Daniasi, Kwanta, and other places stated their determination not to submit again to the tyrannical rule of the Kings of Ashanti. They sought British protection to avert interruption of trade as well as extensive and horrible bloodshedding which must follow internecine wars. The Government was averse to the disintegration of the Ashanti Kingdom, refused its protection to these countries unless they remove to the Protectorate, but expended large sums of money on expeditions to Ashanti to patch up matters.

9. In 1884, another opportunity was given to the Government voluntarily by the people themselves to deal with the question finally, either by annexing Ashanti, or by placing a British agent in Kumasi. I refer to the trouble of the "Stool of Ashanti."

10. The Chiefs and Elders of Ashanti placed virtually the country under British protection when in their hour of trouble they sought the intervention of this Government to place a King on the Stool of Ashanti. In placing a King on their "Stool," they gave us then the right to instruct them, and require them to accept our terms and conditions for their future guidance and government. Without our interference, there would be no King now on the "Stool," and Ashanti Kingdom would be nowhere. In this matter, again, the Government played at cross purposes, and in 1888 we found Prempeh enstooled with our assistance as Kwaku Dua III.

11. No doubt Kwaku Dua III. made the most solemn promises to rule Ashanti in accordance with the advice and wishes of this Government. If so, he did not remain faithful to his promises.

In 1892 we found the Ashanti army encamped against Nkoranza on a frivolous pretext. The Government was not consulted in the affair, because there was something behind the scene. The Nkoranza war was spreading itself to Atabubu in the Protectorate when its advance was checked by the despatch of the troops sent there under Sir Francis Scott.

12. The Kings of Ashanti have always been false, as well as treacherous, in all their dealings with this Government. No reliance must be placed on the most solemn promises made by them. They would without remorse break their most solemn compact if it suit their purpose to do so.

13. Between 1841 and 1874 the Kings of Ashanti had signed more than one treaty with us. These treaties were broken before the ink was dry on the paper on which they were written.

14. The public opinion throughout the Colony is that the Government has been temporising long enough with the affairs of Ashanti, and that the time has now come to take up the matter firmly and decisively in hand and settle them once for all.

15. If England has no wish to annex Ashanti—a policy which will ensure permanent peace, the opening up of the *hinterland*, and the development of its vast resources, and increase of commerce—she should also not be in the way to prevent its disintegration. I think Her Majesty's Government should not deny protection to those countries who, smarting under the rule of cruel and despotic kings, apply to her for protection.

16. In conclusion, I would venture to submit that in the interest of prudence, economy, and humanity, Ashanti must be annexed at any cost. *This is a question the Government will have to face sooner or later. I think this is the proper time and opportunity to do it, or we shall regret our short-sighted policy.* Speaking from my own experience, and from mixing with and hearing them discuss this question, I can say with certainty that every native in this Colony, and every resident European, would cordially endorse the views and suggestions contained in this paper if they were consulted upon them, and the Government could rely upon the fullest support the people of the *Accra, Fanti, and other nations in the Colony and Protectorate could afford to give it.*

Gold Coast Colony,
April 30, 1894.

H. VROOM,
District Commissioner.

Enclosure 5 in No. 100.

MEMORANDUM as to the Policy to be adopted towards ASHANTI.

First, it will be well to trace the history of the policy of the last few years.

From 1881 (not to go back further) the policy of the British Government has been to treat Ashanti as a friendly allied state. On the other hand, Ashanti appears to have regarded the British Government as somewhat more than an ally, and has looked to this Government to assist it in setting a King on the Stool.

2. In 1887-8, the appointment of a permanent resident at Kumasi was pressed on the Government. The Government did not see its way to this appointment, and the policy was laid down that officers should visit Kumasi as frequently as officers could be spared.

3. Early in 1888, a new King, Prempeh-Kwaku Dua III., was enstooled, and the Government was in hope that he would be able to keep Ashanti from disorder. In that hope the attitude of the Government was one of "friendship and goodwill, but at the same time of great caution and careful abstinence from any undue interest in the affairs of Ashanti." (April 1888.)

3A. Later on in the same year (July 1888) the policy of the Government, as set forth by Sir W. Brandford Griffith, was to promote the recovery of the Ashantis "from the state of apprehension, perplexity, friction, and embarrassment which has been their chronic condition for some years past, and gain confidence in their unity and learn to be self-reliant." This policy was endorsed by the Secretary of State in September 1888.

4. Meanwhile, the Kokofus, one of the Ashanti tribes, had been defeated by the Bekwais and Kumasis and driven into the Protectorate, where they were located.

5. In December 1888, Inspector Akers, as the result of his travelling commissioner-ship, made a report, in which he laid stress on the unsettled state of Ashanti, and suggested as a remedy the appointment of a special commissioner to that country.

6. In forwarding this report to the Governor, the Secretary of State, whilst disclaiming any intention of annexing Ashanti or placing it under British protection, pointed out certain advantages to be derived from a resident at Kumasi, and advocated "strong and firm friendly relations" with that country.

7. In November 1889, the Acting Governor sent to the King of Ashanti stating that the Mampons had asked to be located in the Protectorate, and warning the King not to interfere with the Kwahus, who were under British protection.

8. In December 1889, the King answered the Acting Governor in a tone more independent and uncompromising than was consistent with the former relations between the Government and the Ashantis, and, further, despatched a letter to the Secretary of State.

9. In July 1890, the King sent down a mission to the Governor to request that the various Ashantis who had been located in the Protectorate might be sent back to Ashanti. At first the mission took the line that the Governor by not coming to meet them had failed to treat them with courtesy, but when shown that they failed to meet the Governor they changed their tone.

10. In reply to this mission, the Governor wrote to the King that the Ashantis in the Protectorate might return if they so wished. In his letter the Governor made a point of insisting on the respect due to him from the King, using more peremptory language than heretofore.

11. The King replied in a tone very different from that used in December 1889, admitting that he had many "proofs" of the "goodwill" of the Government and of its "desire to promote the interest and peace of (his) Ashanti Kingdom."

12. The result of this mission was that officers were sent to the Kokofus and Dadiassies to enquire whether they desired to return to Ashanti. The Kokofus decided to return, but, as they appeared to be under the impression that they would return under British protection, it was made clear to them that the Government did not propose to do anything further than permit them to return to Ashanti.

13. Meanwhile it came to the knowledge of the Government that the Ashanti Juabins desired to enter into the Protectorate. Further, the Bekwais were found anxious to have British protection. Furthermore, the Adansi Road—the high road into Ashanti, which the Ashantis were by the treaty of Fomana bound to keep in order—was becoming bush. Further, the disorder which the Government had hoped in 1888 would be put down was as rife as ever, and Ashanti appeared to be falling into decay. In these circumstances, the Governor decided on a change of policy, and, without consulting the Secretary of State, entered into negotiations with the King for Ashanti to come under British protection.

14. The King of Ashanti refused the proffered treaty (May 1891), stating in his letter of reply to Sir Brandford Griffith, "*I am happy to say we have arrived at this conclusion, that my Kingdom of Ashanti will never commit itself to any such policy. Ashanti must remain independent as of old, at the same time to be friendly with all white men.*" He also stated, "*Believe me, Governor, I am happy to inform you that the cause of Ashanti is progressing, and that there is no reason for any Ashanti man to feel alarm at the prospects, or to believe for a single instant that our cause has been driving back by the events of past hostilities.*"

15. Mr. Hull, who had been sent to the King of Kumasi with a letter advising him to come into the Protectorate, visited Akyikyesu in Western Akim in January 1891, when the Kokofus Princess, who was located there with King Asibi and other people, called upon him at night, a time the Africans prefer for the discussion of particular business, and in the course of her conversation, just before she left, remarked to him: "If the Governor would send a white officer to reside at Kumasi and help the King they all knew that it would be a good thing for Ashanti;" but she added, "not too many white officers. We do not want too many white men in Ashanti." In this connexion, Sir Brandford Griffith remarks "that Chief Odonkor, of Pong, the interpreter to Mr. Hull's mission, told him that, in conversation with Ashantis at Kumasi with regard to the proposal that they should receive British protection, well informed people stated to him that the authorities strongly objected to having a commissioner resident at Kumasi, 'as then there would be two kings there instead of one.'" "In these two statements," the Governor observes, "I think the reason may be discovered why the Ashantis refused to accept the proposal placed before them in my letter to their King."

16. The Governor then advocated a policy of non-interference with Ashanti, but that the Government should at the same time be prepared to prevent any contemplated action on the part of the Ashantis to work injury to the Gold Coast Colony.

17. Within a few months (October 1891) Ashanti was preparing for further internal struggles. The Kokofus were collecting arms and ammunition, preparatory to returning to Ashanti, whilst the Bekwais were preparing to protect themselves from the Kokofus. The Djabins were waiting to see with which side they should ally themselves.

18. The Kokofus not having yet returned to Ashanti, the King, towards the latter end of 1892, made an expedition against Nkoranza, one of his states containing the important trade centre of Kontempo. The Nkoranzas thereupon applied to be taken under British protection, but the Government refused to take them, as Nkoranza was under Ashanti rule.

19. In September 1893 information was received by the Government that the Ashantis intended to attack Attabubu, as it was alleged that it had given assistance to Nkoranzas. Attabubu was under British protection, but it was stated that the Ashantis thought we should take no steps to hinder their design, as we did nothing when they drove the Adansis out of Adansi.

20. Prompt steps were taken to send a force of about 350 Hausas to protect Attabubu from the Ashantis. This had the desired effect, and the Ashantis repudiated having entertained any designs against Attabubu.

21. At present, it appears that there is a general feeling in Government, native, and commercial circles that Ashanti might be taken without a blow. The question for consideration and decision is, What policy should the Gold Coast Government adopt in the circumstances described?

22. It would appear to be neither humane nor politic to continue the policy of non-intervention. It has had a fair trial and has not succeeded, and further non-intervention will mean constant interference with the trade of the Gold Coast, frequent costly missions to Ashanti, a never-ending state of disorder in that country, one district flying at another's throat, or Kumasi and other districts warring against a recalcitrant state. Bloodshed and disorder has been our experience of non-intervention, and will continue to be the result of non-intervention. A further result of non-intervention will be loss of influence which might be exercised for good.

23. It is needless to consider rebuilding Ashanti so as to make it independent and self-reliant. That would require a military organisation, which would be used against us and our protected states. Indeed, we cannot suffer Ashanti to remain independent of us, as it commands our trade routes; and our previous relations with it entitle us to take this position, while we cannot with safety to the peace of the Protectorate permit Ashanti to continue to occupy the position of a country in a state, more or less, of antagonism to the interests of this Colony, whilst its barbarous and cruel customs are a disgrace to, and an outrage upon, humanity, and all parties in the Colony are unanimous in the opinion that we must not aid Ashanti to attain to any part of its old position of dominance.

24. I am convinced that by far the best solution would be to include the several tribes forming the Ashanti combination in the protected territories, and this could be accomplished practically by annexing its several sections in detail, or by at once asserting our power over the whole country. And it seems to me that the last will be the most sagacious and least troublesome course to take.

25. The present state of things cannot be permitted to continue, and, in default of our determining to take over the whole of Ashanti at once, I repeat, I am of opinion, that the best course to pursue would be to accept the offer of any of its tribes to come under our protection, and I will proceed to show that circumstances and events justify this course.

26. After the Treaty of Fomana, by which Ashanti lost the Adansis, the Kwahus threw off the yoke of Kumasi and subsequently came under British protection. The Juabins followed suit but, becoming involved in war with Kumasi and being defeated, the greater part of them came into the protected territories. Then the Kokofus and Dadiassies, being also defeated by the Kumasi and Bekwais, came into the protected territories, but before these occurrences Gaman also had thrown off its allegiance to Kumasi. Quite lately, Nkoranza strove in vain to make itself independent. From our experience of Ashanti we know that as soon as any Chief thinks himself able to do so he forthwith sets himself up as independent, and thereupon Ashanti ranges itself into two camps, one in favour of such Chief, and the other for the authority of Kumasi.

27. Their union in arms was the only bond which formerly held together the various Ashanti tribes. As long as they had a common enemy, viz., the Fantis, or the

Denkerahs, or one or other of the tribes now under British protection, they were able to keep together. But now things are changed. All their former foes are under British protection. The bond which formerly bound them together no longer exists, and it is contrary to experience to expect them to hold together. It must be remembered that they have no special language, or dress, or habits, or religion; they are practically the same in language, dress, habits, and religion as the Accras, Fantis, Denkerahs, Assins, and other tribes in the protected territories, except that the Accras speak a language of their own.

28. Ashanti is no longer the more or less compact state that it was. After 20 years earnest endeavour on our part to make it at unity with itself, and self-reliant, it is nothing but a few tribes with difficulty held together by the power and the recollection of the former influence of Kumasi, each tribe biding its time to become independent.

29. Probably if any tribe merely declared its independence, the Kumasi authorities would take no heed and suffer it to go its way. But as such a declaration is invariably accompanied by insulting messages and murder of messengers, war is bound to follow.

30. In these circumstances, I am of opinion that it will be false policy to continue to treat Ashanti as a compact state. We should recognise the fact that it is only composed of a bundle of states kept together by no common interest, but which by their internal wars and intrigues menace the interests and the security of the trade of the protected territories. I would, therefore, submit for consideration the adoption of either of two lines of action with regard to Ashanti; first, the policy of accepting any advances from any of these tribes, and if they ask to be taken under our protection I consider it would then be our duty to extend it to them; and as to the second line of action, where no such offers were made, then we should exercise our power, and compel obedience to it by bringing recalcitrant tribes under our supreme control.

31. Should we decide upon either of the lines of action stated, I think due notice of the change of attitude of the Government ought without delay to be given to the King of Ashanti. For 20 years we have striven loyally and earnestly to prop up Ashanti, but all to no purpose. Ashanti is now practically in a state of disintegration, and to any tribe who seeks it we should grant our protection as a preliminary course of procedure; but I am most strongly of opinion that the wisest, safest, most prudent and inexpensive course of action will be to pursue a resolute policy, and if the sections of Ashanti which are still independent of the Gold Coast decline to accept its rule they should be compelled to do so.

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
October 25, 1894.

W. B. G.

The ASHANTIS in the WESTERN PROTECTORATE to the GOVERNOR.

SIR,

Cape Coast, October 1, 1894.

WE, the Ashantis who have ran to this Gold Coast Protectorate and met safety under your protection, beg most respectfully to bring to your Excellency's notice, through some educated class in this town, certain facts which have recently taken place in Ashanti.

It is rumoured here amongst us from Ashantee that King Prempe will shortly send his Captain Quacoo Fokoo with 1,000 perigwans of gold, perigwan is equal to *St.* 2s. sterling cash, to your Excellency, so that your Excellency may send away all Ashantis in the Gold Coast Colony under your Excellency's protection to him, Prempe, thief King of Ashanti. If this rumour be true, we will all kill ourselves rather than to be delivered up into the hands of that tyrant, murderer, cruel, and thief King. All we pray for is that your Excellency may naturalise us as belonging to the Colony and the good Queen your Excellency represent. We beg to bring to your Excellency's notice that about month August this year thief King Prempe was installed at Bantama in Coomassie, the capital of Ashanti, where the late thief Kings are buried, and within the two months 400 human beings were killed, including men, women, boys, and girls. He swore his great oath that if he gets us by cunning and stratagem he will kill all of us without mercy, because we rebelled against the thief King of Ashanti. Anseh, son of late Prince John Owoosoo Anseh, a native of Cape Coast, whose mother's maiden name is Sarah Boxell, who gives him all advices touching the English Government and the Gold Coast and his chief counsellor in all his atrocities, because his father's house was sold to Catholics for his debt, and he is rebelled against the English Government. The King of Ashanti is nothing at all now, he is but a mere name, is not more than

any of the Gold Coast Chiefs, but, being six days' journey from Cape Coast, he thinks himself secured and boasted himself. All his subordinate towns deserted him, and they are in the Protectorate, such as Jabbin, Kokofoo, Adansie, Fijassie, Assokolie, and Coomassie, the capital, which is not half so big and populous as Cape Coast. He only has under him Guissue and Finsue, which are but poor, insignificant, desolated places. All neighbouring countries around Ashanti are against Ashanti, and they joined to the Gold Coast as far inland as 20 to 40 days' journey from Gold Coast.

We can assure you your Excellency can take Ashanti with mere words, not a fight. They stand in dread of the English Government. You can bring the King here under a summons if your Excellency choose. That Ashanti and its thief King is not an independent place but dependent upon Cape Coast Castle from time immemorial, so it must be annexed to Gold Coast Colony at all event. They can never be the subject of any other European nation whatever if they attempt to do so. We give your Excellency an instance. In the year 1831, late King Quacoe Duah of Ashanti, by command of his Excellency Governor George Maclean, sent his Princess Arkianwah and Chief Quarquah to deposit ozs. 600, six hundred ounces, gold dust in Cape Coast Castle for three years for future good conduct, in conjunction with Princes Quantamissah and Owosoo Anshah as hostages, and at the expiration of that term that King did not break the peace the ozs. 600 was refunded to him by Governor Maclean.

In 1822, Governor Sir Charles Macarthy was going to punish King Ossay Yarwoo, but the iniquity of that King was not yet full, he escaped unhurt. Governor Macarthy lost his life; the King at last at Accra narrowly escaped, and lost most of his property and Princesses at Accra. In 1852, during the government of Governor Stephen John Hill, the King of Ashanti was repulsed while attempting to rob Chibboo and Gabill, two Assin Chiefs.

In 1863, under Governor Colonel Edward Conran, the British troops were marching to River Prah, and as the King of Ashanti's iniquity is not yet full the troops were withdrawn.

In 1873, the Ashanti King's iniquity was over full, the sword must depart there, the King Kofi Kalkali thrown it into the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Coast, Elmina, just as Pharaoh of old thrown his sceptre into the Red Sea.

The fifty thousand ounces, ozs. 50,000, which his Excellency Sir Garnet Joseph Wolsley levied on Kofi Kalkali and his successors of Ashanti, who ran away before his Excellency like a rat before a cat, was not paid yet up to now. It is a debt owed by Ashanti Kings thieves Kofi Kalkali and successors to Her most glorious Majesty Queen Victoria, the best of all Sovereigns on earth.

Prempe, thief King of Ashanti, about a month ago sent his messengers to insinuate Saiwhees to his side. This district is joined to Gold Coast. The Wesleyan missionaries at Cape Coast have schools there. Nearly two years ago, Prempe, thief King of Ashanti, now poor rat, sent his executioners and gold manufacturers to Cape Coast, the name of whom is Ossay Quacoe; they brought brass and copper rods, and with mixture of one ounce good gold they manufactured into four ounces, and with that nearly ruined the firm of Messrs. F. and A. Swanzy, of London, whom Honourable C. W. Burnett was their agent. That Ossay Quacoe is still living at Cape Coast in a house surrounded by thick bush at the foot of Fort Victoria. Prempe is an inveterate enemy to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Ossay Quacoe, his executioner and his manufacturer of bad gold, was sent by Prempe to spy Cape Coast and sent him reports every day. So drive away this murderer Ossay Quacoe and his accomplices from Cape Coast so that the town may free from bad gold. It is a wise and safe plan that your Excellency condemned gold dust in the Customs Department.

Cape Coast Castle, the town into which the Ashanti sword was thrown or taken by his Excellency Governor Sir Garnet Joseph Wolsley, is the capital and chief seat of the British Empire on the Gold Coast Colony. What is an African (like these places) Kings? A poorest Englishman is wealthier than 1,000 of them; an Englishman's pair of trowsers is more valuable than their state appearance in full costume.

Your Excellency, Sir William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G., in perpetuation of your Excellency's name throughout rising generations on Gold Coast Colony henceforth and for ever, may include Garman, Takiman, Koranza, Ashanti, Saiwhae, &c., &c., &c., all in the Gold Coast Colony, as they were all situated to the eastward of River Assinie, the boundary, and they were all related to the Fantees, one nation, one tribe, and one family, from these the Fantees proper on the Gold Coast flowed into the coast and settled. We pray your Excellency may take our petition into serious deep consideration and deliver the country from the hands of those useless, numberless, murderous, thieves, devils, heathens, and self-made Kings, who do not at all allow the

progress of the Gospel of our Lord to have its free course and evangelise and civilise the native population.

May Almighty God in His infinite mercy assist your Excellency in these arduous labours and undertakings are the earnest prayers of us, you well-wisher, obedient and humble servants,

The Ashantis in this Western Protectorate
and the Natives hereof.

His Excellency
Sir William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
Governor-in-Chief,
Gold Coast Colony, Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 6 in No. 100.

MEMORANDUM by MR. VROOM.

From Cape Coast, or Elmina, Kumasi could be reached by—

a. Denkera <i>via</i> Sefwhi Awiansu	-	-	-	-	9 days
b. „ „ Ayenfuri	-	-	-	-	7 „
c. Assin „ Prahsu	-	-	-	-	8 „

The road in Denkera is kept fairly in good order up to Boasi. It is not hilly and is easily traversed. There are convenient halting places. The country is well supplied with water in dry season, and food plentiful. Beyond Boasi it is a mere hunter's track lying through a dense forest, with few villages very far between. There are numerous streams to be crossed, many of which are impassable after a heavy rain. Food scarce. On account of these drawbacks, traders seldom use this road.

The Assin road is the one much used by traders. From Cape Coast to Prahsu, about 75 to 80 miles, the road is kept fairly clear and in good condition. Many of the streams are bridged and ferries exist where bridges are wanted. Like the Denkera road, it also has convenient halting places. The villages are not far between. There is plenty of food and water on this road.

Crossing River Prah the road becomes very difficult in the rain season. It is swampy and dangerous owing to the sudden and rapid rise of the small rivers and streams, and which have neither bridges nor ferries. The road is also obstructed by fallen trees. These obstacles, however, are greatly diminished in the dry season, and with little outlay of money it can be made easy in a short time. In 1874, about 40 miles of this part of Ashanti road was cleared by our troops. Its traces might still be seen; unfortunately it was not kept up by the Adansis. The Assin road appears to me to be the best to reach Kumasi in dry season when troops could go up with little or no trouble.

There is only one hill of note on this road, *i.e.*, the Kwisa Hill.

There are other roads to reach Kumasi from Akim and Ashanti Akim. I have never been over these roads so as to be able to give any information respecting them.

H. VROOM, D.C.

3rd May 1894.

No. 101.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received November 28, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 103.]

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,

November 3, 1894.

MY LORD,

REFERRING to your Lordship's Despatch of the 31st August,* in which it is stated that your attention had been called to the conduct of the Hausa Constabulary in Kwahu, who, although in a friendly country and in the Protectorate, were very often stealing sheep and plundering the poor inhabitants, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a communication from Captain Davidson-Houston, the officer commanding the detachment of Constabulary in Kwahu, in which,

as your Lordship will observe, a complete denial is given to the statements which have been made to you with regard to the conduct of the Hausas in that district.

2. I am not personally acquainted with Captain Davidson-Houston, but, judging from what I have seen of his correspondence and from what I have heard of the able, energetic, and careful way in which he discharges his duty, I feel sure that he is not an officer who would allow any men under his charge to be guilty of such conduct as that imputed to them by Mr. Ramseyer's correspondent.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 101.

Captain W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON to the ACTING INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

SIR,

Amanforo Kwahu, October 16, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the Officer Commanding Hausas, Accra, forwarded to me by that officer, enclosing a copy of a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary, with reference to a statement made to the Secretary of State, regarding the conduct of the Hausas in Kwahu, and beg to inform you, for his Excellency's information, that there is no foundation whatever for the assertion that the Hausa Constabulary "are very often stealing sheep and plundering the poor inhabitants."

2. How such a statement came to be made to the Marquess of Ripon, I cannot understand as neither the King nor any of the Chiefs in Kwahu have at any time complained to me of sheep stealing or plundering by the Hausas, so that such a charge against the men under my command is totally groundless.

3. Only on two occasions has any question arisen regarding sheep, but in both of these instances it was not a case of stealing, but a dispute as to the price. When the matter was reported to me, I at once sent for the owners and the Hausas concerned, and determined the prices myself, certainly to the satisfaction of the sellers, as the prices decided upon by me in both cases (12s. and 18s.) were in excess of the sum usually paid by the natives themselves, lest there might be any ill-feeling on the part of the inhabitants, and consequent difficulty in obtaining food in the future.

4. The second charge, that of "plundering the poor inhabitants," is quite as imaginative as the former, for during the six months of my command here I have only been appealed to three times on account of Hausas taking supplies without paying for them, and each time I made the men pay up in full for whatever they had taken.

5. I have repeatedly told the neighbouring Chiefs to report at once to me any irregularity of the soldiers in their towns, and with the above exceptions, all of a very trivial character, I have received no complaints during the periods mentioned.

6. I attach a copy of a circular letter I sent round immediately upon receipt of your letter to the King and Chiefs named therein, and their replies to the questions asked, lest they should have had any complaint against the Hausas of which they had not acquainted me. This letter, and the answers of the King and the 14 Head Chiefs of Kwahu, fully bears out what I have already stated.

7. It is to be regretted that such an erroneous statement should be made to the Secretary of State regarding the men here, whose conduct has been uniformly good since they have been stationed in Kwahu, and at a time when the relationship between soldiers and civilians was never more friendly.

I have, &c.

W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Captain,
Officer Commanding Kwahu Detachment, G.C.C.

Captain DAVIDSON-HOUSTON to the KING and CHIEFS.

KING or CHIEF,

Amanforo Kwahu, October 13, 1894.

I would be obliged to you if you would kindly tell me if any sheep have been stolen from your town or from your people by any Hausa soldiers under my command at any time, and, if so, how many, and about what date was such theft committed.

I am, &c.

W. B. DAVIDSON-HOUSTON, Captain,
Officer Commanding Kwahu Detachment, G.C.C.

To the King of Kwahu	No.	To the Chief of Little Ativi	No.
„ Chief of Nkwatia	„	„ Chief of Amanforo	„
„ Chief of Abetifi	„	„ Chief of Bepow	„
„ Chief of Aduamoa	„	„ Chief of Tafo	„
„ Chief of Obo	„	„ Chief of Papiase	„
„ Chief of Tweneduase	„	„ Chief of Mpreaso	„
„ Chief of Obomeng	„	„ Chief of Asakraka	„
„ Chief of Ativi	„		

No. 102.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.
(Sent November 30, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

(EXTRACT.)

In reply to your telegram of November 27,* inform King of Ashanti that Special Embassy will not be received here. Her Majesty the Queen can only communicate with him through Governor of Gold Coast, who is Queen's representative, to whom he should at once reply to message sent to him; in no case would she receive mission from a ruler who is accused, on apparently good grounds, of allowing human sacrifices.

No. 103.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.

SIR, Downing Street, December 3, 1894.
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch of 3rd November,† forwarding a report by Capt. Davidson-Houston on the allegations made by the Rev. F. Ramseyer of misconduct on the part of the Hausas in Kwahu.

I think this report fully exonerates the Hausas from the charges brought against them, and I have received it with satisfaction.

I have caused a copy of it to be communicated to Mr. Ramsyer.

I have, &c.
RIPON.

No. 104.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 6, 1894.)

(EXTRACT.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
November 8, 1894.

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 31st ultimo,‡ I have the honour to state that I have received reliable information that a mission from Ashanti with from 300 to 500 followers will arrive at Cape Coast about the middle of this month, and it is stated, that "the mission is to proceed to Great Britain." Of course this is absurd. It is probable that Prince Ansah alone will go to England, or he may be accompanied by one or two of the four Chiefs who are coming with him, two from Kumasi and two from Bekwai, as I have been informed.

I intend to leave Accra by the "Batanga" mail steamer on the 14th instant for Cape Coast, accompanied by Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Ashmore, to meet the expected messengers, and immediately upon receiving the message entrusted to them by the King of Kumasi for delivery to me I will communicate its purport to your Lordship by telegram.

I cannot, of course, forecast what your instructions to me may be with regard to your Lordship's possibly receiving Prince Ansah when he arrives in England. I think it may be assumed as a certainty that he will go there. Money has been collected in order

* No. 99.

† No. 101.

‡ No. 100.

to send him. He will certainly not lose the chance of going to England and making the very best of his holiday, and I would almost venture to predict, that having done so, he will take very good care not to return to Ashanti again, because if he did, it is not at all unlikely that he would be decapitated; or, as is the custom when members of the Royal family transgress, compelled to commit suicide, and therefore his interest will lie in the direction of keeping at a respectful distance from Kumasi in future, and in ultimately seeing Ashanti under the control of Great Britain; because, in that case, whatever his misdoings, and however bitter the Ashantis might in the end feel towards him for having deceived them, yet he would know that under British rule his head, at least, would be safe.

If this man goes to England I would with very great respect submit for your Lordship's consideration, looking to his antecedents, and to the circumstance that there can be no doubt that, being the principal adviser of the King of Kumasi, he has been accessory to the massacre of hundreds of unfortunate persons taken captives by the Ashantis, whether your Lordship should condescend to take any notice of him in the character in which he will present himself at the Colonial Office upon his arrival in England.

5. In connexion with the question generally of Ashanti, I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information copy of a letter from Captain Houston, dated the 30th October and received on the 6th November, to which I ask reference for what is stated in it relative to the murders committed on helpless people in Ashanti in celebration of death customs.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 104.

Capt. DAVIDSON HOUSTON to the GOVERNOR.

(EXTRACT.)

Amanforo, Kwahu, October 30, 1894.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, information that and, in compliance with the request therein, beg to acquaint you with the following I have lately received.

I hear that the Chief of Ofeso when sacrificing four people at his Uncle's death custom did so openly in the streets in full view of all his people.

During the late Kumassi custom a number of people (adults) and children, specially destined for the King's (Preme's) death custom were slaughtered.

It has been reported also that gold dust to the amount of 300 Peregaums (2,400l.), though some say 500, has been sent from Kumassi to your Excellency under the care of an interpreter named Kuaku Fuku, and two other linguists, whose names I did not learn.

No. 105.

THE REV. F. RAMSEYER to COLONIAL OFFICE.
(Received December 7, 1894.)

YOUR HONOUR,

(Undated.)

THIS morning I received from your Honour the information* which his Lordship the Marquess of Ripon so kindly directed to be sent to me with regard to the reported conduct of the Haussa soldiers in Kwahu.

Will you kindly express to his Lordship my sincerest thanks for this information, which shows me again with what great care matters concerning the welfare of the people of the Colony are dealt with.

After having heard the report of Captain Davidson-Houston, and having the privilege to know him personally as a man who certainly will use all his authority to avoid and redress all excess of the Haussa soldiers, I am very thankful to note that things have been exaggerated, if not always erroneous. I regret that my letter has led to this investigation, for in my information I had not so much in view to relate what people were saying concerning the behaviour of the Haussas as to report the excitement in which some of the tribes were, in having the Haussa soldiers so long among them and seeing

nevertheless, that no step had been taken to subdue their old oppressors and enemies, the Ashantees and Comassees, against whom the whole expedition from the beginning had been started. And I can understand their excitement when they say, "What shall become of us?" On one side the Hausas, on the other side the Comassee King, who is decoying the surrounding tribes and is boasting that he will soon recover his former power. Who knows the people can understand their excitement.

As I say, I know personally Captain Houston, and I believe in the sincerity of his report, which really appears to exonerate the Haussa soldiers of the charge; but I beg to remark that we missionaries, living among the people and understanding perfectly their language, do hear and see much more of what is going on than a Government officer through his interpreter. I am away from the country since soon eight months, and so I cannot judge personally of what is going on now; but last year I had several reports concerning acts of excess of the Haussas to bring before Colonel Scott, who, I am glad to say, was always ready to redress what could be proved. But all could not be proved, for the soldiers were wearing the same uniform, and who could bear witness? To show that an officer cannot see and hear all what we hear, I may be allowed to relate that last year, going to Bompata (Asante Akem), I met in the dense forest a procession of about 12 to 15 running-away slaves and, 400 steps further on, 2 to 3 Haussa soldiers, who had, it seems, decoyed them from their master and were going with them to the coast. When I spoke of it to the officer in charge of the Haussas at Bompata, he said that he would not allow such a thing and would make investigation, but, of course, the people before reaching the coast had been scattered in all directions and proof was very difficult to get. Of course I was, on one side, glad to see these poor slaves become free (if they got free at all?), but, on the other side, I could understand the excitement of those masters.

As I say, I am thankful to hear from Captain Houston, whom I esteem very much, and of whom our missionaries speak as of a friend, that the reports have been exaggerated, but you will understand that our missionaries, living among the people, must lend a kind ear to what they say, but, nevertheless, I will beg them to be careful.

There is one way to bring peace, good understanding, and welfare in the country, that is, to make Coomassie, before which all the tribes are still trembling, powerless for ever, and an officer residing at Coomassie; may this day soon be at hand, I am longing for it, and, if possible, when we shall go back next year reach there.

I have, &c.

F. RAMSEYER.

No. 106.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

(Received December 13, 1894.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,

November 22, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 15th instant,* I have the honour to submit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter dated the 17th instant with enclosures addressed to me by Mr. Arthur Albert Ossoo Ansa, and of the reply which I have had sent to him.

2. From a communication, dated the 18th instant, received from the clerk in charge at Prahsu, I learn that the messengers the King of Kumasi is sending to the Coast had travelled on their way about 30 miles from Kumasi.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 106.

Mr. ANSAH to the GOVERNOR.

Ashanti Embassy (Provisional),

Freemasons' Hall, Cape Coast Castle,

November 17, 1894.

SIR,

ON the 25th October, I received instructions from my Royal relative the King Quacoe Duah III. of Ashanti to join a selected number of important Chiefs, with my brother Prince John Ossoo Ansa at the head, to Her Britannic Majesty.

* No. 109 which was not received until two days after this despatch.

2. That I personally took over to the District Commissioner of Axim the bearer of these instructions, and who I duly informed of the object of his visit.

3. That I was instructed further to inquire, and I did so through the District Commissioner of Axim, whether it would meet your Excellency's convenience to receive these special ambassadors at Cape Coast Castle, as His Majesty the King is very desirous that we should have an interview with your Excellency before our departure for England.

4. That, acting on my instructions, I left Axim on the 9th instant, and arrived here in the s.s. "Ambriz" last Sunday morning.

5. That on the following day (Monday) I wired the District Commissioner of Axim informing him of my arrival, and ascertaining from him whether your Excellency was likely to be in Cape Coast; and although I prepaid for the reply, I did not get one from him. Mr. Supervisor Thompson, however, informing me yesterday that your Excellency was coming, and learning to-day that you have arrived, I have taken it as perhaps a response to the wishes of his Majesty; but it is very wildly rumoured that the Prince John Ossoo Anshah, the head of the Embassy to Her Britannic Majesty from the King of Ashanti, is threatened with deportation immediately he sets his foot on British soil, the charge alleged being that he is a British subject, and had been interfering in Ashantian politics. I have the honour to state most respectfully that, in consequence of these wild reports, I had communicated to the Press of this Colony certain facts for publication, copies of which I herewith submit for your Excellency's information.

6. The mission from the King to Her Britannic Majesty being one of a very pacific nature, I hope your Excellency will be graciously pleased to give me assurances for the information of the King and my colleagues that the reports as circulated are without foundation.

To His Excellency
Sir Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.

A. A. OSSOO ANSAH, P.

Mr. ANSAH to the EDITOR of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times."

Freemasons' Hall, Cape Coast Castle,

November 15, 1894.

SIR,

Now that public opinion is divided as to the relative position of my father, the late Prince John Ossoo Anshah of Ashanti, with the English Government, perhaps it would be interesting to your readers to know this as officially defined in a Despatch from Lord John Russell to President Maclean, a copy of which I enclose for publication, dated at Downing Street, 22nd March 1841.

You will see from this Despatch that his receipt of 100% allowance from Imperial funds did not make him a British subject, neither was he in any way bound to live in the Colony.

And I must here publicly state, and I say so on behalf of my brother John Ossoo Anshah, that never have we naturalized ourselves as British subjects, nor considered ourselves as such at any time.

To the Editor G. C. M. Times.

Yours, &c.

A. A. OSSOO-ANSAH, P.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 22.

HER MAJESTY'S Government, having taken into consideration the serious difficulty in which the young Princes Quantamissah and Anshah might be placed if, having no resources of their own, they should become entirely dependent on the King their relation, have determined to make to each of them an allowance of 100% which you are to consider yourself authorised to issue to them on condition, which you will explain to them, that they shall from time to time come from Ashanti to Cape Coast Castle to communicate personally with you or with the officer administering the affairs of the Castle.

You will issue these allowances half yearly or annually, as you shall judge most expedient, and reimburse yourself for each payment by a bill at 30 days' sight drawn upon Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to whom advice of

each such bill must be punctually sent, at the time of drawing, by a letter to this Department.

You will also take care to report to me from time to time your observations on the conduct of the Princes, until their allowances are discontinued by orders from home.

I have, &c.

J. RUSSELL.

Enclosure 2 in No. 106.

The GOVERNOR to MR. ANSAH.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
November 22, 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, in which you refer to a rumour that John Ossoo Anseh, the head of the Embassy to Her Britannic Majesty from the King of Ashanti, is threatened with deportation immediately he sets his foot on British soil, and ask for assurances that the reports are without foundation. In reply, I am directed by his Excellency to assure you that the reports are without foundation.

Mr. A. A. Ossoo-Anseh,
Cape Coast.

I remain, &c.

J. HALL,
Private Secretary.

No. 107.

H. LABOUCHERE, Esq., M.P., to FOREIGN OFFICE.
(Received December 15, 1894.)

[Answered by No. 110.]

5, Old Palace Yard, S.W.,
December 13, 1894.

MY LORD,

I HAVE received the following telegram this morning:—

“Cape Coast. We are eight in number, commissioned by our King to Her Britannic Majesty. Arrived here last Monday. Received by Governor Griffith in audience yesterday. Pray notify Foreign Office, and obtain Her Majesty’s permission for us to proceed to England. Reply for twenty words paid.

“Ashanti Ambassadors.”

I have replied: “Have written to Foreign Office, can do no more.”

I would venture to request your Lordship to inform me whether this permission will be given, and whether, in this case, you wish me to telegraph a reply in that sense.

I have, &c.

H. LABOUCHERE.

No. 108.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 15, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 112.]

Messengers arrived from Kumasi 10th December; official reception 12th December. They stated that King of Ashanti had sent them to inform me that all matters connected with King have been entrusted to Anseh, who is to go to Her Majesty the Queen accompanied by brother. On my asking whether they had brought King of Kumasi’s reply to Hodgson’s letter sent by Vroom, they stated that King of Ashanti thought that if he kept writing to Governor of Gold Coast that would not settle matters in dispute for ever. Mere letters would not settle matters, therefore King has sent Anseh to go on a mission to Her Majesty the Queen so that peace may be perpetually effected in Ashanti. I pointed out that the form of procedure the King was taking with regard to not sending reply to letter received from Vroom was treating with discourtesy and disrespect Her Majesty’s Representative. To this special messengers answered that King of Ashanti had treated with courtesy letter referred to because in answer to letter he is sending us to

Her Majesty the Queen. I reiterated that this statement did not in the least answer the purpose of a reply to my letter; that King was in duty bound to answer that letter to Her Majesty's Representative, the Governor of Gold Coast.

On 13th December I pointed out [to] special messengers that the subjects under consideration seriously affected Ashanti, and subsequently informed them that they would not be received in England; that Her Majesty the Queen could only communicate with King of Kumasi through Governor of Gold Coast, who is Her Majesty the Queen's Representative, to whom King of Kumasi should at once send reply to message sent to him, and that in no case would Her Majesty the Queen receive mission from a ruler who is accused, on apparently good grounds, of allowing human sacrifice. Special messengers appeared to be taken completely by surprise, and dissatisfied at message from Her Majesty's Government, and ask for time to give the matter full consideration. Meeting adjourned till 15th December.

No. 109.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 15, 1894.)

Government House, Christiansborg Castle, Accra,
November 15, 1894.†

MY LORD,

In continuation of my Despatch of the 8th of November,* I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter addressed by Mr. A. A. Ossoo Ansa, a petty trader at Axim, to the Commissioner of the Axim District, which I received on the 13th instant. The writer of the letter arrived at Cape Coast from Axim, by the "Ambriz," a few days ago. By the same mail by which I received his letter, a copy of the "Gold Coast Methodist Times" of the 31st of October was forwarded to me by the Commissioner of Cape Coast as it contained a "special telegram," which no doubt was sent by Mr. Ansa of Axim to the paper. I annex to this Despatch a slip I have cut from the paper containing the "special telegram."

2. have not taken any notice of Mr. Ansa's letter, but I intend leaving Accra by the "Batanga" for Cape Coast to-morrow, and on arrival there will make some provision for lodging the Chiefs who are coming from Kumasi.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 109.

Mr. ANSAH to District Commissioner Lox.

DEAR COMMISSIONER,

Axim, November 7, 1894.

I REQUEST that you will be good enough to inform his Excellency the Governor by wire, for I'll bear the cost thereof, if you so desire it, acting under the commands received from my royal relative the King of Ashanti, that an embassy, of which I am a member, is despatched for England from Coomassie direct to Her Britannic Majesty, and that same is to embark from Cape Coast Castle, but as His Majesty the King is very desirous that these envoys should have an interview with his Excellency before they finally leave the Coast for their destination, I am commanded further to here inquire, for His Majesty's information, whether it will meet his Excellency's convenience to receive these special envoys at Cape Coast Castle. That I am to add that the said special envoys will arrive at the above-mentioned port in the middle or towards the end of this month, and to mention that the embassy bring down a following of 300 to 500 attendants in state.

I have, &c.

T. N. Loy, Esq., B. L.,
District Commissioner, Axim.

A. A. OSSEO ANSAH, P.

* No. 104. † This despatch was received in Colonial Office two days after the one dated 15th November.

Enclosure 2 in No. 109.

EXTRACT from "THE GOLD COAST METHODIST TIMES" of October 31, 1894.

Prince Albert Arthur Osoo Ansah, having been commissioned by His Majesty King Quasoo Duah the Third of Ashanti to act as one of the special ambassadors to the Court of St. James, London, left this day by the steamship "Ambriz" for Cape Coast Castle to await the arrival of the rest of the envoys. It is stated that his elder brother, Prince John, who has been acting as Prime Minister to his royal relation for the past four years, is head of the mission. The embassy hopes to winter in England and, after completing their diplomatic mission to the British Court, they will probably visit other European capitals, notably Paris and the Hague. Prince John is expected at Cape Coast Castle middle of current month with a retinue of about five hundred, all told, and in grand state.—Special telegram.

No. 110.

SYDNEY BUXTON, Esq., M.P., to H. LABOUCHERE, Esq., M.P.

DEAR LABOUCHERE,

Downing Street, December 15, 1894.

THE Foreign Office have sent over to us (as Ashantee is in our Department) a letter of yours dated December 13th* in reference to a telegram you have received from "Ashanti Ambassadors."

The position is that the Queen cannot receive these persons. The King of Ashantee is now only the head of a tribe, and does not hold a position which would entitle him to send "ambassadors" to the Queen of England; neither are they the class of person whom the Queen could be asked to receive.

Further, there are ample and solid grounds for believing that the Ashantee King, Chiefs, and people still continue the practice of human sacrifice; on which ground alone his messengers could not be received here.

Besides all this, the questions that these messengers have come to discuss can be, and should be, as heretofore, treated on the spot by the Governor of the Gold Coast in consultation with the Secretary of State. Of course any representations which these messengers desire to make to Her Majesty's Government through the Governor of the Gold Coast will receive due consideration.

I may add that we have been in telegraphic communication with the Governor on the subject, and their application to you is, I presume, in consequence of their having been informed that they could not be received in England.

I write to you informally, instead of sending you an official reply, as it is easier thus to explain the position.

Yours very truly,

SYDNEY BUXTON.

No. 111.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 17, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 112.]

Referring to my telegram of 14th December,† at an interview with messengers arrived from Kumasi held in the afternoon 15th December, Ansah read from a paper as follows:—

As Ambassadors we have been simply commissioned to visit England and the above instructions we intend to carry out, although if we rightly remember, his Excellency had informed us that liberty and courtesy which are always accorded to British subjects will be denied to us.

In reply to inquiry whether, in the face of message received from Her Majesty's Government, are they intending to go on a mission to England previously to communicating all information respecting message to King of Kumasi, they replied that was

* No. 107.

† No. 108.

their intention. I pointed out they would not be received; under all the circumstances of the case, therefore, it would be of no use for them to go on a mission to England, and called attention to the gravity of question generally under discussion. This resulted in the Ansahs declaring that they would send messenger to King of Kumasi, and would wait for reply, but at the same time the Chiefs associated with them stated that they would not wait for return of their messenger with King's reply they anticipate.

Fully considering matter, I should not be surprised at their going immediately to England, for Ashantis cannot be depended on. Keeping in view that King of Kumasi has sent special messengers to Cape Coast Castle, I considered it desirable to first hear from them his answer to letter which had been sent by Vroom previous to informing them of your Lordship's telegram of 30th November,* but, with a view to King's clearly understanding position of affairs in order to his arriving at definite decision as to his course of action, and with the object of bringing matters to a climax, should your Lordship approve proposal, propose to send Vroom to King of Kumasi to require immediate reply, within a week after delivery to him of your Lordship's message, "yes" or "no" to conditions laid down in Hodgson's communication of 23rd February. I will await instructions from your Lordship whether or not Vroom is to be sent to King. Would you be good enough to reply by telegraph [if you] concur? My impression is that King will decline to give information, stating that this has been already done by his special messengers to Her Majesty the Queen, and that special messengers are to go to England.

No. 112.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.
(Sent 20th December.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

[Answered by No. 115.]

In answer to your telegrams of 14th December, 17th December,† messengers cannot be received. You should, therefore, forbid their going on to England. A European officer, accompanied by Vroom, should be sent to Kumasi to explain to King that his messengers have been stopped as in my telegram of 30th November, and he should be asked for definite answer to letter of 23rd February, and told that his independence will not be interfered with farther than is involved in conditions laid down in that letter, and that, if he rejects those terms, equally favourable ones may not be offered again.

No. 113.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON to SIR W. B. GRIFFITH.
(Sent December 20, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to my telegram of this date,‡ you will of course, while forbidding the Ashanti messengers to come to England, not make use of force to prevent them from doing so.

No. 114.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 26, 1894.)

Government House, Cape Coast Castle,
November 29, 1894.

MY LORD,

IN continuation of my Despatch of the 22nd November,§ I have the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of communications which have been addressed to me relative to the movements of the Ashantis. Your Lordship will observe the presumption of the King of Kumasi in sending messengers through

Yow Sapon of Juabin to the Juabins located at Korforduah in British territory. It will also be seen, on reference to the papers enclosed, that the so-termed "Embassy" has arrived within eight miles of the colonial station at Prahsu, but in view of the usual inertness of Ashantis I think that the "Embassy" is unlikely to arrive at Cape Coast in less than a week hence, or about the 6th of December, but it may be later.

I have, &c.

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Governor.

P.S.—30th November.—Since writing the foregoing I have this morning received from the Colonial Secretary at Accra a particular statement relative to the message sent from Kumassi to the Juabins, and transmit a copy of it attached to this Despatch.—
W. B. G.

Enclosure 1 in No. 114.

TELEGRAM received at 4.57 p.m. from COLONIAL SECRETARY, Accra,
21st November 1894.

Ambah Sewah brings intelligence that Yow Sapon sent messengers to Korforundua six days ago accompanied by two messengers arrived from Kumasi. The message from latter was delivered to Juabin Chiefs at Korfordua during absence of Ambah Sewah at Accra. Messengers state that they had been sent by Prempeh to tell all Juabins that Governor, Gold Coast, had been requested to send them back to their country, and that he (the) King of Kumasi wished to let them know so that they might be ready to go. Chiefs replied that they could do nothing in the matter and sent back messengers. They left for Kumasi *via* Konengo three days ago. I told Ambah Sewah and messengers from Juabin Chiefs that they had acted correctly with this exception, that you would have been better pleased if they had brought Kumasi messengers to Accra. I took opportunity to tell Juabins that treaties of friendship had been signed with Nkoranza and Brong tribes. I did so because contingent had been sent by Yow Sapon to fight with Kumasi last year against Nkoranzas.

Enclosure 2 in No. 114.

Mr. ANSAH to the GOVERNOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

MYSELF and colleagues consisting the Ashanti Embassy are now on the way to the coast to meet your Excellency; we, therefore, beg to inquire where it will be convenient to meet your Excellency, learning that your Excellency is at Cape Coast Castle at present.

Ashanti Embassy, Attobiasi,
November 25, 1894.

I have, &c.

JOHN OSSOO ANSAH,
of Ashanti, Head of Embassy.

To His Excellency
William Brandford Griffith, K.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.,
Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 3 in No. 114.

The PRIVATE SECRETARY to Mr. ANSAH.

Government House, Cape Coast Castle
November 28, 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed by Governor Sir William Brandford Griffith to state your Excellency has received a letter written and signed by you to the effect that your colleagues consisting of what you term an "Ashanti Embassy" are now on the way to the coast to meet the Governor, and inquiring where it will be convenient to receive it.

2. In reply I have to state that the Governor is at present at Cape Coast Castle, where he will grant an interview to the "Ashanti Embassy" when it arrives at Cape Coast.

3. His Excellency has deputed Mr. Commissioner Vroom to meet the "Embassy" at Prahsu and accompany it to Cape Coast.

Mr. John Ossoo Ansah,
Attobiasi.

I am, &c.
J. HALL,
Private Secretary.

Enclosure 4 in No. 114.

Princess Amba Sewa has come to Accra to report that messengers arrived from Yow Sapon of Juabin at Konforodua on the 15th November with two messengers from the King of Kumasi, named Kam Kam and Owàn, the former a sword-bearer, and the latter an elephant-tail bearer.

The Kumasi messengers stated that the King of Kumasi had sent them to inform all the Juabins that he has sent to the Governor of the Gold Coast asking him to allow the Juabins to return to Kumasi, and that he desired the Princess to be made aware of this. The Princess was absent from Konforodua at the time, but the Chiefs called a council and replied that they could do nothing, and requested them to go. They left Konforodua three days after their arrival, and returned to Konengo. No message was sent to King Yow Sapon.

Princess Amba Sewa states that she is under the impression that a similar message has been sent to the Kokofus.

I told Amba Sewa and the messengers from the Juabin Chiefs that they had acted correctly, excepting that the Governor would have been better pleased if they had brought down the Kumasi messengers to Accra with them. I took the opportunity of telling the Juabins that treaties of friendship had been signed with the Nkoranza and Brong tribes. I did so because Yow Sapon had sent a contingent to fight with the Ashantis against the Nkoranzas last year, the contingent being placed under the command of a son of the late Asafu Adjaye.

November 26, 1894.

F. M. H.

No. 115.

SIR W. B. GRIFFITH to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.
(Received December 28, 1894.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Referring to your telegram of December 21,* Stewart and Vroom started on December 24 to explain to King of Kumasi message received from your Lordship, and ask that he will give definite answer as soon as possible to letter sent by Vroom bearing date 23rd February, et cætera. Special mission has been instructed to use all despatch in performance of duty they have been entrusted with, but at the same time do not expect that they will be back for four weeks at least.

Sent Despatch on to-day by mail steamer "Benin."

* No. 112.