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2847. Do you know in what way the site was chosen?—It was originally taken possession of by an officer and a party of the African Corps, sent to the Gambia to seize some slave vessels which were in the river, and the officer who went there fixed on St. Mary's as a military post; and it was not supposed at that time that it ever would become a commercial settlement. The detachment remained upon the island for some time, and in 1816, when Goree and Senegal were given up to the French, the British merchants went one by one to St. Mary's, taking advantage of the protection of the detachment that was there, and built themselves wattle houses thatched with grass; when they found trade beginning to increase, and then they commenced one by one building themselves very comfortable stone houses, some of them very expensive.

2848. You have no reason to think that a better choice of a site could be made?—I do not know any better in the neighbourhood. I see that Dr. Madden recommends in preference Barra Point and Cape St. Mary's. Barra Point is itself dry, being a rock, but round it is swampy and low; there is no anchorage near it, and there is danger in landing with boats. Cape St. Mary's is still worse, because there is no water near it for a great distance; Cape St. Mary's may be very healthy because it stands high, but there is neither anchorage near it, nor is there any water to be got within a considerable distance, nor is there good landing near the place.

2849. Is the coast one much exposed to wind, so that good anchorage is of great importance?—Certainly; the tornadoes are very severe upon the coast.

2850. Do the tornadoes blow off shore, or on shore?—Off shore.

2851. Then they are not so dangerous as if they blew on shore?—No, I do not suppose they are.

2852. Will you state the increase which took place in the settlement during your connexion with it?—In 1816 there was nothing collected; in 1817 the duties collected on imports amounted to 283 *l*.

2853. Can you state of what nature the duties were?—There was two per cent. *ad valorem* on British goods imported, and I think six per cent. on foreign. In 1818 there was 1,754 *l*. collected; in 1819 there was 1,744 *l*. collected; in 1820 there was 2,073 *l*. collected; in 1821 there was 2,622 *l*. collected; in 1822 there was 3,532 *l*. collected; in 1823 there was 3,173 *l*. collected; in 1824 there was 2,329 *l*. collected; in 1825 there was 3,013 *l*. collected. I have not a statement further; but I am of opinion that the imports have been increasing since.

2854. Have you read Dr. Madden's Report, bearing upon the Gambia?—I have.

2855. Are there any points in it on which you wish to make observations?—Dr. Madden states in his report that Barra Point is low and swampy; and he also states that it would be an admirable situation for a commercial settlement.

2856. Mr. *Mitcalfe*.] Do you agree in that opinion?—Decidedly not.

2857. Mr. *Forster*.] Do you differ equally with him as respects Cape St. Mary's?—Equally; I differ entirely with him as to Cape St. Mary's.

2858. If the troops were removed to either of those points, would the buildings and stores at the Isle of St. Mary's be safe, or would you consider it necessary that the houses and stores of the merchants should follow the troops?—Decidedly; there would be no protection for them otherwise; you might as well have the troops at Blackheath as have them there, for any protection they could render to the merchants at St. Mary's.

2859. *Chairman*.] Have you any acquaintance with the effects which increased commercial intercourse with the English merchants have produced upon the habits or comforts of the African population?—I think it has had a very good effect, as the natives have become more industrious.

2860. Have you any facts to state in proof of that; have you seen any increased comfort in their houses, or in their dress?—In their dress, most decidedly. At the Gambias, when I first went there, if they had to come over to "make palaver," as they called it, they would have to go 20 or 30 miles to borrow a cloak to put on; and before I left they were all comfortably covered with good clothing.

2861. Did the slave trade increase or diminish during your connexion with the Gambia; was there any slave trade carried on in the immediate neighbourhood during your residence there?—Yes, there was a good deal carried on in the neighbourhood by the French, the Portuguese, and the Spaniards.

2862. Did it increase or diminish during your residence there?—I think it was upon the decrease.

2863. Did you perceive any effect of the British trade upon the slave trade, one way or the other?—I should think that it had some effect upon the slave trade, inasmuch as the chiefs being supplied with British goods, would not dispose of their slaves.

2864. You mean in consequence of their being able to get goods in exchange for the products of the country?—Yes; they then were not inclined to dispose of their slaves, and in that respect I think it had some effect upon the slave trade.

2865. Did you see that effect produced in any way in the neighbourhood?—I did not see it immediately in the neighbourhood, as there was no slave trade there, but I am aware that is the case in the rivers.

2866. You know that to be the fact?—I know it to be the fact.

2867. You mean that districts that used to furnish slaves had ceased to do so, in consequence of their being able to procure goods from the British merchants by barter?—Yes, in exchange for produce.

2868. Mr. Forster.] During the period of your service as Governor at the Gambia, was there a trade carried on with the Portuguese at the rivers and the settlements to leeward of your position there?—Yes.

2869. Did you feel it to be your duty, and was it your policy, to encourage and promote the trade with those settlements?—Certainly, I considered it my duty to encourage the trade and to protect the merchants interested, as far as lay in my power.

2870. At the same time, were you not aware that the slave trade was carried on at those rivers and at those settlements, as far as they had the power of carrying it on at that time?—I was perfectly aware of it.

2871. Did you receive any orders from Downing-street to forbid the merchants at Gambia from supplying those slave trading factories with goods?—None at all.

2872. Dr. Madden speaks in his report of the drainage of the streets of St. Mary's; have you any observations to make upon that subject?—That part of the island of St. Mary's on which the town of Bathurst is situated is perfectly capable of being drained and kept dry during the rainy season, if proper attention is paid to the embankment and the drainage.

2873. Dr. Madden says, on the authority of Mr. Missionary Fox, that it is by no means uncommon, in the rainy season, to see the natives travelling in canoes from house to house in the streets?—I think the reverend gentleman must have made a very great mistake, for I never saw anything of the kind during my residence in St. Mary's.

2874. Chairman.] Do you conceive it, from the level, to have been impossible?—I think it is impossible; I think no such thing ever took place.

2875. Mr. Forster.] You mean if the drainage and embankments were properly attended to?—Yes.

2876. Dr. Madden alludes to the embankments having given way in 1837; can you state when they were made?—They were made in 1824, with very great exertion, after finding out the best place to put them; canals were cut and sluice-gates put in the embankments. In a short time a road was made fit for a gig to run over, where before a man could not have walked.

2877. Chairman.] If the water is kept out by embankment, then without the embankment the tide would cause inundation?—The tide flows up in the centre of the island.

2878. Might not therefore a defect in the embankment have produced the circumstance that Mr. Fox alludes to?—It could not have produced that in the streets.

2879. Do you mean that the streets are above the level of any high tide?—Yes, sufficiently so to prevent a canoe from floating in them.

2880. Supposing the embankments were neglected, might that circumstance have happened?—No; if the tide had broken in I do not think it is possible that canoes could have gone in the streets of St. Mary.

2881. Are the streets above the level of the highest tides?—Yes, they are.

2882. Mr. Wilson Patten.] What is the object of the embankment?—To keep the parts dry where the tide would flow up.

2883. What is the height of the embankment?—The centre of the island is lower than high water, and the embankment and ridges at each side of the island

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are above the level of high water; the embankment is taken along on a level across from one side to the other of the ridges at the water-side.

2884. Is the top of the embankment higher than the level of the street?—Yes,

2885. Have you ever seen the water come nearly to the top of the embankment outside?—No, not to the top of the embankment.

2886. Not even in great floods and storms?—No.

2887. Mr. *Stuart Wortley*.] Are those embankments upon the edges of the streets?—No; the embankment goes right across the island, a considerable way from where the town is built.

2888. There is none in the town?—No.

2889. Mr. *G. W. Wood*.] Are the embankments higher than necessary for keeping out the sea?—Not higher than necessary.

2890. Mr. *Forster*.] Were you in the Gambia when the French took possession of the post of Albreder in 1819?—Yes.

2891. Were you of opinion then, and are you of opinion now, that the French had no claim to that settlement?—That was my opinion then, and it is my opinion still, that they had no right to that settlement.

2892. Mr. *G. W. Wood*.] Upon what do you found that opinion?—According to the treaty of 1783.

2893. Mr. *Forster*.] Did not you consider it a serious injury to the British trade in the Gambia; and did you, during your government, take any measures to exclude them from it?—I considered it a very serious injury to the merchants of the Gambia, and I prevented them from going up there for seven months, till it was decided by the Government at home.

2893*. During your government at the Gambia and Sierra Leone, from 1823 to 1833, was your attention ever drawn by the Colonial Office to the Act of the 5th of George the Fourth, passed in 1824; and were you ever directed to prevent British traders from having commercial dealings with slave factories on the coast, as being contrary to that Act?—No.

2894. Supposing that while you were encouraging the British trade to the Gambia with the Portuguese settlements at Bissao and at Cassamanza, a Colonial Office commissioner or a member of the African Civilization Society had looked in there for a few days, and told you you were acting as “a helpmate of the slave dealers,” what reply would you have made to such an accusation?—I am not exactly aware what reply I might have made at the time, but I think he would not have got a very civil answer; nor would his observation have altered my policy in any way whatever as to the encouragement of the British merchants.

2895. Is it within your knowledge that an individual who had failed in business, in connexion with the settlement of the Gambia, was subsequently appointed as Lieutenant-governor of that settlement?—Yes; I am aware of an individual who was a merchant at the Gambia, and failed there, and who was afterwards appointed Lieutenant-governor of the Gambia.

2896. How do you know that?—He called upon me, and showed his letter of appointment.

2897. Did he take possession of the government?—No.

2898. Do you know the reason why he did not?—I believe the merchants immediately connected with the affairs of the Gambia had a meeting, and they remonstrated with Lord Glenelg, and the appointment was cancelled.

2899. Mr. *Milnes*.] Do you think that the Government at home, who appointed him Lieutenant-governor, knew that he had failed there?—I am not aware that they did.

2900. As matter of time, could they have known it?—They could have known it, I suppose.

2901. Mr. *G. W. Wood*.] In what year was this individual appointed?—I think it was in 1838; I am not exactly certain what year it was in.

2902. What was the year of his failure in business?—I think in 1822 or 1823.

2903. Mr. *Milnes*.] What had he been doing in the meantime?—I cannot tell what he had been doing; he was in England, and I was in Africa.

2904. Mr. *Forster*.] Is it not within your knowledge that another individual, who had served as a clerk in a store at that settlement, was subsequently appointed Lieutenant-governor of the Gambia?—Yes, I knew a person that was.

2905. How did you know it?—He called upon me also, and showed me his letter of appointment.

2906. Are

2906. Are you not aware also that there were several merchants, with one of whom he had served as clerk, residing at the Gambia at that time?—Yes.

2907. *Chairman.*] Was any remonstrance made upon that occasion by the merchants against that appointment?—I understood so.

2908. Was the appointment cancelled?—Yes.

2909. *Mr. Wilson Patten.*] What length of time had elapsed between the time when he was serving in that store and the time when he got this appointment?—A great many years.

2910. How many?—I think the time I knew him in the store was in 1822, and I think his appointment to the government of the Gambia was subsequent to the one I mentioned before.

2911. Subsequently to 1838?—In that year, a very short time after the other.

2912. *Chairman.*] What situations had he filled in the interval?—After he went from the Gambia he went to Sierra Leone, and I believe he kept a retail store there some time; then he got to be a volunteer in the African Corps, and he subsequently got a commission in the regiment; he afterwards left that regiment and went to India, and afterwards, I think, he was in the 22d regiment, and sold out.

2913. What rank had he reached in the service before he sold out?—Captain.

2914. What situation had the other gentleman who had failed at the Gambia filled previously to his appointment?—I did not know him in any situation, but as a merchant.

2915. Had he continued a merchant after his failure?—I do not know; he left the coast of Africa; I am not aware how he was employed afterwards.

2916. You do not know what station he was filling in life at the time the appointment was made?—No.

2917. *Mr. Wilson Patten.*] Do you happen to know what the nature of the remonstrance to the Colonial Office was in either case?—No, I do not know what the nature of the remonstrance was.

2918. *Mr. Forster.*] Can you give any further information to the Committee relating to those appointments?—No further.

2919. *Chairman.*] What was the appointment that was shown to you?—Lord Glenelg's letter notifying to him that he was appointed to the government of the Gambia.

2920. What was the age of the gentleman who was first appointed?—I suppose upwards of 50; I should take him to be as old as I am myself.

2921. What was the age of the second gentleman appointed?—I should think 40 or upwards.

2922. *Mr. Milnes.*] Are both those gentlemen alive now?—I believe so.

2923. *Mr. Forster.*] Will you state to the Committee your opinion of Dr. Madden's report on Sierra Leone and the Gambia?—I think Dr. Madden has given a great deal of mis-statement; I have read Sir Henry Huntley's observations upon Dr. Madden's Report; I see he has contradicted him in almost every paragraph of his Report; I fully agree with Sir Henry Huntley; I believe every word Sir Henry has stated to be correct.

2924. And with reference to Sierra Leone, have you read Sir Richard Doherty's observations upon that report?—I am of the same opinion with respect to Sir Richard Doherty's observations upon the Report as to Sierra Leone.

2925. Have you read a copy of a memorial addressed to Lord Stanley by the merchants and traders of Gambia, dated the 11th of March last?—I have.

2926. From your long experience at the Gambia, do you approve of the statements in that memorial, and do you approve of the prayer of it?—I believe the statements in that memorial are perfectly correct, and I am of opinion that the merchants and inhabitants of the Gambia have great reason to complain. I also approve of the prayer of the petition, and I hope the merchants may get what they have petitioned for.

2927. Amongst other things, the memorialists pray that the settlement may be made independent of Sierra Leone; what is your opinion upon that subject?—I think it would be a very great advantage to the settlement if it were so.

2928. In the event of the settlement being made independent of Sierra Leone, what alteration would you deem necessary in the present form of government?—They have already got a governor and secretary, and Queen's advocate; I do not see anything further they want than a chief justice with a council, to enable them to enact laws and regulations for commerce and for the administration of justice in the settlement.

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2929. Up to this time they have been dependent upon Sierra Leone for such enactments?—Yes.

2930. Governor Doherty suggests the appointment of a Governor-in-chief for the whole of those settlements upon the West Coast of Africa, including St. Helena; what is your opinion upon that subject?—I do not think it would answer.

2931. Why not?—For this reason: I think that it is too extensive a command, and I am of opinion that if St. Helena were included, the Governor would spend very little of his time upon the coast of Africa, particularly in the rainy season; besides, I think it would lower the authority of the resident governors. There must be a resident governor or commandant at each settlement, and it would lower his authority with the inhabitants, and also with the natives in the neighbourhood; when they knew that there was a superior officer to come round occasionally, his authority would not be much attended to.

2932. Mr. W. Patten.] That is the reason why you also think that the settlements should be independent one of another?—Yes.

2933. Mr. Aldam.] Are the communications of Sierra Leone and of Gambia with England, or with each other, more frequent?—They communicate direct to England.

2934. Do they communicate direct with England more frequently than with each other?—Yes.

2935. Mr. Forster.] When you were Governor at Sierra Leone that settlement had been established about 40 years, and the settlement of Gambia about 15 years; which of them do you think was most advanced in commercial prosperity?—Gambia, most decidedly.

2936. Chairman.] Do you speak from a comparison of the amount of trade carried on from the respective settlements?—Yes.

2937. The exports and imports were greater from the Gambia than they were from Sierra Leone?—I think so; certainly so in proportion to the number of the population; the population of the Gambia is very small in comparison to that of Sierra Leone, and I am inclined to think that in the gross amount it is more.

2938. Have you looked at the returns?—I cannot say that I have.

2939. Mr. Forster.] Is not the trade actually belonging to the settlement of Sierra Leone, properly so considered, very small?—Very small.

2940. There is a considerable timber trade?—Yes, a very extensive timber trade.

2941. Might not that timber trade be carried on independently of Sierra Leone?—I do not know that it could.

2942. Might not ships go and load there and bring away timber if there were no settlement there?—Yes, they might go into the river and load if there were no settlement.

2943. That timber is grown and shipped beyond the limits of the settlement?—Yes.

2944. Chairman.] Are the exports of the Gambia also produced beyond the English settlement of St. Mary's?—Yes; they are collected in the neighbouring rivers; there is very little produced within the settlement.

2945. Then, in that respect, Sierra Leone and the settlement on the Gambia stand on the same footing?—On the same footing, certainly.

2946. It is not in either case the produce of the British settlement which affords the exports?—No; there is very little indeed, either at Sierra Leone or at the Gambia, within the limits of the settlement.

2947. But you conceive the existence of the two settlements of great importance for the commercial interests of both places?—Yes.

2948. Mr. Forster.] At which of the settlements do you conceive the British influence extends furthest into the interior?—I think in the Gambia.

2949. By the river?—By the river our influence extends a great distance into the country, and over the Trazar Moors.

2950. At the time you were Governor was there a considerable trade carried on at Sierra Leone with the neighbouring slave factories of Sherbro' and Gallinas?—Yes.

2951. Was there a free communication with those places, with your approbation and protection?—Yes.

2952. Chairman.] Can you explain what the nature of the intercourse was?—Commercial intercourse.

2953. You mean that goods were carried from Sierra Leone to the slave factories in the neighbourhood?—Yes, and bartered for produce.

2954. Carried

2954. Carried by the agents of English merchants?—By the inhabitants; many of the mulatto people trade there; they have boats and canoes of their own, and they carry British merchandise from the colony, and they go to those rivers and collect the produce of the country in exchange for British goods.

2955. Did you look upon that intercourse as feeding the slave trade?—No, I rather looked upon it as suppressing the slave trade, because I considered that the more British goods were thrown into the slave haunts the better. When the chiefs find that they can get more goods by selling the produce than they can by selling their slaves, it tends to put an end to the slave trade. If they can by the labour of the slaves get more produce than they would by the sale of them, it tends to put an end to the slave trade, in my opinion.

2956. Mr. Forster.] Did you ever receive orders from home to disallow or to discourage the trade with the Gallinas or with Sherbro', as contrary to any Act of Parliament?—No.

2957. Chairman.] Did slavers ever come into Sierra Leone to furnish themselves with goods?—Not to be known as slavers; many suspicious vessels may have come in and furnished themselves with goods.

2958. You did not conceive yourself authorised in any way to interfere with such traffic?—No.

2959. Mr. Forster.] During your government the trade of the settlement was open to all commerce with the neighbouring coast?—Yes.

2960. Every one was allowed to buy if they had money to pay?—Every one.

2961. The slave dealer or his agent from Sherbro', or the Gallinas, was allowed to purchase whatever he wanted from the stores of the place?—Yes.

2962. Sir T. D. Acland.] Would a slaver fitted out for the traffic have been permitted to communicate with Sierra Leone, and to have procured goods there?—A slaver would not be allowed to fit out in Sierra Leone; a slaver might come into the harbour, and not be known to be a slaver.

2963. If she were known to be a slaver, would she have been suffered to communicate with the settlement?—Not if she was known to be a slaver.

2964. Would it not have been the duty of the authorities to have seized her?—Yes, if found in our waters.

2965. Mr. W. Patten.] When vessels came into Sierra Leone, what course did you take to ascertain whether they were slavers, or of a suspicious character?—The custom-house officers always boarded the vessels that came into the harbour.

2966. How did you distinguish a regular slaver from a suspected vessel?—Of course they would have water casks, and a slave deck to lay down, and all those things on board, if they were slavers; but a slaver would not come into Sierra Leone.

2967. Can you describe to the Committee what you considered to be a suspicious vessel?—Unless water casks were found on board of her, or boilers, and perhaps slave irons, and things of that kind, we could not hold her to be suspicious.

2968. If she was only suspicious, she was allowed to trade, unless you could prove her to be a slaver?—Yes; a low-built, long schooner, or a vessel of that description, would be considered suspicious, although there might be no positive proof of her being a slaver.

2969. Would the very fact of a vessel being fitted with water casks have been sufficient to induce you not to allow her to trade?—If she was supplied with water casks more than sufficient for the supply of the crew, that would be a sufficient reason.

2970. Would that have induced you to seize her?—It might.

2971. Chairman.] Did the circumstance ever arise of such a vessel coming into Sierra Leone?—I am not aware of any instance.

2972. Would you look upon the port that she came from or was going to as a ground of suspicion?—If the port that she came from was a suspicious one, and if she was a fine, long, low-built schooner, with raking masts, that would furnish a strong suspicion that she might be engaged in the traffic of slaves.

2973. But until the Equipment Article was admitted into our treaties, you would have had no authority to seize a vessel without slaves actually on board?—None whatever.

2974. But you would have considered yourself authorised to prevent her from trading?—Yes, I would have considered myself authorised to prevent her

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from being supplied with any goods in the harbour if a vessel of that description came in, which I knew to be a slaver.

2975. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Under what authority should you have refused a suspicious vessel permission to trade?—If she had those things on board that I was convinced were for the slave trade, although I could not seize her, I might as far as possible prevent her from trading.

2976. Chairman.] You had no specific instructions bearing upon that point?—No.

2977. In acting in such a case you would have acted upon your own responsibility?—Entirely.

2978. You had no instructions as to whether vessels should be permitted or prohibited from trading?—No.

2979. Mr. Forster.] Have you not seen vessels, of that suspicious character which you have described, on the coast, engaged in legitimate trade?—Yes, they always pretended to be; I do not know what their real movements might be, but they always pretended to be engaged in legitimate trade; and there are some fast-sailing, suspicious-looking vessels engaged in legitimate trade, so that it is not easy to judge by mere appearances.

2980. Are not some of the vessels sold by auction as prize vessels at Sierra Leone employed in the coasting trade?—Yes.

2981. Mr. Macaulay had the principal store in Sierra Leone at the time you were there, had he not?—He had for many years the principal store in Sierra Leone.

2982. Was the trade of his store conducted in the same manner as that of others, as far as you know?—I always understood so.

2983. Did you understand that it was the custom of the merchants to make any inquisition, or inquiry, as to the pursuits or moral character of their customers?—No, I do not think it was the duty of the merchant to inquire of his purchaser what he was going to do with the goods he purchased.

2984. You knew the mode of selling slave goods and slave vessels at the time you were in Sierra Leone?—Yes; they were sold by public auction, after condemnation in the Mixed Commission Court.

2985. Without any discrimination or inquiry as to the character of the purchaser?—To the highest bidder, no matter who he was.

2986. Is it your opinion that those goods and vessels so sold, which were expressly sent to the coast for the slave trade, frequently found their way into the hands of the slave dealer?—Yes, the vessels frequently; and I have no doubt many of the goods went also into the hands of the slave dealers.

2987. Was there anything to prevent the slave dealer himself buying them in the auction room?—Nothing whatever.

2988. Dr. Madden states, that the liberated African children were not admitted into the Church Missionary schools in consequence of the interference of the authorities in 1831; as you were Governor at that time, can you state to the Committee the nature of that interference, or the causes of it?—Yes, I can; I have copies of the letters I addressed to Lord Viscount Goderich on that subject; if they were read, they would explain the circumstance better than I can do from memory.

2989. Will you produce those letters?—

[The same were delivered in and read, as follows:]

My Lord,

Sierra Leone, 11 January 1831.

I MOST respectfully beg leave to submit to your Lordship a most disgraceful circumstance connected with the members of the Church Missionary Society in this colony.

On the 15th December last, Mr. T. H. Barber, one of the most respectable merchants in this colony, and a member of Council, waited on me, and stated that the Rev. Mr. Davie had seduced a young mulatto orphan girl, whom Mr. Barber had placed under his care, Mr. Davie being a married clergyman, and his wife, a European lady, living with him, and at the same time in charge of the liberated African girls' school at Bathurst, where it was expected the young lady would be able to assist. This unfortunate young woman was left, when a child, under the care of Mr. Barber, who paid her every attention it was possible for a father to do; he sent her to England, at a very great expense, where she obtained a tolerable education, and on her return to this colony, a few months ago, he placed her under the care of Mr. Davie and his wife, with a view to prevent her from falling into error, which he thought would most likely be the case were she to remain in Freetown.

Your

Your Lordship may easily judge what Mr. Barber's astonishment was when he found that the Rev. Mr. Davie was the first to lay a regular plan for her ruin, and that he had succeeded in seducing her.

Upon receiving this information from Mr. Barber, I wrote a letter to Mr. Haensel, the secretary of the Church Missionary Society in this colony, expressing my disapprobation of the Rev. Mr. Davie's conduct, and I gave orders to Mr. Cole, the assistant-superintendent, to remove the girls from under Mr. Davie's charge at Bathurst to Regent, and to place them under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Weeks until arrangements could be made for their protection, or until Mr. Davie should be removed from that station. A copy of my letter I herewith enclose, marked (A).

On the 16th the colonial secretary showed me a letter he had just then received from Mr. Haensel, a copy of which I enclose, marked (B), stating the arrangements the members of the society had made for the superintendence of the liberated children, in consequence of the Rev. Mr. Davie withdrawing from the society, and those arrangements they had carried into effect without my knowledge, or giving me any reason for so doing, except that of the Rev. gentleman having withdrawn himself from their society.

On the same evening I received a letter from Mr. Haensel, a copy of which I also enclose, marked (C), wherein he informed me that the clergymen of the Church Missionary Society had relinquished the engagements entered into with Major Ricketts, the late Lieutenant-governor, relative to the education of the liberated African children, and that they would no longer consider themselves in charge of them.

This hasty step of theirs annoyed me greatly, and put me to much inconvenience, not having persons properly qualified to instruct the children, and whom I could entrust with the charge of them.

On the 20th December Mr. Barber made an official communication of Mr. Davie's conduct to me; a copy of his letter, marked (D), I herewith enclose. I then addressed a letter to Mr. Haensel, under date of the 20th, a copy of which I also enclose, marked (E); and on the following day the Rev. Messrs. Haensel and Betts waited on me to express their regret at the circumstance which had taken place with respect to Mr. Davie, but showed no desire to have the children placed again under their charge.

I considered myself grossly insulted by their so unceremoniously giving up the charge of the children, and of course I would not ask them to take them back, but should they hereafter think proper to make application to have the children again placed under their charge, I shall do so.

I however most respectfully beg leave to recommend that two married men, qualified as schoolmasters, with their wives as schoolmistresses, (entirely unconnected with the Church Missionary Society,) should be sent out, the one to take charge of the boys' school, and the other the girls'; some progress might then be expected, which never can be the case under the present missionary system.

They occupy the government buildings in the different villages; and without giving me any information, they change from place to place as suits their own convenience, and then such changes are reported, accompanied generally by an application for some repairs or addition to the various buildings; thus incurring expenses which might be avoided were the members of the society to remain more stationary in the villages.

At the same time their labours are not fairly divided in the colony; the western district, which contains about 8,000 souls, has been entirely neglected, and left without any ministerial charge, or religious instruction, since the end of 1828.

In answer to a communication from the Rev. Mr. Haensel, under date of the 29th December, wherein he gives a statement of the distribution of the members of the society, with the changes he had made, and calling upon me to provide them with suitable accommodation, I directed the colonial secretary in his reply to draw the attention of the clergymen to the western district, which has been so long neglected; and to state that the accommodations would be provided at York and Kent for such of the members of their society as their committee should think proper to appoint, which would save the necessity of hiring an additional house at Kissy.

Your Lordship will see by Mr. Haensel's answer to the colonial secretary, how unwilling those reverend gentlemen are to meet the views and wishes of the colonial government.

It appears to me a spirit of jealousy exists amongst themselves, as such of their members as feel disposed to encourage improvement and industry are censured by their committee.

A convincing proof of this is manifest with respect to the Rev. Mr. Gerber, a most ingenious man, who had for some time been stationed at Kent, where he showed the Africans a good example by the cultivation of a farm, and other means of industry.

He has been removed to Kissy; and I have been told that Mr. Weeks (who is a very good man, and most anxious to improve the Africans) was found fault with for superintending a road in the neighbourhood of Regent, where he was stationed; he has been removed to Hastings. This proves that as soon as the members of the Church Missionary Society begin to make themselves useful to the local government, they are removed to another station.

As the missionaries have given up the schools, I am in hopes of being able to dispose of 30 or 40 of the grown-up girls by marriage; and such of the boys as are fit shall be apprenticed out; and I shall get proper persons to take charge of the younger children,

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although they may not be qualified to instruct them in religious education; but should I hereafter find persons so qualified, I shall employ them temporarily until I shall receive your Lordship's instructions on this subject.

I have, &c.

The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Goderich, (signed) Alexander Findlay.
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Sierra Leone, 9 June 1831.

IN my letter of the 19th January, No. 2, addressed to Lord Viscount Goderich, I informed his Lordship that the clergymen of the Church Missionary Society had very unceremoniously abandoned the charge and education of the liberated African children, in consequence of my having written a letter to the secretary of their committee in this colony, expressing my disapprobation of the conduct of the Rev. Mr. Davie (who seduced a young woman placed under his care), and ordering the liberated African girls to be removed from under his charge, many of whom, I had no doubt, had been seduced by him; I have since had stronger reasons for thinking so.

I have now to state to you, for the information of his Lordship, that the clergymen of the Church Missionary Society have given up also the charge and education of the free-born female children in Freetown, and have shut up the schoolhouse, assigning as their reason, that the girls' morals were endangered by the conduct of the assistant schoolmistress, who had left the school, and gone to live with a young man to whom she was attached. There is nothing in this extraordinary, under the circumstances; nothing but might have been expected here from a young girl just arrived at womanhood; and it would have well become the clergymen of the society to have exerted themselves to remedy the evil, by procuring an assistant schoolmistress of more mature age, in place of relinquishing the education of 227 girls, the quarter part of them not yet 10 years old, on the plea of this girl's fall into error. To shut up a school to protect the morals of the children, appears to me a most extraordinary measure.

In fact, the missionaries only used as a pretext this occurrence; they had for some time contemplated abandoning the boys' and girls' school, and had proposed to the schoolmaster and schoolmistress that they should make the parents of the children pay for their education, knowing that the greater part of the parents were unable to buy books for their children, much more to pay for their education; the teachers would not agree to this proposal.

In order to prevent such a number of young children running idle about the streets, and losing the little education already received, I have ordered the head schoolmistress to reopen the school, and continue it, promising that her salary of 50*l.* per annum should be paid from the colonial fund, until I could receive instructions from Viscount Goderich on the subject.

I shall now state a circumstance which occurred the other day, to give an idea of the way in which these reverend gentlemen endeavour to annoy the local government. A licence was granted that the Rev. Mr. Wilhelm might solemnize the ceremony of marriage between two young people; this gentleman wrote upon the licence that he declined solemnizing the marriage, as he considered the girl only a child; the young couple returned to the colonial secretary with the licence, and he sent them to me. I assure you that I considered the girl to be between 18 and 20 years old; and she had every appearance of being at least five months gone with child.

I believe that the objects of the Church Missionary Society are excellent, and that it is their anxious desire to benefit their fellow-men; but I must say, that the clergymen sent by that society to this colony are a selfish, canting, hypocritical set; impostors upon the parent society and the British public, though their faults, committed in this colony, have hitherto been concealed. But what can be expected from such men; brought up in their own country as carpenters, shoemakers, turners, and tailors, too lazy to follow these occupations, and turning missionaries, and coming out here to civilize the Africans, that they may live like gentlemen. For God's sake send out decent clergymen and schoolmasters, and then you may expect to hear of the Africans advancing in civilization; but they never will, and never can do well, under the irregular system pursued by the missionaries.

As they have given up this principal part of the duty which they were sent to this country to perform, the education of the free-born children, I think it is absolutely necessary that other means should be provided for the instruction of the numerous children of the poorer classes in this colony, and to accomplish this object I most respectfully recommend that the pensions paid from the funds of this colony to the widows and children of the clergymen of the Church Missionary Society be discontinued, and their amount applied to paying the salaries of respectable schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, for the education of colonial born children. Why should this colony be burdened with the support of widows of missionaries? Let the Society support them, and let the 190*l.* which is paid yearly from the colonial fund in pensions to Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Geary go towards supporting schools independent of, and unconnected with the missionaries. The account given by the missionaries in this colony, which appears in the 13th Report of the Society, may read very well in England, but will not be received here, where the facts are too well known. In that Report

they

they make it appear to their society, and to the British public, that they had expended in the western or sea district of Sierra Leone, in the execution of their ministerial duties during the last year, the sum of 115*l* 16*s*. 7*d*.; whereas it is a well-known fact that not one of them has been stationed in that district since November 1828, nor have they since visited it but once during the past year, when they were provided with a boat by Government. I have been informed that on this visit they did not remain more than an hour at any of the villages, and that they did not perform the ceremony of marriage or baptism at either of them. They also make it appear that they have in their ministerial charge Waterloo and Calmont; they may consider it so, but not one of them ever goes near either of those places. The Rev. Mr. Davie, who was the shining star of the missionaries in this colony, has now turned agent for a timber merchant, an employment for which, from his conduct, I think him better calculated than for the pulpit; but this very man, before his detection, wrote to the parent society in the usual strain of hypocrisy, saying, "Let the Church of Sierra Leone shine with primitive brightness, and its light shall attract the regard of surrounding tribes far and near." A fine example of primitive purity he has shown himself to be!

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I most earnestly beg leave to recommend Government to send out three clergymen, one for each district, independent of Freetown; they would be adequate to the performance of all religious ceremonies within their respective districts; and also to send two or three respectable married men as schoolmasters; if this were done, and a clergyman and a schoolmaster permanently settled in the central village of each district, a regular system of religious and educational instruction might be established, and some good results might be expected, which cannot be under the system pursued by the missionaries of moving the schoolmasters about from place to place, to suit their own convenience. After reading the Missionary Report of last year, a person would be inclined to think (as it appears to be wished to make people think) that the colony of Sierra Leone was well provided with religious instructors, and the expenditure of 3,413*l* 1*s*. 1*d*. last year would, no doubt, go far to confirm that opinion; but it is a fact much to be regretted, that the whole of the western district, and a great part of the eastern district of Sierra Leone, have not had any religious instruction for years back.

Now the plan which I propose would only require about one-half of their present expenditure; say—

Three Clergymen, at 400 <i>l</i> .	-	-	-	-	-	£. 1,200
Three Schoolmasters, at 200 <i>l</i> .	-	-	-	-	-	600
						Per annum - - - £. 1,800

which sum would thus provide a respectable clergy and schoolmasters for the colony. I am confident the benefits from such an arrangement would soon be felt.

I have, &c.
(signed) Alexander Findlay.

R. W. Hay, Esq. Under Secretary of State,
&c. &c. &c.

2990. Is that the only reference that Dr. Madden makes to any act of your government?—That, and the raising of the fee of the apprentice from 10*s*. to 1*l*. are the only two references.

2991. Do you wish to offer some explanation with respect to both?—Yes; I have just explained my motives for one of those acts.

2992. Will you state to the Committee your reasons for increasing the amount of the apprentice bond?—A number of the liberated Africans, as soon as they got 10*s*. collected, were in the habit of applying to the assistant superintendent for an apprentice, and I found that the apprentices were often very ill-used by those people, who could not afford to keep them properly, that they were returned again to the government-yard, and I raised the fee from 10*s*. to 1*l*., in order to secure a better class of masters for them, masters that were better able to provide for apprentices.

3071. Mr. W. Patten.] You are perfectly satisfied with the government as it now is at each of those settlements, provided they are rendered independent the one of the other?—Yes.

3072. You would not suggest any alteration in the mode of government of them, except their being made independent the one of the other?—No; I do not think there can be any improvement in them, if well administered.

3073. You do not think that a Governor-general of that coast could exercise his authority with the same effect that separate Governors can?—No, I do not think it would be so useful; I think I have already answered that question; I think a Governor-general would do away with the authority of the resident Governors.

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3074. Are the distances so great that a Governor-general could not visit those stations?—Yes; I am inclined to think that a Governor-general would be most of his time at St. Helena, if that came within the range of his government, instead of being upon the coast.

3075. The question excludes St. Helena, alluding only to the coast itself?—I still think that those settlements would all be better as separate governments.

3076. Sir T. D. Acland.] Were not the settlements on the Gold Coast also subject to your jurisdiction?—Yes, they were.

3077. Do you think it would be better if they also were placed under separate Governors?—Yes.

3078. Do you recollect any inconvenience from the settlements upon the Gold Coast being under your jurisdiction?—No; the Chief Justice did not go there, and I do not think there was any criminal case sent from the Gold Coast to be tried at Sierra Leone.

3079. Mr. Forster.] Your government of the Gold Coast was merely nominal?—Entirely so; the Governor and the justices of the peace hold their commissions as magistrates from the Governor of Sierra Leone.

3080. Supposing you had been called upon to interfere in the government of those settlements, could you have done so effectually, and with practical benefit to the Gold Coast?—I do not know that I could.

3081. Chairman.] Would the prevalent winds upon the coast make it very inconvenient that one colony should be made dependent upon the other for any essential function of government?—Yes.

3082. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Was the administration of justice, in your opinion, impaired upon the Gold Coast in consequence of its being subordinate to Sierra Leone?—I do not think so, as matters were actually managed.

3083. Mr. Forster.] Was it not the fact that you had no communication whatever with the Gold Coast?—Very little; there were no cases sent up to Sierra Leone; and I am inclined to believe that if there had been any felonious case at the Gold Coast, it would have been sent up; all the minor offences were decided by the justices of the peace.

3084. You do not suppose that any case occurred where the great distance and the expense of sending it up to Sierra Leone interfered with the administration of justice?—No.

3085. Had you any official or political communication with the Gold Coast?—Very little.

3086. Had you any?—None direct.

3087. Chairman.] Was it only casual, by means of ships that might be touching?—Casual communications; no direct communication with Cape Coast. There were cruisers coming up and down, men-of-war; it was those generally that brought us information from the Gold Coast.

3088. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Has the Governor of Sierra Leone power to send down the Chief Justice to the Gold Coast to try persons that may be guilty there of serious offences?—I had no instructions to that effect; I had only instructions to send the Chief Justice to Gambia; I am of opinion that if any felonious case took place upon the Gold Coast it would have been sent to Sierra Leone.

3089. Sir T. D. Acland.] But you have no means of knowing whether such cases occur or not?—No means of knowing.

3090. Chairman.] You had no regular communication with the governors of the various forts upon the Gold Coast?—None.

3091. No despatches passed between you?—Very seldom; knowing one another, there were private letters, but nothing upon public affairs.

3092. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Was the dependence merely nominal?—Yes, I think so.

3093. You have stated that there were communications by private letters from individuals?—When an opportunity occurred by men-of-war calling.

3094. Would not the same opportunities have sufficed for transmitting official communications?—Of course they would.

3095. Mr. Forster.] How often did those communications occur?—Very seldom.

3096. How often in a year?—Perhaps two or three times.

3097. Chairman.] You are acquainted of course, very minutely, with the condition of the liberated Africans whilst you were in the government?—Yes.

3098. What

3098. What was the number whilst you were there?—When I was there there were about 34,000; the whole population is 35,000, and I make allowance for 1,000 resident settlers.

3099. Did the liberated Africans easily find employment within the colony?—Yes; they had all sufficient employment when I was there.

3100. What was the nature of their employment?—Cultivating their little spots of ground, and many of them employed by the merchants.

3101. Did they find full employment?—Yes; a great many of them employed themselves in trading as hawkers and pedlars.

3102. You found no difficulty in providing employment for the Africans when they were liberated after adjudication?—No; after adjudication a great many of them enlisted; the young lads, from 12 to 14 or 15, were apprenticed; the women generally got married, the young girls of that age were also apprenticed out, and the children under that age were sent to different schools.

3103. Do you conceive there would be any disadvantage in allowing emigration to go on from Sierra Leone to the West Indies?—No, there would be no disadvantage; but I do not think they would willingly go.

3104. Not on their first adjudication?—I should think the question ought not to be put to them; they ought to be sent there at first, those that are captured hereafter. I do not see why they should not be landed at Jamaica, or at any of the islands where their services may be required, as well as at Sierra Leone.

3105. Do you conceive that they would find greater employment in the West Indies than at Sierra Leone?—Yes; for this reason, that our colony in Sierra Leone is getting over populated.

3106. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Would they be competent to make engagements for themselves as hired labourers in the West Indies without any experience of the employment, or of the country?—I am afraid they would require some person to look after them.

3107. Chairman.] Might they not have the same assistance in looking after them in the West Indies that they have in Sierra Leone?—They might.

3108. What is the nature of the assistance given to liberated Africans upon their first arrival, and how long does it continue?—They are supported by the government for six months; the men are generally employed for three months of that in labour upon the roads and streets, and then they are sent and distributed among the different villages, perhaps 20 to one, 30 to another, and so on. The manager of the village measures them off a certain portion of ground, and he gets the liberated Africans who have been located there for some time to assist them in building their hut, and in clearing and cultivating their bit of ground for them.

3109. Should you see any difficulty in allowing such parties to make engagements in the West Indies with the resident planters there, under the protection and with the assistance of the stipendiary magistrates?—No; I see none whatever.

3110. You think they would have as good security for obtaining the benefits of freedom and of civilization in the West Indies under their present circumstances, as they have in Sierra Leone?—Yes, I think so.

3111. Mr. G. W. Wood.] To what do you attribute their supposed disinclination to go out as free labourers from Sierra Leone?—When once they are located they form acquaintances, whom they do not like to part from.

3112. You think they have no motive for seeking a livelihood elsewhere?—No.

3113. Sir T. D. Acland.] Is any option given to them when they bring them to Sierra Leone, whether they will stay there?—No.

3114. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Are they not free to go where they please at their own expense?—They are; but if they leave the colony, the risk is that they will be again made slaves, as many of them have been.

3115. Chairman.] Would they be allowed to leave the colony immediately upon their arrival, if they preferred it?—They would be recommended not to do so.

3116. Have many of them accepted the option, and left the colony?—No; I know of no instance.

3117. Mr. G. W. Wood.] Are there any instances in which they have attempted to join their native tribes in the interior?—Many of them have gone from the

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colony, but they have generally been seized again and sold as slaves when they got a little way out of the limits of the colony.

3118. *Chairman.*] What is the condition of the tribes in immediate contact with Sierra Leone; is it a condition of domestic slavery?—Yes, it is a general system of domestic slavery.

3119. Are they made slaves as a punishment for crime, or as prisoners of war, or by inheritance?—They have been slaves there from father to son.

3120. *Mr. G. W. Wood.*] Hereditary slavery?—Yes. The slaves are just the same as their masters in many respects; they sit down and eat with their masters.

3121. Is it slavery of a mild nature?—Yes, it is rather of a mild nature, for those who are domestic slaves.

3122. Do they often change masters?—I think not.

3123. Are families ever separated?—I think not.

3124. Are they allowed to marry?—Yes, of course.

3125. *Mr. Mitcalfe.*] Without the consent of their masters?—I should suspect they must have the consent of their masters.

3126. *Mr. G. W. Wood.*] What is the general state as to morals, of the liberated Africans in Sierra Leone?—They are improving considerably, I think.

3127. Do they marry?—Yes.

3128. Are they faithful in their matrimonial engagements?—Some of them, I believe, are, but I cannot exactly answer as to that.

3129. Are the children generally educated?—Yes.

3130. Are they brought up as Christians?—Yes.

3131. Are they taught to read and write?—Yes.

3132. What becomes of the children of the liberated Africans after they grow up to manhood; where do they find employment, and in what avocations?—They engage themselves generally in various pursuits in the colony, as servants, and in other capacities.

3133. *Chairman.*] Is agriculture extending within the colony?—Yes.

3134. Is there considerable room for cultivation?—In the valleys there is a good deal; the mountains, of course, are not cultivated. They would produce very good coffee if there was any one to cultivate them; but the cultivation of coffee is not understood there.

3135. *Mr. G. W. Wood.*] Is there space for an indefinite extension of the colony, if its numbers should go on increasing rapidly?—There is space; and if we continue to import liberated Africans into Sierra Leone as they have been doing of late, they will require an extension of the colony.

3136. Supposing the African slave trade to be exterminated, do you think that there would be sufficient room in the colony for the natural increase of the population?—I should think the colony could maintain the population at present in it, if there was no further increase.

3137. And any extension of natural increase?—Yes.

3138. *Mr. Foster.*] Are you aware that General Turner purchased by treaty a considerable tract of country in the neighbourhood of Sherboro?—Yes.

3139. Did the government repudiate that purchase?—Yes, they did; General Turner was obliged to relinquish the territory.

3140. Are you of opinion that that was a beneficial extension of territory?—Yes; I think it would have been a great acquisition to the colony of Sierra Leone.

3141. *Mr. G. W. Wood.*] What was the distance of the tract you have spoken of from Freetown?—It bordered upon the colony to a considerable extent.

3142. Was it contiguous?—Yes.

3143. Were any public reasons assigned for withholding the approval of the Government at home?—I am not aware of the reasons that were given.

3144. *Mr. Forster.*] Supposing our settlements on the West Coast of Africa were continued dependent on each other as at present, and visited at intervals by a governor-in-chief, are you of opinion that such a system would promote party appeals and cabals against the authority of the inferior governors?—I think it would.

3145. *Chairman.*] Does domestic slavery prevail in the neighbourhood of the Gambia, as well as in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone?—Yes.

3146. The habits and customs are pretty much the same?—Yes.

3147. And the condition of the colony is altogether the same?—I should think in the neighbourhood of Gambia it is a little better.

3148. Is one distinguished from the other by a greater extent of the country being under one chief?—No, I cannot say that it is.

3149. Are there many small chiefs subordinate to the king, or what is the system of government generally prevailing on that coast?—They are all small petty kings and chiefs; they are independent one of another.

3150. Do you believe that if any individuals in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone or the Gambia were willing to go to the West Indies, they would be permitted to go by their chiefs, without something in the way of purchase or gift?—I do not think they would.

3151. Do you think it would be necessary to conciliate the chief by a present?—Yes.

3152. To give him so much for every subject he lost?—Yes; I do not think they would allow them to go without.

3153. Mr. Forster.] Dr. Madden speaks of a system of slavery being carried on at the Gambia; have you read his remarks upon that subject?—Yes.

3154. Have you any observation to make upon them?—His remarks are quite erroneous; there is no such thing as slavery known at the Gambia.

3155. What is it that he means?—I suppose he must mean the French artificers and labourers who resort to the Gambia for labour; perhaps not so much now as they did in my time, because the Gambia is now supplied with liberated Africans.

3156. Chairman.] Were those French artificers under engagements similar to a state of slavery?—They were slaves altogether.

3157. Belonging to the French?—Yes.

3158. They came into the colony to work for the benefit of their masters?—Yes.

3159. But they were not held in slavery by any residents in the English settlement?—Not at all; they were at perfect liberty to come and go back when they pleased.

3160. Were any claims upon them as slaves ever maintained in the British courts?—Never.

3161. They were never detained to perform services for their masters?—No.

3162. Were their masters ever assisted in recovering any slaves who had come into the British settlements?—No; I never knew any instance of their refusing to go back to Goree or Senegal.

3163. Captain Fitzroy.] Are there any pawns in Gambia?—None; nothing of the kind.

3164. You know what is meant by the system of pawns; persons who submit to voluntary slavery for debt?—Yes; there was nothing of the kind.

3165. Sir T. D. Acland.] Were there any in Sierra Leone?—No.

3166. Mr. Forster.] Are there resident mulatto ladies and merchants from Senegal and Goree who have their domestic people in their establishments at the Gambia?—There are.

3167. Was it not perfectly understood that those slaves or domestics were at liberty to claim their freedom whenever they thought proper, while they were within the government of the Gambia?—The domestic slaves were perfectly well aware that they could remain free at the Gambia if they pleased, but they went backwards and forwards to Goree and Senegal at pleasure.

3168. Chairman.] Can you state any occasion on which their acquaintance with that fact appeared; was any proclamation ever published, or did any circumstance ever arise which conveyed that fact to them?—No, I do not know that there was any proclamation, but they were all perfectly aware of it.

3169. You never were called upon to interpose to enforce the return of any slave?—No.

3170. Therefore as long as they were in the settlement they were perfectly free?—Perfectly free; they knew they could remain so if they chose to take advantage of it, but they came there and laboured, and carried a great deal of money back to Goree and Senegal.

3171. Mr. Forster.] Did not the missionaries carefully inform them that they were at liberty to claim their freedom if they thought proper?—I believe the missionaries did inform them so.

3172. Chairman.] What do you consider to be the utmost extent of positive jurisdiction of the British Government round the Gambia?—The island of St. Mary's is perhaps nine miles in circumference; Barra Point is a very small place; M'Carthy's Island is a large island.

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3173. Is the margin of the river, between St. Mary's and M'Carthy's Island, considered to be under British sovereignty?—Only along the coast of the Barra territory. Dr. Madden is quite erroneous as to the cession of the sovereignty of that country, which he states to have been in 1820; it was not ceded to the British Government till 1826.

3174. It was ceded in sovereignty, but not in property?—Not in property.

3175. The natives were not disturbed in their property in any way?—No.

3176. How broad a margin along the river is it that is ceded?—A mile inland all the way.

3177. For how many miles?—Thirty-six miles, the king of Barra's territory only.

3178. Not the margin for the whole distance between St. Mary's and M'Carthy's Island?—No; we have no sovereignty till we get to M'Carthy's Island.

3179. Mr. Forster.] Are you of opinion that the trade of the Gambia would be much extended by the establishment of posts higher up the river than any we have now?—Yes; I am of opinion that it would be of great advantage to the settlement if there were a post considerably higher up the river than M'Carthy's Island.

3180. Chairman.] And you would see no danger to the parties so situated?—None whatever; it would require an officer and a few men there.

3181. Black troops, with a white officer?—Yes.

3182. Is the climate of the river exceedingly injurious to health?—Not more so up there than at St. Mary's; probably it is worse at St. Mary's than it is there.

3183. You consider that the river is not more unhealthy there than at the sea coast?—Not more; there are no mangroves when you get up the river.

3184. Mr. Forster.] You have served in Jamaica?—I have.

3185. What is your opinion of the climate of Sierra Leone, as compared with that of Jamaica?—If I had my choice, I would prefer serving at Sierra Leone to Jamaica; I think there are many parts of Jamaica where the climate is as injurious to the health of an European as at Sierra Leone.

3186. Chairman.] How do you account for the rapid succession of deaths among the governors and high official persons at Sierra Leone?—I cannot exactly say. Almost all the governors that were there were old men.

3187. Has there not been a remarkable succession by death in almost all the officers of the colony of Sierra Leone?—There has been, but not at such a rate as Dr. Madden states; he states that there were six from 1825 to 1830. Now there were only four; there were General Turner, Sir Neill Campbell, Colonel Denham, and Colonel Lumley; those are the four that died in that period.

3188. In five years?—Yes.

3189. Mr. Forster.] Do you think the climate is much less favourable to persons in advanced life than to young persons?—I think it is injurious to people advanced in life, and to very young people.

3190. What period of life do you consider most favourable to health upon the coast?—I should say from 20 to 45 would be the age at which people might serve there most safely.

3191. Chairman.] Do you believe that there are great resources up the Gambia which are likely to be developed by commerce?—Yes, I do.

3192. Of what nature?—I think there might be a great deal of produce collected up the Gambia.

3193. Palm oil?—No; wax and hides, ivory and gold; and I have no doubt that if we had a post higher up the river considerably, we might draw some gum from the Senegal.

3194. Had you the charge of the buildings in the Gambia?—I had; I saw them all erected; I was acting engineer from June 1819 to August 1823; during that time the whole of the public buildings were erected.

3195. Were you engineer?—I am not an engineer officer, but I was acting engineer; Sir Charles M'Carthy appointed me to superintend the buildings.

3196. Had you experience in the erection of buildings before?—Not much.

3197. Have the buildings stood well since you erected them?—Very well.

3198. Are they built of stone?—Built of stone and lime.

3199. Mr. Mitcalfe.] Is there lime in the country?—Plenty of lime from oyster shells.

Veneris, 27^o die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir T. D. Acland.	Mr. W. Hamilton.
Mr. Aldam.	Sir R. H. Inglis.
Viscount Courtenay.	Mr. Milnes.
Mr. W. Evans.	Mr. Mitcalfe.
Captain Fitzroy.	Mr. Wilson Patten.
Mr. Forster.	Mr. G. W. Wood.

VISCOUNT SANDON, IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *Andrew Rües*; called in, and Examined.

3215. *Chairman.*] YOU have been for some time in Africa?—I have.

3216. Will you state in what capacity and for what period?—I have been upon the coast a little more than eight years; three years at Accra, and then latterly at Aquapim, about 40 miles in the interior; at the time when I was living at Aquapim, I visited some parts of the interior, at Aquambu and Akim, and afterwards, before I returned, I went to Coomassie in Ashantee.

3217. In what year was that?—It was in the last month of 1839, and January 1840.

3218. You were five years in the interior, were you?—I was.

3219. What did you observe as to the condition of the people, as to slavery more especially?—The people have everywhere chiefs, and every man of property has his slaves in every part of the country; but they are not slaves in the sense in which we use the term; the negroes themselves are more like a family or friends.

3220. Can they be sold?—The can be; but it is very seldom they are sold as slaves.

3221. Are they slaves by inheritance, or by purchase, or as prisoners of war?—They are slaves by inheritance.

3222. Are the slaves generally of the same tribe and country as the masters?—In Ashantee they have slaves of their own people, but they do not sell their slaves to other people, not in the Ashantee country itself, but in every other part they sell the slaves to other tribes.

3223. You mean that they sell their own people?—Yes, but the Ashantees do not; they kill them rather than do that.

3224. When they kill them, do they kill them for punishment or for sacrifice?—For sacrifice mostly; sometimes for punishment too; the king himself does that very often; but no foreigner can have an opportunity to see that; I was told by several persons in the Ashantee country that sometimes the king takes his people and puts them in a pit in the water in his house, and no man sees it.

3225. You went to that country a missionary from the Missionary Society at Basle?—Yes.

3226. Have you prepared a statement containing some particulars with reference to that country, for the information of the Committee?—I have.

[*The same was read as follows:*]

A few Particulars connected with the Residence of A. Rües, Missionary from Basle, on the Gold Coast.

I ARRIVED at Danish Accra in March 1832; in March 1835 I went to Aquapim, a small district which uses the Danish flag, situated about 40 miles from the coast; I remained there till the autumn of 1839. In this interval I took several journeys in the interior, among the rest to Aquambu and Akim.

After taking my family to Danish Accra, in October 1839, I went by way of Cape Coast to Ashantee in November. Governor Maclean kindly recommended me to the king, and sent a soldier with me as a protector. I was detained on the frontier of Ashantee by the chiefs, and four weeks elapsed before I was allowed by the king to go to the seat of his government at Kumasi; here I remained a fortnight.

The king received me with great state and formality, and often expressed his friendship and good will; but I never had an opportunity for detailed conversation with him. I had several audiences, but was never permitted to approach nearer than about 10 paces to him. He was always surrounded by officers and servants; he communicated with me by an interpreter. The last time I saw him, he told the interpreter that his services were not

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needed, as I understood the language. He then, addressing himself direct to me, requested me to salute my sovereign from him; testified his pleasure that I had visited him; and took leave, without answering any of the inquiries which I had previously addressed through the interpreter, or expressing any wish that his country might be benefited by European visitors. My health prevented my remaining longer in the country.

The kingdom of Ashantee is in a dreadful state; murders are committed daily. While I was there, the death of some individuals of property was signalised by the slaughter of several of their slaves. Their hands were tied behind them, and a knife thrust through their cheeks, passing over the tongue, in order to prevent their invoking the name of the king. After standing in this torture, some for hours, they were knocked down, and their heads cut off with a large knife. Their bodies were thrown into the street, and dragged to a place where they were exposed to the access of swine. I was told that human sacrifices are frequent, particularly in cases of sickness; the people believe that the disorders are taken away by the victims. These sacrifices are offered sometimes by binding the slave to a beam, placed horizontally between two upright posts on a scaffold, where he is left to die; sometimes by transfixing the living slave to the ground by a spear; sometimes by burying alive.

The slaves are completely at their master's mercy, and it often happens that nose, ears, and lips are cut off for the most trifling offence.

The knowledge of these atrocities has awakened in me a strong desire to do something for the benefit of this benighted country, and has induced the Basle Missionary Society with which I have been long connected, to request me to return to West Africa, by way of the British West Indies; we purpose selecting a few families of Christian negroes from the congregations connected with the Church of the United Brethren or Moravians in Antigua, or Jamaica. Our hope is that the Africans by seeing this christian colony may obtain a conception of a happier life than that which they now lead; that they may have an opportunity of having better instruction than that which they now receive from their priests, and that the example of these civilized negroes may be the means of introducing habits of industry among the natives.

That the natives of this part of Africa are capable of improvement is abundantly evident from the good effects which have been produced in the neighbourhood of Cape Coast, by the salutary influence which for several years has been exercised by the enlightened and judicious activity of Governor M'Lean. It is a fact worthy of notice that the national assistants employed by the Methodist Missionaries near the coast, have all, without exception, been instructed at Governor M'Lean's school.

3227. You had an opportunity, from your long residence among the natives of Aquapim, of seeing whether they were capable of improvement?—Yes.

3228. Did the same atrocities exist in Aquapim as you witnessed, or heard of, in Ashantee?—No; very seldom in Aquapim, only at the deaths of their first chiefs.

3229. Human sacrifices were then celebrated?—Yes; but very few.

3230. Did any such occur while you were there?—Yes, a few times.

3231. Did you take any steps to prevent them, by persuasion or otherwise?—Yes, the negroes themselves, at Aquapim, told me that they did not do it; but I have seen it myself; I have not seen them do it, but I have seen the people lying killed in the wood.

3232. Did you ever reason with them on the atrocity of those sacrifices?—Yes; but the negroes at Aquapim told me, "We do it not." And they said, "It is used only at Ashantee." And I spoke in Ashantee, at Coomassie, to the people about it; but they told me, "Speak not to the king about that; the king himself will be angry if you speak to him about it; he cannot be king at Ashantee if he gives up killing his people."

3233. Did any sensible improvement take place at Aquapim during your residence there?—I cannot tell; the country was constantly at war, I think more than two years of my residence there. I found at that time that the Aquapim people very much trusted in me. I was living amongst them all the time. I will give one example. There were two parties; one of the parties had taken prisoner a man from the town of Acropong belonging to the other party, and they wished to kill him. This immediately excited the others; they rose in arms; and it came to a regular affray; the two parties stood armed against each other preparing to fight. The party to whom the man belonged came to me, and said, "You live amongst us, and you must save this man's life." I immediately went and remonstrated with the opposing party; and one party after the other, upon my remonstrance, laid down their arms, and the man was delivered up to me to be handed over to his own friends. Both parties treated me with respect. When they were going to fight with each other, both parties came to me and begged I would take their goods and chattels into my house and premises, and keep them

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while they were going to fight each other, as they knew I should be a friend to both parties; that I had no quarrel with either party. I mention that as one proof among many, how the negroes are disposed to treat Europeans, if Europeans will treat them kindly.

3234. Do you conceive that any Europeans behaving with propriety would be in perfect safety among any of those tribes?—Yes, certainly; every one would be.

3235. What are their means of subsistence; what do they live upon?—Their mode of living is very simple; it is chiefly yams and peasang, and fish taken and dried upon the coast.

3236. Is there much which calls for constant labour and cultivation on their part?—I think they would have a great deal to do in that way, and the negroes themselves would like to do it, but not at first. I tried it myself. When I told them you can grow so and so, they asked me then what should they have by it if they did so, and they said, "We will see what you have from it yourself first, and when we have seen that, then perhaps we will try to do it ourselves."

3237. Is what they live upon at present the result of laborious cultivation, or do they only gather what they find growing spontaneously?—They cultivate the land very little.

3238. There is very little of a habit of labour in the cultivation of the soil?—Yes, it would be possible to do a great deal if more labour was bestowed. If they work for a single hour in the course of the day, they get enough to support life. The great difficulty is, that the wants of the negroes are so few that they are easily satisfied, and very little labour is required.

3239. If their wants are so few, how can you give them a stimulus to labour?—You must give them the desire by means of the cultivation of their minds by education.

3240. Did you see much of British manufactures or any foreign manufactures in use amongst those people?—Chiefly British. They have got manufactures of their own, but the greater part of what they use is English; their own manufactures are dearer than what they get from England.

3241. How do they pay for the manufactures which they get?—They pay by oil and gold dust.

3242. Did you see during your stay there any increased traffic in palm oil or other products for manufactures?—Yes, I have seen in several parts of the country, during the latter part of the time I was there, the natives planting palm trees.

3243. For the purpose of supplying the demands of commerce upon the coast?—Yes.

3244. Was that increasing to any considerable extent?—Yes; it was considerably increased in the latter years.

3245. Is that planting or that cultivation carried on solely by the slaves, or in common by the slaves and the master?—It is by the slaves.

3246. Entirely?—Yes, for the benefit of the master.

3247. The master does not labour himself?—Yes, sometimes he does.

3248. Are the families of slaves ever separated by sale?—It must take place, though I have not seen much of it.

3249. Do you know how the oil is carried down to the coast, and how far from the coast it is brought?—They carry the oil sometimes from Aquambu, I think, which may be about 150 miles; they carry the oil down on their heads.

3250. In vessels?—Yes.

3251. In calabashes?—Yes, in a kind of pottery ware, which they make themselves.

3252. From what you saw of the country, should you say that the slave trade was exercising less influence upon the interior than it had done?—It is difficult for me to answer a question of that nature, because I did not know the country in earlier years, but I think the influence of it is less than it used to be; the negroes themselves complain that they are not so free as they used to be to carry it on.

3253. What is the class of people who make that complaint?—The chiefs who carry it on; the chiefs in the interior complain that they have not the same facilities for carrying the slaves to the coast, and bartering them as they used to have; that they must now smuggle them in a certain sense.

3254. Did you find that they were becoming more acquainted with the value of the labour of the slaves, for producing articles of produce, by which they could

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get the British manufactures which they wanted?—They have not yet got hold of that idea.

3255. Does the influence of the Danish settlement go far inland?—No, not far; I think only to Aquambu.

3256. How far is that from the coast?—It may be 150 miles, but the influence is very small since Mr. Möick, the late governor, was upon the coast; his administration tendered to weaken the influence of the government, it was very injudicious.

3257. What was the nature of the influence which the Danish settlement exercised over the natives; did the Governor interfere in their disputes among themselves?—Yes.

3258. The disputes between individuals, or the disputes between nations and tribes?—Between nations and chiefs, and between the Aquapims themselves; I think the Governor's own administration and his intrigues were one great cause of the disputes and quarrels that took place between the native tribes.

3259. Were any disputes among the natives decided by the Governor in the Danish settlements?—The Governor thinks that he has a right to do so, or at least acts as if he had the right; but as to the natives, only that part that want his assistance admit his right, the others do not; it is not generally admitted.

3251*. You consider that an European might go in safety through any of the districts behind the Gold Coast?—Yes.

3252*. Do you find a difference between the condition of the people who are in connexion with the English settlements and those who are in connexion with the Danish settlement?—I think so, on the coast, but chiefly about Cape Coast, where Governor Maclean's influence is extensive.

3253*. Mr. Forster.] Did Governor Maclean ever interfere between the Danish Governor and the people in the interior, in order to reconcile any differences?—I think so, at the time when Governor Möick was there.

3254*. Was his interference successful?—It was not possible for him to meddle much in that matter, as he was himself in a state of dispute with Governor Möick.

3255*. Chairman.] Do the natives come to Danish Accra to get justice, in like manner as they do to Cape Coast Castle?—Sometimes they do; they have always shown more confidence in Governor Maclean than in any other authorities, and they come more frequently to him than to any other.

3256*. Mr. Forster.] Have you had opportunities of witnessing Governor Maclean's influence upon the Coast?—I have.

3257*. Can you give the Committee any proofs of it?—There are many circumstances which I should have great pleasure in relating, to show the beneficial influence that Governor Maclean has exercised.

3258*. Will you state one or two?—In Ashantee it even happens that a king kills his own cabboceers, his chiefs. A few years ago one of these fled from Ashantee to Fantee; I cannot exactly mention the date; when this man came to Fantee, he began to kill his own people. As soon as Governor Maclean heard of it he sent him word that he should come to him; he answered he would not. The Governor then determined that he would go to him himself; it might be a distance of 50 miles; he went himself with a few soldiers, and brought this cabboceer to Cape Coast Castle, and fined him a considerable sum of money. The cabboceer said, "Now I have tried to do it, but I will never try to perform human sacrifices again." The cabboceer afterwards had one of his people who committed an act for which he might have been punished with death, but instead of putting him to death himself, he brought the man to Cape Coast Castle, and requested Governor Maclean to punish him. I saw that myself; I was staying with Governor Maclean at the time that this happened.

3259*. Sir T. D. Acland.] What happened to the man who was brought to Governor Maclean?—He was beaten with stripes.

3260. Mr. Forster.] Did you see that chief on your visit to Coomassie?—No; I saw him at Cape Coast; he was at Cape Coast when I was there.

3261. Chairman.] Is it generally one language that prevails over all the Fantee and Ashantee country?—Yes, it is one and the same; there is a little difference, but not much. The Ashantee understand the Fantee, and the Fantee understand the Ashantee very well; it is one language; the Ashantee language is spoken in Fantee, in Assim, in Akim, in Aquapim, in Aquambu, and the Accra people understand the Ashantee language very well too.

3262. Do you believe that if the inducement of good wages were offered to the

the people of the interior, whether Fantees or Ashantees, they could be persuaded to go to the West Indies under the conduct of some person in whom they had confidence?—I do believe they could by and by, but I think the negroes in West Africa will not be persuaded at once; if they could have an opportunity to see what the negroes from the West Indies have become, if they could but see some of their own race who have become converted to Christianity and civilised, they would then get an idea of the probable advantages of those things which Europeans wish to teach them; but at present they cannot do so, as it relates to circumstances with which they are quite unacquainted.

3263. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] You are speaking of their going to the West Indies?—Yes; I think the great matter is that they should feel confidence in any man that wishes to induce them to do anything, and if they have confidence in such a man, they would follow him across the Atlantic to the West Indies.

3264. *Chairman.*] Supposing you went into the country, and endeavoured to persuade a hundred to go over to the West Indies, and they were willing to go, would they have to give a present, or in any way to make payment to their chief, for permission to leave their own country to go with you?—The majority of them are slaves, and therefore there would be no probability of their being allowed to go to the West Indies without the payment of a considerable sum; if they were free, they might go.

3265. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] How many are slaves, and how many free?—The labouring people are mostly slaves; they either are slaves themselves, or they have slaves.

3266. *Chairman.*] Do you think that any whole tribes would emigrate together, under the conduct of their chiefs, and with their slaves?—In their present state very little could be done, unless they felt confidence in the persons who proposed to take them over; in that case they would follow him.

3267. Suppose any superior men were willing to go with their slaves, would their slaves willingly go along with them to a new country?—It is a question upon which there has been no experiment made, and therefore it is impossible to say; if an European wanted to take negroes with him to Europe, or to the West Indies, there would be no difficulty in his finding persons willing to go.

3268. Is there any considerable number of them who would be at liberty to go without being purchased from a master?—There is one thing that would stand very much in the way, that is, they would not like to be separated from their families; but if they once could get this conviction, that even such a separation would issue in some benefit to themselves and their families, they would submit to it; but you must first give them that conviction.

3269. Would it be injurious to the country to induce any part of the population to leave it for the West Indies?—The carrying away the population has had a most prejudicial influence hitherto upon the country, for everywhere, wherever you go, you find the number of people but small; you may go days and days and find no trace of cultivation; I think that the want of cultivation is one cause of the unhealthiness of the country.

3270. *Mr. W. Patten.*] What is the nature of the country generally, where you have been, in the interior?—It is impenetrable forest.

3271. Is there any great quantity of rich land?—On the coast it is sandy; but there is a good deal of rich soil more in the interior, and there the cultivation is easier, and the fertility is great.

3272. Is there any great quantity of land that is fit for cultivation, that is not yet taken advantage of?—Towards the coast there is a good deal of land that is perfectly clear of wood that is not cultivated, but it is not fertile land; but in the interior, as soon as a plantation or a plot of ground that has been cultivated is forsaken, immediately wood springs up upon it.

3273. *Mr. Forster.*] Has Aquapim any water communication with the coast?—We had several small rivers at Aquapim.

3274. *Chairman.*] Did you live yourself by purchasing provisions, or by having land cultivated for you?—Almost all our supplies were got from the negroes; the first portion of the time, when I lived alone, I lived like the negroes, in a hut like theirs; but it is very undesirable that Europeans should live in that manner.

3275. Did you see an improvement in the condition of the people while you were there?—There was some improvement; there was more peace in the country.

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3276. And more cultivation?—Yes.

3277. Do they cultivate maize or millet?—They cultivate maize in Aquapim, and coffee upon the hills.

3278. Have they tried to cultivate coffee, cotton, and sugar?—Yes, they have made a small beginning with it, and I think it will succeed very well; the cotton grows wild everywhere; I think there is good cotton growing there generally. The great disadvantage which they have to struggle with is, that everything they produce is produced far from the coast, and they have no means of transport, and no beasts of burden.

3279. Have they any roads?—No roads; if the communication with the coast was easier they would grow more.

3280. Mr. Aldam.] Is there any hard stone that they could make roads of?—Yes, there is granite in the Aquapim mountains. No attempts that have hitherto been made upon the coast to get the negroes to work have hitherto succeeded; they do work, but the ground is so little fruitful near the coast, that no advantage has been derived from it.

3281. Chairman.] You have visited the neighbourhood of all these settlements, Accra, Annamaboe, and Cape Coast?—Yes, I have.

3282. Is the land universally unfavourable to cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood of the settlements at Cape Coast, and Annamaboe, and the three Accras?—I think it is not favourable in any place.

3283. Mr. Aldam.] How far inland is it before you come to a fertile country?—It is good in the mountains. It may be about 12 or 14 miles perhaps from the coast.

3284. Chairman.] Have you visited any part of the coast except the Gold Coast?—No.

3285. Sir T. D. Acland.] Do you know anything of the kingdom of Dahomey?—No; one must not believe what the negroes tell; they tell you plenty of things about what they have seen and heard, but it is not to be believed.

3286. Did you find Indian corn growing anywhere near the coast?—Yes, but not at Accra, near the beach.

3287. At what points did you find Indian corn growing; near the sea?—Some miles from the sea; never nearer than several miles from the coast.

3288. When you speak of the land near the coast being unfruitful, do you apply that to all the settlements?—The whole of Accra, and up along to Cape Coast Castle.

3289. Have you been at Cape Coast Castle?—I have.

3290. At Dixcove?—No.

3291. At Annamaboe?—I have.

3292. Is the coast fertile at Annamaboe and at Cape Coast Castle, or not?—I cannot say, I have not seen anything growing on the coast; they have cassada on the coast.

3293. Did you find the natives willing to receive religious instruction?—Yes; but I found them not always willing to do according to it.

3294. Did you open schools when you were there?—Not in the interior; I had no opportunity. Now when I return, I intend to open a school immediately; I have written a school-book in the Ashantee.

3295. Had you any opportunity of seeing the schools at Cape Coast Castle?—Yes.

3296. What did you think of them?—The schools were in very excellent condition; I stated before, that many of the assistants that the Wesleyans have had in their mission, have been brought up in that school of Governor Maclean's.

3297. Are you going back to Aquapim?—Yes.

3298. Do you expect that the inhabitants there will be willing to have their children educated under your care?—Yes, they told me so; and I know that they will; I expect to find difficulties. The benefits of education they cannot of course judge of before they have seen the effects of it; but I hope particularly, by bringing some persons of their own race as examples of the benefits that have been received, that they will be ready to receive it. They want to see the fruits of it with their own eyes.

3299. You only expect the improvement of the people to come slowly and gradually?—Yes, it is to be expected; but there is so much predisposition already, that when they see a little improvement, I think there will be greater progress made.

George Clavering Redman, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

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3300. *Mr. Redman.*] I SHOULD wish to hand in a chart, in order to show what I stated in my last evidence with regard to the forts, with regard to the territory that the Americans claim, with regard to the establishments upon the coast, and with regard to the grant. (*The same was delivered in.*)

3301. *Chairman.*] The extent of the claims of the Americans is from Cape Mesurada to Cape Palmas?—Yes.

3302. You have placed five factories within that range of coast?—Yes.

3303. Do you intend to continue them?—Certainly not, in consequence of the interruption that we have sustained from the Americans.

3304. You would suggest the establishment of some forts within those limits, for the protection of our trade?—I should.

3305. Are those points which you know to be independent of any lawful claims on the part of the Liberians?—They claim it, but they have no right to claim it.

3306. Are you aware of any previous settlement having been made by the English at those points before the arrival of the Liberians?—Certainly.

3307. What is the kind of fort which you would think adequate to that object?—I should say a very small fort would be quite sufficient.

3308. With a small detachment?—With a small detachment. With regard to previous settlements, Captain Spence had a settlement there previous to the Americans ever going to that part.

3309. Where?—At St. George's. It is to the northward of Cape Coast.

3310. *Mr. Evans.*] Have the Americans taken possession of that?—They have interfered with our ships, and have summoned the captains before them for trading with the natives, and fined them.

3311. You formerly had some experience in the trade between the coast of Africa and the West Indies?—Yes.

3312. What length of time were your vessels usually occupied in passing between those countries?—From 14 to 21 days to Barbadoes and Demerara, from the neighbourhood of the Gold Coast, say from Accra.

3313. With loaded vessels?—Yes.

3314. Vessels of what size?—One hundred and fifty to 250 tons.

3315. And how long in the return voyage?—The return voyage would be eight or nine weeks.

3316. At that time you used to supply rice for the Government?—Yes, through Macaulay's house; and I have sent several vessels to sell it at Barbadoes and Demerara on my own account.

3317. Do you believe that a prosperous trade in grain might be established between those points?—I think so.

3318. *Mr. Evans.*] Is the quality of the rice that you find upon the African coast as good as that from America?—Some think it better, in consequence of its not being of that watery substance that the American is. The negro population in the West Indies have preferred it in many cases.

3319. *Mr. Forster.*] You stated in your former examination, that you have been 30 years engaged in different branches of the African trade; has the African trade been carried on during that period by all the merchants on the same general system?—The trade is carried on in the same way as formerly in the floating trade.

3320. *Mr. W. Patten.*] Is there any difference in the other trade from what it was formerly?—Formerly every house in London had a house either at the Gambia, or at Sierra Leone; but some 25 years ago Mr. Forster introduced the system of sending out goods on commission; it became a commission house, and it has been very prosperous, arising from that system; and we who have not gone upon that system have not been so prosperous.

3321. *Mr. Forster.*] Dr. Madden alleges in his Report, that the present system of carrying on the African trade has a tendency to promote the slave trade; has the trade, during the whole of your experience, been carried on in Africa in the same manner in which it is now carried on?—Certainly it has.

3322. *Mr. W. Patten.*] In your opinion, has it tended to promote the slave trade?—No, quite the reverse.

3323. *Chairman.*] Has any change taken place, within that period, in the system

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system of carrying on the trade, which could have the effect of encouraging the slave trade more now than it did heretofore?—Certainly not.

3324. Has the system of trading on commission any tendency to produce that effect?—Certainly not; it can make no difference.

3325. What is the system of trading on commission?—Any gentlemen who wish to go out to seek their fortunes in Africa, apply to a house to supply them with goods upon credit; that house charges them a commission, and, by having a great many correspondents, one is set against the other; it is like a sort of insurance; whereas, if you only have one house, as in former times, in case of any accident happening to the parties in the trade, great loss accrues. But of course it is not so great if you have a greater number of correspondents.

3326. Mr. W. Patten.] How do you mean that the house charges a commission?—The London houses charge a commission, as they would in the West India trade, or in the East India trade.

3327. Will you explain the term you made use of just now, that the house in London charges a commission?—When the house in London charges a commission, it does not take the responsibility of the trade upon the coast of Africa, whether it be profit or loss; the party who goes out runs the risk of that himself, not the party in London, they have their commission.

3328. Mr. Wood.] The house in London gives credit to the merchants resident in Africa?—Yes.

3329. The merchants resident in Africa carry on the trade in Africa at their own risk, the house in London supplying the goods to the parties resident in Africa?—Yes.

3330. Under that system, do you conceive that the Africans have been supplied with English manufactures at cheaper rates than heretofore?—I do.

3331. Is it, or is it not beneficial to the progress of trade?—I think it is; and it is beneficial to the Africans.

3332. Chairman.] It extends the trade for British manufactures still further?—Yes; and as you extend trade you extend civilization.

3333. Mr. W. Patten.] Will you describe the other mode of carrying on the African trade which existed before this system was introduced?—A merchant in London had a house at Sierra Leone, and there were two or three clerks, and a head clerk at so much a year; he sent out the goods, and kept open house, which was the fashion originally at Sierra Leone, for the officers both of the army and navy, and at the same time opened a retail store for the natives to come and purchase the goods; and what produce they collected for the goods, or what bills they got from the Government officers, were remitted to the merchant in London, he taking to himself all the proceeds at that period, and perhaps obtaining large profits, but he took the risk at the same time: the parties in the establishment had fixed salaries.

3334. Mr. Wood.] The business was conducted by a man in the capacity of a servant resident in Africa, on behalf of the London house; at present it is conducted by Englishmen resident in Africa, on their own account?—Yes.

3335. Does the statement you have been making refer to the trade at Sierra Leone?—Yes.

3336. And to any other part of the coast?—At the Gambia it was the case, and at Senegal, when in our hands, it was the same; at the forts there is a different arrangement.

3337. Are you acquainted with the mode in which the trade is carried on, on the Gold Coast?—Not so well as at the other places.

3338. Do you know whether the custom of supplying goods on commission to English merchants resident there has been introduced to that part of Africa?—I imagine so.

3339. Mr. Forster.] You have spoken of a house which introduced this system; are you aware that that house has always carried on their trade on the same principle to all parts of the coast, including the Gold Coast?—I believe so.

3340. Mr. Wood.] You spoke of the floating trade; will you describe what you mean by the floating trade?—The merchant puts on board a ship a certain quantity of goods, under charge of the captain, to sell upon the coast for produce, or for gold or ivory, or anything else, and he remains out till he disposes of that cargo, and he brings home the proceeds; he goes from port to port, the goods are never landed to be sold, they are sold out of the ship; lately they have given credit to the natives, which is a very bad system.

3341. Does

3341. Does the captain act as supercargo?—Yes.
3342. Does he conduct the trade by barter?—Yes.
3343. And passes from port to port till he has disposed of the whole of his cargo?—Yes.
3344. Is the cargo which he takes with him a cargo of assorted goods?—It is, and he brings home a cargo of assorted produce.
3345. Does the captain participate in the profit or loss of the trading voyage, or does he act on behalf of mercantile houses in this country?—Some houses adopt the principle of paying their captain on commission; others give him a share of the profit of the voyage.
3346. Mr. *Evans*.] It is but lately that the custom of giving credit to the natives has arisen?—In the floating trade.
3347. What extent of credit is commonly given now to the natives?—Sometimes from 5*l.* to 100*l.*
3348. What length of credit?—Perhaps it may be a few weeks, or two or three months. When a ship is going down the coast, they leave the goods on shore; and when she comes back, they are paid in palm oil; and sometimes, of late, when the ship has a small quantity of goods remaining, they have left it with the natives to be paid the next voyage.
3349. Do you know of any losses that have arisen from that system of giving credit?—Certainly I do; I have had very heavy losses myself, from my captains having given credit.
3350. Mr. *W. Patten*.] What class of persons is it that they give credit to?—Common natives; traders.
3351. Not chiefs?—In some cases chiefs.
3352. *Chairman*.] Is there a class of traders distinct from the chiefs, along the coast where you touch?—Yes.
3353. Do they trade along the coast, or by carrying goods inland?—Both ways.
3354. Mr. *Forster*.] When you first began the trade with Sierra Leone in 1812, how many houses were engaged in trade in that settlement?—One.
3355. What house was that?—Zachary Macaulay & Company.
3356. Did that house carry on business in the way you have described as having been the general system previous to the introduction of the new system you have alluded to?—They carried it on upon the system of having their own house at Sierra Leone, and paying agents.
3357. *Chairman*.] They sold their goods to all parties who came to them?—Any one that came to them they sold them to.
3358. Mr. *Forster*.] Our settlements at the Gambia were established in 1816; have you been connected with that place ever since?—I have.
3359. Has there been great competition in the trade there for many years past?—Very great.
3360. How long did the house of Macaulay & Co. continue to be the only house at Sierra Leone subsequently to 1812?—About seven years.
3361. Did the trade after that become divided?—It did.
3362. Has it continued so up to this time?—Yes, with very great competition.
3363. *Chairman*.] Can you state the number of houses now in that trade?—There are only four houses now; several have gone out of the trade, they made a very bad thing of it.
3364. Mr. *Forster*.] Dr. Madden, in his third Report, speaks of the trade with our African settlements as a monopoly in the hands of a few houses; can you give the Committee any information as to the progress of the trade in your experience for the last 30 years, in respect of the number of merchants engaged in it, and the success attending their speculations?—In consequence of that remark in Dr. Madden's Report, I have taken some pains in looking through my own books for information upon the subject, and I find that at the Gambia, since I have known the trade, there have been 17 merchants in it.
3365. Seventeen houses, or merchants?—Seventeen distinct establishments, principally merchants; five abandoned the trade with loss; three became bankrupts; seven withdrew, for what reason I cannot account. One house now remains that has been in it about three years, and one house remains in it that has been in it ever since it was established.
3366. Mr. *W. Patten*.] There are only two remaining?—There are two remaining; I was the last that withdrew myself.

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3367. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] What has been the greatest number existing at any one period?—Four.

3368. Will you state what you imagine to be the chief cause of the decline of the trade at the Gambia?—First, the loss of the gum trade, by the French taking it; that has been a serious loss to the Gambia merchants. It is now totally lost to the country, and has been so for the last six years.

3369. What is the next cause?—I think the second cause is the permission to foreigners to come there upon the same footing as British ships, and they have an advantage, inasmuch as they only pay duty upon what they load, while a British ship is obliged to pay duty upon all that she carries into port immediately, and the British shipping are not permitted to go into the French ports in return. Another cause is the increased trade of the Americans there, and foreigners of every description. They have cut up our trade there very much; they have divided it. There is the loss also of the mahogany trade.

3370. How is the mahogany trade lost?—The state of the market has been the principal cause. An importation of mahogany from other parts of the world has taken place to a great extent; the Gambia mahogany being of an inferior description, we cannot bring it here to compete with that which is finer.

3371. Is it inferior to Honduras?—It is.

3372. In quality?—It is inferior in quality to Honduras. There is some Honduras that is quite as bad as Gambia, but it is not brought to this country. The Honduras brought to this country is better than the Gambia.

3373. Mr. *Forster*.] Is not the objection to the Gambia mahogany confined to its hardness?—That is one great reason; the cabinet manufacturers complain that it chips.

3374. Mr. *W. Patten*.] Are those the whole of the causes of the decline of the trade to the Gambia?—I think those are the principal causes, and the reduction of the price of produce of every description that has come from the Gambia; and you cannot get the natives to reduce their prices in proportion as the markets have fallen in this country.

3375. Will you state how the gum trade has been lost to us?—From France interdicting the trade by a blockade, and an illegal one, too.

3376. At what period was that?—In 1834 and 1835.

3377. Why did the trade not revive after that was over?—Because the French have increased their subsidies to the king of the Trazars, and in signing the treaty that they made with him, they stated that so long as they do not bring their gum down to the British at Portendie they are to receive those subsidies, but if they have any communication with the British they are to lose them.

3378. That is the sole cause why we have lost the gum trade?—Yes, it was a commercial blockade. The present Government and the late Government, and all the law officers of the Government, have stated it to be illegal.

3379. Mr. *Wood*.] The blockade does not now continue?—No, but the French have satisfied the natives that they are the strongest power; they drove our ships away by their men-of-war.

3380. There is now no impediment to our ships going there?—No, but we have no security against the French doing the like again.

3381. Are the facilities existing now to our carrying on the gum trade equal to those enjoyed by the French, provided that the natives were equally willing to trade with us?—If they were equally willing, certainly; but they are not willing while they are receiving those subsidies.

3382. Supposing that interference by subsidies did not exist, have we equal facilities with the French for having a share of the trade?—Certainly, upon that supposition. By a treaty between the French and the English that trade is confined exclusively to those two powers. They will allow no other power to go there.

3383. Who will allow no other power to go there?—France and England.

3384. Do you mean that there is a mutual compact regarding the trade at Portendie between France and England?—Yes, by a treaty between France and England in 1783 and 1814.

3385. What was the date and the origin of the compact between the native chiefs and the French Government, to give them the exclusive supply of gum?—During the blockade a treaty, dated August 1835, which gave 5,000 dollars per annum to the king; and further, the inhabitants of Senegal added, on condition that no trade should be carried on at Portendie with the British, that they would give

give the Trazars a proportionate contribution from every house, and even every hut in Senegal, the most insignificant of which should not be less than two dollars; previously to raising the blockade, the French obtained that treaty with the king of the Trazars.

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3386. Are there any other tribes who are capable of carrying on the gum trade, who would be willing to carry on that trade with us, and who are not parties to that compact?—No; the Trazars are a warlike nation, and they keep the key to all that country.

3387. Has any means suggested itself to you by which this state of things might be remedied, so as to afford to us a share in the trade?—Yes.

3388. Have you any objection to state what those means are?—Yes, I have a great objection, because when the time arrives I intend to take advantage of them.

3389. Is the time likely to be early or remote?—When the Government obtain from France the indemnifications due to myself and others.

3390. Are you one of the parties who have suffered in consequence of that blockade upon the coast?—I am the greatest sufferer.

3391. Mr. Forster.] You have stated the number of persons who have been engaged in the trade at the Gambia; will you now state the number that have been engaged in the trade at Sierra Leone?—There have been 28 London merchants engaged in the trade; nine have abandoned it with loss; six became bankrupts; four have withdrawn, and two are withdrawing; there are four remaining in it, and three have retired with property made in it during that period.

3392. Sir T. D. Acland.] What is the greatest number existing at any one period?—Half-a-dozen houses in London; on the Gold coast, the Leeward trade, 22 merchants have been in the trade; six abandoned the trade with loss; two became bankrupts; two have withdrawn from it; five are still in it; two have made money in it.

3393. Mr. W. Patten.] Are there not more than five merchants trading with the Gold Coast now?—Not from London; I am speaking of the number from London.

3394. Sir T. D. Acland.] What was the greatest number trading with the Gold Coast at any one period?—Five.

3395. Do you know anything of the trade further to leeward?—No.

3396. Mr. Forster.] This is over a period of 30 years?—Yes.

3397. Sir T. D. Acland.] On the whole do you consider our trade to be advancing or decreasing?—Advancing, I think, gradually; the oil trade is increasing.

3398. Do you think there is still room in this country for its increase?—I do.

3399. Mr. Evans.] Does the timber trade increase?—No, and I fear it will decrease.

3400. Is there any particular reason that you see for the decrease of the timber trade?—The introduction of the East India teak.

3401. Is the East India teak of better quality than the African timber?—Certainly.

3402. Mr. Forster.] Has it been the custom in the African trade to restrict the captains and supercargoes in their sales on the coast of Africa, with reference to the character or pursuits of their customers there?—No.

3403. Have you understood that the resident slave dealers on the coast are generally dealers in produce as well as in slaves?—They deal in produce as well as in slaves.

3404. Did it ever occur to you, that by refusing to take the produce you would hold out any inducement to the slave dealers to leave off the slave trade?—No.

3405. Were you ever aware that it was contrary to any Act of Parliament to sell British goods in Africa to any purchaser, whether engaged in the slave trade or not?—Not until Dr. Madden's Report arrived in this country.

3406. Chairman.] You conceived that your responsibility was limited to the case of selling improper goods, and receiving improper produce in return?—Quite so.

3407. Sir T. D. Acland.] Did you hear of a proclamation of Governor Maclean, of the 15th of December 1839?—No; I never heard of it till I saw it in the Parliamentary papers.

3408. Should you have thought yourself warranted in selling manacles or planks for slavers?—Certainly not; I should know I was doing wrong then.

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3409. You would have thought that you were not dealing in lawful articles?—
Yes.

3410. Mr. *Forster*.] As a ship-broker and merchant for 30 years, you must have had great acquaintance with the foreign trade. Do you understand that many of the first houses in Cuba and Brazil are engaged in the African slave trade?—They are, to my knowledge.

3411. Are you aware that those houses are in direct correspondence with many of the first commercial houses in London and Liverpool, and that goods used in the slave trade are shipped by those English houses to the orders of those correspondents in Brazil and Cuba carrying on the slave trade?—Certainly.

3412. Are you aware that the slave goods in question are made in this country expressly for the slave trade, and are known to the manufacturers by the name of slave goods?—I am perfectly aware of that. There are houses at Manchester that make no other goods.

3413. Mr. *Wood*.] Do those houses make the goods knowing that they are intended to be sold in payment for slaves purchased?—Yes, I should say so.

3414. *Chairman*.] You say that they are known by the name of “slave goods”?—I do not say that they are known by the name of “slave goods,” but they are known to be slave goods.

3415. Are they a distinct class of goods employed in bartering for slaves?—
Yes.

3416. Mr. *Wood*.] Have you ever heard any denomination of goods described as “slave goods”?—No.

3417. Have you ever heard them so described in commercial correspondence?—No.

3418. Have you ever heard them so described in conversation among commercial men in this country?—No.

3419. Are they known under the designation of “African goods,” or “goods for the African trade”?—Yes; an inferior description; there is a difference in the quality.

3420. What is the meaning of the phrase “inferior description”?—We all pretty well know; houses that I have had communication with at Manchester are perfectly aware that goods that are of an inferior description are those goods that are principally used in the slave trade.

3421. Is that in the direct trade from this country to the coast of Africa, or circuitously through Cuba and the Brazils?—Through Cuba and Brazil.

3422. *Chairman*.] Do none of those inferior goods go direct from this country to the coast of Africa?—There may be some that go direct from this country; but I know of no goods being sent direct from London to any slave dealers; they go to houses.

3423. But the same quality of goods are sent directly from England to the African coast as are sent to Cuba and Brazil for the slave trade?—Yes; but in less quantities from London, because none of the fine goods go to Cuba or Brazil.

3424. Mr. *Wood*.] If it be known at Manchester that when goods of that description are ordered to go out to Cuba or Brazil, they must be destined to be sold in exchange for slaves, would not the same inference arise if they are ordered by a London merchant, to ship them to the coast of Africa?—Yes.

3425. Mr. *Forster*.] Have you known any African merchant in London ship any of the goods you have alluded to as goods manufactured expressly for the slave trade?—No.

3426. Mr. *Wood*.] Have you known them ship goods under the designation of “inferior goods”?—It is the price of the article that they are shipped under which determines their quality; they are not shipped as inferior goods, but they are goods at certain prices.

3427. If their destination be uncertain when exported from London direct to the coast of Africa, why may not their destination be equally uncertain when they are exported from hence to Cuba and Brazil?—After all it is only matter of surmise.

3428. Mr. *Forster*.] If any complaint could justly be against the London merchant for shipping goods to the coast of Africa, which goods may subsequently go into the hands of slave dealers, then would not the same complaint lie with still greater force against the manufacturers in this country who make such goods expressly for the purpose of the slave trade, and against those merchants in London and Liverpool who ship them to houses in Cuba and Brazil for
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that trade?—I should say yes, because at Cuba and the Brazils they have not a trade that those articles will purchase produce for in the same ratio as the African merchant obtains in his market.

3429. *Chairman.*] You mean to say that the return to Cuba and Brazil for those goods must be in slaves?—What I mean is this, that at Cuba and the Brazils there is not a market for the commodities sent out from this country, except by making use of them to purchase slaves with. If you send them to Africa, those goods may be used in the purchase of palm oil and of ivory.

3430. You mean to say there is no lawful trade carried on between those countries and Africa, and that therefore those goods must be employed in an unlawful trade?—Yes; there is very little lawful trade, I believe.

3431. *Captain Fitzroy.*] Are not the goods employed in Brazil and in the West Indies, for the use of the black population in those countries, precisely similar to the goods used on the coast of Africa?—Yes, they are; but in small quantities, in comparison to the quantity sent out there.

3432. Is not the negro population now in those countries very large?—It is.

3433. *Mr. Wood.*] Are not they clothed in goods similar to what are sent to the coast of Africa?—Only partially so.

3434. *Mr. Forster.*] Have you not understood that particular descriptions of cotton manufacture made in Lancashire, and solely adapted for the trade of the coast of Africa, were shipped to Cuba and Brazil?—Yes.

3435. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] And when such goods are shipped to Cuba and Brazil, is it for the sole purpose of purchasing slaves?—Certainly.

3436. *Chairman.*] Is there no return trade from the coast of Africa to Cuba or Brazil except in slaves?—I think none.

3437. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] Where do those goods acquire the name of slave goods; you say not in Manchester, and not in London?—They are not invoiced as slave goods, but in common phrase we call them slave goods.

3438. *Mr. Evans.*] Were not they usually called so before the abolition of the trade, in common parlance?—They were.

3439. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] Where?—I should say principally at Liverpool; they are known at Manchester and Liverpool, and in London and Bristol, as slave goods, but they are not invoiced as slave goods.

3440. What is the description of the goods?—There are some hundreds of different patterns of goods that are sent out.

3441. Are they cotton goods?—Cotton goods.

3442. Are they handkerchiefs?—Handkerchiefs and piece goods.

3443. *Mr. Aldam.*] Is the figure of the print different from other goods?—Yes; but I do not know how to describe them.

3444. *Mr. W. Patten.*] Are they chiefly very gaudy colours?—Yes; red, and blue, and white.

3445. So gaudy that no civilised person would wear them?—Yes.

3446. *Chairman.*] How do you account for their sending different qualities of goods, which are exchanged with the same people, the one for produce and the other for slaves?—Because on the coast, from their habit of trade, they know the great difference between what is good and what is bad; they know what is a good colour, what will wash and what will not wash; and therefore the best articles are made use of for the coast, and the commonest go up into the interior; the slaves are brought down from the interior, and therefore it is the commonest articles that are mostly made use of.

3447. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] Are these goods essential for the carrying on of the slave trade in the interior by the slave dealers?—Certainly.

3448. If they had not those goods, could they continue to supply the slave market?—I do not know that they could.

3449. Would they use guns and gunpowder?—Guns and gunpowder are necessary, because they are doing away with bows and arrows; they want them to get their daily food.

3450. Do they use dollars in the interior to procure slaves?—Certainly not.

3451. *Mr. Aldam.*] Are the French in the habit of supplying slave goods?—I think not.

3452. *Mr. W. Patten.*] Or the Belgians?—The Belgians and the Dutch do.

3453. *Chairman.*] And the Hamburgers?—Yes.

3454. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] Are those goods made use of in the legitimate trade of the African coast?—Certainly.

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3455. Are they made use of to a great extent?—Yes.
3456. Are they used in exchange for produce?—Yes.
3457. Mr. *Forster*.] Are not guns and gunpowder also used in the legitimate trade?—Certainly.
3458. With respect to those goods which you have described as peculiarly adapted to the slave trade, and which are now manufactured in Lancashire, would they not be manufactured by the Americans, if any difficulty were thrown in the way of their being manufactured here?—Certainly.
3459. Mr. *Evans*.] That is, if no goods of the kind you have been speaking of were sent from England to that spot, an equal quantity of the same kind of goods would go to the same coast from other countries?—Certainly.
3460. Do you believe that the goods sold in exchange for slaves have been goods of a better quality, and of greater value, during the last 11 years, than they used to be formerly?—I think they are, as far as I can judge.
3461. Do you know, or do you suppose, that goods of the best quality are exchanged for slaves?—I cannot answer that question.
3462. *Chairman*.] You look upon the inferiority of the goods to be very much governed by the distance from the coast of the market for which they are intended?—Yes.
3463. Therefore, supposing the slave trade from the interior were very much replaced by the palm oil trade, that palm oil trade would be paid for by inferior goods just as the slave trade is now?—Yes, but I think they would soon require the better description of goods.
3464. In proportion to the frequency of the intercourse, there comes a demand for the finer article, arising from their increased knowledge of the article?—Yes.
3465. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] Is it not easier for them to bring down slaves from the interior from a great distance, than it is to bring down produce?—I should think not: palm oil they can bring in large quantities. On the very coast where my factories were, when I first commenced the trade there, no captain hardly dared to go ashore there; now you can have intercourse with them always.
3466. Do you happen to know the extremest point of distance from the coast from which the palm oil is supplied?—No; it is brought a very great way; I am informed by my captains several days' journey.
3467. Mr. *W. Patten*.] Is any great proportion of the trade at the settlements upon the coast that you are interested in carried on with foreigners, not with natives; do they ever come to your stores?—I have no stores open for parties to go to in that way now, but much business is so done.
3468. Do you know whether captains of foreign vessels are purchasers to any extent at the stores at those settlements?—Not to any great extent but in barter.
3469. The great bulk of the trade is carried on by the natives?—Yes.
3470. Is there not a considerable trade at Sierra Leone carried on between merchants and parties not natives?—Yes.
3471. Who are those parties that are not natives?—American, French, Spaniards, Portuguese, and Belgians.
3472. What is the kind of goods that they chiefly ask for?—British manufactured goods.
3473. Cottons?—Yes.
3474. Of the superior or inferior kind?—Every description.
3475. Is not there a general suspicion that those goods are used in the slave trade which are purchased by the foreign captains?—Not always; if a Spaniard was to buy of you, you might suspect it.
3476. Would you not also in the case of an American?—No.
3477. A South American?—Yes, a South American is looked upon as a Spaniard.
3478. Suppose that you knew that he came from New Orleans?—It is not the custom of merchants or manufacturers to ask a purchaser what he is going to do with the goods he is buying.
3479. But the general suspicion was that those parties who purchased those goods were about to employ them in the slave trade?—No; they buy goods from you and sell them to those who may employ them afterwards in the purchase of slaves.
3480. Mr. *Forster*.] Having had dealings with all our settlements upon the coast, which of those settlements do you consider the most distinguished for order and fair dealing?—The Gold Coast.

3481. If a person had died at Cape Coast Castle owing you money, and you had no one on the coast to look after that property, should you feel a confidence in the authorities that they would faithfully account for the property of the deceased?—I should.

3482. Did you ever hear any complaints against them of their neglecting their duty in that respect?—No.

3483. Supposing the same thing happened at Sierra Leone, how would you feel in that case?—From sad experience, the reverse.

3484. You would not expect the property to be faithfully accounted for?—No.

3485. There are a great many law courts and lawyers at Sierra Leone, are there not?—Yes; that is one great evil.

3486. Has not the want of correctness and regularity in administering to the effects of deceased persons been long a subject of grievance and complaint in that settlement?—It has, very long.

3487. How have you found Gambia in that respect?—Much better.

3488. Mr. Wood.] Are there any lawyers there?—Yes, but not until within the last three or four years.

3489. How many are there?—One.

3490. Mr. Forster.] How many do you suppose there are at Sierra Leone?—Three or four; and five or six sometimes.

3491. Are you of opinion that both the Gambia and the Gold Coast should be made independent of Sierra Leone?—Certainly, they should; I cannot see any reason why they should be subject to the government of Sierra Leone; places so distant from the seat of government.

3492. Are you of opinion that they have suffered in their prosperity from their dependence on that settlement?—I think they have.

3493. Credit has been frequently given in this country to coloured traders at Sierra Leone; has that been found to answer?—A great many coloured people have been given credit to, and I am very sorry to say, that in every instance it has failed. I believe in all instances it has been to the loss of the merchants in London, giving any coloured man credit.

3494. Mr. Evans.] Do you speak of the Gambia, or at Sierra Leone?—Both places.

3495. Do you apply it also to the Gold Coast?—There have been no coloured men come from Cape Coast to London; they have had credit given to them by the merchants out there; but coloured people have come from Sierra Leone and the Gambia, and they have had large credit given to them, and in almost all cases it has been fatal to the merchants; they have suffered very severe losses; in fact, it was the ruin of one house, the great credit they gave to the mulattoes and blacks.

3496. Mr. Mitcalfe.] Who is the officer who is appointed by the government to collect the property of deceased persons at Sierra Leone?—There is no person appointed to collect the property; of course, if there is a will, the executor administers to it. There is a system, which I have unfortunately suffered from, on the part of any executor who wishes to do wrong; he sends a sum of money to every solicitor, or to as many solicitors as he likes. In one instance of my own the administrator retained every solicitor in the place; my correspondent dying without a will, the Governor permitted his clerk to administer to the property; he immediately retained the three lawyers that were in the town, and when I sent a power of attorney out to a merchant there to act, he could not go into court, because he could not go in without a lawyer; the person who had obtained the administration had retained all the lawyers, and therefore from that period to this, which is now about five years, there is about 11,000*l.*, of which I have never received but one, and I have spent that on costs.

3497. Mr. Evans.] Has it been spent in litigation; have you any account how it has been disposed of?—No; I cannot get an account.

3498. Did the Governor's secretary send you any account whatever?—None whatever.

3499. Mr. Mitcalfe.] There is no person appointed by the government to collect the property of deceased persons?—None.

3500. Sir T. D. Acland.] Was it not in your power to send out a professional man from this country?—I might; but there are few professional men that are worth having that would go out there.

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3501. Mr. *Aldam*.] Were you never heard in court at all, nor any one on your behalf?—Never; within the last four months a solicitor has gone out, and a new Queen's Advocate, and I retained both of those gentlemen before they went out, so that I shall be represented there at last.

3502. Mr. *Mitcalfe*.] How long ago is it since you lost this property?—Between six and seven years.

3503. Mr. *Forster*.] Did you ever hear of the property of a deceased person, dying without a will, or without some person upon the spot to look after the effects, being faithfully and correctly remitted to this country from Sierra Leone?—I fear I do not know a case; I am very much afraid that there is a very bad system there in those cases.

3504. Do you think such a system is general in other colonies?—No, it is not so at the Gambia or Cape Coast.

3505. Mr. *W. Patten*.] To what do you attribute this state of things at Sierra Leone; not to the lawyers being there?—I am afraid a great deal arises from the lawyers being there. I think they would be a great deal better without them; because then the Governor would act as he does at Cape Coast and at the Gambia.

3506. Do you think it is desirable that in a large establishment like Sierra Leone the Governor should have that responsibility attached to him?—The Governor at the Gambia, in two instances which I have known, when the parties have died, has named in one case two merchants, and in the other three merchants, to act on behalf of the party who was dead; and in those cases the parties came forward and sold the property, and remitted it faithfully; and that is the system at Cape Coast.

3507. Mr. *W. Patten*.] Who was the Governor at the time when that case with regard to the 11,000 *l.* occurred?—Colonel Doherty.

3508. Mr. *Aldam*.] Does not it amount to this, that in case of a person dying without any executor or administrator, no one is appointed to look after his property?—The Governor is always looked upon as the Lord Chancellor to do so.

3509. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] Is there anything in the constitution of Sierra Leone which has prevented him from acting in the same way there?—Not that I know.

3510. Mr. *Forster*.] But in every case in Sierra Leone some person takes charge of the property?—Yes.

3511. *Chairman*.] Who takes charge of it?—It cannot be administered without the consent of the Governor, who is the Lord Chancellor.

3512. Then the Governor has the responsibility there as elsewhere?—I do not know that he takes upon himself any responsibility in permitting a party to administer; he should take good securities.

3513. Mr. *Aldam*.] What takes place in Sierra Leone when a man dies without any executor, or any person to administer?—I can hardly say what takes place; there is a great deal of roguery takes place.

3514. Mr. *Forster*.] Have not the grievances complained of generally arisen from parties who have administered to the effects under some real or pretended claim upon the deceased?—Yes, just so.

3515. *Chairman*.] Has not the Governor of Sierra Leone the same power of protecting the property of the person deceased as the Governor of the Gambia or Cape Coast?—They have never interfered to do so, but I know nothing to prevent them from doing it.

3516. Mr. *Forster*.] You judge from experience, and from the effects of the system?—I do.

3517. Mr. *Aldam*.] Does not your complaint amount to this, that it generally happens that, at Sierra Leone, some person has taken upon himself the executorship with fraudulent intentions?—I think there are a great many cases of that.

3518. Mr. *Forster*.] Does it not appear to you that this system has risen up in a great measure as matter of custom there, from bad example, and that it has not been, in fact, the custom to remit the property of deceased persons to this country?—I think at Sierra Leone almost all the executors or administrators to estates become men of property in a very short time; from what I have seen, most of those that have risen, have risen from dead men's property.

3529. Mr.

3529. Mr. *W. Patten*.] You have stated that the gum trade has been lost to this country; have you any idea of the amount of the gum trade at the time it was lost?—I should think the loss to this country will be at any rate 50,000*l.* a year, the profit of the trade.

3530. Do you know what the value of the gum exported was from that coast?—I cannot state at the present moment.

3531. Have you any idea of the value of the mahogany trade?—I cannot state it off-hand; at one time it amounted to 10,000*l.* annually.

3532. *Chairman*.] Can you state the amount of the loss incurred by the transactions of the French at Portendic?—The actual loss is about 76,000*l.*

3533. Mr. *Aldam*.] Do not you think that many of those defects which you have observed in the system of administration of the effects of deceased persons have arisen from the system of law that was employed being too complicated for the state of society?—I think so, as one part of the defects, certainly.

3534. *Chairman*.] Has there been in Sierra Leone a greater attempt to follow the technicalities of the English law than at the Gambia or at the Gold Coast?—There has.

3535. And that has done more harm than good?—Yes.

3536. Mr. *Aldam*.] It is possible for them to have a sufficient staff of lawyers to carry out the details of the English law?—I think not.

3537. Have they attempted it?—They have attempted it, but they mostly are not competent lawyers that go out there.

3538. Mr. *Forster*.] In your opinion are the evils that have been referred to, more particularly with respect to the administration of the effects of deceased persons there, mainly owing to the standard of moral principle being lower at Sierra Leone than at the other settlements upon the coast?—I think so.

Martis, 31^o die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir T. D. Acland.
Viscount Courtenay.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. W. Evans.
Mr. Forster.
Mr. W. Hamilton.

Sir Robert H. Inglis.
Mr. Milnes.
Mr. Mitcalfe.
Mr. Wilson Patten.
Mr. Stuart Wortley.

VISCOUNT SANDON, IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel *Alexander Findlay*, called in; and further Examined.

3539. Mr. *Forster*.] FROM your long residence at the Gambia and at Sierra Leone you must be well acquainted with the river and coasts between those settlements; do you think it would be desirable, for the improvement of commerce and the suppression of the slave trade, to establish British forts in that quarter?—I think it would be a very great advantage both to commerce and to the suppression of the slave trade if settlements were made at the mouth of the river Nunez and the river Pongas, and if we were to take possession of the island of Budama, which belongs to us, and to have a settlement there. I think it would have a great effect, both as to the increase of commerce and the suppression of the slave trade.

3540. It is in evidence before this Committee that great abuses exist in the system of administering to the estates of deceased persons at Sierra Leone. Can you offer to the Committee any explanation of that circumstance?—I believe such abuses do exist, and that it has been of long standing, but I am afraid that the evidence of the last witness has made an impression upon the minds of this Committee that great blame is to be attached to the governors. I therefore wish to explain, that in almost every case of the death of a merchant, or an agent, a will is left, in which are named executors to take charge of the property. Where a will is not left, it is invariably the case that some individual comes forward, with either a real or pretended claim, and takes out letters of administration. Both those

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cases take it entirely out of the power of the governor to interfere. In a case where there is no will, and no claim made for letters of administration against the estate of a deceased person, it would be the duty of the governor to appoint a committee to take charge of the property, to dispose of it, to pay the funeral expenses, and all the other debts that might be due from the estate in the colony, and to see that the committee should lodge the balance of the proceeds, if any, in the colonial chest, there to remain as a deposit until the heirs at law, or heir at law, made good his or her claim, when the amount would be remitted. The governors that have been upon the coast since my time have been all men of strict honour and high character, and I am convinced that they would have acted as I have stated had any case of this kind occurred during their government.

3541. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] You said that where any parties apply to administer to wills, the governor does not interfere?—No, it is out of his power in that case.

3542. Mr. *W. Evans*.] Do you know any instance of extensive frauds practised in consequence of persons dying upon the coast without wills?—I cannot say that I do.

3543. Mr. *Mitcalfe*.] You were not mixed up in commercial affairs generally, and therefore this subject was not likely to come under your knowledge?—No.

3544. Mr. *Forster*.] Then you attribute it rather to the want of moral principle in the place, than to any failure of duty on the part of the governors?—Yes; I attribute those abuses to the morals of the people, and not to any neglect of the governors.

3545. Were those abuses extensive in your time?—They may have occurred in my time.

3546. Do you recollect any instances?—I may name one instance; that on the late Mr. Kennett Macaulay's visit to the Gambia as acting governor, in 1826, he told me that he had realized about 36,000*l.*, and that, on his return to Sierra Leone, it was his intention to wind up his uncle's affairs, and to retire from the coast. I have been told since that his friends and his family, who live in Scotland, have not received one shilling of this property.

3547. Did he die soon after that time?—He died soon after his return to Sierra Leone.

3548. Do you know how long Mr. Kennett Macaulay had resided on the coast?—He had been a long time on the coast; I suppose from 20 to 25 years.

3549. There has been a practice of admitting coloured persons, without legal education, into practice in the courts at Sierra Leone as solicitors; do you think that has been a good practice?—No, I think it has been a very bad practice.

3550. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] On what account do you consider that that is a bad practice?—Because they have not been brought up to the law.

3551. *Chairman*.] Have any white persons been admitted in the same situation, without legal education?—I believe there have.

3552. Do you hold it to be equally injurious, whether they are white or coloured, provided they are ignorant of the law?—Yes, if they are ignorant of the law; colour makes no difference.

3553. Mr. *Forster*.] In the case of these colonies, where the population is small, do you think it desirable to multiply legal forms in the administration of the government?—No, I should think the simpler the forms are the better.

3554. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] Is it your opinion that the legal forms used in the colony at the present time are too numerous for the good of the colony?—At Sierra Leone, I think, there are too many practising attorneys; they give a good deal of annoyance.

3555. *Chairman*.] Is there an attempt to introduce the technicalities of the English law too far in the practice of the court at Sierra Leone?—I rather think there is.

3556. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] Can you point out any particular legal forms which you have found detrimental in the colony?—No, I cannot say that I can point out any particular forms.

3557. Mr. *Forster*.] Do not those courts of law afford an opportunity to persons who are inclined to litigate, and to withhold property belonging to others in this country, to have recourse to legal forms for the purpose of throwing difficulties in the way of payment?—I have no doubt they do.

3558. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] What alteration in the present system would you suggest to remedy that evil?—I do not know that I am able to point out any remedy.

3559. Would

3559. Would you give greater authority to the governor?—The governor can hardly interfere in the matter; he must only approve or disapprove of what comes before him for his opinion.

3560. Mr. *Forster*.] At the Gambia, where the forms are simpler, none of those abuses have existed, have they?—I do not know of any.

3561. It appears from Dr. Madden's Report, that the Rev. Mr. Morgan was one of the parties from whom he received a portion of his information upon the subject of Sierra Leone; was that gentleman one of the party who opposed the government in your time?—He was.

3562. Had you ever cause to make any official complaint against that gentleman?—I had cause to make an official complaint against him.

3563. What was the nature of the complaint?—I ordered the Rev. Mr. Morgan, as chaplain of the colony, to administer religious consolation to the prisoners confined in the gaol under sentence of death; he refused to do so, for which he was brought before the council, when he persisted in his refusal, stating that it was not part of his duty; I was then obliged to get the clergyman of the Wesleyan Missionary Society to attend the prisoners.

3564. Was he re-called upon this?—No; his adherence to the party I have alluded to secured him against that.

3565. *Chairman*.] Is Mr. Morgan now in this country?—No.

3566. Is he in the colony now?—Yes.

3567. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] Did you address the Colonial Office upon the subject?—I did.

3568. Had you any communication in return from the Colonial Office upon the subject?—No, I had not.

3569. Mr. *Forster*.] Had you not the power to suspend him?—I had the power to suspend him, but I did not wish to deprive the inhabitants of Freetown of his services as clergyman; I satisfied myself by representing his conduct to Lord Viscount Goderich, then Secretary of State.

3570. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] What was the nature of his appointment?—He was appointed colonial chaplain by the Colonial Office.

3571. Under the direction of the governor?—All officers in the colony are under the governor.

3572. Mr. *Forster*.] If any of the Sierra Leone merchants had had factories or stores on the river, or on the neighbouring coasts beyond the jurisdiction of the colony, and such factories or stores had been plundered by the chiefs or the natives of the place, would you, as governor, have considered it your duty to interfere and protect the parties?—I would have considered it my duty to interfere, to use every exertion in my power to punish the aggressors, and to obtain redress for the injured party.

3573. Do you think there is any information in Dr. Madden's Report which might not have been more satisfactorily obtained by evidence in this country?—I have not seen any statement or any information in Dr. Madden's Report but what could have been obtained as correctly in this country, without the trouble or expense of going to Africa for it.

3574. Mr. *Evans*.] Was it the universal practice when you were governor of Sierra Leone, to deliver up the runaway slaves to the neighbouring chiefs?—No.

3575. Then if any slave ran away from his chief or his master, in the vicinity of Sierra Leone, he was not delivered up, but he remained free in the colony?—I never knew an instance of any coming to the colony; in the Gambia there was one case.

3576. Have you known any instances in any other part of the coast of Africa, where you have been stationed, in which slaves coming into the colony, running away from their masters or their chiefs, have been delivered up. Was it the custom in any of those places to deliver them up to their masters?—I am not aware of any, nor do I think it is the custom to deliver them up.

3577. *Chairman*.] If a neighbouring chief had represented to you that a slave had run away after committing atrocious crimes, should you have thought it your duty or not to send him back?—I do not think I should have sent him back for anything but murder; perhaps I might have been induced to send him back in a case of murder.

3578. Mr. *Mitcalfe*.] Would you have acted on your own behalf as governor, or taken the advice of the council before you came to any determination upon it?

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—That I cannot exactly say; but it is most likely I would have taken the advice of the council.

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3579. *Chairman.*] The case never arose during your administration?—No; except one case that occurred at the Gambia; it was a woman; and she was not delivered up, although there were many applications for her.

3580. Was she charged with crime?—No; she was ill-treated by her mistress, and she made her escape to the colony.

The Reverend *John Beecham*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. J. Beecham.

3586. *Chairman.*] YOU have for some time been at the head of the missionary department of the Wesleyan body?—I am one of the general secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

3587. Since the sitting of this Committee, have you taken an opportunity of looking into the reports which you have received from your missionaries on the coast of Africa from time to time, with the view of ascertaining whether there is not some information in such reports bearing upon the subject of this inquiry?—I have.

3588. Will you have the goodness to state the result of that examination?—I have collected some information under the several heads of inquiry. First, as to the extent of British influence among the natives on the Gold Coast: it appears to me from the inquiry I have made, that British influence has increased on the Gold Coast very considerably since the Ashantee war, which commenced about the time of the legal abolition of the slave trade, the Ashantees having invaded Fantee for the first time in the year 1807. Before they were humbled by the Ashantees, the natives were very turbulent and unmanageable. Mr. Meredith, the governor of Winnebah Fort, in a letter addressed to the committee of the African Institution, dated the 26th of February 1811, says, "The Ashantees are threatening to pay us another visit, and it is the current opinion that the Fantees must be either subdued by the Ashantees, or means devised to restrain their ungovernable conduct, before the country is tranquillized, or before much improvement is effected. The Fantees are now to be considered a large body; they have brought under their subjection, either by threats or favourable promises, a number of small states, so that from Cape Coast to the extremity of the Agoona country may be put down as governed by the Fantees. To say that such and such places bear distinct names, is now merely to signify that they were formerly inhabited by a distinct people." The unfortunate writer of this letter himself lost his life by the violence of the natives, and several other instances occurred about that period, when the governors and commandants of the forts upon the Gold Coast suffered from the violence of the native population. And up to a very recent period the natives have manifested much turbulence towards persons of other nations. So lately as the year 1837, a Dutch commandant and assistants were treacherously murdered by the natives at Boutrie, near Dixcove. It occasioned a war, and the natives were finally defeated by the Dutch, and Bonsoo, their chief or king, was taken, and I believe punishment was inflicted upon him in consequence of it. Since the Ashantee war, which may be said to have closed in 1826, when the decisive battle of Dodowah was fought, although the treaty of peace was not concluded till 1831, the Fantees have looked up to the British as their friends and protectors, and they have been disposed, not only to allow, but to solicit British influence in their civil affairs. I think at the present time the influence of the British on the Gold Coast is much more considerable than it was at any previous period. The history of our connexion with that part of the country shows that the British nation possesses an opportunity of doing greater good now than formerly.

3589. Does the influence of the British extend over a greater range of country, and a greater extent of population, behind the Gold Coast, than it does behind the Gambia and Sierra Leone?—I should think it does.

3590. Does it exercise much interference with the internal customs and the internal arrangements of the natives?—I understand that to be the case.

3591. Can you state any specific results arising from the influence of the British Government?—I think the administration of the British settlements on the Gold Coast has beneficially interfered with the internal arrangements of the natives in some important respects; I would instance especially the check which has been given to the practice of human sacrifices; that practice, I believe, is not now openly continued among the natives within the range of British influence; I believe the open practice is generally put down.

3592. Over

3592. Over what extent of country would you say that an influence of that nature reaches?—The British influence extends a long way towards the river Pra, northward as far as Mansu, in the direction towards Ashantee.

3593. As far as the borders of Ashantee?—I may say as far as the borders of Ashantee, because the country between Mansu and the Pra is almost uninhabited. I would distinguish, however, between the open practice and the secret practice; I think there is some reason to conclude that the practice of offering human sacrifices at funerals may occasionally occur in secret, even in that part of the country which is under British influence; and beyond the range of British influence, the practice openly prevails. I may refer to Ashantee, where human blood is shed like water; and I may refer to Dutch Accra. In a letter from our missionary, the Rev. Mr. Brooking, dated "British Accra, 9th of October, 1840," he says, "All kinds of vices are practised by the natives; even now, at Dutch Accra, it is the practice, on the death of a chief, to sacrifice human beings in private. Only one month since a chief died, when one was sacrificed; and a gentleman assured me, that that was not all. And if they will do this in the face of the authorities, how much more will they do so in the interior, where they are in little or no danger from them." The practice also prevails on the coast at Apollonia. I have an extract of a letter from the Rev. William Allen, a Wesleyan missionary, dated, "Cape Coast, the 2d February 1842;" it is a letter announcing his arrival at Cape Coast. He says, "I am happy to announce to you my safe arrival at Cape Coast; we were six weeks and two days before we made land; when we came to anchor at Apollonia, the captain went on shore to trade with the king; he met with a very kind reception: he told the king that he had a missionary on board, when the king expressed a strong desire to see me. The captain wrote me a letter, saying, the king wished to see me, and the king sent his large canoe for me, with 12 men to conduct me safe to shore. I suppose I was the first missionary that ever set a foot on the shores of Apollonia. I stopped at the king's house, and met with the kindest reception. The captain and I were together; we had not our meals with the king, but we had a most splendid provision; we had wines and liquors of every description set before us, but when we wanted to go the king was not willing that we should leave. He threw himself into a passion about our leaving, and he had placed round the court-yard not less than 50 men armed with guns and swords to prevent us from going; and in addition to those 50 men in the court-yard, he ordered all the workmen from a new house which he was building, not less than 20 men, to come and stand at a doorway where we must pass if we got out of the court-yard, some armed with axes, others with adzes, each of them having a weapon of some kind. We staid here two days, and it was not without trouble that we got away; at length the king in a fit of passion ordered the canoe-men to take us to the vessel immediately; this was what we wanted. In reference to the character of this king, I may remark, that he is supposed to be more barbarous than the king of Ashantee. A short time since the king's mother died, and to honour her, he had 20 men, 20 women, and 20 young girls sacrificed. They killed first a man, then a woman, and then a young girl, and kept repeating it, till they had killed the number. The females they killed by striking them at the back of the head with clubs, they partly cut the throats of the men, and then tied ropes to their legs and drew them round the town, their throats still bleeding and men following them with clubs, striking them on their stomachs, and when they brought them back to the place from whence they started, they cut off the heads of those who were still alive; the bodies of both males and females were taken and thrown into a hole in the bush, to be food for beasts of prey. This king has the head of a person cut off for a very trifling offence; I saw a large tree growing near to his house in one of his court-yards the trunk of which was lashed round with the skulls of human beings; there are not less than 50 human heads tied to that tree; I saw also several of his large drums which are tied round with human skulls." I would remark, that the prevalence of this practice ought not justly to create surprise when it is considered that it originates in the native superstition; the religion of the natives teaches them that the torture and sacrifice of enemies is most acceptable to the gods; that their deities even foment war to obtain a greater number of sacrifices; that, as men live in the same state in the next world as in this, it is an act of the greatest piety, and an expression of the greatest affection for departed relatives, to send after them their wives and slaves; that if they neglect those funeral sacrifices, vengeance will overtake them, and that in fact their troubles and afflictions

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tions generally result from their not sufficiently satisfying the spirits of their departed relatives. As the system is thus bound up with their national religion, and appeals so constantly to the strongest affections and sympathies of the natives, the best civil administration could not be expected entirely to extirpate it; it may suppress the open practice of the system, but I conceive that nothing but a counter-religious influence, the inculcation of the great doctrines of Christianity, would fully destroy the practice. Another instance of the effects of the administration of the British settlements on the Gold Coast, which I will refer to, is the arbitration of the disputes of the natives by the civil authorities, and the regulation of their intercourse with each other; I have been given to understand that an influence, beneficial to a great extent, is exerted in that respect.

3594. Has that been testified to you by the missionaries in your connexion?—It has; we have understood that the natives repose a considerable degree of confidence in President Maclean, and generally refer the arbitration of their disputes to him very cheerfully.

3595. Have your missionaries gone much inland from the coast?—Yes; they have been to the extremity of what may be called the Fantee country, they have penetrated it, and have passed into Ashantee.

3596. And they have found that the influence of the British name extended throughout the whole range of that country?—Through the whole range.

3597. Do they find a sensible difference between those parts of the country which are under British influence and those which are not; do they find greater security?—There is certainly greater security felt in those parts of the country which are under British influence than in other parts of the country.

3598. Do you know whether the Dutch forts exercise a similar influence?—I should think that they do not; I apprehend that the influence of the Dutch is more limited.

3599. Do you know whether the natives come up to Dutch Accra to have their disputes adjudicated upon?—I have no information upon that point; the advancement of education among the natives I would also instance as one of the benefits resulting from British influence.

3600. To what extent has that gone?—I am not able to state the number of schools which are under Government direction; there is one at Cape Coast Castle, which has continued for several years, and in which school I know a very considerable number of natives have received education. I am not prepared to say that that school might not be made more efficient and influential if ampler means and a better system were employed by the Government; but I am of opinion that it has been productive of a very considerable amount of benefit, and that a large number, in the course of the few years that it has been established, have received an useful education there.

3601. Have you heard whether any of the natives have been sent up from the neighbouring districts to receive education at the schools?—I know that Otu, who is the principal chief in Fantee, has sent two of his sons to Cape Coast to place them at our mission-house, and they attend the Government school at Cape Coast Castle; I dare say other instances might be adduced. I would also remark, that the British settlements have been beneficial as it regards the advancement of missionary operations among the natives. The authorities on the Gold Coast have shown a disposition to afford all reasonable facilities to the missionaries for the prosecution of their important and arduous labours among the natives.

3602. The missionaries would go with greater security through the country at the back of the Gold Coast, than they would at the back of the Gambia or Sierra Leone?—I do not know that they would; for there the missionary name and character are so much respected by the native kings, that our missionaries have always travelled in safety when they have penetrated the interior.

3603. You have found that to be the case generally, even in the most uncivilised parts of Africa, where the natives have been of ferocious character or otherwise?—Yes; and when I come to the inquiry that bears more immediately upon the state of things in the Gambia, I think I shall be able to give some information upon that subject, which will fully answer that question.

3604. How many missionaries have you upon the Gold Coast?—With the permission of the Committee, I will state the extent of our operations upon the Gold Coast. On that coast, we have missionaries stationed at Dixcove, Commenda, Cape Coast Castle, Annamaboe, Cormantine, Salt Poud, Tantum, Lago, Mumford, Winnebah,

Winnebah, and British Accra; and we are now extending our missionary operations to Badagry, on the slave coast. In the interior, we have stations at Abasa, Donquab, Domonasi, Yankumasi, Mansu, and several other places.

3605. What is the whole number of persons employed in the mission?—The whole number of English missionaries at present employed is six, and a considerable number of native teachers. We have recently extended our missionary operations to Ashantee. In the year 1839 Mr. Freeman, our missionary at the Gold Coast, made a visit of observation to Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee; he was delayed a very long time on the frontiers of the kingdom before he was permitted to proceed to the capital, evidently in consequence of the jealousy of the king. He at length obtained permission to proceed; and on reaching the capital, had a very kind reception from the king. He told the king what was the object of his journey; that the society of which he was the agent were anxious to commence Christian schools in Coomassie, and requested permission of the king to come at the proper time and commence an establishment of the kind. The king told him that it was a subject that required very grave consideration, but that if he would come up again after the rainy season was over, or send some properly accredited person, he would make known to him his views upon the subject. Mr. Freeman was then instructed by the missionary committee to visit this country for the purpose of communicating the fullest information relative to the state of things in Ashantee, and also with a view to arrangements being made for the establishment of a mission in that country. He remained a few months in England, and visiting many of the principal towns in the country, received very liberal subscriptions and donations from persons of all religious denominations, and returned to the Gold Coast with a reinforcement of missionaries. In the course of last Autumn he went up again to Coomassie; he had kept up intercourse by means of messengers with the king in the meantime. He has been received very favourably by the king, and has been permitted to commence religious services in the capital; the Ashantees attend his services, apparently without any restraint, and very frequently the missionary observes that there are persons belonging to the king's household attending the public worship. The king has granted permission to Mr. Freeman, and the missionary who has accompanied him, to build a mission-house, and has given a piece of land for that purpose. Mr. Freeman was not able to remain long at Coomassie, but left his colleague, Mr. Brooking, with several native agents, and has since returned to Cape Coast. He continues to receive since his return very gratifying accounts from Mr. Brooking, and particularly on this one point: when Mr. Freeman was at Coomassie the king appeared to hesitate respecting the establishment of a school; we have this morning, however, received a letter from Mr. Freeman, in which he states, amongst other interesting particulars, that the king has given his free consent to the establishment of a school, and that a Christian school is now commenced by Mr. Brooking and his assistants in the capital of Ashantee.

3606. Sir T. D. Acland.] Has the king also given a grant of land for the purposes of cultivation?—I do not know what quantity of land he has given, but it was not with that avowed intention. I have brought with me extracts from the correspondence of Mr. Freeman, and I have also extracts from the journal of Mr. Freeman's previous visit of observation, which throw great light upon the Ashantee character, and the social state of the people, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will deliver in.

[The same was delivered in.]

[Vide Appendix.]

3607. Does he state the people generally to be in a state of slavery?—In Ashantee they are.

3608. You have stated that there are six European missionaries employed in your mission, but that you have a number of other stations; how are those filled; are they filled with natives?—I had not completed the statistics of the mission; I stated that we have six English missionaries with native assistants, we have also 10 mission schools, two of which are in part supported by the local government; three of those schools are for girls. The schools contain 224 boys and 92 girls.

3609. Where are those schools?—In different parts.

3610. Are they along the coast, under the protection of the forts?—They are all on and contiguous to the coast, with the exception of the one at Coomassie; we have seven chapels on the Gold Coast, which cost originally 1,600*l.*, but since that we have expended many hundreds more in their enlargement and improve-

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ment, and at the present time we have to expend about 200*l.* for the purpose of putting a slate roof on a large chapel at Cape Coast. The entire cost of our missions at the Gold Coast, and in the interior, except Ashantee, appears from the accounts of the mission for the last year, which we have received this morning, to have been 3,364*l.* 14*s.* 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* sterling, that is exclusive of the cost of our Ashantee mission. The entire cost of our mission establishment on the Gold Coast, and extending to Ashantee, is about 4,000*l.*

3611. Will you state what is the salary you give to your missionaries?—Our salaries vary according to the circumstances of the individual. We allow a single missionary a certain sum, a married missionary a larger sum; and, according to the number of children which the missionaries have, we increase their salary.

3612. Have you any objection to state the largest and smallest sums?—I can hardly answer the question directly. We do not give our missionaries so much per year, but so much per quarter, under various heads; so much for board, so much for rent, and so much for clothes and books. I should say that a single missionary, perhaps, may cost us there 150*l.* a year; a married missionary, with two or three children, would perhaps receive 250*l.* or 300*l.* a year.

3613. You have an establishment of native agents?—We have several native agents there.

3614. Have they been drawn from the schools which have been founded at Cape Coast?—All the native agents that we employ upon the Gold Coast received the elements of their education in the Government school; of course they have been instructed by the missionaries since they were taken into connexion with the Society; but I believe the whole of them received their elementary education there.

3615. Can you state about how much is the payment generally to the native agents?—I am not able, I fear, to answer that. Our rule is to make such allowance as nearly accords with the allowances that are made to persons in similar situations who have civil employments in the colony and in the settlements.

3616. Should you put a native agent on the footing of a native schoolmaster?—Yes, we should, in some cases at least, but religious teachers are generally a higher class. I see in the accounts, one teacher is entered, at Domanási, at 25*l.* per annum; an assistant teacher, 7*l.* 10*s.*; and at Salt Pond, a teacher, 25*l.* per annum; others, at other places, rising to 47*l.* and one at 67*l.* 10*s.* per annum.

3617. Do the missionaries generally express themselves well satisfied with the services of the native teachers?—On the whole they are; they are a very hopeful agency.

3618. Are they competent to give elementary secular instruction, combined with, at least, some portion of religious knowledge?—To some extent, they are able to do that; of course they are not in the state of preparation in which they would be found had they been educated in this country. Their qualifications vary, too; some are better qualified than others.

3619. Your impression is, that the native mind is susceptible of being brought, by proper education, to the same level as that of Europeans?—Undoubtedly.

3620. Mr. *Wilson Patten*.] How do the missionaries manage with regard to the language; are they instructed in the language of the country before they go?—They work chiefly through the medium of interpreters. The missionaries who have gone out there have not been able to continue such a length of time upon the coast as to afford them an opportunity of acquiring the native language so correctly as to make it the medium of their public exercises among the people.

3621. How do they get their interpreters?—Natives tolerably well acquainted with the language are obtained upon the coast. There are several who are pretty well acquainted with the English language, who received their instruction in the Government school at Cape Coast Castle.

3622. Is the language of the Ashantees the same as the language on the coast?—The Ashantee and Fantee tongues are dialects of the same language.

3623. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Then the employment of those interpreters is a source of additional expense?—It is.

3624. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] Is the language written yet?—With regard to the language, the missionaries are paying considerable attention to it, and an extensive vocabulary has been formed, and a grammar is in preparation, and I hope ere long we shall be able to present the language in a written form.

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3625. Sir R. H. Inglis.] The vocabulary to which you refer has been prepared by yourself, has it not?—Partly so, with the assistance of William De Graft, one of our native agents, the son of De Graft, the old interpreter, at Cape Coast Castle. I had him under my own roof several months in this country, and it was during the intercourse I then had with him that we compiled that vocabulary, and made a brief sketch of a grammar. The missionaries who are at the coast are prosecuting the inquiry, and I have received lately from one of the missionaries, who has paid considerable attention to the subject, a more extended grammatical outline of the language.

3626. Sir T. D. Acland.] It is not printed yet?—No, it is not in a proper state for printing.

3627. Have you any translation made of any part of the Bible yet?—I believe not; it is an object, however, that will be kept in view.

3628. Chairman.] Have you found the climate of Cape Coast very fatal to your missionaries?—It has certainly been very fatal; we have lost several missionaries by death.

3629. Has it been more or less so upon the Gold Coast, as compared with Sierra Leone and the Gambia?—I think not more so than at Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

3630. You have no particular distinction to draw between any of those settlements, as to the effect of the climate?—At one period our experience led us to conclude that the Gambia was perhaps the most healthy, but events latterly have not sanctioned such an opinion, and judging from our own experience as a society, it would be a difficult matter to say which is the most unfriendly to an European constitution.

3631. Are the missionaries limited in their stay upon the coast?—No; they are sent with the understanding that they shall continue as long as their health may enable them to prosecute their labours. We have a kind of understood rule that about three years of service is sufficient for one time.

3632. Is it so equally upon any part of the African coast, or is it different in different parts?—That rule may be considered as applying also equally to Sierra Leone and the Gambia. We think it best, after they have spent three years upon the western coast, to allow them to return to this country for a time.

3633. From Mr. Freeman's report, should you suppose that it would be advantageous to establish a commissioner, or civil representative of the British Government at Coomassie?—I have not had any particular communication from Mr. Freeman on that subject latterly. It is a subject on which I have bestowed some little thought, having heard it mentioned; and I would only remark respecting it, that presuming that the object of the appointment would be not merely the advancement of trade and commerce, but likewise the improvement of the native population, I should say that very much would depend upon the character and qualifications of the individual who might be appointed to the office. I think he ought to be an individual of enlightened and enlarged views, and of sound Christian principle, whose example would be beneficial, and who would use the influence of his situation in promoting the instruction of the native population. I form that opinion on two grounds: I think that mere commerce would not civilize a barbarous people; commerce alone, I repeat, would not enlighten and elevate a heathen and barbarous people. I think the case of Bonny is a sufficient illustration of that principle; I apprehend that the natives there are in as degraded and barbarous a state, after many years of commercial intercourse with this country, as the natives in any part of the world.

3634. Mr. Wilson Patten.] Are there no missionaries at all in Bonny?—No. Another reason for coming to the conclusion which I have stated, is, that after many years' observation of the state of things among the aborigines connected with our colonies in various parts of the world, I have been led to conclude that the irreligious and immoral conduct of some of our countrymen has formed one of the greatest obstacles to the enlightenment and improvement of the native population. I very cheerfully bear my testimony to the fact, that there are many splendid exceptions; that many of our countrymen, as men of commerce, and as seamen, and as holding civil situations, do exert a very beneficial influence upon the native population. But such is the infirmity of human nature, that where that is not the case, the evil example and influence of some of our countrymen present one of the greatest obstacles to the endeavours of missionaries and other enlightened persons to promote the improvement of the natives. I would further remark,

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with reference to such an appointment, that it has appeared to me that it would be extremely desirable, that an uniform and consistent line of policy should be pursued in dealing with the natives. Anything that is changeable and varying in our policy with the native population, we have perceived to have a very prejudicial effect. I have understood that President Maclean has very considerable influence with the present king of Ashantee; I know it from pretty good authority, from the evidence of one of the king's own relatives, and it is for that reason, that he has confidence in the governor, that he will pursue a consistent and an intelligible course of dealing with him.

3635. Is it your opinion that there has not been a consistent course adopted towards the foreign chiefs?—I am speaking not with exclusive reference to Ashantee, but to other parts of the world as well as Africa. I make that remark respecting a changeable policy, as the result of many years' observation of the working of things among aboriginal people in various parts of the world.

3636. *Chairman.*] You believe there would be no jealousy on the part of the king of Ashantee to receiving something in the nature of a diplomatic agent at his court?—I have no reason to believe that there would; at the same time I am not prepared with any information that would enable me to say that he would kindly receive one.

3637. Are you able to inform the Committee to what extent any beneficial change has been observed by the missionaries of your society, in the people under their more immediate care?—I should remark, that our missions in that country have only existed about seven years, and of course we have not yet had much time to witness any of those great changes which would be desirable; but some considerable improvement has undoubtedly taken place. I would mention as one benefit conferred by missionary operations, the substitution of the decencies of Christian worship for the wild and irrational Fetish practices which prevail among the heathen. There is a very striking change now exhibited in the dying rooms of the natives, and in the decorum, decency and propriety with which funerals are conducted. Many of the heathen, witnessing the manner in which their Christian relatives die, and the decency and order in which the funerals are conducted, are now compelled to acknowledge that the Christian religion must be superior to their own.

3638. Has it had any effect upon polygamy?—It has: there is a general improvement in the morals of the people who are under the more immediate care of the missionaries. They have become honest to a great extent. The common people in the country have been addicted to petty thieving; they are very much inclined to thefts and acts of dishonesty. A pleasing change has taken place in many who have been under missionary instruction, in that respect. The case of one of the native converts I heard especially adverted to the other day: a Christian native, who was employed to take off some ivory in his canoe to a British ship, when he returned from the vessel he found that some portion of the ivory which he ought to have put on board had been left at the bottom of his canoe; the vessel had sailed, and he was not able to overtake it, but he carried the ivory which had been left in the boat to the president at the castle and deposited it with him until the time the captain returned, when it was delivered up to him. I heard that mentioned by a gentleman as one striking instance of the change which has taken place in the morals of the people. It has been observed, too, that young people who have been under missionary teaching have manifested greater obedience to their parents, and domestics have shown more diligence and attention to their masters; so much so, that heathen parents and heathen masters have been led to remark that the Christian religion must be superior, as it had produced so beneficial a change in their children and domestics; great improvement also has taken place in domestic life; polygamy is entirely done away among the Christian natives.

3639. What number should you say are directly under the influence of the Wesleyan missionaries?—We have 690 communicants.

3640. Beyond that what number are in attendance upon the worship?—I have no report that would enable me to give anything like a correct answer to that question.

3641. *Viscount Ebrington.*] The number, 690, does not include children?—No, simply communicants. I was remarking that polygamy was entirely done away among the Christian natives who are attached to us in church communion; the rules of our society will not allow a person to become a communicant who is a polygamist. Those of the Christian natives who are married are persons who have

have been married only to one wife. Another great improvement is in the condition of the wife; she is not, in a Christian family, made the drudge which a heathen female is invariably found to be; and in Christian families the man and his wife and their children are found all meeting together, and eating at the same table, while in their heathen state they are all separate from each other.

3642. *Chairman.*] Should you be able to put in any reports from particular missionaries, in which statements have been made upon those points, giving particular instances?—I have only one with me mentioning particular facts, which I will read.

3643. Are you in the habit of having an annual report from each missionary of the result of his labours?—Yes, we have; the statements I am now making are general statements, generalized from the particular details which we have from the various stations.

3644. Have you an annual report from each missionary of the result of his labours?—We have quarterly communications from the missionaries individually, and we have a general report from all the missionaries, assembling together at an annual meeting on the Gold Coast.

3645. Are there any other respects in which an improvement has been observed by the missionaries in the people?—There is a taste induced for the decencies and comforts of civilized life to a great extent; several of the Christian natives now use the English costume, and endeavour to get furniture for their houses somewhat in the English style. When Mr. Freeman visited England, at the time I have referred to, he brought many orders from Christian natives to this country, for English articles of dress and furniture, to a very considerable amount.

3646. *Sir T. D. Acland.*] Do you think that the natives are willing to labour steadily, for the purpose of obtaining those articles of English manufacture?—Yes; a spirit of industry I think has been excited to a considerable extent. I may give, as an instance, an application made by the chief of Domonási for implements of husbandry. When Mr. Freeman came to this country, he stated to us that he had been commissioned by the chief of Domonási to obtain in this country implements of husbandry, that he might cultivate his land in a superior manner, and might make improvements in his style of living.

3647. *Chairman.*] Where is Domonási?—It is an inland town about 25 miles from Cape Coast Castle. This is part of a report which Mr. Freeman drew up, embodying the views and wishes of that chief, to be submitted to the committee of the African Slave Trade Society, and the committee were so interested in it, that they granted the sum of 100*l.* to be laid out in the purchase of implements of husbandry to be sent to the chief; and to that sum Mr. Matthew Forster added other implements of husbandry to the value of 50*l.*, which Mr. Freeman took with him when he went back to Africa. We have not received any particular report as to the proceedings which have been since adopted. The missionaries have been retarded by affliction, and the deaths which have taken place.

3648. Will you have the goodness to read that extract?—Mr. Freeman says, "It is with great pleasure I state, that many of the natives of Fanti, with whom I have had frequent intercourse, and who have already laid aside their heathen errors, and embraced Christianity, are very anxious to engage in agricultural pursuits, and have requested me to render them some assistance by taking out for them, on my return to Africa, a supply of seeds, implements of husbandry, and anything that would be useful to them in cultivating their native soil. At Domonási, a small Fanti town, about 25 miles in the interior, there is a little band of Christians, about 60 in number, with the young chief of the district at their head, who are now anxiously awaiting my return with a supply of the above-mentioned things. There are, also, many of the natives of Cape Coast and Annamaboe who have small plantations in the bush, at a distance of from 3 to 10 miles from these towns, who are now turning their attention, more fully than they have ever before done, to the cultivation of the soil. These requests on the part of the natives have impressed our minds with the importance of establishing, at the earliest opportunity, two model farms in the interior of Fanti, that we may thereby have the means of teaching them the best methods of culture, and of showing them the very great capabilities of the soil. One of these farms will be established at Domonási, and the other at Mansu, formerly the great slave mart, and still a considerable town and district about 50 miles on the road to Ashanti. In each of these places, a residence for a missionary is now being prepared; and we hope that, in the course of a few months, both these posts will be occupied, when one

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of the great objects of the missionaries will be, that of instructing in the practical science of agriculture all those natives, whether Christians or heathens, who may feel disposed to turn their attention to it. The moral improvement which has already taken place in Domonási is beginning to have a powerful bearing on the social condition of the people; their houses are kept more clean and decent than those of the heathens, and they are imbibing a taste for those many domestic comforts and conveniences which are to be found in an European cottage; several of them are also beginning to wear European clothes, and have requested me to take them out a fresh supply on my return from England. The effects produced in the mind of the heathen in the surrounding neighbourhood by these salutary changes, are also becoming strikingly manifest. They begin to admire the improved social condition of their Domonási neighbours, often calling their town a 'white man's croon;' and, as a natural consequence, they are now feeling, in some measure, at least, a respect for that religion which has been the cause of such a beneficial change."

3649. Can you state the nature of the difficulties which the missionaries have experienced in promoting the improvement of the natives?—I would observe, that the degradation of the female sex is one of the great obstacles with which the missionaries have to contend in their endeavours to improve the people; the women are treated as inferior beings, as mere creatures of convenience, and are grossly ignorant; many of the young men are now receiving education, but the females are not being improved and elevated in the same proportion. Three of the schools to which I have adverted are female schools, and the wives of the missionaries have exerted themselves laudably, according to the opportunities they have had; but still one of the great desiderata for that part of the country, is the introduction of a more comprehensive and efficient system for the improvement and elevation of the female sex from that state of deep degradation in which they are found. I would also remark, that the superstitions of the people present a great obstacle, I speak more especially with regard to the influence of those superstitions in preventing regular industry among the natives. The natives can engage in no undertaking whatever, of any moment, without first consulting their priests or Fetish men, and if the omens are not favourable, they are not disposed to prosecute any undertaking. Then they are greatly obstructed by their notion respecting lucky and unlucky days. Time is distributed into lucky and unlucky days and weeks; but every nation appears to have its own peculiar mode of division. In Ahanta they divide time into periods of three weeks; the first week, named Adai, is regarded as the 'good week,' and in this week much work is done; traders then visit the market more frequently than at any other time, believing that everything they do during its continuance must assuredly prosper. The second is Ajamfo, or the 'bad week,' in which no trade is carried on, as the natives are persuaded that whatever is undertaken in that week will certainly fail. The third is the 'little good week,' called Adim, in which they both work and trade; but not so much as in the first, or Adai week. In some countries, the great fortunate time lasts 19 days and the lesser seven days. Between these two periods is an interval of seven evil or inauspicious days, on which they neither travel, till their land, nor engage in any business of importance. The people of Aquambú, it has been said, would not so much as accept any presents on those days, but either returned them to the owner, or left them in a separate place until the arrival of the fortunate days, before they made use of them. In Ashantee (As-hánti) the number of good or lucky days, it has been estimated, is about 150 or 160 in the year; and during the evil days councils cannot be held, nor can troops either march or engage the enemy. Incredible time is thus spent before any national concern can be undertaken, for all the preparatory religious mysteries can only be celebrated on the particular days of the week or month which are deemed auspicious. Some months contain a greater number of fortunate days than others; September, for instance, is a more highly-favoured month in this respect than the preceding. Ashantee couriers, travelling with despatches in September, will go from Coomassie (Kumási) to Cape Coast Castle in 12 days; but they have been known to spend 30 days of the month of August in this journey, in consequence of the interruption occasioned by the more frequent recurrence of inauspicious days. Many of their mines, and trees, and hills are considered sacred to their deities; the mines must not therefore be worked, the trees must not be cut down, the hills must not be cleared of the bush and cultivated. I may mention an instance in illustration: when our missionaries went to a place called Mankoh,

Mankoh, after they had held religious services there for some short time, and had acquired the confidence of the natives, the natives told them that for two or three seasons they had been clearing the hill at the foot of which the village stands, every succeeding season cutting down some of the bush, and cultivating the land, but that a stop had been put to that proceeding by a messenger who had arrived from the great Fetish temple at Abrah, the capital of Fanti, which is considered the place of the greatest deity in the country. The messenger stated to the people that the Fetish of Mankoh had been to the great Fetish at Abrah to complain that the people had been clearing the hill, and consequently had taken away his shelter or cover, and that he was suffering great pain, and the superior priest at Abrah commanded them to put a stop to their proceedings, and imposed on them a fine for what they had done. It is in such ways that the superstitions of the people interpose and retard all the attempts that are made to improve the condition of the people and to elevate them. I would also remark on the ruinous funeral customs of the people; those form a very serious obstacle to the improvement of the natives. It is customary when a person dies to have large feastings, and it is obligatory on all, both rich and poor, to provide those feastings; persons come from a distance, and they continue together several days; the consequence is, that many persons who are in somewhat respectable circumstances are reduced to poverty, and those who are in poorer circumstances are deeply involved in debt. Many individuals, under the influence of this system, are reduced to the necessity of selling their services as "pawns" to others, and thus the injurious pawn system is promoted by the influence of these customs. It is also found that domestic slavery is one of the greatest obstacles that oppose themselves to all efforts to improve the natives. It may be said almost universally to prevail; I mean amongst the natives in the interior.

3650. You mean that all that till the soil are slaves?—I think slaves and their owners make up very nearly the entire population of the country.

3651. Are the owners only the chiefs, or is there any considerable body that would be called in other countries landed proprietors, who hold slaves, not being chiefs themselves?—In Ashantee many of the chiefs possess a very great number of slaves; many thousands of slaves. An instance was mentioned to me by Mr. Freeman, of an Ashantee chief, who lately went up to Coomassie, attended by 3,000 armed slaves, having reason to think that he was an object of the king's jealousy. There are not many powerful chiefs in Fantee; Otu is the principal chief, he resides at a place called Abakrampa, with about 2,000 people under his care. Mr. Freeman, who knows him well, and is well acquainted with the part of the country where he resides, thinks that he has about 25,000 people under his influence; he has about 800 slaves of his own, and he has captains under him who possess slaves, over all of whom he exerts influence as a superior chief.

3652. Do you conceive that none till the soil but those who are slaves?—I conceive that those who till the soil are all slaves. At Yankumasi, Asin Chibbu is a considerable chief; there are about 10,000 people, over whom he exerts influence; he is the principal chief, and his own slaves and the slaves of his captains amount to about 10,000; he is an Asin chief. After the Ashantee war, he left his own country in order to seek protection under the influence of the British in Fantee. That is also the case at Mansu; there the chief, whose name is Gabri, is an Asin chief; he has about 10,000, who emigrated with him out of Asin, formerly a part of Ashantee, and he also has sought protection under the influence of the British settlements. I may remark, with regard to the Asin country lying between Fantee and Ashantee Proper, it appears that it is now almost deserted; the people have quitted it to a great extent, and have come within the boundaries of Fantee, to obtain the protection of the British against the Ashantees. Again at Djuquah, about 25 miles from Cape Coast Castle, in a westerly direction, there is a considerable chief. He is the celebrated Kujoh Chibbu, the Denkeran chief, who acted so conspicuous a part in the Ashantee war, when Sir Charles M'Carthy was killed; he has with him there about 15,000 people, over whom he reigns as principal chief. All those are slaves, with the exception of his subordinate captains; and I may remark with regard to Denkeran, that it is considerably deserted in the same way as Asin; the people have come within the Fantee boundary, in order to enjoy British protection.

3653. Do you understand, that now the Fantee country, in consequence of those immigrations, has become very populous?—Not very populous, but much more so than it was a few years since; it was to a great extent depopulated by continuous

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wars. But although there are only a few principal chiefs in Fantee, it appears that all persons who possess any respectability are owners of slaves; that is the great distinction. The slaves appear to be employed chiefly in working on their masters' plantations, and some are employed in trade. The masters provide for them food and what is necessary, and the slaves work at their bidding.

3654. Do you know whether they are liable to be sold by their masters and to be separated from their families?—The chiefs, as I understand, have the power of life and death over their slaves; they are at their entire disposal.

3655. Do you imagine that the chiefs you have enumerated would bring their cases to be adjudicated before the British authorities upon the Gold Coast?—I should think to a great extent they would.

3656. Do you suppose that that jurisdiction has superseded the exercise of their own jurisdiction in cases of criminal offences; that instead of punishing criminal offences themselves they would give them up to be decided upon by the British authorities?—I do not suppose that they would transfer the whole power into the hands of the British authorities, but I think there is a general disposition to refer their disputes and their grievances for ultimate decision to the British authorities. I would make a remark with regard to the condition of the slaves, that the subordinate chief is required to pay a tax to his superior. Mr. Freeman, when he was detained at Fomunnah, the frontier town of Ashantee, some 46 days, frequently saw the inferior chiefs bring to Korinchi, the principal chief, a tax or tribute of from one to four tookoos; the value of a tookoo is about 5*d*. And it would appear that all the subordinate chiefs are at the entire command or disposal of the superior chief. Mr. Freeman remained at the house of one of Korinchi's captains at Fomunnah; he was there 46 days; and when he left he proposed to make him a remuneration for the attention which he had received, but he was told that whatever expression of thankfulness he might make, it must be made to Korinchi; that he, the host of Mr. Freeman, was nothing more than Korinchi's slave. With regard to slavery, I would observe, that it is fostered to a great extent by the people themselves; a spirit of rational independence and freedom cannot be found among the heathen population of the country. In the interior, as they have not the protection which the law throws around an individual in an enlightened and well-ordered community, the love of liberty seems to give way to a desire for security; and a person generally prefers to attach himself in a state of dependence to some chief, for the sake of the protection and other privileges which the dependents of chiefs enjoy. Now this state of society our missionaries experience to be a great obstacle to the improvement and elevation of the people. As the natives are not British subjects, and not therefore amenable to British law, we have only, as a missionary society, moral means at our disposal to combat this great evil of domestic slavery. With the permission of the Committee, I will read an extract from the instructions of our committee to our missionaries on the subject of slavery. This extract embodies the views which our committee take of the subject, of the means to be employed in endeavouring to abolish this great evil: "On the subject of slavery, the missionaries are called upon by every proper consideration to exercise the greatest care and watchfulness. While they strictly adhere to their printed instructions, and avoid all political intermeddling whatever, they are scrupulously to guard against anything which could possibly be construed into a connivance at one of the worst evils which have ever afflicted and degraded mankind. The great principles of the Gospel must be so maintained, with mildness, constancy, and firmness, as to make it appear that slavery in every form is altogether opposed to the spirit and precepts of Christianity; and this will be the more necessary, from the consideration that the native chiefs are not amenable to British law, and that they can therefore only be acted upon by moral means." Now, in carrying out these instructions, the missionaries attend, in the first place, to the inculcation of the great principle, that all souls are equal in the sight of God; and they endeavour to impress on the chiefs what are the inalienable rights of their dependants as human beings. Another method they adopt is to protect, as far as lies in their power, the slaves from injurious treatment by the chiefs. If the missionaries hear that a chief has been treating improperly any of his slaves, they visit him, and remonstrate with him, and show him the evil of his conduct, and thus vindicate the cause of the injured slave. Then, again, in building chapels and houses, and in the business we have as a missionary society to transact, the missionaries, in carrying out these instructions, do not employ slaves by hiring them of the masters, but they take care to hire the individuals themselves, and to pay them their wages; they cannot control their conduct afterwards.

wards. Then, with regard to "pawns," the missionaries understand that it is the will of the committee that they shall not hold pawns in any way. Frequently the missionaries, when engaged in building, have had applications made by natives who are involved in pecuniary embarrassment, who have asked the missionaries to advance them a sum of money to pay their debts, and have offered to give their services in return; but the missionaries have been instructed invariably to refuse such applications, and to give the persons whom they employ their wages for the time they serve.

3657. Would you allow Christian converts to hold "pawns"?—Not if we were acquainted with it.

3658. You would consider that as forbidden?—We should. I have adverted to Domonasi; Mr. Freeman has great hope that, when he has got his plans arranged with regard to that place, he shall induce the old chief to let out his land to his captains, and to receive from them a certain rent; and thus raise them to the condition of free tenants, instead of being serfs or slaves.

3659. Sir T. D. Acland.] Are the slaves allowed by the chiefs to retain the profit of their labour?—I should presume not in all cases, at all events.

3660. Viscount Ebrington.] Do any of them work on their own account, paying a settled sum to the master, and reserving any surplus to themselves?—I do not know what is the agreement or understanding between the masters and the slaves in that respect; I mean as to the precise manner in which the arrangement is carried into effect.

3661. The missionaries always pay the persons they employ themselves; they do not pay it over to the chiefs?—That is the rule we expect them to observe.

3662. Sir T. D. Acland.] Are some of your native converts slaves?—Several of them are.

3663. They have since their conversion become more industrious?—Decidedly.

3664. And you say they have had in view the obtaining European articles of dress and furniture; is there any interference with them on the part of the chiefs, with respect to the profits of their labour?—In answer to that question, I will give the case of one of our own most intelligent and best qualified native agents: Mr. Freeman, in a letter addressed to us on the 12th of last March, after speaking of the excellent qualifications of this individual, says "I am trying hard to secure him entirely; though highly respectable, he is still a slave, and the property of a native with whom I may probably have some difficulty in obtaining his manumission; but I hope finally to succeed."

3665. Chairman.] Do you think that it would be possible to carry on emigration from Africa to the West Indies without producing a real or seeming slave trade?—In answer to that question, I should say that I think it would be extremely difficult to adopt any safe plan. If we were to go into the interior of the country, persons might easily be procured to go to the West Indies; but then those persons are not free agents; they must be obtained from the chiefs, who would have a pecuniary consideration, which would make the transaction in reality the purchase of human beings: and I think it would produce another slave trade in reality; not apparently, but in reality; for those chiefs, finding it a profitable speculation, would get fresh supplies of slaves from the more remote interior, and thus the trade in men would be again revived. If you were to go to the coast, there are a greater number of persons on the coast undoubtedly, who are apparently free, and whose occasional services may be obtained perhaps without the interference of others; but many of those are really slaves, and if you would wish to have their services entirely, the claims of their masters would interfere. The case which I have just mentioned, with reference to one of our own native teachers, I think is an illustration of that. Then I think the difficulty would be increased by the unwillingness of the Africans to leave their native soil and go to the West Indies. It appears, as far as I have been able to collect information on the subject, that the love of country is a very strong and governing principle in the African. I am very strongly inclined, for these reasons, to conclude that a safe plan of emigration from Africa to the West Indies is not practicable; that it is attended with difficulties which could not be surmounted. But if it were practicable to adopt a safe plan of emigration, I doubt much whether, taking a large view of the question, it would be desirable; because I think the removal of any considerable number of free and enlightened Africans (if you could meet with them), to the West Indies, would be injurious to the work of civilization in Africa itself. The population on the Gold Coast is certainly considerably on the increase, but it is not by any means overstocked. There is no redundant population, so to

speak,

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speak, that might be removed with advantage to the country. To abstract persons of the description I have adverted to, and to remove them to the West Indies, would be to check the rising spirit of freedom and civilization in Africa. It would be removing the very agents whose services are required in Africa in promoting the elevation of Africa itself. I think in making these remarks, and in adopting this conclusion, I am free from all prejudice. It is not that I have any undue bias in favour of Africa, because as a missionary society we have as deep an interest in whatever concerns the West Indies, as we have in what relates to the interests of Africa. I think I have formed the conclusion which I have ventured to state in an unprejudiced state of mind.

3666. If the difficulties could be overcome which stand in the way of procuring free agency on the part of emigrants, do you not believe that it would be an advantageous change to the African, to remove from the society in which he is upon the Gold Coast, to the West Indies, as they now are, both in respect of payment or remuneration for his labour, and in respect of the advantages of religious and moral instruction?—The free Africans who might remove to the West Indies would have all the advantages with regard to religious and moral instruction which they possess in Africa, and I am not prepared to say but that it might be as advantageous to their temporal interest as individuals as their remaining in their own country.

3667. Are not the West Indies better provided with moral and religious instruction at present, than any part of the coast of Africa?—Yes, that is the case, undoubtedly.

3668. They would find a larger number of their own people in a state of considerable advancement?—Perhaps they might, in some of the West Indian colonies.

3669. Sir T. D. Acland.] And their return to their own country in an improved state afterwards would be favourable to the improvement of the country?—But in the meantime their own country would want their services; if you remove that class of persons from Africa, who would be of service in the West Indies, you remove the very agents by which the work of African civilization is to be promoted; the work in Africa would stand still during the whole period those individuals were away in the West Indies.

3670. Mr. Mitcalfe.] Supposing a slave ship is captured having a quantity of slaves on board, you are aware that it has been usual to take them to Sierra Leone; would it be attended with any benefit if they could be landed in the West Indies, under similar regulations to those which exist at Sierra Leone, being landed there with perfect freedom?—They might do as well there as at Sierra Leone for anything that I know to the contrary, if they were landed under the same circumstances.

3671. Chairman.] The remuneration for labour is higher in the West Indies than it is in any part of Africa?—I suppose it is higher.

3672. Mr. Mitcalfe.] Are you of opinion that the men would be equally well off under such regulations in the West Indies, as they would be if landed at Sierra Leone?—I do not know that I am prepared to give a very decided opinion upon that question; I think they might do very well in the West Indies; I do not see why they should not, under the circumstances stated in the question.

3673. Is the population at Sierra Leone very redundant in consequence of landing the slaves from captured vessels?—I should not think it is very redundant at Sierra Leone.

3674. Do you think there is ample employment for those that are there?—I suppose there is sufficient. Having alluded to the African's love of his country, I would mention a striking illustration of it which occurred some time since, perhaps 18 months or two years ago: a number of Akús, as the natives of Yarriba are called, expressed a wish to return from Sierra Leone to their native country, under British protection. The Governor submitted the case to the Government at home for instructions, and I have reason to believe that the conclusion adopted on the case was this, that it was considered extremely dangerous for them to go back to their native country on the slave coast, until some arrangement could be made to secure them British protection. It was feared that they would fall again into the hands of slave dealers. However, the individuals themselves purchased a vessel, engaged a person to manage it, and sailed from Sierra Leone towards the Bight of Benin. Nothing was heard of them for a very considerable time. Their friends in this country had nearly arrived at the
conclusion

conclusion that in all probability they had fallen again into the hands of the slave dealers, and had been sent across the Atlantic, and plunged into perpetual slavery. Not long since, however, we received information respecting them. It appears that they proceeded to Badagry, and they met with a favourable reception there. A great number of those persons having been connected with our mission as communicants at Sierra Leone, held religious services upon their arrival, and began to instruct the people at Badagry as well as they could in the truths of Christianity; and their simple teaching made such an impression upon the mind of Warraru, who is one of the principal chiefs at the place, that he concurred with the Christian part of those people in writing to the missionary of the Wesleyan Society at Sierra Leone, under whose pastoral care they had previously been placed, requesting that a missionary might be sent to Badagry to instruct them. I have in my hand a copy of a letter, which was written by one of the Africans themselves, and signed also by Warraru, the governor, requesting that a missionary might be sent, which, if it is the pleasure of the Committee, I will read; it is dated Badagry, 2 March 1841. It is addressed to the Rev. Thomas Dove. It is signed by James Fergusson, and countersigned by the governor of Badagry, by the name of Warraru.

3675. Under whose dominion is Badagry?—It is under the King of Dahomey. The writer says, "It was my desire to write to you this day, hoping it may not offend you. True, by the providence of God, I was once brought to (that part of) Africa, where the sound of the Gospel is, and I have seen and tasted the blessedness of Jesus, and now I asked permission by the name of the Queen to go to my native land, and it was granted; so I took a passage by the Queen Victoria, and by the goodness of the Lord I arrived therein safe, which I do think, as I have already seen it, that the place is very good; no war is there; no, nothing of such kind is there; so I humbly beseech you, by the name of Jehovah, to send one of the messengers of God to teach us more about the way of salvation, because I am now in a place of darkness where no light is; I know that I was once under light, and now I am in darkness. It is to bring our fellow-citizens into the way which is right and to tell them the goodness of Jehovah, what he had done for us, and, by so doing, if the Lord will have mercy to broke that stony heart from them, that they may attend to the words which I have spoke to them. And, as I know better than them, it is my duty to put them to right, or into the way which is right, but not to join with them in their evil ways, for if I do the Lord will be angry with me. Some of my family children, which arrive with the brig Margaret, wishes the children to be instructed also; so I humbly beg of you that you be good and kind and take pity on us, and send one servant of Christ to instruct us; by so doing, if we ourself well instructed, I will try to speak to them the same as I have been instructed, and by so doing the place will become the land of the Gospel. Hoping you must not be afraid to send us one. If anything matter to him, we will stand, we will take good care of him as our father and mother. Hoping our few observations will find you, and also your family in good of life, as it leave me at present. Sir, the governor of Badagry, his compliment to you, and he is very glad to hear the word of God; he understand English well." On receiving this letter, which was transmitted to us by Mr. Dove, the committee resolved to listen so far to the request, as to instruct Mr. Freeman, at the Gold Coast, to make such arrangements as would enable him to send a missionary to Badagry. In a recent communication from Mr. Freeman, we are told that he is arranging to send one or two missionaries to Badagry, to take those people under his care, and to instruct the population of the place. We have had a subsequent letter from Mr. Dove, and as the extract is only short, and it throws a little more light upon the subject, perhaps the Committee would like to hear it; it is dated November the 24th, 1841, from Sierra Leone. Mr. Dove says, "the liberated Africans have no desire to leave their native soil of Africa; hundreds have already left our colony for Badagry (once a noted place for the slave trade), and many more are on the tiptoe. They are begging us to send a missionary with them to Badagry. The Akús have purchased two prize vessels (captured slavers), and they are just about to purchase a third. Most of these bold enterprizing men are useful members of our society; they have taken down elementary school-books, slates, bibles, and testaments, for the purpose of making a beginning in that heathen land. There will, doubtless, be a constant communication kept up between Sierra Leone and Badagry; our members there are continually crying 'come over and help us', and they are giving practical and demonstrable proof that their religion is of the

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genuine cast; for they are in earnest about the salvation of their fellow-men. As they know the burdened state of our funds, they are determined to honour God with their substance, by giving him the first fruits of all their increase. The liberated Africans have commenced a subscription amongst themselves, to enable the committee to send missionaries to their own native land. One has given seven guineas, another five guineas, some two, and others one. I find they have already raised nearly the sum of 75*l.*, but this is only the beginning. God is evidently about to furnish poor Africans with the means of helping themselves, as well as the funds of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. This fund is altogether distinct from the missionary subscriptions received annually from European merchants and others."

3676. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] Have you any communication, stating what success the people at Badagry have had in cultivation or in trade?—We have no other information than what is contained in these letters; the arrangement is so very recent.

3677. Are they received still on friendly terms by the natives?—Yes, according to our latest information.

3678. Who is the governor of Badagry; is he a person in authority under the King of Dahomey?—He appears to be so; but we have no further particulars than what are contained in these letters.

3679. You have not heard of their being molested in any way?—No.

3680. Is not the King of Dahomey's country the scene of some of the principal slave trade in that part of Africa?—It is.

3681. Whydah is in his country, not far from Badagry?—Yes.

3682. Can you give any information respecting any effect which this little colony has had upon the actual state of the slave trade there?—We have no information upon this point; we have not yet had letters on the subject from Mr. Freeman, or any other missionaries from the Gold Coast.

3683. Has there been any communication between those colonists and the King of Dahomey?—None, that I am aware of. I have a letter relating to the state of Whydah, if the Committee wish to hear it. It is a letter addressed by Captain Laurence to our missionary, Mr. Dove, adverting to the places where the slave trade is still carried on, and strongly recommending the occupation of Whydah by the British.

3684. Is Captain Laurence a merchant captain?—I believe he is.

3685. Will you have the goodness to read that letter?—It is dated "Sierra Leone, June the 4th, 1841," and is addressed to Mr. Dove. "For some time past I have been an eye-witness to the proceedings of some of the most extensive slave dealers on this coast, and I have, with much surprise, observed many representations of the slave trade, which are, in very many instances, far from what I consider to be correct. You are aware yourself of the state of Bissao, about the same as the Rio Ponga. Those two places are the only ones to the north of us. The Gallinas have been destroyed, but still there have been two cargoes of 650 unfortunate slaves shipped from thence since the destruction of that place. I believe you will find there is no more of the slave trade from this point until you come to Atocco, on Cape St. Paul's, where a factory stands; thence to Awey, thence to Quita, thence to —, thence to Sugru, thence to Little Popo, which is a place of note; thence to Augua, thence to Great Popo, and thence to Whydah. This, I have no hesitation in saying, is the most formidable place on the whole coast, and there are more slaves shipped from this than from any other that I am acquainted with. At the time the British Government abandoned this place, they left the fort and guns, and about 500 liberated people; those people have accumulated, and really ought to be protected. Whydah contains about 10,000 inhabitants, and is a place which should come under notice for two reasons: it is under the control of the King of Dahomey, who resides about 80 miles in the interior; Whydah itself is in charge of the headman Zangroni; the noted slave dealer De Souza resides there; and British subjects should be at least protected. The next reason is, the slave trade should be stopped, and this place should be taken charge of at all hazards. Not that I wish to see blood shed (you know to the contrary; you are too well acquainted with me to suppose that I would knowingly harm any one), but as it regards this place, have it I would at all hazards; it has been too long the scourge of the African race, and it can be taken possession of. Here is the most eligible place for your mission, the greatest field on the whole coast; Whydah is the central slave point, and the root of the
slave

slave trade in the Bight of Benin. Now, my friend, I am willing to spend six months, and go with you to the whole of these places, and visit the king of Dahomey, and you will find that some reports previously given are at variance with what is the true state of things; I am willing to undertake it with you, in full confidence that the work is a good one, and look for protection where I have ever found it, in an all-wise God. Do not be afraid; the situation will be sometimes perilous, but I harbour no fear, it can be done. I am not necessitated to seek for employment of this nature; you know I have as much to bind me by the ties of nature as any man in Africa. But I am well aware of the good that will result from a mission of this kind; it will open to the world a true statement; for there have been too many conflicting reports." I have added, as a note from Mr. Dove's journal, a short extract as to what he saw at Bissao, to which Captain Laurence refers. The extract I am about to read is from a letter addressed by Mr. Dove to ourselves, giving an account of a voyage from Sierra Leone to the Gambia. He called at Bissao as he went, and he says, "I saw several slavers, all belonging to the Portuguese. These vessels were lying in the harbour, and were only waiting for a favourable opportunity for shipping slaves for Havannah and the Brazils. Many of these poor creatures did I see, day after day, in irons on the shore, who had been either purchased on the coast for rum, tobacco, &c. or taken in war, and thus brought in canoes to Bissao. Many of these half-starved, naked slaves had on their legs heavy irons. Their feet were coupled together, so that each step they were able to take could not possibly exceed three or four inches. Their ankles appeared greatly chafed, and some were even raw, and they were under the necessity of applying and fastening some green leaves of trees between their irons and their sores. After witnessing so much horror and misery, which I cannot fully describe, I resolved that I would neither eat bread nor drink water in so foul a place as Bissao. I visited the governor, who is a native of Poland. He was very sick in his bed. His apartments in the fort were filthy in the extreme, and no one appeared to feel much interest about him."

3686. Mr. *W. Patten*.] Have you any idea what is the population of the Gold Coast, upon which your missionaries act?—It is a very difficult question. I asked Mr. Freeman that question particularly, and he thought that, taking the course of the river Pra, commencing at the sea and following its course till you reach Akim, and then come down again to the sea by Aquapim, perhaps the country included would contain about 700,000 or 800,000 individuals; but he observed that it was an extremely difficult matter to form an opinion upon.

3687. Was that a Fantee or an Ashantee population?—Fantee, including many other national distinctions.

3688. Mr. *Forster*.] You have spoken of the advantages conferred on the natives in the neighbourhood of the Gold Coast, by the arbitration and settlement of their disputes by the British civil authorities; have you had any reports of similar advantages conferred by our other settlements on the coast?—I have not paid attention to the other settlements on the coast, with reference to the inquiry of to-day; I have confined my inquiries for to-day entirely to the Gold Coast. At another time I shall be happy to give any information we have in our power with regard to the other settlements.

3689. You have made some allusion to the evil example to the natives set by some Europeans upon the coast; do you mean that observation to apply generally to all our settlements upon the coast of Africa?—I did not make it with reference to the Gold Coast exclusively, but with reference also to the influence of our countrymen with aboriginal people generally; I stated it as the result of my general acquaintance with the subject, at the Gold Coast and in other parts of the world.

3690. *Chairman*.] Do your missionaries find any appearances of the slave trade being carried on internally in the district connected with the Gold Coast; do they see slaves carried through for exportation?—I have not received any information to that effect; I think not.

3691. You are not aware that any of the chiefs sell any of their slaves, except among themselves?—No, I am not aware that they do; I do not think that there is any slave trade going on at the Gold Coast; I speak as to the chiefs selling their slaves to be transported from the Gold Coast.

3692. Are you aware of any export of slaves from Ashantee?—I have no information that may be considered as decided on the subject; I have a general impression

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sion that slaves are conveyed from Ashantee to the slave coast, but not to the Gold Coast.

3693. Sir T. D. Acland.] By the slave coast you mean the Dahomey Coast?—Yes; the King of Ashantee keeps a very great number of slaves constantly in chains, chiefly, however, for the purpose of sacrifice. Mr. Freeman understood that he usually had about 1,000. The king gave him a slave when he was there on his first visit, who had been brought out on two several occasions, with the intention of his being sacrificed, but the king had ordered him to be sent back, and that morning when he was brought out by the king to Mr. Freeman, he expected that he was to be sacrificed. When the Ashantee troops who were sent to accompany Mr. Freeman had left him, his first act was to emancipate this slave, who expressed unbounded gratitude for it; he brought him down to Cape Coast and placed him under instruction; and he has found him a very trustworthy man.

3694. Mr. W. Patten.] Is it well authenticated that the king keeps 1,000 slaves for the purpose of sacrifice?—Mr. Freeman saw them himself, and had one of those slaves given to him; and he was informed upon the spot that that is the number the king usually keeps.

3695. Is the population of that country rapidly or progressively decreasing in number, in consequence of those sacrifices?—I have no means of ascertaining that point.

3696. Sir T. D. Acland.] Do you suppose those people to be his own subjects, or to be taken from other countries?—A great number of those who are sacrificed are not his own subjects, but slaves which he obtains from the interior; and consequently the native population would not be diminished by those sacrifices.

3697. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Can you state the number of slaves sacrificed upon the occasion of the death of the last King of Ashantee?—When the brother of the king who invaded Fantee died, the king devoted 3,000 victims, 2,000 of whom were Fantee prisoners, and nearly 1,000 more were furnished by various towns; making in the whole about 4,000 human beings who perished at the grave of this royal personage.

3698. Mr. W. Patten.] When did he die?—It was at the time when the king invaded Fantee; at the war in which Sir Charles Macarthy was killed, which happened in 1824.

3699. Sir T. D. Acland.] Do you conceive the Gold Coast to be a peculiarly favourable situation for your missionary operations?—We were led to it in the first instance by an offer from a master of a merchant vessel who had visited the coast frequently; he was so favourably impressed with the openings, as he thought, for the introduction of the gospel, that he very generously offered to our committee that if they would send a missionary, he would take him on his next voyage; that he should have an opportunity of spending some six months on the coast, for the purpose of making his own observation; and that if the missionary was of opinion that there was no favourable opening for the establishment of a mission, he would bring him back to this country free of any expense whatever to the Missionary Society. The offer was accepted; the missionary went, and he found the state of things quite as favourable as this individual had represented, and he remained and laboured and died there.

3700. And you have found it to continue so on subsequent experience?—We have; it continues to be more promising every succeeding year.

3701. Chairman.] And you feel that your mission derives considerable advantage from the support of the English forts upon the coast?—Yes; I am bound to say that the authorities upon the Gold Coast have always manifested a favourable disposition to our missionary undertaking, and they have afforded that kind of facility which a Government can ever afford to persons who are under its control.

3702. And you feel greater confidence altogether in dealing with that country in consequence of the presence of some fragment of the British power?—I do not know that we feel greater confidence so far as personal security is concerned, but we have greater confidence in this respect, that owing to the extension of British influence over the country generally, the missionaries can prosecute their labours there without that interruption which they sometimes experience among a savage, barbarous people, who are in a state of war among themselves, and have no controlling influence to direct the whole.

3703. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] In point of fact, have you been led to extend your operations yet to either of the districts adjoining the Gold Coast?—We have proceeded from the coast inwards into the interior.

3704. But not on either side?—Not on either side (excepting Badagry), because the neighbourhood of the Gold Coast and Ashantee furnish such an extensive field of operation, that we have not funds adequate to an extension far beyond.

3705. Mr. *Forster*.] Do you think that your missionaries could have prosecuted their labours in the interior, or upon any part of that coast, with the same success, if a way had not been made for them by the influence of our settlements there?—It is extremely difficult to say what would have been the state of things, had it not been for the extension of British influence; I most decidedly say, with reference to this point, that the extension of British influence there, as a matter of fact, has proved beneficial in respect of affording facility for the free and peaceful prosecution of our labours.

3706. *Chairman*.] The extension of your labours would be impeded if the country were in a state of war?—Yes.

3707. You conceive that the influence of the British settlements there promotes general peace?—Yes.

3708. And in that way affords facility for the introduction of all manner of improvements?—Yes.

3709. Mr. *Evans*.] Some persons who have visited the neighbourhood of the missionary stations, have thought that the zeal of the missionaries, or their desire for improvement, has made them too sanguine, and induced them to send home statements of an extent of improvement, which other people could not so easily see. Now as you have had very extensive correspondence with your missionaries, will you state whether you think that has been generally, or at all the case?—I do not think that charge is true; an individual under the influence of feelings, which none but a missionary can understand, may sometimes send home a more glowing statement than facts will warrant, but I do not think the charge is generally true; if I may be allowed, I would read a single paragraph, in which I have embodied a few remarks, that I think would answer that question: "The formation of native religious societies is not in itself sufficient proof of the beneficial effects of the exertions of the missionaries; and evidence may be very fairly required to show that the conversion of the people to the Christian religion does not consist in the mere renunciation of one set of opinions for another, but that with the adoption of a new faith they have imbibed the spirit and principles of Christianity, and are exhibiting a corresponding change in their character and conduct. But, the writer is fully aware of the delicacy and difficulty of the task of furnishing such evidence, and how easily without the exercise of much caution he might subject himself to the charge of exaggeration. It is a fact, that travellers and others who have an opportunity of personally observing the proceedings of missionaries in heathen lands do not always sufficiently appreciate the effects of their teaching; an unfair criterion is frequently adopted; either the attainments of the native converts are compared with the acquirements of Christians in enlightened and civilised countries, or in some other way, the disadvantages of their condition are overlooked, and as a natural result, all the benefits which have actually resulted from the instructions of the missionaries, are not perceived and acknowledged. Duly to estimate the change which has been effected by missionary labours, the present state of the people whose benefit has been sought should be contrasted with their former heathen condition, and the comparison ought to be instituted under the full impression of the truth that the elevation of a people from the depths of barbarism is not the work of a day. The writer is persuaded, that if this mode of investigation be adopted, the candid inquirer will find that a very considerable amount of benefit has been produced by the instrumentality of the Wesleyan Mission at the Gold Coast."

3710. *Chairman*.] Did Mr. Freeman, on either of his visits to Coomassie, go attended by any messenger, or authorised person from the English settlement?—In the first instance when he went up, he was accompanied by some persons whom President Maclean sent to accompany him; and was also favoured with a letter from the president to the King of Ashantee, introducing Mr. Freeman, and recommending him to the king's notice and protection. I have not the details of his last journey, for although we have received very lengthened communications this morning, I have not had time to look into them, and therefore I cannot state exactly

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all the circumstances under which his last visit to Coomassie was made; but I have no doubt that the same kind of facilities were afforded by President Maclean.

3711. You conceive that Mr. Freeman derived advantage from the countenance afforded him by the English settlement?—Yes, certainly.

3712. You conceive, therefore, that some influence is exercised in Ashantee by the English settlement?—Yes, I am quite of that opinion, that a beneficial influence, to a certain limited extent, is exercised there.

3713. Do you think it would be productive of good effects if British influence were to be exerted, for the purpose of attempting to get rid of domestic slavery on the Gold Coast?—I would observe, that the British authorities certainly have it in their power to prevent a subject of the British Crown from any participation in slavery in whatever form; but the natives are not British subjects, to be coerced by an Act of Parliament. If they were British subjects, they could thus be brought under British legislation and administration; but I think, even then, it would be necessary to introduce a very general system of enlightened education, otherwise your legislation upon the subject would, among the natives who are in a state of heathenism, remain a dead letter; but although the British authorities could not interfere, as I think, authoritatively thus to put it down, they might do much towards the suppression of domestic slavery. I think such a system of protection might be framed, and practically administered, as would discountenance domestic slavery, and be the means of enforcing upon the natives sound principles on the subject of slavery under any form, and all other important questions. I have reason to believe, for instance, that many of the natives are at the present time so far enlightened by Christianity, although they have not fully embraced it, that they would be glad to have the support and protection of a formal denunciation, on the part of the British Government, of those ruinous funeral customs to which I have adverted, with the pawn system which they so greatly foster, if not produce. Now it is in such a way, by that kind of interference I conceive that much might be done.

3714. Rather in the way of a moral influence than absolute prohibition?—Yes.

3715. You would not have soldiers sent up 25 or 30 miles into the country to prevent a funeral feast?—I conceive of the influence to be exerted rather in this way; here are a number of people, inhabitants of the country, looking up to the British authorities for direction and protection, for assistance in the arrangement of civil matters. Now the notion I have is, that that assistance and protection might be afforded on such a principle as to discountenance domestic slavery. The governor might make the natives understand that if they are to enjoy British protection and aid it must be without any compromise of those great principles which the British Government holds sacred. I am aware that some stipulations have been made in agreements with some of the native chiefs, that they should give up the practice of human sacrifices, and the practice of "panyarring," and perhaps others; and I conceive that this principle might be carried still further.

3716. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Might such a practice not also be counteracted by making a difference between the legality of debts contracted for such expenses as those, and other debts?—I am not prepared to go into the details of the plan; I would rather state my general views, that I think the Government might, by the arrangement and administration of a proper system of protection, to a very great extent put down those evils. It will, however, be a work of time. All the beneficial influences that can be brought to bear upon the native population will not change the state of society at once.

3717. The mere termination of a state of internal war must have of itself led to a great deal of improvement?—Yes.

3718. If slavery is looked upon with favour by the working classes, as giving them security in case of disturbance, under the altered circumstances of peace the necessity for the protection, which is afforded by the master to the slave, will be less, and the condition of the slave will be less necessary to the country than it has been hitherto?—Certainly.

3719. Mr. *W. Patten*.] Do you think any of the more intelligent of the natives understand the nature of the English government on the coast. Are they aware that it emanates from a committee of merchants, or do they consider it as emanating from the Crown of England?—I do not possess information that would enable me to answer that question accurately. My impression is, that the natives generally understand that the Government on the coast emanates from the Government

ment at home, but whether they understand precisely the distinction referred to I cannot say.

3720. Is it your opinion that the Government upon the Gold Coast, as at present constituted, is the best mode of government for the spread of civilisation on that coast?—As a general principle, I should always hold as the result of the observation I have made on those subjects, that the closer the connexion between the government of the dependency and the parent Government at home the better, and the more beneficial the Government will prove to the native population.

3721. Are you aware of any particular inconveniences or evils which have arisen from the particular source of authority upon the Gold Coast?—No, I cannot say that I am aware of any particular evils of that description.

3722. Mr. Forster.] You think they would be ruled with greater advantage if they were placed under the Crown?—I lay it down as a principle, not with exclusive reference to the Government of the Gold Coast, but as a general rule, that the more immediately the Government of the dependency is placed under the parent Government, the better I should apprehend it generally to work. At the same time, in making this remark, I would advert to the testimony I have previously borne respecting the kind of beneficial influence which the existing Government on the Coast has exerted in forwarding the interests of the natives, and in promoting missionary operations.

Jovis, 2^o die Junii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir T. D. Acland.
Viscount Courtenay.
Mr. E. Denison.
Viscount Ebrington.
Mr. W. Evans.

Mr. Forster.
Mr. W. Hamilton.
Mr. Hutt.
Mr. Wilson Patten.
Mr. G. W. Wood.

VISCOUNT SANDON IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel *Alexander Findlay*, called in; and further Examined.

3723. Mr. Forster.] HAVE the civil or other servants of the Government on the coast of Africa any retiring pension or allowance?—The colonial officers have no retiring pension; the mixed commissions have.

3724. The retiring pensions and the allowances are confined to the officers of the mixed commission?—They are.

3725. Do you think it would have a good effect in procuring a better qualified class of officers, if some pension or allowance were provided in case of long service on the coast of Africa?—Most decidedly it would, in my opinion. I think it is a very great hardship, where the colonial officers have been there 12, 13, or 14 years, and their health and constitution destroyed, to have nothing to fall back upon.

3726. Has it been long considered a great hardship on the part of officers serving on the coast of Africa?—It has been considered a very great grievance. There have been one or two pensioned, but that was all.

3727. Chairman.] Are you aware whether in any other colonies the civil servants of the Crown have retiring pensions; in the West Indies, for instance?—I am not aware; I am rather inclined to think that they have not.

3728. Mr. W. Evans.] Do you think there is any difficulty in obtaining a choice of fit men, willing to accept those civil appointments?—I dare say men better qualified would be induced to go if they had the prospect of retiring pensions.

3729. You think that in the present circumstances of the colony there is not a sufficient choice of fit men for the appointments that are made of civilians?—I think not.

3730. Mr. Forster.] Do you think it would afford a greater security for the proper discharge of their duties, if they could look forward to some provision of that kind?—Yes, I think it would.

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3731. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether upon every vacancy at Sierra Leone or at the Gambia, there are or are not many applications for situations, even from persons of high character and respectable station?—With respect to the higher officers, I believe there are many; the Governor and Chief Justice.

William Mackintosh Hutton, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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Esq.*

3732. YOU are a merchant in the city of London, engaged in the African trade?—I am.

3733. Are you one of the committee of three merchants to whom is entrusted the management of the affairs of the Gold Coast?—I am.

3734. How long have you been engaged in the trade?—Twenty-five to thirty years.

3735. Is there any part of Dr. Madden's Report on which you wish to offer any explanation?—Two vessels are named at page 17 which belong to my firm, the *Medora* and the *Guineaman*; it is there stated that they had sold goods to slave factories. Those transactions may very possibly have taken place, and I do not desire to defend dealings with slave traders; my wish is simply to show that my house has never sought such business, and that such reasonable care and caution as might be expected from a merchant who sends his goods to a place like Africa, where legal and illegal trade are both carried on, have been taken by my house to prevent those parties whom we have employed from pursuing the illegal trade, or pursuing such transactions as are calculated to assist that trade. I should state that on the receipt of Dr. Madden's Report, I learnt by a letter which accompanied it, that it was sent to our house by desire of Lord Stanley; and I therefore thought it my duty immediately to make a reply to Lord Stanley, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will read. It is dated the 20th of April 1842: "My Lord, We have this day received a copy of Dr. Madden's Report on the Gold Coast, which your Lordship had been pleased to direct should be sent to us. As there are allusions in it in which we feel ourselves personally affected, we beg you will permit us to make a few observations on them, which we are the more anxious to do, as one of our firm has been for seven years past a member of the committee of merchants for the management of the Gold Coast settlements, and it would ill become any house of pretensions to respectability to employ their means to promote a trade which one of its members is bound to endeavour to suppress in virtue of a trust committed to him by his Government. The portion of Dr. Madden's Report to which we particularly refer is the following (page 25): 'The general interests of English commerce are completely swamped by about half a dozen of individuals, who are the suppliers of this illegal trade in Africa with goods and stores, and at the same time setting themselves up as the supporters and defenders of the great and general interests of the country. The vigilance of our cruisers is said to be defeated by those vessels under the British flag, and those traders in our settlements, who afford the ships and factories of the slave dealers whatever they require.' Though we might offer some opinion as to the concerns of others, our present object is only to clear ourselves from the imputations conveyed in these paragraphs, and we have no apprehension but that we shall do so thoroughly to your Lordship's satisfaction. We have engaged in trading to the west coast of Africa for nearly 30 years, and in fitting out vessels for that part, it has been our constant practice to impress upon the master of each vessel, and every time he proceeded upon each voyage, that he was carefully to avoid all dealings, and even communication, if possible, with slave traders. In dispatching each vessel on her voyage, an inventory or invoice is always given to the master, or supercargo, which is a priced list of every article of merchandize that has been put on board of his vessel. The heading of this document is descriptive of the object for which the cargo has been shipped; and it has been the invariable rule of our house to state clearly at the outset, that the goods are to be bartered, sold, or exchanged, for the produce of the coast of Africa. A letter of instructions is also in every case given to the supercargo, and in no one instance has a ship ever been sent on a trading voyage to Africa without these documents; but, notwithstanding, we have found that occasionally dealings with parties ashore, of whom little doubt could exist of their being engaged in the slave trade,

trade, have occurred. Two instances are named in Dr. Madden's Report, in which ships belonging to our house are stated to have had such dealings: these vessels are the *Guineaman* and *Medora*, mentioned in page 17 of the Report. These ships were not fitted out for such transactions, and we can declare that they have not been repeated. In confirmation, we annex, first, No. 1, copy of the heading of an invoice of a cargo of merchandize consigned to the coast of Africa, which is placed at the commencement of the invoice of each shipment made by us; No. 2, extracts from letters of instructions given to masters of vessels. The original documents are, of course, always parted with; but we happen to have three invoices in our possession, which we submit for your Lordship's inspection, also the office copies of the letters of instructions taken when they were first written. Latterly we have found it convenient to have a book of general instructions, one of which we also forward; eight bills of lading, which state the object of each shipment, and are signed by the respective masters of the vessels by which the shipment is made. These documents, we rely, will acquit us, in your Lordship's mind, of any intention to promote or pursue an illegal trade upon the coast of Africa; and should your Lordship consider that our transactions were not designed for aiding and abetting the slave trade, and that you can impartially award us the judgment of being the promoters of a lawful and praiseworthy commerce with Africa, and being thereby the practical promoters of the civilization of its unfortunate people, we beg the favour of your Lordship to put us right in the estimation of Lord Sandon, and the Committee to whom the Report of Dr. Madden has been submitted. We may here add, that the return cargo which a ship brings home, indicates pretty clearly what her general trade on the coast of Africa has been: thus, if the outward cargo be, for instance, 5,000 *l.* in value, and the ship return with African produce, such as palm oil and ivory to more than that value, here is demonstration that that vessel has been pursuing a legitimate and wholesome trade; and so if a house largely engaged in the African trade import considerable quantities of African produce, it will be a clear indication that their general trade is a lawful one. If, on the other hand, the ship brings home large quantities of doubloons and dollars, in which the slave dealers generally make their payments, it may be inferred that such returns are the produce of dealings with slave traders. But we feel bound to say, that we do not believe that such returns are by any means frequent, and further, we take the liberty of stating our decided opinion that Dr. Madden has adopted his views far too hastily on this portion of his subject. The recommendations which Dr. Madden offers, we beg leave to state generally, fall in with our conviction of what is wanting on the Gold Coast; and we should be disposed to augur much good if Her Majesty's Government should determine on affording the settlements more extended means for internal improvements and increase of trade." With that letter were enclosed several documents: No. 1 is a copy of what is always put at the head of an invoice of goods: "Invoice of goods of merchandize shipped by W. B. Hutton & Sons, on board of their schooner *Guineaman*, G. W. Brewer, commander, bound on a trading voyage to the West Coast of Africa, and consigned to the care of the said G. W. Brewer, to be there bartered and exchanged for the produce of the said coast, to be remitted to the shippers in London, for and on their account and risk." Then follow two or three extracts from letters of instructions. One is dated so far back as the 20th of August 1829. The paragraph extracted is the following: "It is necessary that you do not, for any consideration, have any dealings, transactions, or communications with any slave-trading vessels whatever, in the river or elsewhere, unless you be called upon to exercise any act of common humanity. The direct or indirect dealing in slaves is made felony by the laws of England, and you must avoid everything connected with that traffic as you would the deadliest enemy." The next extract I have given is to Richard Bailey, dated December 12th, 1832: "It is necessary that you do not, upon any consideration whatever, have any dealings with slave-trading vessels, as any direct or indirect traffic with slave vessels is a serious crime in the laws of England, and punishable as felony." Again, to George Brewer, dated September 22, 1836: "It seems unnecessary to caution you to be on your guard, and avoid communications with slave-trading vessels." I ought, perhaps, here to observe, that in sending a good many vessels during the year to the coast of Africa, we found it inconvenient to be continually repeating the same thing on every occasion; occasionally some of those remarks became omitted; we there-

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fore, about six or seven years ago, adopted the plan of having a book of instructions, in which all things of that kind have been noticed to every commander of a vessel; and that book was placed on board the ship, and, except when she came into harbour, was never taken out of it; so that the book of general instructions was always on board. In that book was the following paragraph: "Recollect that you are never concerned in slave trading, as such is a serious offence against the laws of this country, as well as having dealings with slave traders." Then to that letter we received a reply from the Colonial Office, stating that it ought to have been addressed to your Lordship. I answered Mr. Hope, in reply, stating that in the situation in which I was placed as one of the committee for conducting the Gold Coast, I felt an explanation due to the Colonial Department. Lord Stanley, however, seemed to desire that the explanation should be given to the Committee.

3736. Did the prohibition of your captains to deal with slave dealers extend to dealing with slave-trading factories on shore?—Recently slave-trading factories have been made the subject of remark, and we have been a little more particular in our instructions.

3737. Will you explain what you understand by a slave-trading factory?—A person settled on the coast, who collects slaves and ships them.

3738. Does the person who conducts the slave-trading factory also deal in lawful merchandize?—There may be cases in which he does.

3739. *Mr. W. Patten.*] What sort of persons are usually placed over those slave-trading factories to conduct the business of the factory?—I am not able to answer that question.

3740. *Chairman.*] You do not know whether they are Europeans or black men?—Europeans generally; Portuguese and Spaniards. We have been more particular in the instructions to such of our trading masters as were likely to be much in the neighbourhood of the slave-trading factories. This is an extract from a letter written to Captain Jackson, now on the coast; it was given to him on the 8th of March 1840: "You are fully aware that having any communications with the slave trade or dealers is against the laws of England, and would be treated as such, by any of Her Majesty's cruisers on the coast detecting any one in the least way implicated in it, either by selling goods or otherwise; and that you may be quite alive to the correctness of the same, we have furnished you with an extract from the late Act of Parliament." The extract is the 10th section of the 5th of Geo. 4, c. 113, called the Slave Consolidation Act, and is as follows: "And be it further enacted, that if any person shall deal or trade in, sell, barter, transfer, or contract for the dealing or trading in, purchase, sale, barter, or transfer of slaves or persons intended to be dealt with as slaves, or shall in any manner engage or contract to engage, directly or indirectly, therein as a partner, agent, or otherwise, or shall knowingly and wilfully ship, tranship, lade, or receive, or put on board, or contract for the shipping, transshipping, lading, receiving, or putting on board of any ship, vessel, or boat, money, goods, or effects, to be employed in accomplishing any of the objects, or the contracts in relation to the objects, which objects and contracts have hereinbefore been declared unlawful; then and in every such case the person so offending shall be and are hereby declared to be felons, and shall be transported beyond the seas for a term not exceeding 14 years." I beg to state that the last thing that I ever expected was, that I should have to make this explanation before a Committee of the House of Commons; but I hope that I shall have succeeded in satisfying this Committee that some care has been taken by my firm to restrict our connexions with the coast of Africa to lawful trade.

3741. You conceive it impossible for a merchant to be aware of the ultimate purposes to which the goods which he sells in exchange for produce on the coast of Africa may be applied?—It is certainly impossible for a merchant who ships goods, either on a trading voyage or by consignment to a correspondent, to be aware of the ultimate purposes to which the goods he sends may be applied. All that the merchant in London can do is, to give such instructions as shall put the parties to whom he sends those goods on their guard in the disposal of them.

3742. Should you permit or recommend a captain of yours to go to trade with a place which had no settlement but for the purposes of being a slave factory?—Certainly not.

3743. Or to trade with a person who was known to have no other occupation than that of conducting a slave factory?—No, certainly not: they may do it

it without instructions. When a man is on the coast of Africa, he goes there to dispose of a certain portion of goods entrusted to him, and he may be placed in a situation where it is difficult to get rid of them; and when a man is in such a climate as that of Africa, of course he is anxious to wind up his adventure, and to get home as soon as he can, and he may be induced to part with a portion of his cargo to such an individual.

3744. You would not consider such an act within the range of your instructions?—I should consider it contrary to our intentions, and therefore against the tenor of our instructions.

3745. Mr. *W. Patten.*] Would one of your captains consider himself obliged to decline to enter into a contract with a person whom he knew to be the superintendent of one of those slave factories?—I have known cases where captains have declined to do so.

3746. Knowing simply that the party was the superintendent of a slave factory?—Under the impression that such dealings were contrary to law.

3747. *Chairman.*] On the ground that the person he was to deal with was engaged solely in the slave trade?—Yes.

3748. Is it your opinion that the slave-trade factories could not subsist without the supplies they receive through our merchant vessels?—They would get supplies from other quarters, as they do in fact.

3749. What do you consider to be the assistance which they derive from the merchants at the British settlements on the coast, to which Dr. Madden alludes?—I presume that he alludes to such cases as that of the *Dos Amigos*. But I think such cases are rare; I do not think they are by any means of frequent occurrence.

3750. You consider, therefore, that any argument derived from the few accidental cases in which in the course of trade such assistance may have been given, is very inapplicable to the great bulk of the trade?—Yes.

3751. And is contrary to the intentions of the merchants engaged in the trade?—Contrary to the intentions of the merchants in the trade generally.

3752. *Viscount Ebrington.*] They are exceptions to the general rule?—I think they are.

3753. Mr. *W. Patten.*] Do your captains make to your house any detailed report of the manner in which they have conducted their adventures, upon their return home?—A more or less detailed one, but it relates chiefly to the goods sold, and the produce taken in exchange; not to any particular occurrences or to the particular individuals with whom they have had dealings.

3754. They do not make reports to you of every individual they deal with, but of the general result?—Yes, of the general result only.

3755. Mr. *Hamilton.*] Do they state the places at which they touch?—We can ascertain that from the log-book.

3756. *Chairman.*] You have not been to the coast of Africa yourself?—Never.

3757. Mr. *Forster.*] You commence your letter of defence to Lord Stanley, by this paragraph: “Though we might offer some opinion as to the concerns of others, our present object is only to clear ourselves from the imputations conveyed in these paragraphs, and we have no apprehension but that we shall do so thoroughly to your Lordship’s satisfaction;” do you mean to convey by that paragraph any imputation, or do you mean to insinuate that if you did offer an opinion on the concerns of others, you could prove that the charges of Dr. Madden were correct?—I have stated that I think Dr. Madden’s conclusions are hastily drawn, and that the general transactions of the trade, taken as a whole, are lawful and legitimate.

3758. Then what is it you mean by saying, “Though we might offer some opinion as to the concerns of others”?—I stated further, that as regards what produce the ships bring home, inferences may be drawn.

3759. You did not mean to convey any imputation upon others by that remark?—I did not mean to convey any imputation upon any one.

3760. You gave in, annexed to that letter, an extract from the book of general instructions placed on board each vessel; do you mean to say that that extract was included in the instructions of all your captains?—Within the last five or six years it has been. I observed that we had found inconvenience in continually repeating the same instructions, and that occasionally remarks of a general nature became omitted; and therefore, in order that those remarks

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which we thought it important that every captain should receive, might not be omitted, we embodied them in a book.

3761. At what period did you commence that rule?—As near as I can remember, the latter end of the year 1837, or probably January 1838.

3762. Can you produce that book?—Yes, I can (*producing the same*). It is made a pretty large book that it may not be kicked into any hole or corner.

3763. Mr. *Evans*.] Is your trade chiefly barter?—Entirely barter.

3764. Mr. *Forster*.] Have you ever forbidden any of your captains to trade with any particular individuals carrying on business on the coast of Africa, on account of their being suspected of having dealings in the slave trade?—I have not found it necessary to give written instructions upon that subject, because we have never had any dealings of any regular continuance.

3765. Dr. Madden accuses your captains of having had dealings with slavers; have such transactions occurred?—I say that such transactions may have occurred, but they have occurred contrary to our general instructions; and as far as reasonable care can be taken, we take that reasonable care, for the prevention of transactions which shall have any tendency to aid or abet the slave trade.

3766. What do you mean by aiding or abetting the slave trade?—It admits of large interpretation. A man who sells goods to a party who deals in slaves, may be said to aid and abet the slave trade by selling him those goods, because the goods may be wanted for the purchase of slaves.

3767. Would you consider a legitimate transaction in trade with a person suspected of being engaged in the slave trade as well as in legitimate trade, aiding and abetting the slave trade?—I think so, or it might be with a person suspected.

3768. From your connexion of 30 years with the coast of Africa, do you not know that every native and foreign trader on that coast is directly or indirectly connected with the slave trade?—I do not know any such thing.

3769. Are you not aware that slavery is general throughout the whole of that country?—Not the transportation of slaves. In talking of the slave trade, I allude simply to the purchase of slaves by an European at a slave factory, and the exportation of the slaves; but if you speak of every party connected with the slave trade, every black man in Africa is, more or less, concerned in the slave trade, because he is at liberty to buy or sell a slave.

3770. Are not you aware that King Peppel, in Bonny, has been for many years one of the most notorious of the slave dealers on the coast of Africa?—He is generally known as having been an extensive slave dealer.

3771. Are you aware that the whole of the Liverpool captains of vessels have paid tribute to that man, and carried on dealings in the river under his sanction for many years?—There is no doubt about that.

3772. Then, according to your version of the meaning of the words “aiding and abetting the slave trade,” do you consider that those Liverpool houses and captains have been aiding and abetting the slave trade by those transactions?—No, I do not, not by paying tribute to King Peppel.

3773. You yourself have carried on trade in the Bonny?—I have.

3774. Are you not aware that one of the first transactions of the captains, before opening the trade, is to pay what is called the customs to King Peppel?—Yes.

3775. Are you not aware that unless those customs were paid, the vessels could have obtained no oil?—That is true.

3776. Your connexion with Africa, till very lately, has been chiefly confined to the floating trade on the Gold Coast?—The Gold Coast and the leeward and windward trade, that is, the trade to the eastward and westward of Cape Coast.

3777. Are you aware whether the number of foreign vessels in the floating trade has greatly increased of late years?—I have some information upon that point, which I shall be glad to lay before the Committee.

3778. *Chairman*.] How do you distinguish between the floating trade and the other trade?—The floating trade is carried on by a vessel that is sent from London or Liverpool, or Bristol, with a cargo on board, and the cargo is sold by the master from the vessel in different places off the coast. May I be allowed to state generally, as an answer to some of the questions that have been recently put, that we consider there is a great difference between dealing with a black trader, a native of Africa, and an European. If the European is a dealer

a dealer in slaves, we call that the slave trade; but we do not draw the same distinction between a slave trader and a legitimate trader as regards the black man.

3779. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] Would it be easy to do so?—It would be impossible.

3780. Viscount *Ebrington*.] Not even where the black trader is implicated in the exportation of slaves?—It would be impossible to draw the distinction generally.

3781. *Chairman*.] You consider that the European slave dealer is more solely devoted to the trade in slaves, and that the black slave trader mixes up the trade with other things?—King Peppel, who has been mentioned, though a large slave trader, is also a very large legitimate trader. He supplies all the ships that frequent his river with the oil—he and his subjects; but if there are foreign slave-trading vessels in the river, he does not prohibit his subjects, or restrain himself from supplying slaves to those vessels. But it is with regard to the masters of those vessels, that we put the interdict upon our captains that they are not to supply them. That is our interpretation of “slave trader,” in contradistinction to such a man as King Peppel.

3782. Mr. *Hamilton*.] They might get the same supplies from other merchants?—Yes; but they would have to pay their profit.

3783. Sir *T. D. Acland*.] In which class do you place De Souza?—De Souza is generally known as a slave trader exclusively.

3784. *Chairman*.] Or Mr. Canot?—I know very little about Canot; I believe he is a dealer in produce as well as in slaves.

3785. Mr. *Forster*.] Are you aware that there are many black traders who have been extensively engaged in exporting slaves from the coast of Africa?—I do not know any black traders whom I can speak of as extensively engaged in exporting slaves, except Peppel.

3786. You carry on trade through your agent, Mr. Marmon, at Popo?—Yes, we do.

3787. Do you know a trader there of the name of Lawson?—The only knowledge I have of him is by name; I know no more of him than I do of King Peppel.

3788. Are you not aware that he is a person who has been extensively engaged in the export trade in slaves?—I should doubt that; he is only engaged by Dr. Madden with dabbling in them.

3789. At page 17, in Dr. Madden's Report, he says: “A British trader, a man of colour, who has an establishment at Accra, has one likewise at Little Popo, where he is known to dabble in this trade. This man was an agent of a mercantile house in London, and information reached me of his having embarked for Popo, some time ago, in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's, a number of slaves on board a British vessel then under discharge. On visiting this part of the coast, in Her Majesty's ship *Wolverine*, on my way to Prince's Island, we found at Great Popo a British subject of colour, holding a factory, from which Captain Tucker had information he had lately shipped a cargo of slaves. While at anchor off the shore, Captain Tucker addressed a letter to him on the subject, informing him of the report he had heard, and giving him to understand, that on any repetition of his illegal proceedings, he would destroy his factory, and carry himself to Sierra Leone. He returned a submissive, and I must add a very proper answer, not denying the transaction alluded to, but promising faithfully in future to abstain from exporting slaves.” Can you form any opinion as to who is meant by this paragraph in Dr. Madden's Report?—I must declare that I do not know.

3790. Do you know of any British trader, a man of colour, who has an establishment at Accra, and one also at Popo?—No, I do not.

3791. Has not your agent, Mr. Marmon, an establishment at Accra, and one also at Popo?—Yes, he has, but he is not a man of colour.

3792. Is not he very dark?—He may be sunburnt; every man who is there long is very dark, but he is an Englishman. I knew his father very well myself. Dr. Madden does not mean to allude to Mr. Marmon.

3793. Have you any idea to whom he means to allude?—I do not know to whom he alludes; I was puzzled when I read it.

3794. Do you know of any person having an establishment at Accra and one at Popo also, except your agent Mr. Marmon?—I do not know who may have establishments there; I know that Mr. Marmon has an establishment at Accra, and that he gets a considerable quantity of oil from Popo. There may be half a dozen individuals that may have establishments at Accra and at Popo.