The Gold Coast Leader.

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THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

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A weekly journal devoted to the interest and welfare of the Country and Race.

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(Payable in advance.)

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NOTICE.

OUT SHORTLY.

Memoirs of West African Celebrities,

(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GOLD COAST.)

By the

Revd. S. R. B. ATTOH-AHUMA.

(D. Marples & Co. 280 pages. 3/6)
4/- Post Free.

Orders received by Mr. H. Solomon-Ahuma, Jackson Street, Cape Coast Castle.

HARMS & MARCUS
HAMBURG 11.

Beg to inform the public that they have decided, on account of the continuous extention of their business in continental lines, and owing to the growth of the cotton goods department, to work this branch direct from England. Accordingly Harms & Marcus have transferred this part of their business to the Firm of Messrs. Boernert & Co. Manchester, manufacturers of all kinds of cotton goods, and beg to request their clients and others to submit their orders and enquiries in this line to this firm direct.

All indents accompanied by an advance remittance will be executed at once.

GENERAL NEWS.

Some more of the Force who came down from Kumasi the other day, left Town on last Monday morning.

Headed by the Cape Coast Brass Band, the Mfantsipim School Boys went on last Monday morning over to the Collegiate School, and took the Scholars with them to their School. The two Schools are now amalgamated.

Mr. W. Ward Brew Barrister-at-Law arrived by the *Sobo* last Sunday.

H. M. S. Dwarf is said to have been at Sekondi for coaling our correspondent writes this week. When was Sekondi made a coaling Station?

Are logs of wood being still used then for the railway now that, there seems to be sufficient quantity of coal at Sekondi, or the Government cannot afford wasting money for it.

It is also said that the troops who came down from Kumasi the other day, were also intended for Accra, and to change some of the men who have been on the coast. But all these stories are rather late in the day.

Mr. A. H. Clare, the Chief Agent for the African Association, left by the *Jebba* for England last Wednesday.

"There are troubles in the Jungle Market, but mum is the word." *The Rialto.*

"Judgment was delivered in the Supreme Court of this Colony on Tuesday last the 4th inst." writes the Editor of our contemporary the *Sierra Leone Weekly News*, "on a motion made on behalf of the Crown by the Honourable Frederick Harrison Gough, Acting Attorney-General, that we should be committed to prison for contempt of court for having published in our issue of the 24th June last. . . a paragraph headed "Important Test Case on the Law Courts."

The case, had reference to the estate of Samuel Lewis, His Honour the Acting Chief Justice found, "a contempt has been committed.—I will not, however," he went on to say, "order that Mr. May should be sent to prison. I shall deal leniently with the matter and impose only a nominal fine on Mr. May. I order that Mr. May pay a fine of forty shillings." Mr. May has our most sincere and deep sympathies.

It is not a question how much a man knows, but what use he can make of what he knows; not a question of what he has acquired, and how he has been trained, but of what he is and what he can do—*The Segnogram.*

We hope to have a dip into the Parliamentary Report of 1865 with our Readers, next week, there will be something to interest them on some of the current topics of the day.

So the Government is determined to build on the Parade Ground irrespective of the protest from the people and at the same time repeatedly breaking the law made by them in declaring that portion of the town an "open space." If all what we hear is true that no other spot could be found we say it is untrue and shows clearly how we are oppressed in anything on behalf of the people by the kind of an administration of a Government only known on the Gold Coast in making laws and breaking them themselves. If the party in charge of the work cannot find a spot we direct him to the eastern part of the Victoria Park in front of Jones & Co. right down to the corner of Russell's. Others could be got if the party can only take some pains to go round.

His Excellency the Acting Governor (Major Bryan) passed up by the "Jebba" last Wednesday to Kumasi, *via* Sekundi on inspection.

FANTI PUBLIC SCHOOLS CO. LTD.

The Statutory meeting was held at the Board Room on Saturday the 29th ult. Chairman W. E. Sam Esq.

The Secretary (Mr. D M. Abadoo) read the notice calling the meeting also the Directors Report and Accounts.

The Chairman said, as this meeting is the Statutory meeting which we are bound to hold, it leaves me very little to say, as the position of the Company is absolutely disposed of in the particulars that have been read to you. I do not know that there is anything more for me to say except that I should

propose the adoption of the Report and Accounts, this was seconded by Mr. J. E. Biney and carried unanimously.

Mr. Essman-Gwira asked that he has heard remarks about an amalgamation of the Collegiate School with the Mfantsipim School, the Chairman having replied in the affimative, the Secretary was asked to read Rev. Bartrop's letter and the minutes of the Wesleyan Home Committee on this matter.

Proposed by the Hon. J. M. Sarbah and seconded by the Hon. J P. Brown a vote of thanks to the officers of the Company which was unanimously carried. This concluded the meeting.

AXIM

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

July 29.

The proposed bungalow for the Government Native Officials under the foremanship of Mr. P. Pope is now in course of erection.

Rev. Father Banwarth arrived last Wednesday the 26th inst. to relieve Rev. Father Phleigher who has been ill for some time and is invalided home.

The Roman Catholic School Building is near completion and in view of Sunday services which will be held therein, it is hoped to be dedicated shortly.

The Civil Service examination under the directorship of Mr. Elliot the District Commissioner and the Colonial Surgeon began last Friday the 28th inst.

Rev. Eben A. Sackey left for Sekondi by the s.s Olenda.

It is high time that the Church were supplied with a suitable Organ of its own.

We should also call the attention of the Church Authorities to the present condition of the Brass Altar Rails.

We understand the District Commissioner interviewed the Omanhin and asked him not to interfere with the Cape Coast Town Council question as the Ordinance was not applied to this Town.

On the night of the 26th there was burglary committed at a store in Lower Town when some cases of gin were stolen. Six of the robbers have been arrested.

SEKONDI

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

23rd. July.

Mr. Charles Swatson of the Post Office who is transferred to Accra, left by the "Karina" last Friday noon.

Mr. Coppin of the Police Department is still at Accra. Mr. Lett is in charge of the Civil Police Force here.

Messrs. Duncan, Smith and others who have been here to institute the Old Fellows Society sailed on the "Karina" for Cape Coast on the 21st inst.

Cruising windward, the *H. M. S. Dwarf* touched this port last Tuesday for coal! a portion of her crew came ashore and repaired the flag mast at the Signal Station.

There was a meeting at the Court House on Wednesday (19th inst.) when the election of a local committee in connection with the agricultural show to be held at Accra in November next took place.

TOWN COUNCIL.

There is not a hair breath of truth in the general fuss made as to the payment of rates in Sekondi by the natives. Save the European Houses and with the solitary exception of a singular instance to which I can testify that the rate was paid conditionally, I have no reason to believe that any native has yet stooped to sail the patriotic protest. Our neighbours should rest assured that though bullets are ready to cut off many of us, our national rights we still preserve.

A deputation approached the Provincial Commissioner last Monday, and told him thus in the absence of Chief Kumah, the public anticipated no oppression in connection with the payment of rates, but Mr. Philbrick replied that it was too late.

Gong-gong has twice summoned the community to a meeting at the Royal Palace during the week at which general discussions as to determinative protests took place. The following notices however were issued out yesterday and served on Messrs. J. D. Sey, W. F. Last and Gerarr:—"It is ordered under Section 45 of the Town Council Ordinance that the house occupied by. . . . . and marked No. . . situated at Ponsie Road will be sold on Tuesday 21st. day of July 1905 to defray the amount of £. . . . being the house rate due therson—(Sgd.) A. White."

An elaborate sermon by Rev. Hayford having regard to this obnoxious affair was delivered this morning at the Wesleyan Chapel. The week has been set aside for prayer meetings at the Church, all invited.

JUDICIAL.

Another charge has been preferred against J. T. Woode who has been put in custody. Messrs. Mills and Gordon have disappeared and their sureties are being severely pressed to release their Bonds or to give up their prisoners.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Some writers are constantly saying that the people of this Country ought not to complain when they are oppressed or distressed with laws which aim at the destruction of their national liberty and the deprivation of the rights and privileges of their natural rulers, or at the extravagance shown in the expenditure of the Country's Revenue, because they are not to forget "that but for the British" we "would most likely be under the cruel dominance of" our "hereditary enemies the Ashantis." Writing like this, by the way, makes one to think that after all, those who are against Chinese labour in South Africa are in the right, for why should thousands of British Soldiers, sacrifice dear life for these to enjoy the fruits of such sacrifices whilst the British workman is sent adrift.

But what are the facts of the case with us here? It is true that the Asiantis are our "hereditary" enemies and we had several engagements with them in most of whom we were worsted. But it should be remembered that for even the very first of these wars in 1807, we were not directly responsible. We will not allude to all these wars to substantiate this fact! We shall pin all we shall have to say here on the subject on the Karikari war of 1873–1874, and writers like E. D. M. who evedintly would say the right thing if they only knew what it was—not the irresponsible journalists and would-be authors who would say anything for the saying of it, so long as they give vent to their feelings against the Negro—we would refer to the writings of *Meredith, Bowditch, Beecham, Dupuis*, and *Cruikshank*, to see for themselves.

And a good deal of rot is also often said of the cowardice of the people of this country, as if cowardice were known nowhere else but here; and the way some of these writers deliver themselves—the language they use! These may also consult the Parliamentary Report of 1865, particularly Governor Richard Pine's evidence, and for the testimony of one still living, let them either communicate with or interview Sir Evelyn Wood: and still for their edification on some of the foregoing remarks, we quote the following from the Report:—

Quest. 5735: In fact, the English took the Fantees from under the sovereignty of the Ashantees, did they not?—Said Mr. Henry Barnes; "Yes the Ashantees never came to Cape Coast; they never took possession of Cape Coast they used to follow the Fantees, and the Fantees ran to Cape Coast.

But when all is said and done we fail to see how this logical (?) conclusion of which so much is made by some writers come in. A man gets his own Building: by his own permission and consent you take shelter there, to follow your trade that of a goldsmith let us say, whilst living here you assist to repulse any burgiarious attacks on the house, and you assist, pecuniary or otherwise in any repairs that may be done to it. Can any one rightly say, that because of these assistances this tenant now and again gives to his landlord, he secures the right of taking his house from him?

Now how did the 1873-1874 war come about? In this way. The English and the Dutch agreed to exchange some territories. For some places given to the Dutch at the Straits Settlements, by the English, the former also gave them Elmina. The King of Asianti had some ancestral claims on Elmina, and when this exchange of places came to his knowledge, he refused to give up thore claims. He insisted upon having them, the English would not give them: he swore to have them, and the Asianti Expedition of 1873 arose. The Fantis as friends (politically) to the English opposed their march to the Coast. Several engagements took place some of which they won, in others they were repulsed, and this wanton, until Sir(now Lord)Garnet Wolseley came to the scene in the name of the British Empire, even then the native allies were still useful. These in a nutshell are all the facts of the case: and for this we are told that but for the British we would have been under the cruel dominance of the Asiantis, and therefore whatever may be the *civilized, cruel dominance* of some people we are not to complain, unless we wish to put ourselves down as the most ungrateful wretches in the face of the Globe.

Sometime ago one of our Lagos contemporaries had occasion to complain of the Post Office at Accra, and it does not seem that anything came out of it. That Office though under the immediate supervision of the G. P. M. or his assistant, seems to be either undermanned, or that it requires its Postmaster, to be a bit more on the *qui vive*, for if such irregularities can prevail there, what must one expect from the outstations: the other day a prepaid telegram was sent to us of which we knew nothing until a letter came from the sender to query us about it, and till now we have seen nothing of it, our end assuring us that it never got it.

Some papers which should have come to us weeks ago, reached us at last via Sierra Leone, and there were some twenty or more letters "missent to Sierra Leone" with them: if Accra Post Office can show so much attention to its duties, there is nothing surprising to find a letter posted from Sekundi to us graced with "missent to Axim." Over a month ago we posted a letter to Accra, and up till the time we were writing it had not reached its destination yet. A gentleman arriving from Axim by the "Sobo" last Sunday also when asked why he did not reply to a letter sent him four or five weeks ago strongly affirmed' he never got it. Other persons and places may have their tales to tell. This reveals a state of affairs, which the P. M. G. will do well to give his attention to. The Post Office is of course a very important Department, and perhaps the clerks show such carelessness and recklessness' because they are not properly paid, while those having handsome salaries simply "boss" it on them.

One can fairly understand candidates for Government appointments undergoing examinations to show their qualifications &c. for the service but where does the necessity for officials who have been already in the Service some for years and doing well too to merit their promotions or increment of salaries, come in? Is it to stop these promotions and increments, no matter how well they may be getting on in their Departments or what? Some one will please enlighten us. We certainly need duly qualified officials—*white* and black—to be well paid, so as to give the Public good work.

Complaints are getting rife as to the time the Magistrate can be freed from his other engagements to take his seat in the Court. People with their solicitors are asked to be at the Court at 8 30 a m and there they will be sitting for hours together before one could hear the Bailiff's "Court rise:" from his quarters he goes to the Goal yard then to his office, to transact certain business, all this time the people waiting, before he comes to the Court: does the Provincial Commissioner simply exist to go on inspections when very often they disturb the work of the D. C's., and to boss about?

Formerly we had only the D. C. who did every thing, and some one thought his duties had so increased that another post should be created to give him a free hand to attend to his magisterial duties. The post of the P.C came in with a handsome salary but the D. C. seems to be hard put still, whilst the former enjoys a comparatively easy life being here, there, everywhere, practically doing nothing, perhaps occupying himself with despatches to Accra and telegrams, for something must be done at the expense of the Public. Perhaps, when we have the right men as Provincial Commissioners, a good deal can be done to relieve the Secretariat from some unnecessary work. As it is, does the Post answer the end for which it has been created—Those attending the Court are commanded to be punctual, and yet Magistrates are getting noted for being unpunctual: if you wish to know what punctuality is go to our Divisional Courts.

On Dick Carnis' attention being called to E. D. M's article on "Misunderstandings and other things," he described it as Post-prandial and therefore should not be taken seriously. The writer of "King Leopold's Rule in Africa" and "West African Affairs" can't really mean all he has written without stultifying himself. Dick Carnis further begs that by reason of the good work E. D. M. is doing for Africa, he should be left alone until we are in a position to prove by ocular demonstration that his hostile attitude on the question he discusses was ill-advised.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned

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

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

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUG. 5, 1905.

SUCCESS OR FAILURE, WHICH?

"ACCRA AND SEKUNDI ARE A HUGE SUCCESS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL POLICY."

Is this statement correct? Not in the least, and yet this is what we hear is being circulated at the Downing Street in support of the application of the Town Councils Ordinance to this Town and the other places where it is not operating at present. It is painful to find that when matters come to the push, our officials are prepared to say anything regardless of facts in support of what they may have said or written. It is really painful. The Ordinance a success at Accra? Though this may be said and believed some thousands of miles

away from the spot (which makes such a saying and belief easy enough) yet go to Accra, the Head quarters of this Government, TO-DAY, and see things for yourself. A success when the People by their unanimous protests and prayers embodied in a petition to Governor Hodgson and in a cable message to the Secretary of State (all resulting in nothing) determined to have nothing to do with such Law, it was forced on them by the Government intimidating them with military demonstrations and promiscuous arrests of innocent people, and huge preparations at the Colonial Hospital for the reception of those who might be wounded upon their refusal to accept the Council, and the People having been forced to submit at last, when some one unknown to the late Manche paid in his name the tax imposed on his house, and the results have been, as admitted by all the responsible person there, that the Ordinance "has ruined their Towns, interfered with their indigenous institutions and wrought such havoc that no one who knew the condition of Accra prior to the enforcement of the Council could honestly say for one moment that it has in any way whatsoever contributed to the security and protection of the Town and its loyal inhabitants."

There are men there prepared to tell you that fully 75 per cent of the people have actually been compelled to borrow money with exorbitant interest to secure their houses from being sold under the Ordinance, and who can even go so far to affirm that some of the People have died from broken heart through the loss of their property and others committed suicide, the names of whom you can have if you wish. The people are groaning under the oppressive measure, daily praying for the repealing of the Ordinance. Ever since its establishment, the People as a body have consistently refused to have anything to do with the election of the few members allowed by the Ordinance and all who have been there have always been Government nominees. The election of the three Councillors last, was made by the Registrar of the D. C's. Court, Mr. Curling the D. C. himself being in the chair, and this Registrar was the very gentleman who a few years ago bought by auction his own father's house and compound valued at £200 more or less for £4 to save the said property. These are facts which any one can know for himself, and yet the Downing Street is being made to believe that the Ordinance has been a "huge success" at Accra. No doubt the officials and the professional men, find it so, but the People—how do they find the Ordinance operating on them. Houses are being broken up, ancestral properties are being confiscated. Isn't cruel to say in the face of all these facts that the Town Council Policy has been a huge success at Accra?

You turn to Sekundi, and what do you find? What indeed, even allowing the possibility of the truth which the above dictum with all its official pomposity, weight, and influence seeks to establish, to wit, the success of a thing even before it comes into existence. Verily, the Crown Colony Policy as it is known in West Africa can do wonders! "If Sekundi boasts of any sanitary improvement, it has been so, since the Railway was brought here when several white men came to reside here; the improved part of the Town therefore is where the Europeans reside, having built better houses for themselves, more streets laid out with more lamps, in fact every thing done for their own comfort." The natives also who have got to pay taxes have been driven from this part of the Town and where they are nothing has been done for them excepting that their streets having been widened, not one of them though being properly laid, and with no lamps. all improvements there are, are to be found at the European part of the Town, and they were all undertaken and carried out during the time of Sir Matthew Nathan, that is, before the application of the Ordinance to the Town. If the Ordinance is a success there, why are the People daily threatened with the sale of their houses, and the responsible men the Omanhin and his Head Chief to prevent what was done at Accra are in exile to-day? Who are the members of the Council? No, the assertion that the Ordinance has been a success here too, is far from being correct, and it has been made too hastily. In the face of all this, clever and powerful articles may be written, official dicta and despatches may do what mischief they could, but the truth remains, that,

FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS.

WERE-WOLVES AND VAMPIRES.

(BY A BANKER.)

From the earliest ages of the world the occult arts have been practised under varied designations, and in many diverse form, the East especially having been for many ages the home of magic and sorcery. Even at the present day the most astounding tricks are performed by jugglers and magicians in India and other Eastern countrias; amongst the most startling being the ordinary basket trick, which so many have witnessed.

The juggler places a large empty basket on the ground, into which a little girl steps, the lid being then closed and fixed. He then apparently pieces the basket through and through with a long sharp rapier, the weapon soon reeking with blood, while the most agonizing shrieks and gasps horify the audience, eventually becoming fainter and weaker until at length they die away altogether.

After a final vicious thrust the basket is opened and is found to be empty, and the little girl trips smilingly from the back of the ring of people surrounding the magician.

Another, though less frequently performed, trick is even more wonderful. The sorcerer throws a rope upwards, the end of which is apparently soon lost sight of in the clouds, a boy then climbing up the rope until he too disappears. The audience is then told that some monster is cutting up the child, limb after limb then falling from the skies until a pile of reeking remains is seen upon the ground.

If, however, an attempt be made to photograph this gruesome heap it will be seen that it existed only in the imagination of the spectators, the magician having hypnotised the entire audience into the belief that they saw that which did not exist.

Of course the basket trick, and other feats of the jugglers, are to be explained in the same way.

This black art, or sorcery, is subject to innumerable developments, and even in the present age of advanced knowledge is very largely practised. But in the middle ages, when superstition was rife, and blind credulity more prevalent than now, many strange fictions were believed in. For instance, the belief obtained throughout Europe that men of infamous character were frequently changed into "were-wolves," spectral devouring animals even seeking for human prey; or, still more gruesome, that such individuals, when dead, were sometimes transformed into vampires, at night escaping from their tombs and sucking the blood of sleepers until they pined away and died.

Happily, however, since the continued spread of education the belief in these imaginary ghouls has died out. There is, however, a dread vampire hovering about, ever seeking to devour and to drag down those who forget or neglect their God. But greater is He that is for us than he that is against us. And if we place ourselves under the supreme protection of the Redeemer, Who died that we might live, we shall ever be defended from the attacks of that spiritual enemy, and a bright guardian angel will ever be at our side to defend us from harm.

LEST WE FORGET.

DEAL JUSTLY.

One of the voluminous authors in ancient times about the Gold Coast was Barbot, who wrote before the year 1745. Replying to European fraud he wrote the following which speaks for itself. Perhaps the world has changed somewhat but is not human nature much the same?

But to return, "I shall conclude this long discourse of gold with an observation I often made then, says Barbot, which is, that many Europeans who so loudly exclaim against the perfidiousness and deceitful nature of the Blacks, in offering falve gold in trading now consider, that on the other hand they are themselves guilty of a notorious cheat and fraud, in using two sorts of weights there, the heavier to receive gold by, and the lighter to pay it away again which is frequently practised by too many, and is a great dishonour to christianity, being contrary to the Golden Rule, *To do as we would be done by*. Such base dealing rather serves to confirm those pagans in their ill principles, instead of endeavouring to convert them. But self-interest and covetousness, which is called the root of all evil, are vices too common to all the corrupt race of mankind, either christians or pagans. But christians ought to remember the words of Saint Paul to the Roman christians in his days, on like occasion: chap. II. v. 24. That for their evil practices the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles. And that double weights and double measures are an abomination to God."

THE DAY IS BREAKING!

(BY AGYEMAN.)

"Lo! the day of God is breaking
See it gleaming from afar!"

The night has been a troublous one: it was necessary it should be so. The number of Detectives, Spies, Informants, Ignes Fatui, and liars we have come across beats anything we ever imagined. And all this time we have been living with these men, feasting and drinking, exchanging compliments and confidences with them; and Cape Coast too like the benign mother that she always will be has been affording them a shelter and a home! Thanks to the Town Councils Ordinance we know them now. I have said that it was necessary that the night should be a troublous one; putting aside the present "hardness of the times" we as a people stand on the threshold of a great day. The Political aspect of the country is refreshing; and what would be more desirable than that we should at the start know with what infernal agencies we have to reckon.

The day is breaking! The swan is singing her last and sweetest song; the meetings at a certain rendezvous via a certain office at twilight; the midnight ambulations taking a certain route in particular, the weekly epistles to—every mail, these are having their day. And the troops too have come and gone. By the way this is nothing strange for what said the old prophet, "The tax that is being collected at Accra is the municipal hut tax . . . . and if any person or persons be so ill-advised as to attempt a disturbance the Authorities are prepared to deal with him or them." Hut tax . . . any person or persons . . . ill-advised . . . . attempt a disturbance . . . authorities are prepared . . . that's pushful Joe! Thanks to a loving Providence we have been able to meet the obnoxious scheme without giving any one the opportunity to commit the horrible crime of homicide; and the firing of the Maxim-gun the other day at the Parade grounds was into the sea. Zealots too we have had among our taskmasters. There is no knowing to what depths the craze for posts and positions can carry men! So clumsily have they played their part that had we not known that there are "classes" in the whiteman's country and that it is but once in a while that the *Nkrompi* that crosses the Saltpond is an *odishi* we would have called our brethren names.

But the day is breaking! And will it be a holy calm? Putting freedom on a sounder basis in this country requires cool and collected thoughts, free from the worries and anxieties attending odious schemes and the inglorious interferences of red-tapism; and we will still fight for *Freedom and the Fatherland*? Moreover shall we teach our children the use of the bow, teach them to be honourable and honest, show them that it is their duty to live or die for the good of their country; will we teach them the history of the Gold Coast and give them an insight into the evolutions, revolutions, and convolutions that have taken place in the country in which they live?

And you my brother the day is breaking and where will it find you; will it find you under the traitor's or the patriot's flag; are you yet undecided? Be decided then: be a detective, a liar, anything but undecided. Indecision has ruined many a man and it is the principal if not the sole agency that will drag a man to the lowest parts of hell.

And now that the day is breaking,
—Earth's vain shadows flee:
In life and death, O Lord, with us abide!

SCRUTINEER

The Government appears to have made up its mind to force its "Town Councils" on a protesting Country by the sheer force of Might, and considering the idiosyncrasy of the British nation one is tempted to query whether the adoption of terrorizing and coercing measures by the representative of British rule in this country is not a humiliating circumstance on them. If I, for instance, inform the general public that the Government is determined, if it comes to a crisis, to call troops from Asianti to enforce the provisions of the "Ordinance" (unless some mandate proceeds from England to stop the bloody tide,) the information may be officially denied, but it will certainly not disestablish the fact. There is no doubt about the fact that the community has been stirred in recent times through maladministration, tantalization, humbug, and unusual display of despotism, but at the present moment the public feeling is on the boiling point, and one cannot say what may or may not happen. It is for this very reason—for the prevention of future unpleasant events—that we have been besieging the Government with logical arguments based on historical facts which, have unfortunately and ineffectively rebounded as cannon-balls on a mail-plated vessels. When one reckons with a Government of such invincible and all-powerful attitude and moral constitution, in a place so far away from the sphere of responsibility and fairplay, one really needs something more formidable than mere human arguments and protestations. A Government that

entertains no regard for sane arguments and would pulverise any that its opponents adduce merely to move on its way unchecked, a government that will wade through fire and blood, to gain at an end, tabooing legality, fairplay, documental pledges and assurances, is surely a dangerous edge-tool in the world of British civilization.

The Titan representing the British Lion in this country is gone on leave and to his *locum tenens* Major Bryan is entrusted the dirty work of establishing the malign "Town Councils" even at the point of the bayonet. What hope is there of any good result out of an institution which is regarded with furious hostility by, at least, the great majority of the people (not to say the entire) for whose benefit it is intended, and who have pledged themselves to resist it by all available means on constitutional lines of course? As far as we have been able to study out, the only argument the Government has put forth is, that the Secretary of State far, far, away has laid down a certain "principle" which Governor Rodger understands to mean that Town Councils should be established on the Gold Coast, maintained by taxes on houses or house rates and that these Councils should be suffered to be right under the thumb of the Governor or Government by the predominance of officials in them, nominated by the Governor himself! That a practical Englishman like Sir John Pickersgill Rodger, a lover of fairplay, and having some experience of "Town Councils" as instituted in England, would go about with such a jaundiced and ill-balanced deduction startles us out of our estimate of him, and his sense of impartiality.

It is after all one thing to force on a People a law or an institution and it is another thing to get the People to carry out the law or institution successfully. Invariably, and particularly in this country you cannot carry on successfully a law or institution unless the People whom it concerns show a lively interest in it, and it is for this very reason that in liberal countries the wishes of the majority are always taken before the enunciation of any law or reform. The Government may establish its novel Town Councils but the People may have nothing to do with them—they may send no representatives there. It will levy house-rates but the People may not pay, and consequently their houses will be sold; but if even an *Auctioneer* be possibly found to undertake the job, no buyers will be found. I can, in fact, foresee that even the Government with all its Herculean strength cannot force its will on the People, and for myself I have every hope of even the mountain moving to Mahomed if my People will be only one in purpose, despite the trickery of a handful of Judases.

Can any of my Sekondi readers kindly inform me with the names of the local Town Councillors including their Town Clerk—with their nationality?

It is remarkable how events are occassionally transpiring to substantiate many things said in this journal regarding the rotten state of the Administration and the haphazard way things are managed in the several departments. We complained of the scandalous administration of Justice in Asianti and the way in which the individual subject's personal liberty was imperilled there, and immediately the *Quist-case* came to confirm everything remarked on to a letter. We complained of the mismanagement of the Railway Department and about a fortnight ago my readers might have noticed the report of a series of frauds, possible under the very nose of the General Manager, with his regiment of Accountants, Auditors and Traffic Superintendents—frauds amounting, as I learn, to some thousands. Our Sekondi Correspondent wisely puts forth the question what all the previous Chief Accountants, Auditors, and their Assistants and Acting Assistants have been doing to render these series of frauds possible—and in the interest of the tax-payer I expect that a reply is forthcoming. The wonder is that the Government still musters strength to muddle through after such revelations of deadly impotence.

Yours faithfully,—ARTOO.

HEARTLESS WASTE OF COLONIAL REVENUE.

BY ROOVER.

A cursory glance through the current Colonial Office List gives vent to the above expression where one is appalled by the fact that as much as seven thousand six hundred and odd pounds is lavishly thrown into the pockets of "Nigger-Boosing" officials under the ostensible appellation of DUTY ALLOWANCE—The pertinent question may be here asked why does this filthy lucre appear in the annual Colonial Estimates when each worthy white skinned official does not embark for the Gold Coast for gold without being first informed in the Colonial Office of his specific stipend which is invariably a lucrative one as compared with the paltry wages each elect could hardly secure in the busy office in London—an urchin of the first magnitude gets elated and inspired with brow beating resolutions no sooner than he has been apprised of his starting an official career in the "wilds of West Africa" with five hundred pounds per annum!

Now after this fortunate bargain he comes out to the Eldorado of West Africa and on assuming the new office for which he is amply paid he is told—You are entitled to another pelf no less than a fifth of your stipulated salary *alias* DUTY ALLOWANCE (!) A more absurd policy can never be located in the lucre manufactory of the British Colonial World. It is said this "ghost-draining bonus" was once styled "*Acting allowance*" whereby a junior officer performing the duties of a senior officer who may be on a furlough after a hard 12 months' labour (!) was remunerated and the underlying principle was good. But even then the question may be justly asked, why compensate an officer for duties he does not actually perform but only embellishes them with his precious signature after the poorly paid staff of niggers have done them all. Moreover his occupying the higher office temporarily is somewhat preparatory to his elegibility for a permanent appointment to that office.

What strikes an observer most is this rank absurdity, an official holding an office for which he receives an undeserving wages, is also to draw a fifth of that salary for DUTY ALLOWANCE during the period of 12 months he holds the office! Can't the poor native tax-payer justly ask Mr. Secretary Lyttelton, What is the fixed pay given to such officer for? Perhaps for coming out at the risk of his precious life to save the African, but not to fill his own pocket, and the duty allowance for good work done. Bon! When even a non-paying department like the Railway Fiasco as much as £1180 is annually spent for Duty allowance! The questionable point is why allow officers who occupy offices they are too well paid for such allowance instead of acting officers only! If this could be judiciously done the official-saddled Colony would be relieved of half the uncalled for expenditure and savings utilized in affording the "croaking natives" the wants they clamour for and since this is wilfully connived at we aver it is diametrically opposed to reason and justice and Mr. Colonial Secretary Lyttelton must needs adjust this rank anomalous Policy that goes to impoverish the colonial chest. It is even worse than throwing the children's bread to the dogs when the duty-payers are dying of thirst and no one cares to hear the plaintive cry that their parched tongues express through the medium of the local organs! What cares Uncle Sam since he gets his "fat billet" with uncalled for bonus to boot!

In order to save the life of the goose that lays golden eggs for Uncle Sam's voracious consumption I would suggest that he devotes this round sum so wasted annually to the piping of the adjacent streams at Accra and Cape Coast as the cost for such essential water supply will not exceed the £7600 and odd and if it will at all, each principal town must be attended to every year until Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi, Axim and Saltpond have been in one way or other furnished with this great need of the masses, for after all the tax or duty-payer considers that it is the encumbent duty of the tax-collector to provide the life preserving requisite with the tax so collected. Why should he be called upon to pay hut tax when after paying the 10 per cent ad valorem plus specific duties he sits thirsty while the reckless tax-collectors enjoy what he is paying out without a renumeration in any form or shape? O Justice! thou hast fled to brutish beasts and the impartial John Bull has lost his time-honoured fair-play-kind friends of the benighted African! We appeal to you in the name of conscience and humanity to judge between the ruler and the governed and in your wise and fair judgment move the Magnates in Downing Street for a timely amelioration of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Eldorado, even the Gold Coast.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

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

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader*.

MODERN ETIQUETTE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.

Sir,—It is high time that public attention was drawn to the practice which obtains among certain specimens of "white flesh" in Northern Nigeria of enforcing courtesy by demanding the taking off of hats by clerks when they happen to cross in a road. This is the usual question put "Why don't you take off your hat when you see a whiteman?" If their illicit demands are not complied with, the supposed deliquent is either reported to his "Boss" who invariably acts on the apparently sounder policy of "backing his colour" which procedure damages all prospects of a speedy promotion, or worse still, he is savagely assaulted in a public thoroughfare.

Reports are made to Heads of Departments by the recipients of such outrages but nothing is heard afterwards of steps taken to prevent recurrence. Some cases are even taken to Court but what do you expect from the Dispenser of Justice when his brother—the defendant in the action—takes a seat by his side and indulges in whispers! It is therefore no wonder that such shameful practice has been in vogue since 1900. It seems to me that some of these Nigerian Lords of Creation indulge in this pastime simply to scorn clerks for no sooner has one taken off his hat for some of them than they shew the shape of their backs, although they may actually have courted the compliment by staring him out of countenance.

Clerks invariably act on the custom which, they are aware, obliges junior officials in the Civil Service paying due regards to their senior brothers but in majority of cases the compliment is not returned. What for is this farce then? Is it because they are cornered in a strange land? If this compulsory taking off of hats is the latest practice in English circles, the sooner we see the end of it the better for our pecuniary welfare, for were one to act on it every time he sees a whiteman, the operation will necessitate the purchasing of a new head-gear every alternative week In fact the attitude which some of these European gentlemen (?) assume is such that one is made to look upon his colour as a crime and to believe that the blackman had no business "to know book"—the possibility of one's living under the Union Jack can even be denied. Is this savagery to be allowed to continue?

The Police and even the Prisoners are set against clerks! The following notice which has been placarded in the Zungeru Market will give you a glimpse:—

"In future all convict gangs will have 'right of way, "on all roads inside the Cantonment and while crossing "bridge, no other coloured person will walk on it. Very "severe measures will be taken with anyone who ob"structs the gangs or who touches or speaks to a pri"soner.

"(Sgd). A. J. N. Tremearne
Acting Sheriff,
"(Sgd). A. Wilson-Jones
Cantonment Magistrate."

"Zungeru, 28 June."

Of course whitemen who are, they say, uncoloured, are not under the category, as they are presumably above Nigerian Law. If the adjective "coloured" had been done away with, the whiteman would have been placed at par with the "black devil"—for such we are called—and that would be lowering the prestige of the former which, to quote their own official phrase "must be kept up at any cost." What has a clerk in common with convict prisoners to admit of the possibility of his demeaning himself to speak to them, much more to touch them, they being as dirty as pigs! But the subscribers to the notice may have their motives! On the strength of this notice, prisoners have actually excelled in the art of breaking off from their gangs, attacking and brutally assaulting clerks, the prison officials in charge of the gangs evidently preferring the enjoyment of the passive position of spectators of the scene. You are not to repulse an attack or ask for its reason, for that will constitute a breach of the above notice which is a law in Northern Nigeria; for who cannot make laws in Northern Nigeria so long as his skin is white! Recent events point out that the prison officials are at one with the convicts for in an action brought against a Mr. Bruce Faulkner of the Secretariat, it was found that they supported the prisoners in concocting a series of fabrication in support of their action; they were found out but instead of their being arraigned for perjury—as would have been the case in any other place—the above notice, protecting convicts and not honest persons walking the streets, was the outcome. In the above bogus trial the want of proper knowledge of the legitimate work of the prison authorities was vividly brought to notice but it did not apparently strike them a bit as it appears it is not a condition that one should have previous experience in the duties of the appointment he takes up in this Government and the sequel is, in the majority of cases the holders ignorantly think their duties consists of sitting down, writing trash suggesting nonsense and nosing other people's business. Instead of the Keeper of Goals making mountains out of anthills, he will do well to look to the discipline of the Prison, for Levees are held (either with or without his knowledge I am unable to say) by prisoners on Sundays at 2 p.m. in front of the Prison walls. This is not a secret performance, it is done in the glare of the public. Of course he knows his duties and is ready to write a whole quire of foolscap commenting on the splendid discipline of the Prisoners and officials.

Why can't clerks be treated as British Subjects in a British Dominion for although it is an admissible fact that there are grades in British subjects, closer scrutiny will not fail to bring out the lucid that some clerks would stand on a higher platform in social circles in England than the majority of these Nigerian Lords.

Why is this persecution when these dandies cannot do without the black devil out of whose country they are scraping their livelihood?

I think I have taken too much space as it is, but I have been obliged to write a little at length as the doings in Northern Nigeria are seldom or never heard of at home and our brethren who ignorantly think we are squaloring in milk and honey will have a hint of what bitter herbs we are made to gulp down *nolens volens* in this Protectorate.

If matters continue in this strain, you must not think it without the range of possibility, Mr. Editor, if you hear that all the clerks have been bayonetted in their beds or in the streets for mere spite! I drop.

Thanking you for the space.

I remain,

Yours very truly,—SUFFERER.

13th July, 1905.

BIO.

Egyam hum ntsi *n*enm hum nya ndwiw ewia dzin dzin bi nhr ogora a ha hum ta de eduaba Nyankupon epe hum. Yimpa bi ni nam mo rihwe hum ahaba onyi hunmaba ama hum nnyi wo beye den ahun. Miye abofraba mitai nkyire kyirem na makaaa bona wonka nkyirem.

Owire hunyi,—KOBINA.

Cape Coast, Aug. 3.

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KUMASI.

(From our Correspondent.)

July 26.

I had a query the other day from "One who Knows" in the issue of the 8th ult. when I had already then made up my mind to write and explain my silence, but I thank "One who Knows" very much all the same for having the Kumasi Correspondent still in mind. My health is excellent and I am still in Kumasi only waiting for things to be quiet.

Mr. George Wilson of Millers lost his daughter on Saturday the 22nd ult. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have our sincere sympathies.

The Wesleyan Mission House is being roofed. As natives of the soil, we recommend for Kumasi a native Minister only who will be useful to us, the Ashantis, as well as the few European residents. In sending a European Minister even though with an assistant, the Christian Mission will not "take" with the Ashantis and we have not as many Europeans as they have in the coast towns to warrant a European Missionary here Wesleyan Authorities at Cape Coast will please note that.

The Rubber trade and the general produce in Town have become dull as well as trade in general but still thousands of stores are rushing in.

Chief Quami Buachie of Agona is in Town.

Mr. N. A. Wellington of Accra, Paymaster Sergeant in the Regimental Line has been sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for intending to defraud the Government. The case was settled by the Officer-Commanding and the Chief Commissioner was somewhat surprised on hearing this, he naturally expecting such cases to be decided by the Civil Authorities. To avoid misunderstandings, why may we not have one, instead of two administrations in Kumasi, that of the civil to wit?

The celebration of the anniversary of the Relief of Kumasi, came off on the 15th ult. when the native and the European officials were invited to a dinner party by the Chief Commissioner at 9-30 p.m. resulting that the natives were found standing at the verandah having a tea-fight—"Good."

A European gentleman (?) a member of the combination's Key (for the blacks) has taken to the habit of reporting clerks to their Masters; the evil doings at Kumasi in another form are still prevailing simply because I have not been writing which leads some of the residents to say that I have after all run away, where to?

There is rumour in Town that Captain. Pamplin Greene has been recommended by the Chief Commissioner to be here once more as the Cantonment Magistrate. Why was Mr. Fell ordered to go back? Is it because Mr. Greene is a Military man? We are altogether tired of Military and Doctor Commissioners from the simple fact that they do not know anything about law, and they act as they think fit, which is always oppressive. It must be remembered that it was a Doctor-Commissioner (Dr. Tweedy) who gave Supt. Isaac E. Quist such privileges which caused the disastrous action taken by the Government against the "G. C. Leader."

One Mr. Brown, a clerk at the African Association has been dismissed without a moment's notice and the Agent refuses to give him his full salary in lieu of notice. Why, because there is no law here.

Mr. Maison, store-keeper for H. B. W. Russell and Co. who was arrested on the 20th ult. at 9 p.m. has been acquitted of the charge brought against him.

Dr. Thain the other day fined a man 5/- according to the law against cruelty to animals for cutting a fowl to make a mark to prevent some one from stealing it. The Elmina game to be played at Kumasi too, but is this sort of thing to be left with this mighty doctor alone.

Mr. Johnson who has been acting as the Supt. of Police is now to take charge of this station. The Sub-Asst. Commissioner of Police Mr. Gale is also stationed here.

The Government has caused the women in Town to send in applications for spaces in the Market sheds which will be opened on the 1st prox. at the rate of 3/- a space.

A Phonetic Association has been lately instituted and Mr. Harry Anaman is the President. What has become of the O. P. H. C. Club.

People are still posting their letters on the Post Office counter. How much will one letter box cost the Postal Department and how many years will it take the District Postmaster Mr Jackson to recommend this? This is not the first time of complaining.

SALT POND.

(From our Correspondent.)

We learn that the Merchants in town have petitioned the Government, suggesting in the interest of Trade to have the roads leading to Kwahdusgya widened or properly repaired. This same suggestion was made by Ohin Pobee and the Town in June last year to Governor Rodger. We hope something will come out of it this time.

We still cry for more street lamps by asking that those that have been already fixed up a year ago be used.

Some of the things promised to the Town, during the Governor's visit a year ago are still unattended to, particularly the Hospital for which the Governor himself selected a spot.

We would respectfully call the D. C's. attention to the sanitary condition of the Town.

Trade keeps going down. Messrs. Swanzy have been compelled to close their stores at Anamaboe and Mankesim.

Messrs. Enchill, Quansah, Ellis, Acquah and many others seem to be getting ahead with their farming. We seize the opportunity to congratulate them for the initiatory move they have made.

Mrs. Fred. E. Ekuban Jr. whose husband is at present in Sierra Leone lost her child last Monday; both herself and the family have our sympathies.

The Acting D. C. is giving the community great satisfaction in his court attendance which is so punctual and regular. He has secured a very good interpreter too in Mr. J. Quainoo, the Officer in Charge at the Customs.

The Free Gardeners have opened a Female Society in town we understand with Mrs. Coker as its President, and they are doing well. Mr. A. R. M Korsah and his Secretary Mr. Winfull are to be congratulated for the great interest they shew in the Order.

The case of Mrs. Elizabeth Anaman v. Effuah Woo, J. A. C. Carew, Eccua Barkah and two others for defamation of character was heard at the D. C's. Court on Monday and Tuesday last before Mr. J. L. Muss. The defendants stated that Rev. Jacob B. Anaman hired them to examine his wife the plaintiff and report whether she was in a state of pregnancy or not, which they did and found to be true. They are native doctors and midwives, some of them leading members of the Anamaboe Wesleyan Church. Despite these malicious reports the Court was fully satisfied that she was not, and a certificate signed by Dr. E. James Hayford who holds some of the highest certificates in midwifery was produced absolutely refuting their statements. It is to be regretted that a case like this should have found its way to the Court: judgment was given for the plaintiff, Butno damages awarded.

The death of Miss Mercy Felbah which took place at Appam last Wednesday evening was wired here on Thursday morning. Within ten months Madam Arkrabah had lost her only two daughters. The family have our sincere condolence.

Mrs. A. J. Hagan (alias Kuma) who arrived here from Sekundi three weeks ago with the husband died this morning (30th) after a protracted illness Our sympathies.

THE MARRIAGE ORDINANCE, 1884.

(By Dick Carnis.)

Whatever the Gold Coastman becomes in the struggle for existence, whatever position he attains, he generally remains a Gold Coastman who loves his country dearly. He may adopt European culture, European taste, European comforts and amenities, but take him all in all he remains at heart a Gold Coastman—"Gold Coast Native Institutions."—Casely Hayford

I have read for the third and fourth time the editorial notes in your issue of the 1st. inst and also the leading article of the 8th with due appreciation. Your views seem to me to sum up the general sense of those who, as Buckle puts it, "live in an inquiring scepticism—accepting nothing that is not proved—in other words who think for themselves." Personally they have, in a wonderful way, helped to crystalise my preconceived ideas on this subject. I am thankful that His Excellency Governor Rodger has appointed a Commission to mend or end a law which bears out Dr. Blyden's not inapt distinction between "legislation."

The Ordinance is a clumsy manufacture—a made up law; and laws should not be made up; they should, in all cases, be born and "brought in" with pomp and ceremony befitting their dignity and importance; they should be placed before the people as the result of critical investigation into cause and effect, comparative analogy corresponding to local peculiarities and withal sufficiently matured to resist all future onslaughts I must say that, in my humble opinion, there was no "clear call" for legislation such as the Ordinance of 1884 in the Colony and Protectorate. The pitiable lack of sweet reasonableness and the habit of undue interference on the part of the Non conformist clergy at the time—and we have no data to suppose it is otherwise even to-day—created many evils, by no means the worst of them being Compulsory Bigamy, in the Country. Every patriotic native should therefore leave no stone unturned in assisting the Commission to recommend to His Excellency the amendment or repeal of this anomalous law. Now for my reasons. I must make it very plain at the outset that I have nothing but the highest encomiums to offer for the piety and purity of the Ministers of the Wesleyan Mission past and present. They have all done and are still doing their utmost for the Gold Coast according to the best of their knowledge and ability. An Angel from Heaven could not do more than his best. The focal point of the vexed question under consideration however, is to be found in this Mission. The Ordinance of 1884 was the outcome of ecclesiastical bungling aided and abetted by an administration eager to please the clergy without attemption to realise any necessity for the enunciation of proofs therefor, and without duly apprehending its own position as the Conserver of the integrity of the Native Customary Law—in so far as, in the classic language of Queen Victoria, it is not "repugnant to justice, equity and good conscience." And yet in the dry light of logic we cannot blame the Wesleyans for sowing the wild oats which have yielded such a crop of chaos and confusion. The times imperiously demanded that they should give a reason for the hope that was in them and they were speechless! In an evil hour—a little over 20 years ago-a native sophist desperately bent upon scoring a verdict in a Divisional Court, for the first time openly impugned the validity of marriages that had been solemnized by the Wesleyan Clergy for nearly half a century. Certain preliminary requirements in conformity with the laws of England somehow had not been complied with in any one instance. Our fathers—grand old men—in all sincerity and honesty had discharged their high functions oblivious of the fact that there might be remotest possibility of any act, ceremony or process in which they solemnly engaged being called in question. They had made their converts and armed with the Prayer Book what was their obvious duty but to marry them in the form prescribed and in a way that admirably subserved spiritual ends. Governed by simple faith and with one object in view they recked not whether the contracting parties were joined together in Holy Matrimony under a stately palm tree or within the precincts of the sacred fane.

The main issue was that such marriages to be in accord with the tenets they held should be conducted by a fully ordained minister of Religion as directed by the rubric. It was passing strange therefore, that by a bolt from the blue they should find themselves the victims of circumstances; it was more than disconcerting that by the decision of Her Majesty's Court arrived at in good faith, a slur should be fouly cast upon their intentions and christian virtues. The Reverend Fathers woke up to the gravity of the situation; they understood that even they—to say nothing of the thousands of God-fearing adherents under their charge had been living out of lawful wedlock; that their marriage, if marriage at all, had no consequence in legal status; that their sons and daughters were all bastards in the eyes of the English law! So they were led to believe. Picture to yourself the electrical effect of such pronouncement or inference—the horror, consternation and confusion that ran riot in "high places." It was a memorable occasion! And in impotent rage, they forthwith threw themselves upon the tender mercies of the wicked—I mean the Government and sought for instant relief. To accomodate the Mission, to justify its clergy to invest them with the authority of the state and to confirm their status as lawfully married men, the Paternal Government bestirred itself and notwithstanding the protests of intelligent natives (Vide "Gold Coast News") a Bill was framed which in time blossomed out into the Marriage Ordinance 1884—a law which under Act 6 & 7 Will. IV. c. 85 clothes with authority all ministers of the Gospel who are not technically "in holy orders." This is the law which after 21 years' fair trial has been rightly adjudged unworthy of the intelligence of the Government subversive of our national institutions and must be modified or else abrogated. But the Wesleyans were not very far wrong in the action they undertook although they could not be said to have grasped the trend and effect of the course they unanimously adopted. Had they judiciously combined unswerving devotion to the highest ideal with a pinch of worldly wisdom and besides being harmless as doves had been at the same time wise as serpents they would have exposed the cloven foot of the "troubler of Israel." Alas this wholesome step did not commend itself to them and thereby hangs a tale!

A digression is necessary at this stage I deeply regret to affirm that without their fault the native Wesleyan Clergy have made complexity—I dare not say duplicity—one of the essential elements in the ideas and notions of their converts. A superstitious belief that every thought and act indigenous to the country is *per se* pagan and must be avoided on pain of summary dismissal or something equally deterrent has been a potent factor in their live and conduct. So it was with the pioneers in the Mission field; for was it not written "Come out from among them and be ye separate"?

Exegetical travesties of this nature wedded to excessive nervousness and concern for the safety of the Church made cowards of these all—as if the Church was not inherently omnipotent against all assaults from without. Yes the ministers actually lost sight of the fact that they could be true to themselves and remain as orthodox as ever; they forgot that the greatest missionary that ever lived—Paul enjoined upon the early christians that their marriage even with heathens was a bond that should not be lightly dissolved (vide 1 Cor 7 12—17) But how could the Wesleyans have overborne the weight of that apparently irresistible force that pressed so hard upon them? Mr. Casely Hayford with singular illumination clears the way for us—"The Gold Coastman take him all in all remains at heart a Gold Coastman"—in spite of the novelties of Church and State. You may bray him in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, but you cannot transmogrify or metamorphose him into anything else.

This is not exclusively characteristic of the 'native' but of the cleric as well: the pulpit and the pew squarely defy all foreign encroachments and remain eternally unconquerable. Take the case of the Fathers who were confronted with the problem under solution.

Before the native Converts were joined together in the honourable estate of matrimony, true to their national instincts and loyal to the laws of their country they had been already in the sight of God and

mean fully married—having to the most punctilious point fulfilled all the conditions and requirements enforced by the native customary law. They had paid the Consawment;money—the Zuzua, the pledge, token or seal often etymologically confused with Head-rum—which alone constituted and still constitutes a valid marriage in the eyes of all natives (vide Fanti Customary Law—Sarbah.) Had this been omitted the Christian Religion in days of yore would have been nothing but a horrible scandal and the parties immediately concerned would have forfeited all rights privileges and respect to which they were entitled by reason of what would have been in their estimation an irregular alliance. Thus the native Christians made assurance doubly sure by satisfying the *lex loci* and then salved their religious scruples by celebrating their marriage again in *facie ecclesiae*. The Church rite was in the circumstance something extra—an additional task superimposed which possessed spiritual significance but was void of one jot or one tittle of value in law native or English: for the jurist deals only with marriage in so far as it creates the legal status of husband and wife. The proclamation of banns rings exhortations and banquettings were all valuable accessories prized to the full but so prized because of their deep religious meanings, nothing more. More remarkable still the officiating ministers themselves were without one solitary exception married in that fashion. That was precisely the ridiculous situation and had they been aware of it they would have been hypocrites of the deepest dye! But by their parochial and peculiar up bringing it was utterly impossible for the saintly men to see it in that light otherwise they would have been the first to acknowledge and confess that their work as clergymen was distinctly spiritual not "legal," that in fact their converts had contracted civil marriages before applying for the sanction and benediction of the Church (Cp. the Marriage System of France, Germany &c). *Lord Stowell* had ruled against both civil and canon law that:—When the natural and civil contract was formed, it had the full essence of matrimony without the intervention of a priest. But no one raising the point, blatant sophism personified in one native gentleman of unexceptionable acumen like Athanasius fought against the world and retired on his laurels. He flouted both reason and law and dictated terms of surrender to which the Church readily subscribed. I am compelled once more to say that all things considered the Wesleyan Mission has both made and marred the Gold Coast so far. This doubling of names and marriage ceremonies and so forth has not tended to strike the roots of Methodism deeply in the hearts of the present generation. Methodism might have been a national institution.

The Synod is now making frantic efforts to recover lost ground. At its last session after contradictory resolutions spreading over three score years and ten (vide Gold Coast Annuals of the Methodist Church) the ministers both European and native have happily broken away from their ancient moorings and have succumbed to the exigencies of the hour. They now say, they recognise the validity and sacredness of marriages under the customary law,—never really violated by any one of them whatever credit they might give themselves for an imaginary opposition and they have done this not merely for peace and quietness' sake but for the increase of their Mission. Wisdom has come with mellowed age or to paraphrase a verse in the philosophical reflections of Elihu:—Days have spoken and multitude of years have taught them wisdom. Surely the elements of recuperative power in indigenous institutions must be supreme and infinite!

Bearing in mind the foregoing our difficulties are reduced to a minimum.

1. The Commission must of force recognise that two laws operate in the Colony and Protectorate, both perfectly legal, legislation or no legislation. An Ordinance re native marriages would be as effective as the passing of a Bill to regulate the proper mode of eating and drinking, sleeping or dying. All these things are beyond the region of legislation, and unless it could be proved that the native law is fundamentally pernicious we would advise them to let well alone.

2. The question of legitimation bristles with insuperable difficulties. I speak of course as a layman but it does not appear that the Legislative Council possesses indisputable competency to deal with such a subject at all. The famous statute of Merton 20 Henry III c. 9 summarily rejected the principle which obtains in Scotland and most Continental countries, that subsequent re-marriage of parents legitimizes bastards. In England even Edward VII has no prescriptive right to legitimize anyone and invest him with the right of succession. A bastard is still *filius nullius* (Nobody's bairn) and he can only be legitimized by the "transcendant power of an Act of Parliament" (21 & 22 Vic c. 93.) There must be vital reasons why no statute of universal application has been passed as yet. The British Parliament is unconpromisingly chary of countenancing anything that may in the least be construed to favour state regulation of vice. The Commission should therefore divest their minds of Continental ideas lest they be found hereafter to have acted *ultra vires*. The only outlet from the impasse would be for the putative fathers to make some provision for their children unlawfully begotten by wills, nuncupative or documentary, should they pre-decease them; for although bastards cannot succeed *jure sanguinis* they can do so by destination where they are specifically called to the succession by entail or testament.

The Commission must further settle what would be the effect of legitimation by Local ordinance in the case of mulattoes whose putative fathers leaving the coast eventually married at Putney or elsewhere and had issue. Will the law of England protect the interests of such persons and sustain any claim they may put forward on the ground of priority to the property of their half brothers at Putney or elsewhere?

Having regard to legal disabilites among the Fantis and kindred tribes the *lex loci* is serenely silent on the question of illegitimacy with respect to devolution of property and succession. The *filius populi* of the English law is here *filius matris* in his own right and can succeed *jure sanguinis*—succession being traced from the maternal line only. Among the Ga and Adangbe tribes however, some aver that the paternal has the ascendancy, others, the maternal. As I say the question had better be left to individual preference since by testamentary disposition the difficulty may be got over.

There is I repeat no necessity for legislation on this question at all once you understand the dual position in which our relationship with the British Empire and the Church has placed us, unless indeed it be to give legal status to dissenting ministers who may marry people under the English law; to issue Licenses to places of worship for the solemnization of marriages as well as licenses to the contracting parties and to ensure the presence of the Registrar during such solemnization which formalities are indispensable and meet the conditions which regulate bona fide marriages in law.

So that any ordinance that may be passed on the recommendation of the Commission must be in essence a brief abstract of the English law and all who elect to marry under it should not expect relief of any sort if any of its enactments seems irksome and in conflict with native ideas.

Marriage under the native Customary law will meantime continue to be operative as it has been from time immemorial and those who have the courage of their convictions and would marry under it could do so without anything disparaging being thought or said of them. After such marriage should parties choose to have it confirmed or ratified in the Church there is nothing in the foregoing to deprive them of their spiritual birthright, for the rights of the Church appeal to that which is of the spirit spiritual, and not to the letter of the law which is of the earth earthy.

I would respectfully commend this view to the rediscovered judgment of the Wesleyan Mission. I have stated above that the ministers compelled their converts to contract bigamous marriages innocently thinking the while that they were purchasing to themselves a good degree. I refer particularly to the time anterior to the Ordinance 1884. Then it was not an uncommon occurrence for a literate person to start life with a "girl in cloth" married according to native law whom in process of time he discarded *mensa et thoro* for a "girl in petticoat" who might support his dignity on the sparkling ways of society after which the sybarite entered the Church spotless and without blemish.

It should be emphasized now more than ever that no one once married under native law can dissolve such marriage at his sweet will, unless it is based upon grounds held to be valid and legal.

Christianity as we know it, is divinely designed to be indigenous the wide world over. Barring essential principles all else are but suitings and trappings—What Paul would in his cold judicial way dismiss at once as "a shadow of things" the "doctrines and commandments of men" which must be subjected to modifications and adaptations so that the Gospel may become "all things to all men" for their salvation. In all matters of national importance we would humbly but earnestly impress upon the native clergy the wisdom of acting upon the maxim of our own poet Terence who said:—"I am a man and I consider nothing that relates to humanity foreign to me."

A GENTLE REMINDER.

The King's English is a foreign language to us, but we wish to point out beyond the possibility of misconstruction that the presence of *H. M. S. Dwarf* in Sekondi waters and of Haussas at Cape Coast at the conjuncture created by the Town Councils controversy constitutes a menace and a threat in no way deserved. For ourselves we deeply regret that the hopes entertained and expressed by an English contemporary that the present Administration would not stoop to material force or coercion in any shape or form in a purely political controversy have been so soon belied. The course adopted puts an argument in the mouth of the opponents of the Government that the latter mean to force down the throat of the people an enactment obnoxious to them against all the reason they have urged. Indeed, an extreme view of the attitude might be taken and the allegation ventured that it is very much like holding a pistol to the head of an opponent in a heated argument, and saying to him either you yield to my views and my way of thinking, or take the consequence. Nothing would have given us greater pleasure than to have saved the Administration from an unenviable position. Have things come to such a pass that in a British Protectorate the protected people cannot freely discuss a political situation without the Government calling in the aid of the Army and the Navy? And, yet, we are a free people under the benign care of a paternal Government, who are solicitously nursing us for self-government. It reminds one of Colonel Younghusband's address in Cambridge, reported in a recent number of the *Times* newspaper. For the first time in our experience the doctrine of training young India to manhood and to self-government seems to be thrown overboard. It is essential to guide the spiritual aspirations of a particularly religious people, and so on, and so forth; and England's duty is plain of course. Be that as it may, we do still cling to the hope that all the past pledges of the British Government to our forebears at what time they first sought friendly intercourse and alliance with them were meant to be kept, and will still be kept. We claim that, by the pledges of His Majesty's Government, we are entitled to be consulted in any legislation affecting our vital interests. We say emphatically that the Town Councils Ordinance affects our vital interests, and that the same was passed without our people having the opportunity of criticising it, the Legislative Council never having been a representative body. The underlying hardships of the Ordinance now staring us in the face, we aver, that it is within our rights, as a free people, to make our voice heard; and we think it particularly hard, unfortunate and ill-advised that any show of force should be resorted to by the powers that be. The presence of the troops, particularly, is a fruitful element of danger in the situation, and we would, respectfully, suggest that the element in question might be removed. Professor Kelly Miller reminds us that the Red Indian struck back at Young America, and now strikes back no more. Our forebears caught the underlying truth decades back before us; and it is not likely that we shall err in this regard. Therefore, if we may indulge in a metaphor, let the sailor and the soldier put back their swords into their sheaths; for we would have order and peace in our borders, while we struggle constitutionally for our constitutional rights.

AMALGAMATION.

(BY A. M. W.)

31 July 1905.

Precisely at 8 30 a.m Rev. Father A. W. Parker with the Committee of the Collegiate School met the students of Mfantsipim and Collegiate Schools in the Mission House Shool room for the purpose of Amalgamation. There were present Hon. J. P. Brown, W. E. Patterson Esq., J. E. Biney Esq., T. Addaquay Esq, J. D. Abraham Esq., Tufuhin W. Z. Coker, Rev. Barnes, Mr. A. M. Wright (Senior-Master), and Teachers of both Schools.

The chair was taken by Rev. Father Parker and hymn "O God of Bethel" was sung. Scripture Psalm 127 was read by Hon. J. P. Brown and prayer was offered by Rev. Father Parker. The Chairman introduced to the meeting the object of the gathering being the Amalgamation of the Collegiate School with the Mfantsipim School: addresses were given by Hon. J. P. Brown and Tufuhin Coker. After which Hymn "O God our help" was sung and Benediction pronounced.

The Schools and the Collegiate School Committee headed by Coker's Brass Instrument marched to Mfantsipim School Kotokrabah Hill where a cordial welcome was accorded them by the Directors of Mfantsipim School.—*(To be continued.)*

THE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE OF SAMUEL.

PREFACE.

In publishing these Letters, I am simply giving a somewhat tardy response to the affectionate wishes of my lamented father. They cover the happiest period of my life spent amid congenial surroundings, albeit on foreign shores.

It was never my intention to make them public property; at any rate, not in their present form, if at all. That they exist is solely due to the methodical habits of my dear parent. When I returned home from England, almost the first thing he did, was to make me a present of a bulky parcel wherein to my great surprise I found these effusions orderly arranged and duly labelled, with the too flattering suggestion that I should give publicity to them: for, he kindly added, "I have found them exceedingly entertaining and read them with very great interest." But I had my doubts as to style and finish. I deeply regret now, that hereditary reticense and excessive modesty combined led me to deny him immediate compliance with his request: for if my father who was my earliest Tutor in the HIGHER BRANCHES OF EDUCATION and whom I always regarded as an authority in many things said they could pass muster, I should have acted upon his recommendation with alacrity. That they are replete with literary blemishes no one can be more conscious than myself. In these circumstances, I must crave the merciful indulgence of my critical readers and beg them to accord my FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ENGLAND AND ENGLISH LIFE, their full sympathy and kindly consideration.

Nothing, I am perfectly certain would have rejoiced my parent's heart more, than to see the correspondence in permanent form; and who can say, even now, whether in that invisible world whither he has gone before, he has absolutely ceased to take note of all that pertains to the earthly Homeland and its hallowed associations. Wherefore in loyal obedience to the departed, I yield at last, with the buoyant hope that others like-minded, may share the sweet paternal joy that these Thirty and Four Letters called forth in the home circle, Eighteen years ago.

ATTOH-AHUMA.

The Grammar School,
Accra, 1905

The Gold Coast Leader.

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THE GOLD COAST LEADER.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAYS.

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Before the entrance of a pupil into the School a printed form is forwarded to the parents or guardians to be filled up and returned to the Principal.

The fees of the pupils include the general course of study and are as follow:—

At the Infant	4d. to 6d.	per month
At the Preparatory	10d. „ 1/8	„
At the Junior	2/6 „ 3/4	„
At the Senior	5/- „ 7/-	„

All the above fees are payable in advance.

One month's notice is required before the removal of a pupil.

Extras. In such subjects which are optional apply to the Principal.

Arrangements are being made for a Boarding Department. Friends abroad wishing to send their children will communicate with the Secretary of the School (Mr. Halm.)

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For more than eighty years Dr GUILLIÉ's Elixir has been successfully employed for diseases of the Liver, Stomach, Heart, Gout, Rheumatism, Malarial and Pernicious Fevers, Dysentery, the Grippe or Influenza, Skin Diseases and Intestinal Parasites.

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NOTICE.

OUT SHORTLY.

Memoirs of West African Celebrities,

(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GOLD COAST.)

By the

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Orders received by Mr. H. Solomon-Ahuma, Jackson Street, Cape Coast Castle.

GENERAL NEWS.

At the Assizes last Tuesday, we understand there was no case on the list, and His Honour Mr. Justice Smith had the pleasure of having a pair of white gloves presented him by the Crown Prosecutor (Mr. Murphy.)

Superintendent Quist, we hear is lying ill with dysentery at the hospital at Accra, and the case in which he figures is put off, till the 20th, to be heard at Sekundi.

The Coronation Day fell on Wednesday last (9th) and the Frontier Force, with the Police and the Volunteers went up to Fort William for the *feu de joie* at 7 in the morning.

Last Thursday morning Chief Sackey with the other chiefs, the Tufohin and one or two Captains, went round with the Provincial Commissioner (Mr. Murphy) and his Engineer to find a spot for the Police Barracks, and we understand a suitable spot has been selected.

We have on the Town Council Board at Sekundi the following:—Mr. Philbrick (P. C.) President, Mr. Migeod (Transport Officer), Mr. Graves (General Manager Railway,) and Mr. D. M. Perry a Liberian, who was once in the Railway Service,—how did he leave that Service, we wonder—the Town Clerk. No native.

Lagos has a "Native Literature Publishing Society" having for its object, the relieving of Authors of valuable instructive Native books or Literature of financial anxiety and embarrassment.

Two European prisoners arrived here under escort by the s.s. Chama from Sekundi and proceeded to Elmina overland.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO THE BROOMASSIE MINES.

A Reader writer, that on the 22nd inst. a fatal accident befel the No. 2 shaft which is 150 feet deep: there is an excavation which was roughly made and which falling killed 6 persons.

The Manager (Mr. Ellis) did remarkably well in extricating the bodies from the debris. Three days after, the Mines Commissioner arrived to look into the cause of the accident and the verdict, death from accident was given after due investigation.

BE STRONG.

Be strong!
We are not here to play, to dream, to drift:
We have hard work to do, and loads to lift:
Shun not the struggle; face it—'tis God's gift.

Be strong!
Say not the days are evil,—Who's to blame?
And fold the hands and acquiesce—oh! shame!
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God's name.

Be strong!
It matters not how deep entrenched the wrong;
How hard the battle goes, the days, how long
Faint not, fight on!
To-morrow comes the song.

DIXCOVE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

July.

It is high time our Bush Ranger, Namuah was brought to book; he is still pursuing his nefarious trade of attacking life and property, and two women who went a selling in the neighbourhood of his village very narrowly escaped his long Dane gun and this through the instrumentality of his wife who had compassion on them.

A meeting re the Town Councils Ordinance was convened by Chief Dakyie of Dog Town last week.

We report with much pleasure the introduction of half penny into our currency.

August, 5.

The members of the Bushen Wesleyan Church under Mr. J. P. Dadson, visited Boutry on Sunday the 30th ult. and had open air services.

I call the following on True Manhood for the edification of us all. "The man whom I call worthy of the name is one whose thoughts and exertions are for others rather than for himself: whose high purpose is adopted on just principles, and is never abandoned while Heaven or Earth affords means of accomplishing it; he is one who will neither seek an indirect advantage by a specious road nor take an evil path to secure a really good purpose."—*Walter Scott.*

KUMASI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Aug. 2

The Town Councils Ordinance intended for us is against our wishes, and notwithstanding the "might" displayed we protest against it. Rumour says the Ground rent at this place will be altered to House Tax (Town Council they mean.) But the Ashantis are quiet.

There is a native Asp in one of the Mercantile Firms betraying his friends and the Firm's customers for a promotion as a chief clerk. "Honi soi qui maly pense."

Mr. Button of the Firm of the African Association will be here next week to take over his post.

His Excellency the Acting Governor is due here

on Monday the 7th instant.

The Europeans and Native Cricketers have been playing matches on Fridays and Saturdays. The former have been constantly winning. The game having been started about three months since the natives have only won twice. Evidently they have no good players.

The new Market will be opened on Thursday the 3rd inst.

People are still waiting for the Pamphlet *re* the great "Libel Case."

CHAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

We are pleased to find Mr. Santo the Inspector of Nuisance-, and his men hard at work. They are leaving no stone unturned to teach the people here what sanitation means.

Why the Flag at the Fort has not been on, for the past two weeks, surprises us. Is there something wrong with the flag pole? And if so can't it be repaired? The public are anxious to see the flag on again.

More street lamps required, is still the cry of the public, and we shall ever repeat it until some of our various needs are attended to. We call the D. C's. attention to this.

Mr. T. M. Bilson of Messrs. Swanzy's, leaves for Appam his new shpere of labour this week. He has been the recipient of Tea Treats, and presentation of gold rings, and scarf-pin from the Church Choir, Chama Cricketers, and the Good Templars since last week. Rev. Graham presenting them on each occasion with an address. His wife was also honoured with two gold rings from the Singing-Band, and the Good Templars. Mr. Bilson has been here for thirteen years, and he leaves with the regret of his Church and friends. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Bilson a save passage.

The Singing Band had a nice time at a picnic at Inkwants last Tuesday the 25th. Their march to town with "Welcome to Glory" was indeed imposing. On Saturday the 29th they paraded the town, all in pink which gave a touch of brightness to the occasion. It was indeed an anniversary of joyfulness.

ANAMABOE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

The Inspector of Nuisance's attention may be called to the condition of the Town, it requires clearing, the scavenger should do his part and the People will do theirs.

Mr. C. G. Buckman of Messrs. H. B. W. Russell was here last week to give evidence at the Omanhin's Court, in the Amanful case.

The Agus-Essin, and Esoo festivals have been duly celebrated, Nos. 3, 4 and 5 paraded the town on the 29th ult. with a newly installed Safuhin in the person of Kobina Okeyem, nephew of the late Baku Abaka.

On the 4th inst. Nos. 6 and 7 also paraded the town, Nos. 1 and 2 did not, for reasons best known to themselves. The Omanhin attended in person to avoid any disturbance that might have occurred.

Mr. J. Picot Amiesah the son of the late Dr. Amiesah of Anamaboe lost a daughter on Saturday the 5th inst. Her remains were interred at the Wesleyan Cemetery, Mr. Wilmot officiated.

Whilst preparations were going on for the funeral of Mr. Amiesah's daughter the town was stirred with the news of the death of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Sampson a most unusual event, many rushed to the place to satisfy their curiosity. Both of them were taken to Ebenezer Church on Sunday the 6th inst. Revs. Anaman and Reynolds officiated, and from thence to the Cemetery, the "Rockson's Infantry Brass Band" from Salt Pond attended under Mr. Turkson. We deeply sympathise with the families. Peace be to their ashes.

I regret to report that Mr. M. E. Anderson the schoolmaster from Axim, is seriously ill, and has been therefore sent home.

WINNEBA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Messrs. Millers' case against C. G. Wilson charged for embezzling the sum of £23. 14. 4. said to be the value of rubber and cocoa sold to the Firm on the 12th ultimo paid to him by the cashier was closed to-day (the 3rd. inst.) he is to be imprisoned for six months with hard labour. Mr. Fearon represented the firm and Mr. Durham, defended.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Elsewhere the reader will find reported from the Gazette the discussion on the Railway Department in the Council Chamber, and he will see for himself whether the strictures which have appeared in these columns on that Department have been unfounded or not. Mr. Graves the General Manager was present, sworn in as an Extraordinary member to clear up knotty points, and how gallantly he performed his responsible task, the reader will see that also for himself. To make any comment now, will be too soon, let the reader read and form his own opinion on this our matchless Railway before, in the meantime thanks to the un-official officials in the way they tackled the subject.

If you really wish to know how the Crown Colony System can work with vengeance come to the Gold Coast. You will hardly believe some of the things you will be "privileged" to see: What we really cannot understand is, the unnecessary worry and distress which some Heads of Departments, with some officials delight in giving to their fellow officials, though blacks they be. It is not their doing of such things that will make the officials under them know or feel that they are their seniors, they will command their respect better, if they can only try to be a little more polite and reasonable.

It is really disgraceful to have to talk about such things from time to time. None need pocket what little manners or decency he may have about him when he is on the Coast and then don them on, when he goes "home," unless it be that gentlemen like poets are born. But such gentlemen (?) after all need not be blamed, for if they had sufficient work to engross their attention and really *did* work for their hundreds, and then know from experience what work —hard work is, they will not be harassing the native officials who really slave away for them. "Satan finds work for idle hands to do" and the work he finds for frauds to do is to pest the life of those who happen to work under them. Nothing is so unpleasant to us as to have to talk about such things, yet see the correspondence published last week from Nigeria from a Sufferer, call to mind what some of the native officials in this Protectorate are put to—and the complaints that are daily coming in to us and from men too who are simply killing themselves to earn the paltry sums allowed them.

Is it any dereliction of duty in the Service, to be gentlemanly towards a junior officer? Is it any crime to be a black man? If the very sight of the Negro is loathsome to these men, does it not stand to reason that they should keep away from the Negroland, and if they cannot afford to do that, why can't they keep down their prejudices and conduct themselves as men. No, such things are not becoming of the Englishman or of the Irishman either. God put them where they are, and placed us here too, and no doubt, putting miles of ocean between us, meant no one to molest his friend: and if that same Creator has endowed them with superior knowledge to enable them to come to this part of *His* World also, for His own purpose, it was never intended they should make such use of it, and if they *must*, we are not to be their judges, we leave it with the ALL-wise Creator, in whose hands are the destinies of men, races, and nations.

We are noted for Ordinance-making out here, why may not an Ordinance be made to regulate the *official* life and conduct of some of the officials. We are blacks—and we are proud of it—but we have eyes to see who is a gentleman and who is not, and to note a good specimen of the Caucasian race and a poor one. People should never forget the race they belong to, whatever they may be themselves and the Powers they represent. But after all, it serves us right, we had no business to have gone in wholesale for European civilization as we did: coming in contact with them we should have learned all we could from them and stuck to our own, improving on them as years increased with us, if we must be anything as a nation, and not to have killed the manhood in us. Heaven helps those who help themselves. In the "civilized" world all may not be false friends. Let the oppression we are experiencing teach us its lessons, and when it teaches, let us learn them: we may be in the 'House of Bondage.' Deliverance will surely come, are we preparing for it?

There is an article in the *Ethiopian Review*, which we announced the other day as being sold at 3d by Mr. Longdon at the Book Depot, by Prof. W. S. Scarborough—*The Negro's duty to himself*—this should be read by us all: and the President's Message to it is not bad. Let our young friends make a rush for the Magazine. It will pay them, if they mean to live for themselves and the Race and not simply exist.

Several friends like our Kumasi Correspondent, have been flooding us with letters, about the proposed pamphlet on the libel case. No one regrets the delay of the publication more than we do. The inconvenience and difficulties one is usually put to out here, in such things must be known to all who have ever attempted it. Our greatest drawback has been in getting straight for the Printer, such matters that had to be reported by the Shorthand writer. We hope those acquainted with it (and there are several in Town) will try to make the Association a success. to give us good reporters when needed. Practice makes perfect. Our friends will no doubt be pleased to hear that the materials for the Pamphlet will shortly be on their way to the Printer (England).

Does Mr. General Manager Graves of the Railway Department, really wish us to understand that his "encyclical" to the Native Officials which we published the other day, was occasioned by "Day Owl's" Correspondence on the doings at the Railway yard. He wishes us to know then that what he writes are true, only they are to be taken to be some of the official secrets. Really? More of THIS anon.

IN MEMORIAM.

In sad but ever-loving memory of Mr. William Hanson, and Mrs. Emma Hanson, my dear parents, the former died at Winneba on the 10th June 1901, aged 83 years; and the latter at Appam on the 12th December 1899 aged about 70 years.

Had I but seen them still in life,
And watched their dying beds,
Caught the last flickering of their breath,
And pillowed their drooping heads
My heart, methinks, would not have felt,
This bitterness of grief.
But God had willed it otherwise,
And now they rest in peace.

I. W. H.

Adjuah, 28th July 1905.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned

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

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

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUG. 12, 1905.

LAST week we showed that the statement now going round at the Downing Street, on the authority of SIR JOHN PICKESGILL RODGER K.C.M.G. the Governor of this Protectorate, that the Town Council Policy has been a huge success at Accra and Sekundi, is WHOLLY UNSUPPORTED BY FACTS: for ten years Accra has been made a victim to this obnoxious Ordinance and is still suffering, and every year things grow from bad to worse: this is not an idle statement for we have sufficient facts on hand to verify it. Ask the People, if these things are so or not; not the officials, not the professional or the self-seeking-place men, but THE PEOPLE; hear what they have got to say, see what they are put to, look for yourself the condition of the People and the Country, and tell us, if you can honestly, and conscientiously say that the operation of the Ordinance has been a success at Accra. What do those natives, professional or otherwise, who were at first for reasons best known to themselves, so keen for the application of the Ordinance to the Town, say now as to the results of these ten years' work on their kith and kin, and their neighbours, and how do they, even they themselves find it now. Ten years with such disastrous effects on the People—what will it then be ten years more from hence? Perhaps the People will be nowhere found, all having been forced to leave the Town for the bush or go abroad, and the place occupied entirely by the whiteman and the rich, and this is the law considered to be a law purporting to serve the best interests of the native, for he does not know what is good for himself. The same old, old game, it has served well—exceedingly well in temperate climates, and it must be tried in the TROPICS!

If we are to take this to be the aim of the Ordinance, then certainly, it *has* been even now "a huge success" at Accra. No, this Ordinance, was not born in a day: it seems to have taken some years to grow to this point, and if the Lands' Bill has failed perhaps through rashness, the object aimed at must be attained by some other course, and here we are. Scientists however, tell us of a LAW which teaches something on "the survival of the fittest," and the lessons which that law seeks to impart to her stubborn, obstinate, self-willed students

may be learned yet.

Say some, "Do what you will the Ordinance must be enforced, for it is the great and mighty Power which seeks to enforce it," and this leads them to be "neither beasts nor birds" in their efforts to resist it. Others say "No, that Power, remembering 'the rock from whence it was hewn,' and that even 'the swords of Caesar they are less than rust,' ought to use reason, justice, and COMMON SENSE in the display of its authority, and so we must ward off the Ordinance on constitutional grounds: the principle of the Ordinance is all right, its *English* enough; we as a Race, have known it in the form of a municipality for ages, but this *Cyprian*, oppressive, ruinous Ordinance, we will never have; Reason, not brute Force must be brought into play." Where is the harm in this? None need remind us that we are under the Union Jack. We know we are: that's our pride, and this knowledge emboldens us to say, despite all that we are called upon to pass through "on the Coast," or what influences these may be at work at the Downing Street, or the force of Red-tapism, or the strong inclination to back up at all costs by higher authorities, what has been done by their official Representatives in Greater Britain, in the face of what mischief colour-prejudice may do since there are Englishmen *and* Englishmen, we say, notwithstanding all these, if matters be clearly, intelligibly and constitutionally represented at the proper quarters, RIGHT MUST WIN THE DAY, if we can only bury our petty jealousies, prejudices, selfishness, spitefulness and *misplaced ambitions*, all for the public good, and present a united front as a People, always keeping in mind, that WHATEVER we are, we have been made so by the Great Dispenser of all things, for Himself, the King, the People and the Fatherland.

We have seen this iniquitous Ordinance at work at Accra for the past ten years: let us see how it has begun to work at Sekundi, the other place pointed out as "a huge success" of its policy though it has just commenced its baneful operations there. The Correspondent for this place for our local contemporary wrote last week as follows:—

"One of the benefits of the Town Councils Ordinance which we are made to understand has been enforced since last Monday, the 24th by Asempah, a poor crippled old man who lives at the back of the African Association's Factory. Because he could not afford paying the 3/- tax due on his house which is not bigger than 12 feet square—only a single HUT—he was put out bedding and all and the hut was sold by public Auction and was purchased by a European. The sale took place in the presence of the President of the Council, Mr. Philbrick the P. C., Mr. Councillor Mcgeod, Mr. Commissioner Lett of the Police, the Town Clerk and some Police . . . Asempah the first victim of the Sekundi Town Council has the Town's sympathies, as is shown all over Accra Town."

This Accra Town is that part of Sekundi inhabited chiefly by the Accras.

This is how the Town Councils Ordinance of 1894, "inaugurates" itself at Sekundi, and that's the Ordinance which SIR JOHN PICKERSGILL with a siren song, is singing the praises of the virtue thereof at the Downing Street and others are echoing it in a good, stentorian style in journals, and on the coast, and we are told some natives (?) who are blessed with the good things of this life, and are sure the Sun will never set on *their* "Empire," and with other sinister motives, echo in a splendid fashion. This is what is in store for Cape Coast and the other Towns in the Protectorate. HEAVEN FOREFEND!

THE GIFT OF THE NILE.

(BY A BANKER.)

Midst the wild ravines and dark, savage gorges of Ethiopia numerous mountain torrents, gradually swelling into foaming rivers, course downwards towards the plains, eventually uniting, and flowing into that mighty river which, taking its origin in or beyond that vast inland sea, the Victoria Nyanza—an expanse of water nearly four times the size of all Wales, and at an elevation greater than the highest mountain in that principality—flows on for thousand after thousand miles, through that richest territory of all the world—called by Herodotus "the gift of the Nile"—that sent of probably the earliest civilization known upon the globe—Royal Egypt—now, happily, under the progressive influence of British rule, so opulent and affluent.

And so that ancient and majestic river flows ever on; now a surging, foaming flood, swirling and eddying through narrow rocky defiles; now a mighty cataract, plunging with the roar of thunder over a lofty beetling rock into the boiling caldron beneath, from whence it issues, torn into foam and whirling surf, to rush infuriate down midst the rocky obstructions of numerous rapids; or now, leaving that mountainous district far away in the interior, pursuing its course placidly—though here and there again obstructed by cataracts and rapids—between palm-bordered banks past vast stretches of agricultural land, upon which it annually deposits its priceless gifts of nitrates and other fertilizers brought down from the tropics, bestowing inexhaustible richness, and causing it to revel in a most luxuriant fertility.

And, as the traveller speeds down the great river his rapt attention is attracted from time to time by many a magnificent relic of the grert past; sumptuous and stately temples, inposing in their solid grandeur, enriched with painted representations of battles and sieges, royal processions and banquets, domestic scenes and hunting incidents, and guarded by colossal statues sculptured from gigantic monoliths of granite or of syenite; with also tombs of powerful monarchs, those Pharaohs of old who gathered to themselves such renownin their achievements both in war and in peace; mighty, imposing structures, some far exceeding in their massive stateliness and stupendous, bewildering dignity and magnitude any building ever erected by man upon this earth.

But as the traveller contemplates those magnificent temples, erected for the worship of bull—animals held in the most porfound veneration, and when dead enbalmed and entombed with the most solemn rites; or of figures with men's bodies and crocodiles' or hawks' heads, or of other hideous or revolting objects of worship, he must be filled with the most profound grattitude that he lives in a more enlightened age, and that the Being whom we worship is the Creator of the universes. Yet, though so majestic, He laid down His sovereignty in the Heaven of Heavens, assumed human form, and made a great atonement for all those who desire to escape the wrath to come. And He lovingly invites "whosoever will" to avail themselves of the benefits of that atonement by going to Him for the free gift of eternal life.

We propose giving in this column from week to week what some experts on the affairs of this country have said years ago, and which still hold good, LEST WE FORGET; these facts should be widely known, by all who interest themselves in the affairs of the Protectorate, and then all who prefer to go on in journals &c. &c. as they are bent, upon doing now, no doubt for a purpose, may go on. "Ignorance is bliss," they say, but what of *wilful* ignorance?

These extracts are from the "Report from the Select Committee on Africa (Western Coast.)" No less than thirty-four witnesses were examined before the Committee, amongst whom were such well known names as Colonel Ord, Captain Burton, Sir Benjamin and Richard Pine, Andrew Swanzy, Dr. Livingstone, Henry Barnes, Colonel Conran, and Joseph Martin of Amanfour who spoke through Mr. Joseph Smith, the father of Mrs. Croffie, who was for many years the Colonial Secretary of this Protectorate.

We begin with T. F. Elliott Esq., Under Secretary of the Colonial Office. When asked to state the origin of the British Settlements on the Coast of West Africa, he said—"They were originated in enterprises of trade . . ."

After dealing with Sierra Leone and Gambia, the Chairman (the Right Hon. Charles B. Adderley) asked:—

(51.) Now will you be good enough to state similarly the history of the British Settlement on the Gold Coast?—Our relations with the Gold Coast like those with other parts of Africa, were at first carried on entirely by a company. In the year 1672 a company was formed, called, the Royal African Company. In addition to Cape Coast Castle, which existed already, they built forts at Dix Cove, Secondee, Commendah, Annamaboe, Winnebah and Accra. They were succeeded in 1750 by the next African Company, which was dissolved in 1821. The Gold Coast was then annexed to Sierra Leone. But there followed a very peculiar state of things. In 1827, after the disasters of the great Ashantee War, the Imperial Government contemplated abandoning the Gold Coast altogether, but afterwards consented, at the earnest entreaty of the merchants residing on the Gold Coast, to allow them to remain there and manage the place for themselves, along with the merchants in England connected with the Gold Coast . . . all the management of the Government was placed in the hands of a committee of merchants in London, who corresponded with their own officer on the spot, who was their servant, and through which merchants the Government of the Crown derived all its information about the Gold Coast. The officer selected by the merchants was Capt. Maclean, a name well known in the history of the West Coast of Africa.

(54.) The committee of merchants were then only maintaining four forts on the Gold Coast at the time of Dr. Madden's report?—Yes.

(55.) I believe that your next period in the history of the Gold Coast is the year 1843?—Yes.

(56.) What happened then?—In the year 1843 in pursuance of the opinion of a committee of the House of Commons, the Crown resumed the forts on the Gold Coast, and erected them into a seperate Government, which still continues . . .

57.) Can you state whether the Crown, in resuming the Government, took the four forts into its maintenance which you have just mentioned?—It did.

(58.) And no more?—And no more.

(63.) Under what authority is the seperate Government at the Gold Coast held?—It is constituted under Letters Patent of the 24th January 1850.

(65.) Can you state the nature of a local ordinance in the year 1852, establishing a poll-tax?—There was a so-called local ordinance, under date of the 19th of April 1852, establishing a poll tax; it was in point of fact, a sort of agreement entered into with the native chiefs, who assented for that purpose.

(67.) Your inference I suppose is, that any claim to protection founded on the payment of the tax must have ceased with the cessation of the payment of the tax?—At all events it admits of that argument.

(68.) Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald] How long did they go on paying that tax?—They seem to have gone on paying some tax until the year 1861, but it rapidly fell off from its very first year, namely, 1853.

(69,) Was that from difficulty in the collection of the tax?—It was from the great dissatisfaction which they felt with the tax, and their reluctance to pay it.

(70.) Was that tax ever attempted to be enforced?—There was not any compulsion.

(71.) What limit is there to British authority around each of the forts on the Gold Coast?—It is exceedingly indefinite; but there is certainly an impression, as the authorities on the spot represent to us, that the Crown has power over a great deal of the land round about Cape Coast Castle.

Lagos affairs were next taken up.

SCRUTINEER.

Even for the Gold Coast the methods pursued in connection with the forcing on of the Town Councils Ordinance are quite unusual and most invidious. Consider a government employing spies; Police officers paying midnight visits to the houses of native dignitaries; the summoning in of Military forces; and other illegal and immoral means of gaining information about the People. What incentive has the Government for taking all these unpleasant and cowardly steps when the People are as quiet and law abiding in their manners as usual? The Government appears to be befooled by its employed informants, and the manifestations of these few weeks do not tend to increase our estimate of respect for the Government. In fact the more the Government pays its spies for a supply of lies the more will it founder, feel restive, and make itself ridiculous in the eyes of all sensible men. Although Blacks we know more effective ways of fighting political monstrosities than resort to arms, and Major Bryan need not be so fidgety. We are not to be frightened or dismayed by an array of uniforms, rifles, maxims, bayonets, or warships. Nevertheless we are for peace, and when we speak—when we reason out—why should the Government betray so much cravenness, why should it declare war? Are not these, after all the revolts of a guilty conscience?

I am not quite satisfied with the explanation given—nor is anybody either—*anent* the midnight visit paid by Major Watson, Acting Commissioner of Police, to the Omanhin. Assuming that there was any one wanted in the Omanhin's house, even if the wanted one happened to be a murderer, could not that party have been followed after during the day, or could not the Omanhin have been desired to send him up or keep an eye over him? Evidently anybody could see that some ulterior motive than a mere hunt after somebody must have taken Major Watson and his gang there, and comparing the status of the Omanhin with that of Major Watson, it will be seen that the adventure was grossly impertinent. I move a vote of censure on this official, and add that should be asked to resign. If the head of the Police could do this, ought we to be surprised at the conduct of those under him?

Apart from the seriousness of the situation, I was rather amused with the incident in the report of the meeting of the Companies with Coker that touched on his being found in A. B. Josiah's house. Coker and Josiah! Who does not know them to be two good friends, having honour amongst themselves—Truly a pair of men may in their life time play many parts.

I do not happen to have met before Mr. Graves, the Manager of the Sekundi Railway, but I am informed that he is rather advanced in years—and I humbly hope that he has not reached the scale of life in which men are inflicted with the infirmities of

age, however much one may be inclined to believe this through recent events at that end capped by his very official circular impressing on his subordinates to keep secrets, however scandalous these may be.

Yours faithfully,—ATTOO.

THE "AFRICAN WORLD."

BY C. B.

The June 24th number of the above journal, contains some risible and factuous pedantries. A writer in this organ has not spared a column week after week to bestir the native feeling against the whites forgetting that it is the privilege of *every* British subject (white or black) to complain where he finds his rights are being snatched away, where conscience is trodden down and injustice assumes an iron sway.

To my surprise I have evidence plenty in hand from English papers deprecating and deploring] the lawlessness which the representatives of the British Empire allow to flow in this colony like the rapid falls of Niagara.

We do not intend to quarrel with the writer in question for he must needs work for his bread and butter. Nevertheless there is one consolation that our right will be meted out to us! No matter whatever may be said to the contrary by some foolish and superficial writers in the columns of the "African World."

British conscience is not too murky against fairness and the Empire's proud name is not enhanced by one sided proceedings which leave a sense of injustice rankling in the mind of the native. Really it is heart-rending to find in the Editorial throne a writer whose mind is so dead against the negro, and to be on an organ with the high-sounding name of the "African World." To be sure one can make fulsome adulation in a Name!

I must in justice to the Empire solicit the writer to bear in mind these sayings. "In all the various parts of the British Empire, we find Englishmen and English-speaking people; and it is our proud boast that wherever the British flag flies, *right* and *justice* and *freedom* are to be found. And so had the poet Milton sang:—"Give me the liberty to utter, and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all other liberties."

Will the sane writer ponder over the above quotation? We cannot play the role of Sir Pertinax McSycophant.

YOUNGMEN—A WORD!

Remember always that enthusiasm wins battles. Joan of Arc or the Maid of Orleans set forth this bright example. With her sacred sword, her consecrated banner, and her belief in her great mission she sent a thrill of enthusiasm through the whole of the French army such as neither King or statesmen could produce. It was her zeal which carried every thing before it. What great works each youngman can do if he only knew his power! But, alas! Some like a bitted horse, do not realize their strength until they have once run away with themselves.

Indifferences never lead armies that conquer, never model or fashion statutes, nor breathe sublime music in the march, nor move the soul and the world with heroic philanthropies. Enthusiasm, says Charles Bell, like the hand, "wrought the statue of Memnon and hung the brazen gates of Thebes." It was enthusiasm that led Columbus to discover the new world and it was it which marched the Crusaders to the gates of Jerusalem.

It has held the sword with which freedom has fought her battles and poised the axe of the dauntless woodman as he opened the paths of civilzation! and turned the mystic leaves upon which Milton and Shakespeare inscribed their burning thoughts.

Young men do not fear to be enthusiastic! Believe in yourselves, and believe in what you undertake, and depend upon it the World will respect your enthusiasm.

COMMENDA.

THE PEOPLE AND THE DUTCH FLAG.

(Continued from No 184 of 14th Jan. 1905)

When fire was put to the houses and conflagration took place, the sailors delayed for a while and seeing no sign of the Commendas, retired to the boats awaiting them, and went off to the man-of-war lying at anchor. As they were embarking, the influential men and Apamfu together with the Ohin, were asked to join them to the ship according to the instructions of the two Governors. On their way an accident happened to the boat conveying both Ohin and adherents. The sea was not in a condition to admit of any fears to be entertained! but as they were nearing the ship, all of a sudden, the boat capsized and all the occupants thrown into water.

While wrestling with the waves for dear life, one of the Ohin's servants caught hold of late W. H. Cobbah's coat collar who was in the same boat with them. The grip was so tight that notwithstanding the repeated blows the old man rained down on the would-be assailant the ruffian would not let go. As the old man was being suffocated, he summoned all resolution and self possession and dived into the water with the man. The wretch at once let go his hold and the old man putting a distance between them came upon the surface of the water.

The man also came up and both were picked up by the crew of the accompanying boats. All were however saved on board the vessel at last.

After the burning of the Town the ship remained at anchor for few days and steamed away to Elmina where both the Ohin and people were landed and told either to remain there or proceed on to Cape Coast at their own option. Those who had family connections of course remained, but the Ohin and people and late Mr. Cobbah, went on to Cape Coast to await cessation of the uproar.

At the departure of the ship from the roads, the Commendas retired to their respective villages making Kusi Krome, the seat of operations. There resolutions were passed for the conducting of the storm which appeared inevitable in consequence of the refusal of the Dutch Flag. The Dutch Commendas too continued to remain in their town, following their daily avocations but not without occasional alarms inasmuch as it would be easy for the irritated Commendas, to make prey of them in the part they had taken when the Flag hoisting incident took place. But the Commendas did not choose to say anything to them just yet untill all their preparations and plans were complete. During their arrangements at Kusi Krome, a report reached them to the effect that a barn of corn belonging to late Mr. Cobbah was being pillaged by the Dutch Commendas. Some men were told off to watch the corn and send a report if they saw anything. It was not long before the report was confirmed. It appeared the Dutch Commendas, after the Commendas occupied the villages, could not go to any, to procure food as they were want to do before and were starving, at this stage, they heard of the corn and took to foraging it. The Commendas at once dispatched hunters to way lay them and the result was that a volley was fired upon them which proved fatal. The news was carried to the Dutch Commendas by those who escaped. They came in a body and removed the headless trunks of their dead buried them and on the next few days deserted the Town and took to their heels to Elmina.

Their example was at once followed by all the sea port Towns lying between Elmina and Commenda, so that the Commendas became masters of the whole situation. This riddance however contributed largely to the development of their plans for the coming conflict between white and black.

After the clearance of all the people on the coast to Elmina, the road from there to Commenda became entirely closed, communication being out of question. This gave the Commendas another advantage for they often sent scouts to reconnoitre the positions as far as to the outskirts of Elmina town, with instructions to capture any one who might attempt to cross the road to watch their movements.

At Kusi-Krome, a meeting was held of the five companies for the purpose of discussing the situation, and the measures to be adopted for carrying out the war which they had provoked and which must sooner or later involve them in bloodshed.

(To be continued)

A REJOINDER.

(BY A BASEL MISSION CATECHIST.)

I have been away from my station to enjoy my holidays. I returned this week and found three copies of your esteemed paper awaiting me. I read them with avidity and the letter headed "A reply to the Basel Mission Catechist" interested me much and called upon me for a rejoinder which I trust you will not find unimportant to publish. The first thing I wish to remind our Lady about is that it is only by parity of reasoning alone that she can say "if it is "just" for a man to divorce his immoral wife, it is equally "just" for a woman to divorce an immoral husband." But is this argument supported by Scripture? Our Lady knows it has no scriptural authority.

WATSON says:—Wives who were considered the property of their husbands did not enjoy by the Mosaic statutes a reciprocal right, and were not at liberty to dissolve the matrimonial alliance by giving a bill of divorce to that effect."

I agree that conjugal infidelity in the husband is bad (Mal. II 14, 16 and Prov. V 20) but I see no scriptural authority for the wife to repudiate her husband on that account; that power was granted by the Mosaic law only to husbands (Mark VI. 17–29 x 12). It moreover appears from the tone of the New Testament that a woman once lawfully married to a man is bound to keep to him and to him alone under all circumstances until death parts them. I ask our lady to carefully read 1 Cor. VII 10–14 Rom. VII 2, 3: a wife may leave her husband but she cannot put him away, a husband cannot only leave his wife but can put her away for the sake of adultery Matt. V. 31–32.

If our lady in any sense believe the Revelations which God has vouchsafed to man on the subject of divorce, she can no longer hold that the right must be reciprocal.

Again, I do not know the sense in which a husband is capable of bringing "spurious offspring" into his family without detection.

The word "spurious" does not only mean bastard, it is also used for what proceeded not from the source pretended. In this sense a man cannot bring into his family a spurious offspring. The possibility of a wife to impose on her husband as his own, the offspring of another is so well known that there is a native aphorism which says "It is the mother alone who knows the real father of her child." And more. It is true that Adam out of love for Eve accepted the stolen fruit and ate it, but this fact did not make him Eve's equal.

It was after the fall that God said to Eve:—"Thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee Gen. III. 16. It was after the fall that Paul said:—

"Wives submit yourselves unto your own husband, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." Eph. V. 22-24: any attempt to put man and woman on equal footing is a violation of Divine Will and a perversion of what was originally intended by the Creator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

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

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader.*

A SUGGESTION.

Sir,—I assume this nom de plume because it is of little consequence who I am or where my residence is; but if the suggestion contained in this letter be beneficial to the Cricket Clubs in general, I shall be amply repaid for having written it.

There is a Cricket Club in town recently organised with the grand title of "Cape Coast Cricket Club" under the management of Mr. Charles Wharton.

This to my mind is an error, and to give as my reason for asserting that, I would ask the question, that supposing Accra should send a challenge to Cape Coast how best shall we able-to meet them; the only cause would be, to pick out two or more members from the different cricket clubs in town to play them, and not to leave it to only the aforementioned "Cape Coast Cricket Club:" this would be considered awkward by the other cricket clubs, who in fine, can put men in the field who can play equally as good, if not more than the cricketers of this "large-enterprise."

I understand certain gentlemen have approached Mr. Chas. Wharton relative to the unadvisability of the title of his club, but he was in no way eager to deviate from the erring course he has adopted. I am appealing to every cricketer in town, especially to the following clubs:—Coker's Eleven, Cricket section of the "Empire League" and Ogua Recreation and Cricket Club, who might send their Captains to approach Mr. Wharton and his club once more, and see if the title cannot be changed this time.

I thank you very much for the space you have kindly allowed me, especially at this present time when the Town Council question is much engaging attention in your press.

I remain, Sir,
Your obdt. servant,—OBUAMI.

[We Publish the following for the information of the Public. Ed.]

The West African Bureau and General Agency,
60 East Dulwich Grove, London, S. E.
June 1905.

Dear Sir—I am writing for all the assistance you can give because I believe in the potency of the press. I have just started an agency here in the interest of West Africa.

What it might develop into, what might become of it, God only knows. I send a little book" How to Buy and Sell to Profit" which will tell you all about it. I want you to give this book all the publicity you can. You can reproduce it in extenso; if not asking too much kindly advertise pages 1 and 2 or the gist of those pages for one or two months in your paper. I can assure you my utmost desire is to bring the claims or merits of West Africa prominently before people in this country. We have been left too much on this back ground. We are not known. We have long enough been taken advantage of; and it is only by books, it is only through the press, it is only, by starting an agency and a Department of information exclusively in the interest of West Africa, that those claims and merits could best be given prominence. The book is sold by Mr. G. B. Johnson.

Awaiting the honour of reply, and with due regards.
I remain, Yours faithfully,
A B. C. MERRIMAN LABON,
Manager.

Printed at the Office of the GOLD COAST LEADER Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by E. J. ACQUAH.

MFANTSIPIM SCHOOL.

Before the boys of the Collegiate School left their rooms for the Mfantsipim School the Hon'ble J. P. Brown addressed the schools as follows:—

Mr Chairman, Gentlemen and my young Friends, It gives me very much pleasure to be here to-day to take part in the amalgamation of the Collegiate School with the Mfantsipim School. I look upon this day as one of the happiest days of my life, and upon this School as the nucleus of a Gold Coast University. I am right glad that this amalgamated School has by arrangement been placed under the patronage of the Wesleyan Conference. (1) Because I am a Wesleyan myself and am therefore proud of the preference given to the Conference, and (2) because it is a patent fact that the Wesleyans have done more for the Gold Coast than any other church, and therefore merit the preference. I look forward to seeing men going forth from this school to become Lawyers, Doctors of medicine, Ministers of religion and politicians of the right sort. But in order to do this, it is necessary to have a thorough intellectual culture. Improve every opportunity, leave no stone unturned to get your minds well developed; but in doing so omit not moral and spiritual culture. A sinful scholar is simply a clever fool. The first Greek scholar of the Eighteenth century was a drunkard. Dr. Moulton one of the ablest Greek scholars of the last century was a Saint. "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom."

In this school you will be taught the classics, Good. But I say, before that, get well grounded in the English language; for through the medium of this language you will become conversant with the works of some of the ablest minds the world has produced such as Horace, Homer, Xenophon, Aristotle and others—works which have been translated into the English language. Then having obtained English, do not overlook the classics, which with mathematics and other branches will expand your minds, and enable them to grasp and master the most abstruse questions.

Last, but not least is the subject of your own language—Fanti. I will strongly advice you to become thoroughly acquainted with it, and cultivate it. When I was very young, my father was so very anxious about my mastering the English language, that he would not allow me to speak Fanti before him. So, at home, with me, it was all English, English, English; and I had very little communication with the outside world. The consequence was that after my father's death in 1854, when I was eleven years of age, my school mates used to jeer at my Fanti. Then a class mate of mine, the late Daniel Carr of blessed memory, who was the best of chums, set to work hard to gain all information available in works. In our studies we came across the couplet

"Let all the foreign tongues alone
Till you can read and write your own"

Then we started to write a Fanti Grammar which we published in 1868. By this and by various translations I believe I have to some extent at least mastered the language. You should be able when addressing an audience in English to do so in good English; when you address in Fanti, you ought to be able to do it wholly in Fanti. It is simply sickening to hear a Fanti man addressing an audience in Fanti, forced to intersperse his address with English, as if the thoughts he is expressing could not be communicated in Fanti. I am looking forward to seeing some of you grow up to write a proper Grammar of the language—a vast improvement on the boyish attempt of Carr and myself. As I have said before, in all you do, do not forget to learn to know the Lord God, for thus alone will you be truly blessed. May God abundantly bless you and make you a blessing.

Mr. W. E. Sam the Chairman of the Directors and many others received the boys at the Mfantsipim School rooms. Here it was made clear that the school was the true and direct successor of the old High School; that the two highest forms constitute the Collegiate School, that subject to the patronage of parents and guardians, it is hoped to put within the reach of every student the best possible education; and that the Wesleyan Synod will probably found some valuable scholarships in connection with the school. After an able address by Rev. Father Parker the following speeches were made.

Rev. Frank Arthur A.B., of Z. M. E. Church said We rejoice at the amalgamation of the two schools effected, and we shall heartily co-operate for the success of the same. Rejoice again to know that the Mfantsipim School is working in harmony with the Wesleyan connection, and we the representatives of the other sister churches will do well to make this school the Nursery into which the students of the other schools will be sent. Education means a great deal to us as a nation, and we must see that all concerned take advantage of this grand opportunity. These principles must possess the students who come within the pale of this Institution: they must endeavour, put forth efforts to be Men, for to be a Man means a great deal. Emulate the principles of high morality, with the attainment of the highest secular knowledge possible, and greater results shall be achieved; and cultivate the spirit of patriotism which is essential.

Mr. Pietersen, the Vice President of the G. C. Aborigines Rights Protection Society in a practical address impressed on the students the necessity likewise of deligent application, the spirit of obedience, the determination to be thorough in whatever is learnt. He instanced the assiduity of Germans who sought the lowest positions in London offices and British manufactories, accepted paltry wages, but thereby learnt the rudiments of British industries, and having mastered all that could be known, are competing with British merchants the wide world over. The students should not be content to become useful hewers of wood and drawers of water for the lower middle class of English sojourners in Africa, but they should all aim to be leaders of thought and action, found in the forefront of all that is noble, pure and good, and is to the highest interest of their country and race. May the watchword of each in the future be expressed in the hymn just sung

To serve the present age
My calling to fulfil!

We commend to our readers the following article in the number of West Africa for July 1st 1905, and ask them to read mark learn and inwardly digest the same.

SENSIBLE LEGISLATION ON THE COAST.

GOVERNOR PROBYN'S NEW DEPARTURE WELL RECEIVED

COLOUR PREJUDICE IN THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

A chorus of praise has gone up from all the West African papers in "respect of" The Protectorate Native Law Ordinance, which has recently been promulgated in the Colony of Sierra Leone. Such criticism as we have seen has been directed more to some unimportant details of the measure. As to the spirit and the principle of the Ordinance, there has been nothing but praise. Nor is it difficult to see the underlying reasons which prompt our West African fellow-subjects to wellcome Governor Probyn's new departure.

Unlike the West Australian native, the people of the West Coast of Africa are of a virile race, and whether we recognise the fact or not, they are intended by nature to be the masters of the situation in a climate where with the best of intentions the white man even after he has, or will have, extirpated the ubiquitous mosquito, cannot work more than a few hours a day. When you add to this fact the further important consideration that the blackman in West Africa is endowed with such uncommon brain power as to make him easily rise to the top of any calling in life he may choose for himself, you have a combination of circumstances which call for thought and judgment on the part of the would-be Imperialist, who considers West Africa the last but not the least link in the Imperial chain. Therefore, when we read such statements of facts as were disclosed in the article published in our columns in the issue of May 6th last, under the heading "West African Medical Service.—" Inequality and Disadvantages: European v. Native, we are filled with dismay. Are we going the right way to work by filling the breast of the educated West African with a sense of injustice and want of fair play in our methods and in our dealings with him; Is it possible for him not to resent the tabooing of his kith and kin, well qualified in the medical profession, from treating him in the Colonial hospitals; Is he likely to forget that with able men at the bar, who would be an honour to the legal profession anywhere in the world, the bench, both magisterial and judicial, should be generally filled with tenth-rate men, who, in the old country would be briefless, simply because they belong to our own race.

Is it in human nature for him, we ask, not to resist rates and taxes, impositions and burdens, when he knows all the while that he himself will go empty away, while his white friends will have a silver lining to his pockets; We are simply doing the work of the surgeon who probes in order to heal. We would probe the national conscience, in view of the latest disclosures in Western Australia, and ask; Are we doing our duty by our West African brethren; Is there no room for the suggestion; May we not on occasions be fairly reminded that a beam is in our own eye? The case of Sister Woodbine referred to by our correspondent is a particularly bad one. The history of this woman, who is now in London, is a sad one. From authentic information to hand, her case is not unknown to some of the highest in the land. Only qualified as a trained nurse what this African woman sought for was opportunity—opportunity to work among her own people, and it would seem as if our system is not expansive enough to offer such opportunity. It is said, but with what truth I do not know, that on her arrival in the Colony orders were issued by the medical superintendent of the home that she was to be styled 'nurse' by the attendants, and not 'sister' like the the white nurses." What is the underlying truth but this.

Brain or no brain, qualified or not qualified, the West African to-day has no opportunity in his own country. We must not be misunderstood. We do not say his condition is as bad as in America. But we do say this that the principle is the same, and it is but a matter of degree. Under enlightened rule we see exceptions here and there as in the government of Sierra Leone at present. But we should like to see a well-settled rule of fair play to black and white alike. Meanwhile we counsel facing the facts. Professor Kelly Millers' "Word to the Twentieth-Century Negro" is suggestive. "Covet the best gifts," he says, "Encourage talent and genius to expand and exploit itself. Any race will be measured in the long run by the illustrious names it has produced, and not by its carpenters and bricklayers . . . You need not fear a plethora of philosophers; there never was a dearth of fools. Reprobate that cheap philosophy which would keep Frederick Douglas in the shipyard, J. C. Prince on the farm, Paul Lawrence Dunbar at the elevator ropes, and Booker T. Washington in the coal mines." Are these words likely to sink deeply into the heart of the African youth? Yea, we might as well hope to prevent Mother Earth from drinking in the refreshing equatorial rain of June. These things being so, what is the corollary? The situation clearly calls for candour, sympathy, and co-operation. Let us frankly acknowledge that it is not fair to seek to exclude the African in his own home, metaphorically, from walking on the same pavement with us. How can give and take hurt us? The principle ought to be live and let live. To apply it, some such system as is adopted in the West Indies ought to obtain in West Africa. Black magistrates are common, and black doctors in the Government service rise to the highest positions, while it is known that not long ago the Chief Justice of one of the islands was a black man; and the principle being once adopted as a sound one, it ought to be made to apply throughout. It is because we are persuaded that this is the only safe course open to healthy imperialism to adopt, that we hail with pleasure the promulgation of the "Protectorate Native Ordinance," and wish Governor Probyn every success in working out the details thereof. Moreover we hope soon to see in the sister Protectorates of the Gold Coast and Lagos similar measures being carried out. Then while among members of the dark race in West African "thinkers think and workers work," as the negro philosopher Du Bois has put it, we shall rest content and satisfied that our West Africa imperial fabric is being raised upon the rock and not in the sand.

EXTRACTS FROM THE GAZETTE OF JULY 22, 1905.

The following document signed by the Unofficial Members of the Council, stating their reasons for voting in the minority against the second reading of "The Loan Bill, 1905" is read, and ordered to be recorded in the minutes:—

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held at Christiansborg on the 1st. day of May, 1905, Unofficial Members were asked to vote for the 2nd reading of the Loan Bill 1905. The Unofficial Members however voted in the minority against the Bill and forthwith gave notice under rule 34 of the standing Rules and Orders of the Council that they desired to record their reasons for so voting.

1. The main principle guiding the Unofficial Members in their action is as follows—

That having in view the position that the Government found themselves in at the time of the construction of the Sekondi Kumasi Railway, viz. that having voted and raised large sums for the construction of the Railway, they were obliged to hand the moneys over to a third party (the Crown Agents) to spend and were practically unable to interfere with or exercise any control over the expenditure during the construction of the line. The Unofficial Members feel that they should not vote such large sums as are authorised by the Loan Bill 1905 without first protesting against the extent to which the last loan for the Sekondi Kumasi Railway was squandered and the defective construction of the line, and receiving the assurance of the Government, (1) that what they (the Unofficial Members) consider the mistakes attending the construction of the Sekondi Railway shall not be allowed to recur (2) that the Legislative Council shall have control over the spending of the several sums of money authorised by the Bill to be raised and (3) that no Contract or other arrangement for carrying out the several works shall be accepted or entered into without firstly full information and particulars are submitted to the Council and the same is by that body approved.

2. With reference especially to the £65,000 authorised to be raised for the purpose of Harbour Works at Sekondi the Unofficial Members particularly desire to be satisfied that the proposed scheme is a comprehensive one and will provide not only security from storms and similar disturbances but also ample deep water accommodation for extensive cargo working. Unless this is so the Unofficial Members are of opinion then the expenditure of this sum of money will within a short time be found to have been at premature and of no lasting use.

3. With reference especially to the £310,000 authorised to be raised for the purposes of the Accra Railway and the £100,000 authorised to be raised

for the purposes of the Accra Harbour Works the Unofficial Members are of opinion that provided the Government Departments are strong enough to cope with the respective works they might (especially with the aid of subcontracting with natives of the Gold Coast and others for works in the nature of earthworks cuttings and such like, which course has been adopted with great success by practically all companies engaged in mining operations) usefully undertake their execution—with this limitation—that the staff employed in the Construction shall at least so far as regards the more responsible members be "permanent" since the Unofficial Members feel that the work of such Officials will very likely be better attended to and more carefully executed than that of a man who has no subsequent responsibility for or interest in the work after completion of construction.

Failing this method the Unofficial Members feel that at least from the point of completion of the survey and estimates for the various works by the Consulting Engineers the works should be put to Public Tender open to any firm in a position to give satisfactory guarantees and that those Tenders should be submitted to the Council.

Finally in this connection the Unofficial Members wish to place on record generally that in their opinion it is now necessary to invite competition for the execution of Public Works of any magnitude (unless the Government Department can cope with such works) and that they see no reason why the Government should not be able to be as successful in placing sound Contracts as any Commercial or Financial House.

The Unofficial Members desire that this memorandum may be submitted to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies and that they may receive a communication in reply thereto.

Dated the 4th day of May, 1905.

(Sd.) Jno. M. Sarbah.
"Giles Hunt.
"James Muir.
"J P. Brown.

The Acting Governor adjourns the Council to 10 a. m. on Tuesday the 6th June, 1905.

* * *

Mr. Muir moves the adjournment of the Council for the purpose of drawing attention to the present condition and management of the Gold Coast Government Railway, to ask for a return of the departure and arrival of trains at and from Sekondi, Tarkwa, Obuasi and Kumasi respectively during the past two months, of the comparative cost of coal and wood as fuel for the Engines, and for a report on the condition of the Locomotives and Rolling Stock, and states that the proposed new rates will neither benefit the Railway or the Colony. What is wanted is a searching enquiry into the whole question of Railway Management. There is practically no management and the state of affairs is most disgraceful. He does not wish to make any attack on any of the Railway servants—his attack is directed against the system. He is quite aware that the present General Manager has had all sorts of difficulties to contend with.

For some time past wood fuel had been used instead of coal—perhaps the General Manager could explain why this had been done—the result, in any case, was most unsatisfactory—trains arriving hours late and delays being of every day occurrence.

Again he would like to know who is responsible for the present condition of the Locomotive Department and Engines. In the Estimates for 1905 the sum of £28,830 is put down for Locomotive expenses but all there was to show for it was only two Engines in thoroughly good working order and four others in fair order—the greater part of the Locomotive stock was little better than scrap iron.

He considers that the fault of the present condition of affairs lay to a great extent in the General Manager having too much power in connexion with rates and regulations and too little power in connection with his staff.

The Railway Administration is too far away from Headquarters, and he suggests the appointment of a Board of Control or of a Railway Council to assist the General Manager and be a Court of Appeal for the General public.

What is first necessary is the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry to go into the whole question of Railway Administration in every Department and to report.

Mr. Hunt seconds the motion.

The Acting Governor states that it appears to His Excellency that the Honourable Member has shown good cause for the motion of adjournment. He may mention that the General Manager has been requested to bring with him the information asked for in connexion with the delays to trains, the substitution of wood fuel for coal, the condition of the engines, and other matters referred to by the Honourable Member, and he has no doubt the General Manager will be able to furnish the necessary information.

With regard to the question of using wood fuel instead of coal, His Excellency states that he has already ordered the use of coal to be resumed forthwith, until such time as the Engines were fitted with proper fire boxes and spark arresters, and sufficient fuel had been stacked at suitable places along the line as a reserve.

It was never intended that the Railway Department should be administered in detail from Headquarters. A General Manager has been appointed at sufficient salary to secure the services of a competent officer, and it was unusual, under ordinary circumstances, to interfere with Heads of Departments in matters of detail. The General Manager with respect to technical matters, is in constant communication with the Consulting Engineers in London, and his letters are sent through the office of the Crown Agents for the Colonies under flying seal and copies are sent to the Colonial Secretary for the Governor's information. Similarly copies of all letters from the Consulting Engineers, to the General Manager are sent by the Crown Agents to the Colonial Secretary.

With regard to the Railway Committee referred to by the Honourable Member, there is already a Council to assist the General Manager composed of Railway officials, which holds monthly meetings. A full account of what transpires at the meetings is transmitted to Headquarters for the information of the Governor, and also to the Crown Agents for the information of the Consulting Engineers.

His Excellency asks Mr. Graves to give the information asked for by Honourable Members.

The General Manager replies to the various points raised in the motion for adjournment as follows:—

The delays which have occurred to the trains on the Railway during 1905 may be put down as being due to the following causes:—

(i) The abnormal drought.
(ii) the bad condition of the engines.
(iii) sickness of the staff.
(iv) the use of wood fuel.

With regard to the first cause, namely the abnormal drought, this is best illustrated by the available figures: there were in 1901, 96.01 inches of rain; in 1902, 68.64, in 1903, 39.55; in 1904, 25.85; and in 1905, 3.62 inches for the present year the figures refer to the months of January to April inclusive. (*To be Continued.*)

THE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE OF SAMUEL.

EN ROUTE.

My Dear Father,—You will no doubt be somewhat surprised to learn, that we have only just arrived at Sierra Leone, starting as we did on the 7th inst. from Cape Coast Castle. This unusual delay has been caused by deficiency of cargo, otherwise we should have done it in less than seven days We are however thankful, that we had to call at so many intermediate Ports, thereby affording us the chance of seeing something of several friends and old acquaintances whom we should have been sorry to miss. First of all, we touched at Elmina; but as no inducement offered we put to sea, immediately the Boarding Officer had left the Boat, for Chama where we anchored at sundown. The next day was Sunday; notwithstanding that fact, we shipped a large consignment of produce. In the course of the day, Mr. Henry Van Hein came off and took us on to Sekondi for more shipment. Our friend and class-mate Ebenezer Hayfron, also joined us.

Victoria (Mrs. Van Hein) kindly sent us some luscious fruits including real Chama oranges which we enjoyed immensely. We had a most pleasant evening, considering; for Messrs. Van Hein, Hayfron and Pedro Mateer, one of my old pupils, spent the night on board and the good steamer ("Niger") proceeded on to Possi with them. There, Mr. William Mensah (Alice's father) came to wish us God-speed. The next place of call was Dixcove, your last circuit but one. As I had no special inclination to go ashore, my travelling companion and friend, Willie Penny, landed alone to say goodbye to his father, Agent for Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy, and other members of his family. By and by he returned accompanied by his brother who is in charge of the Mission and such seasoned friends as Messrs. Jabez Benyakun, Daniel Sam, (my Teacher at Winnebah in the early seventies) and Adam Bissoe. I need hardly say that we had a fine time together. The Skipper, Captain Wharton—kind-hearted man—allowed the company to remain as long as they chose; consequently, they kept up with us until as near the small hours of the morning as possible. Meantime, we whiled away the witching hours by improvising an *al fresco* concert on deck interspersed with reminiscences and humorous anecdotes of which the gentlemen seemed to have their quivers full to overflowing. In the mid of night, we suddenly realised that the best of friends must part and bravely nerved ourselves to say *au revoir*. It was indeed a sad parting. We felt it long after and I am certain they must have often thought of us and of the last farewell. Mr. Bissoe made me a handsome present of a very pretty gold ring as *souvenir* with the inscription, "Mizpah" recalling the thoughtful words of Laban in the thirty-first of Genesis:—

"*Mizpah; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.*" Beautiful sentiment! Beautiful prayer! A symbol of affection!

We dropped at Axim for a few minutes and left early for Assinee; and Grand Bassam. We made a prolonged stay in these French places, the shipments being largely in excess of those received in the English Colony. At the latter port, R. J. Blankson, an old school mate, in the employ of Messrs. Swanzy, sent a note regretting his inability to see me through stress of business engagements and enclosing half a sovereign as parting ring—a recognised African custom. Jacob Faithful, my brother James' quondam servant and clerk, was very much affected to meet me, as he said, I reminded him most vividly of his master in facial appearance. Thence we sailed on for some considerable time until we found ourselves in an obscure and barbarous place rejoicing in the uncommon name of Koutron, a peculiar and queer hole indeed, inhabited by a strange and uncouth people. On the roads was a schooner whose captain transshipped some cargo to us.

Last Sunday, we did Sinoe and Grand Bassam—two of the principal towns in the Republic of Liberia with Monrovia as their capital. At Bassa, Penny and I went ashore with Mr. Samples the Second mate. The moment we were on *terra firma*, a Mr. Vincent of Sierra Leone introduced himself and acting as our guide, we made a tour of inspection round the town. Cape Palmas to Monrovia, covering hundreds of miles in length, comprise the Kroo Coast.

Repatriated emigrants from the United States of America have settled in the country and are ruling the roost with a vengeance. From all accounts, they have been treating the aboriginal tribes as savages whom it is their duty, for political reasons, to keep under and civilise. Grand Bassa did not impress us much. The streets are overrun with weeds; each house-holder religiously attends to the sanitary arrangements of his cottage and compound just cleaning a few yards around. The Reverend Cole, minister in charge cordially invited us to occupy his pulpit at the evening service; but for want of time we were obliged to decline his offer with thanks.

Already we have seen sufficient to convince us that the majority of our race are in Cimmerian darkness and could record many passing incidents in support of the assertion; but I forbear.

It has struck me that it would not be a bad idea to write a pamplet embodying an account of our voyage; but not now—perhaps not for many years to come. I daresay you have read a copy of Ocansey's book giving his impression of England during the short time he was in that country. Our people were much excited over his effort and I am sure he has been amply repaid for putting his experiences in book form. I should like to follow suit someday, if I find my way clear. We anchored in the bay at Monrovia for a few hours and after steaming for a day and a half we reached Sierra Leone this morning at 8, o'clock. The Captain has given notice to leave to night; we are therefore making the most of our time in town.

The Reverend Claudius May, the genial Principal of the Wesleyan High School, is our host.

His hospitality is beyond praise.

We have just come up from the Hall where we have been "holding forth".

The students were highly pleased to welcome friends from the Coast and the reception accorded us was precisely in school-boy fashion, that is to say, very demonstrative.

He has asked us to luncheon before our return.

In his introductory address at the School, he made some happy references to my brother John who was a fellow-student at Taunton College England, years ago. The School is more commodious and better equipped than our two High Schools put together. The scenery here is picturesque and compares very favourably with Cape Coast Castle and Accra. In some things Sierra Leone is oceans ahead of us.

Mr. J. Solomon Daves goes with us to Richmond.

I regret to say Mr. Victor Harding is not coming after all. We are picking up Mr. Snowball, another student, from Bathurst, Gambia.

The Captain and Officers of the "Niger" are vieing with each other to make us very comfortable.

They take so much interest in us somehow.

The run has not so much affected us as we anticipated. We were seedy for a day or two, but soon got on our sea-legs and we are now almost as good as any sailors afloat. Doctor Irvine, the ship's surgeon, prescribed some antibilious pills which have helped us materially; we never felt better in our lives and the Skipper is continually chafing us on that score.

We obtained CLEARANCE CARDS from the "Advance Guard Lodge" for which in the hurry for embarkation, we forgot to pay. Kindly give eighteen pence to Gaddiel for mine. I should like you to mail me as it comes out a copy of the *Gold Coast Echo*. I arranged with Mr. T. Laing about it; but I think it would be much more satisfactory to subscribe for me. I also had from the Book Depot certain books invoice of which had not arrived before leaving; Stephen Forson will let you know, in due time, what the cost is.

To Mr. J. M. K. Davis we owe the grand time we have had in Freetown; we came well fortified with three letters of introduction from him, very strongly worded and too flattering altogether. He deserves a word of grateful acknowledgment from you, Sir.

I trust my first letter away from home will find you in good condition.

Kindly ask Emma and all the others to write soon and remember me to Mr. and Mrs. Sarbah, Mrs. Anderson, Revs Hayfron and Cannell and the household.

With warmest regards,

Affectionately yours,—SAMUEL.

The Rev. J. Ahuma Solomon,
Jackson Street,
Cape Coast Castle.

The Gold Coast Leader.

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No. 165.

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H. E. SAGOE.
MANAGER.

Aboom, Cape Coast.

PROSPECTUS.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
CAPE COAST.

Principal, Rev. F. Egyir-Assam
Head Master, Mr. J. Leslie Mayne
Assisted by Mr. W. Jabez Halm and others.

Patrons:—The Hon. J. H. Cheetham, P. A. Renner Esq. B.L., G. H. Savage Esq. B.L., Casely Hayford Esq. B.L., A. K. Bissoe Esq.

Course of Study:—

1. Scripture studies, Bible reading, lessons in sacred subject.
2. English Language—Grammar and Composition
3. Fanti Language—History and interpretation of idioms into the English language and vice versa
Latin, Greek and French.
5. Mathematics
Pure and mixed—Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration.
6. History and Geography,
7. Writing and Book-keeping.
8. Music.
9. Shorthand and Typewriting
10. Physical Science. Elementary Lectures on the various branches of Physiology.
11. Drawing (Freehand and Model)

The different subjects are entered on successively as the ability and advancement of the student permit: sound proficiency in English and Fanti Grammars, History, Geography and Commercial Arithmetic being invariably required before a pupil devotes much of his time to Classical or Mathematical Studies.

The students are arranged in Four Schools or Departments. The Senior, Junior, Preparatory, and Infant. In the Junior Schools, Boys are carefully prepared for the Higher School by being well grounded by laying in sound foundation of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Before the entrance of a pupil into the School a printed form is forwarded to the parents or guardians to be filled up and returned to the Principal.

The fees of the pupils include the general course of study and are as follow:—

At the Infant	4d. to 6d.	per month
At the Preparatory	10d. „ 1/8	„
At the Junior	2/6 „ 3/4	„
At the Senior	5/- „ 7/-	„

All the above fees are payable in advance.
One month's notice is required before the removal of a pupil.

Extras. In such subjects which are optional apply to the Principal.

Arrangements are being made for a Boarding Department. Friends abroad wishing to send their children will communicate with the Secretary of the School (Mr Halm.)

ASK THE GENUINE
DR GUILLIÉ'S
TONIC ANTIBILIOUS ELIXIR

For more than eighty years Dr GUILLIÉ'S Elixir has been successfully employed for diseases of the Liver, Stomach, Heart, Gout, Rheumatism, Malarial and Pernicious Fevers, Dysentery, the Grippe or Influenza, Skin Diseases and Intestinal Parasites.

GENERAL DEPOT:
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NOTICE.

The well known brand of

DUNVILLE'S

Scotch & Irish Whiskies

are expected to arrive within a month and can then be sampled free of charge at the Mart of the undersigned: also Ready made Suitings and Gents. and Ladies underclothings.

T. McKENZIE SKUES.

NOTICE.

OUT SHORTLY.

Memoirs of West African Celebrities,

(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GOLD COAST.)

By the

Revd. S. R. B. ATTOH-AHUMA.

(D. Marples & Co. 280 pages. 3/6)
4/- Post Free.

Orders received by Mr. H. Solomon-Ahuma, Jackson Street, Cape Coast Castle.

GENERAL NEWS.

His Excellency Governor Bryan passed down to Accra by the *Sekoto* last Monday, from Kumasi via Sekundi.

His Excellency did not land here either in going or coming. Let us hope we are not tabooed!!

His Honour Mr. Justice Smith, we learn went down to the Headquarters by the same steamer, he returned by the *Biafra* on last Wednesday.

Mr. J. C. Duncan, an uncle to Mr. J. W. de Graft Johnson of Kwanupadu, who was at Kumasi for a good many years, died at Abakrampa where he had been for medical treatment, on last Tuesday, and was brought down for burial the same day. He was buried at the Tantri Cemetery by Mr. Smith on Wednesday evening. The members of the family have our sympathies.

News comes from Okusadzi a village in the Salt Pond district of a man and his wife who retired for the night, apparently in good health, having been both found dead the next morning.

Sir William Hollingworth Quayle Jones, formerly Chief Justice of Sierra Leone, has successfully petitioned for a dissolution of his marriage with Claire May Berdoe Jones nee Wilkinson, by reason of her adultery with Hewitt John Havelock Pakenham. Damages of £2,750 were assessed. The President of the Court, in the course of summing up the question of damages to the jury, said that in very few cases did they find a petitioner behaving so handsomely towards his wife as Sir William had done.—*W. A. Mail*, July 28.

Mr. S. Bannerman Martin left for England by the *Biafra* last Wednesday morning.

This is undoubtedly a very unhealthy season, one hears a good deal of sickness here and there—and, deaths.

From Accra we learn that the Native Recreation Club has collapsed, why mildo? And that the Government is building a Club for the Native officials.

"It is true that there is in existence a "Town Councils Ordinance" on the Gold Coast which has been applied to Accra. But it does not work, and it is because it is not on a sound basis. The people of Cape Coast have steadily refused to form a corporation under the Ordinance, feeling as they do that no system of municipal Government on the Gold Coast will succeed which is not based on popular and representative lines."—*Hayford's Gold Coast Native Institutions.*

Mr. P. W. Bernasko, D. C. left by the *Biafra* last Wednesday for England to recruit his health. We wish him a pleasant voyage.

POPE'S FAILING HEALTH.

HIS HOLINESS SUFFERING SEVERELY FROM HIS CLOSE CONFINEMENT.

Rome, Wednesday.—Sedentary life within the grey walls of the Vatican is seriously affecting the health of the Pope.

That vigour and elasticity which marked his movements when he became Pope are gone. He is pale and listless, and has apparently lost interest in many functions that were once a joy.

He was seen walking in the garden of the Vatican a few days ago. His gait was feeble and his pace quite slow.—*The Mirror.*

RUSSIAN ROYAL FAMILY'S WEALTH.

The Russian reigning House, has it is said, greater wealth than any other Royal Family in the world.

It is estimated that the revenue which the Czar derives from the Crown and State domains is not less than £1,500,000 a year, or more than three times as much as the allowance made to King Edward VII.

In addition more than forty members of the Imperial Family draw large incomes from property set aside by the State for that purpose.

The jewels in possession of the Russian Royal Family are also unequalled in value and splendour amongst all the reigning Houses of the world.

THE Y. M. C. A. AT KUMASI.

The Young Men's Christian Association (Kumasi) has been celebrating its first Anniversary at 9 30 a.m., and a special divine service was held on the occasion at the nicely decorated Basel Mission Chapel last Sunday by Rev. Ferreguase, whose hearty and encouraging words made a deep impression; a group of the members was taken afterwards.

At 7 p.m. a tea party with entertainment was held at the Basel Mission House where Europeans and native friends of the Y. M. C. A. enjoyed themselves: numerous songs and recitations, followed by music on various instruments closed this memorable day.

AXIM

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Rev. Father Pfleigher left for England by the

Alexandra Wœrmann on the 30th ult. We wish him safe passage and speedy recovery.

The parading of the Market Square on Saturdays by the local Cycling Club is one of the amusing features in the town.

Mr. Amissah a young Tailor from Garden Street Cape Coast died after a very short illness on the 2nd. inst. His remains were interred in the new Cemetery by a long procession headed by Daddie's Independent Band.

Circulars have been sent out by Mr. Elliot the District Commissioner for the express purpose of resuscitating the local Volunteer Corps.

We are having such an inspiring activity in the Church that the lethargic condition characteristic of both the native and foreign elements is giving way to spiritual alacrity. The Sunday School anniversary is expected to come on soon.

KUMASI.

(From our Correspondent.)

9th August.

POLITICAL.

Captain Pamplin Greene it is understood will be here to take his post by to-morrow's Train.

The Chief Commissioner will be leaving for inspection about Monday the 14th instant.

THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE ACTING GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Acting Governor Major Bryan having been reported to have left Aduabin some minutes to 10 o'clock in the morning, the soldiers with the band and instruments were ready at the station at 10 a.m. to receive him: shortly after, the Train was sighted with an extraordinary Carriage (first out) wherein were the Governor (in a civilian dress) his Private Secretary and the General Manager. Immediately he stepped out the National anthem was played by the band the school children joining. He inspected the station and went up to the Fort with the Chief Commissioner amidst the roaring of some 18 guns.

The Ahinfu who were then waiting, also went into the Fort to welcome him. He promsied to meet them in front of the Fort the next day (8th August) at 9 a.m. for an interview.

The Government Officials spent some time with His Excellency when refreshments were served in the front of theFort, after which the Chief Commissioner and the Governor went to see the new market.

The Ahinfu met together at the appointed time to listen to the Governor. His Excellency appeared, followed by Mr. Erbyn as his Interpreter; he said he was much pleased with the reception they had given him, for which he thanked them: he was also pleased to witness so many fine houses that are being built in Kumasi and continuing, he said the most important work for them as a people is agriculture especially the planting of Rubber, Cocoa and Kola: he would send (as soon as he got to the Coast) some seeds for them to purchase. Meanwhile the big land behind the Fort will be cultivated for this purpose. The Ahinfu will therefore have the privilege of seeing the proper way they are to be sown. The interview having been closed a group was taken. The Governor is to leave here on Thursday the 9th instant.

SALT POND.

(From our Correspondent.)

Aug. 16.

Dr. Waldron (the D. C.) has returned from his tour of inspection.

There is a strong dissatisfaction still about the interpretation in court, and people have begun to complain about the time for court sittings.

TOWN COUNCIL.

We learn that a mass meeting is being contemplated to be held during the ensuing week at the instance of Ohin Pobee, Father T. B. Crenstil, P. E. Reynolds, Ohin Quainoo and others to discuss matters in connection with the Town Councils Ordinance with a view if possible to contribute funds to assist Cape Coast in its protest against the Ordinance. We hope this will meet the hearty support of all in the community.

The local School Committee (Wesleyan's) met with Rev. Russell, Director of Schools last Tuesday evening the 8th inst. at the Chapel room and we understand some important subjects were discussed relative to the improvement of the two schools (Solomon and Freeman). Mr. Russell left the following day for the other schools in the Circuit.

The present weather is full of sickness and death has been too frequent particularly among children.

Messrs. A. D. Hagan, W. R. Quansah, J. W. Euchill with eight other members of the "Land of the Living Lodge" No. 3324 G. U. O. O. F. left for Cape Coast on last Thursday the 10th instant by a surf boat for the District Lodge meeting and returned to town two days ago.

The town was stirred with the unexpected news of the death of Miss Greene daughter of Mr. A. B. Greene and her husband both dying in one night and in the same bedroom on the 10th instant at a village in Edwimaku. Strange to say they both went to bed in the best of health.

At Obuasi the other day a Daniel Jackson a native of this place while preaching to a large congregation at the Wesleyan Chapel fainted and was taken home. The poor man died the following day: he had one of the grandest funerals.

What has become of the proposed Wesleyan Chapel to be built a year ago? We hope it has not fallen through as there has been some good collection made.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

From all account, Sekundi is having a very unpleasant time over the Town Council—that town which is said to be a huge success of the Town Council Policy! People's houses are being sold, and Omanhin Anaisi's Palace has gone for £50. The rent for houses being very high, for those who have gone there for work, as it is generally known there seems to be a rush, not by the natives of the soil, for the Auctioneer's Mart. Mr. Phillbrick the Provincial Commissioner, it appears is not idle over the matter. We believe this is the same gentleman who through the D. C. at Axim has told Omanhin Attah not to interfere himself with the matter of the application of the Town Councils Ordinance to Cape Coast. This was when a meeting was convened at Axim on the subject and that the Government does not intend applying the Ordinance there. Is this report correct?

So hard are the people at Sekundi being pressed, that we hear some of the people are paying to save their houses from the Europeans who are eager to buy them and from their native-brother from abroad who wants a dwelling house of his own. And the people, who cares for them—the people who cannot afford to pay their rates however small (instance Asempah's) must be turned out from their homes, with all their belongings: this is "a huge success" for the Town Council Policy, as much of success as the evictions that were carried on in Ireland by some English landlords sometime ago were! This is civilizing us with a vengeance.

It is not a bad idea to train us to have some interest in the management of our own affairs as we are told, this Ordinance is intended. In 1865, that wish was expressed by a Committee of the House of Commons, and if since then, this line had been pursued, things would have been very different, and there would not have been all this ado about this Town Council Ordinance, for we would have been trained by now to all its devious ways and intricacies, instead of its being pounced upon us as it is being done now to be a burden on us But the worst part of it all is, this Ordinance as it stands, must be impracticable and unworkable, even with any civilized race. We hear of Town Councils elsewhere, but this beats anything and no wonder that it was rushed through the Council Chamber to be made a law in the country, and to be enforced in the way it is being done, no doubt with other object in view, than what is given out to the world, for among other things, this Ordinance must do what the Lands' Bill failed to do.

This Ordinance of 1894 will never do for this country, and if the Authorities really mean well for the People, they will readily see this, as it is, other objects have blindfolded them to all that is just, fair and equitable, and "Might" must see it through at all costs; so say they, but 'what do they say in England" whose representatives they are? Must not the people have a fair hearing? And a bird whispers in our ears from the Land of Freedom, Justice and Fairplay, "They will." What the People want is a municipality "moulding native rules and customs to English principles," until in course of time they find themselves in possession of a municipality which can hold its own with any of its class in the civilized world. "Rome was not built in a day."

This is the wish of the People, for whom the Government exists, and it meets the requirements of the Ordinance which are the sanitation of the Towns, and the improvements of same, and if this is what the Authorities want which led them to give us the Ordinance, where is the difficulty in complying with the wishes of the People, for whose benefit they say the law is intended? Say what they will, it cannot be denied that the Ordinance has proved to be ruinous in its operations; there are ample facts to prove this, which those on the spot can see for themselves; does the difficulty lie, in the fact, that once they have set the ball rolling, they cannot stop it: for their dignity must be kept up at all costs, and they will be owning their mistake if they did? But infallibility is not given to any man or anybody of man. And what should concern a Government most, its dignity and respectability or the good, the prosperity and success of the governed, whatever may be the creed or colour of those? Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you, is a Divine Rule which a Government which professes the christian religion may take into consideration in its dealings with the weaker races of the world.

A Memorial from the Omanhin of this Town, and his principal chiefs, captains, and men on the Ordinance, has been presented to His Majesty King Edward VII, in Council by their Solicitor and a fair hearing has been promised them, the subject therefore is under His Majesty's consideration: the People met last week at the Omanhin's, when a copy of the Memorial sent to him, was read to them by Mr. J. A. Fynn. The local Authorities know this as well as we do, and yet houses are being sold at Sekundi, and the marking of houses in Town goes on apace, because we are thousands of miles away. Sir John Pickersgill will of course have a copy too for his strictures on it, but if he happens to be away from England on his holiday the Acting Governor Major Bryan will do the needful; probably he and his advisers are already at work, and—justice should be done though the heavens may fall. Governor Bryan lives at Accra, and he returned from Sekundi only last Monday, the two places, said to be a huge success of the Town Council Policy.

What do we hear? Foreman of Works Cox, still directing his men to work at the Parade Ground, presumably under instructions from Engineer Palk? This is how it is done then. The People through Chief Sackey wired to the Governor protesting against the Parade Ground being put to that use. The Governor in reply wired to Mr. Murphy the P. C. to ask the Chief to show a spot for the Police Barracks. On Thursday last week the Chief accompanied by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Palk, with Chiefs Quow Akun, Okyire, and the Tufuhin, and some Captains, went to select a spot for the Government. The Chief pointed out a spot, to which the P. C. agreed, but the Engineer did not: another spot was shown which pleased both the P. C. and the Engineer. They were directed to the owners of the land, who were asked to see them. Probably no satisfactory arrangement was come to. Assuming it to be so, did the Engineer apply to the Chief for another spot? The Incooms who own the land, we understand have stepped in to claim it. This very spot (the Parade Ground) has been declared an "open space" by the Government, and according to the Ordinance, no buildings are permitted on any such land. Is the law to be interpreted that only the owners of such lands are not to build on them, but the Government only? This beats us and we cave in for the Barristers.

The Revenue, the Revenue! Thanks to Mr. "Boover" whose article we published a fortnight ago—but hold on.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned

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

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

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUG. 19, 1905.

THE WAY OUT.

I.

The day of liberty will shortly dawn on the Gold Coast. It may appear paradoxical for us to say so, yet the prognostics plainly point that way. The darkness before the dawn consists in the political crisis precipitated by the Town Councils questions; the twilight is seen in the fervant and the heat and the enthusiasm and the intelligence displayed by the youth of the country—those in the ordinary course of nature will bear the brunt of the political struggles of the country in the near future. Nor is this a singular phenomenon. We have watched for the last decade political conditions on the Gold Coast, and we can safely say that there has scarcely been an effective movement that has not claimed and gained the active assistance and stimulus of the young men. This is as it should be; and it would be well for all interested in the welfare of the country to take note of the fact in following future events. The young do not despise the old—far from it. It is part of our patriarchal system to revere the fathers and to respect their counsel. And so long as they show strength of character and qualification for present day emergency, we are

prepared to co-operate with them. Otherwise, we bid the whole country to rise like one man and follow the lead of a generation that knows its mind and goes straight for the main issue; and we know the very elders themselves will not lag behind, because of the intense patriotism in their hearts. That is to say, we are sure that when the standard is unfurled, old and young will sink their differences and follow intelligent leading.

The way out!—That implies the way in. Yes, we, as a people, have got ourselves, step by step, into a political hole, and it will take us a great deal of patience and tactful orderly retreat to get back into safety and freedom.

There is no need for misunderstanding. Speaking of freedom, we do not suggest for one moment that under the protection of England we fare worse than we would, say, under France or Germany. But this much we do say, that, living under so-called free institutions, yet we are not really free. From merely friendly and commercial relations, step by step, the Titan we have to deal with, that is to say, our British Masters, are gradually gaining the monopoly of absolute masters of our destiny, no matter whithersoever such destiny leads us; and we are waking up fast enough, because we are beginning to feel the pinch of the shackle and the clang of the chain. Have your native kings and chiefs much of a jurisdiction left? There may be something in name, hedged about and fenced in by fine nomenclature and piles of Ordinances; but any sensible man sitting down and examining the Native Jurisdiction Ordinances will find that a very fine thin end of a wedge has been introduced into the very foundations of our national institutions, and what the upshot of it all will be if not stayed in time, Heaven only knows.

You are ground down by taxes, called by another name duties; and all the said duties find their way into the government chest, and those who find the money have not the right to ask what becomes of it. Say, you live at Sekundi, and you hold a piece of land of the Government. Mind, formerly the land belonged to the aborigines. You gave a flask of rum and one bendah, (£7 4/-), and the plot was yours and your children's children's after you. Now what happens? You pay consideration to the Government for the privilege of using the land for 99 years, during which you pay ground rent of so much per annum. Next you come under the Town Councils Ordinance just applied, that is extended to the town by the present administration. What happens? You pay over and above the ground rent an annual charge of five per cent upon the rent value of your house; and we have heard of a case where a large European business premises has been assessed at £88 per annum, while a poor woman's family house in an obscure corner, not yielding any income, herself poor, and the house her all in all, having to pay an assessed rate of £112 per annum.

But that is not all. Next, since a man must live you go to a merchant's store and buy yourself a tin of milk. That tin of milk bears a tax of ten per cent. The merchant is taxed in the first instance. But he takes care that you pay for it by charging you nine pence a tin, where you might have had your tin of milk for say five pence. And, if you reflect for a moment, you will see that the merchant will be a fool, if presently he does not clap on another two pence or so to make up to himself the additional burden of five per cent, imposed on him under the Town Councils Ordinance. So that, while apparently he pays the rate, it is you the consumer, the buyer of his goods, who, in reality, pay both his rate and your own rate. You see how the thing works, and into what a difficult position as a people, we have been lured. But that is not all. We shall deal with other phases of *the way in* another time.

ARE WE RIPE FOR A MUNICIPALITY?

After the Downing Street had been informed that the Town Council policy, has been a huge success at Accra and Sekundi, a statement which is utterly unsupported by facts, though it emanated from a high authority, the next thing we hear of is, that the People of this Town, cannot manage a Municipal Board, till some four or five years hence. This came from the highest authority at the Downing Street, and of course he made it as he was informed. The statement however is also incorrect. Let us see.

It has been said again and again in these columns, that the principle of municipal government is as old as the hills, with us, and the Authorities having taken everything into their own hands, piece by piece, by the volumes of Ordinances we now boast of, wishing the People now to have some interest in the management of their own affairs as it is given out to be the object of the Town Councils Ordinance, might have given them a Board, based on that principle and gradually work up to what in their estimation should be the thing, and the people could have little or no difficulty in taking in the situation.

In 1858, there was a Municipal Board working in this Town on the lines of what is known to the civilized world, based on the system known to the People; it was working most successively, and amongst other things, some of the best streets in the Town, now, were the work of that Board: so successful, it was, that strange to say, this very Government which according to the recommendation of a Committee of the House of Commons, should train us to manage our local affairs, worked for its downfall, and it succeeded. The Omanhin (King) the Ahinfu (Chiefs) and the Asafuhin (Captains) were told, that the educated community, were by that taking away their power and rights from them, and so jealous were those Potentates of their rights, that they would sacrifice anything for them and so, opposed the Board, supported of course by the Authorities and it fell! If those chieftains were living to-day they certainly would know from practical experience, at least, who aimed at the overthrow of their Power—the Municipal Board or the Government.

In 1871, another attempt was made by the People, to assist the Government in the management of the affairs of the Country, and again it was opposed, fearing perhaps it would frustrate certain objects they had in view other than commercial now, in coming to the Gold Coast. "Might" prevailed, and the promoters of the Fantee Confederation, underwent such a systematic persecution that they had to give it up. Different tales were told the Downing Street, hence the success of the opposition. Who that reads the Constitution of the Fantee Confederacy would for a moment say, that the promoters meant any opposion to the Government, or any evil to the Fatherland. We would have had a different Country to-day, if the Confederation had been allowed to work (See Appendix C, page 327 of Hayford's G. C. Native Institutions.)

During the administration of the late Governor Griffith, a Municipal Ordinance was actually passed for the country, but it never worked, because there was some disagreement between the People and the Government as to how the Funds might be procured to work the Board, and this Ordinance like many other impracticable Ordinances passed by our Council Chamber existed, until it was repealed by the Town Councils Ordinance of 1894, (which was the work of Mr. Ashmore, who was out for only six months' special service) which was rushed through the Council, giving the People no chance whatever for its consideration, made it a law, and now such places that have had it applied to them smarting under it.

In the face of these facts how can it be said that we need some four or five years more to manage a Municipal Board. We refer the reader to Mr. Hayford's chapter on "Municipal System" in his work referred to above, page 109; we ask him to read with unbiassed mind the Constitution of the Fanti Confederation of 1871, also referred to above; we remind him of the fact, that during the administration of the late Governor Griffith, he, seeing the People were ripe for a Municipality, actually passed an Ordinance for it, until it was repealed by this obnoxious Ordinance of 1894: we remind the reader also that all, official or otherwise, who could express an opinion, because they had studied the People and their institutions—taking pains to do that—were of the opinion that the People could manage their own affairs, if entrusted with them; perhaps not from the European's point of view, but they could do it all the same, trained up to it, since they have now to do with the European: at all events there is no harm in giving them a trial. Everything has a beginning and perfection must be attained to, step by step. It may be, even the best worked Municipality of the present day, may be found to have some defects, it may be found necessary to be improved upon in course of time. Why may we not have a beginning? If in four or five years hence we may then be considered fit to try our hands at a Municipality why not now? Surely whatever may be thought of it, this Ordinance of 1894 can never be the Trainer for the Municipality of four or five years' hence. Let Accra speak. See what is being done at Sekundi, and then speak up like a MAN, be you black, white or yellow.

From Dr. Africanus Horton's *Letters on the Gold Coast*, addressed to the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, and Earl Granville, Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 12th September 1869.

. . . "The convention" referring to the treaty or convention between the English and the Dutch for the transferring to each other, of certain places, "the convention was also objectionable to the inhabitants principally of Cape Coast, because most of their important villages and plantations were transferred to the Dutch rule along with other places such as Manfoom, Footoo, Eslachan &c. so that they would be obliged to submit to Dutch imposts whilst resident at Cape Coast.

This convention brought to life a most important combination on the Gold Coast, which is but the commencement of an independent self-government or confederation of all the former provinces in the Protectorate.

In the House of Commons Committee of 1865, the third resolution emphatically stated that the policy of the Government on the West African Settlements should now be to encourage in the natives the exercise of those qualities which may render it possible for the Government more and more to transfer to the natives the administration of all the Governments, except perhaps one. But, from the steps taken on the Coast by some officials in high places in respect to progressive development of natives, as well as from the treatment received by native chiefs, especially on the Gold Coast, diametrically opposed to the spirit and letter of that resolution, every one on the Coast begins to doubt the sincerity of that statement, and to consider it a myth and a delusion, which, consequently deserves to be placed on the same limbo as many other good proposals about Africa once rampant but now entirely defunct. And I, myself, Sir, should have been carried away by the popular belief, had I not become acquainted with the contents of a recent dispatch of Earl Granville, the present Liberal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency the Governor-General of the West African Settlements, wherein he recommended that the natives should, as much as possible, be brought to know the intricacies of the civil government of the coast, with the ultimate view of placing them in responsible government position.

The Fantee Confederation sprang into existence soon after the promulgation of the treaty and actual transfer of territory between the Dutch and English rule on the Gold Coast. It is composed of all the Kings of Fantee who had, up to January 1 1868, been under the British flag. The object, as has been detailed to me, is couched in two brief but pregnant phrases—viz. 1st To advance the interest of the whole of the Fantee Nation; and, 2ndly, to combine for offence and defence in time of war . . . . . "

[This letter was addressed to the Secretary of State for War. Italics our own. Ed.]

IN HINNOM'S VALE.

(BY A BANKER.)

Perhaps the most interesting walk which could be taken in almost any site throughout the world by any except those prosaic individuals in whom the relics of the great past strike no chord of emotion, and enkindle no thrill of fascination or of charm, is the walk round the ancient bastioned and embattled walls of Royal Jerusalem.

Starting from the Jaffa Gate the traveller is soon in an atmosphere of antiquity. On one side are the time-worn castellated and cane mated buttresses and battlements which, with their predecessors, from time to time destroyed and again reborn, have witnessed many a fierce death-struggle between phalanxes and cohorts of contending warriors of all the great by gone nationalities—Canaanites and Israelites, Assyrians and Babylonians, Egyptians and Persians, Jews, Romans, Saracens and Crusaders.

On the other side of the rock-hewn path are the rugged steeps of the dread valleys of Gihon and of Hinnom, bleak gloomy ravines and arid ridges, once the scene of the lethal idolatries of those recreant Jewish monarchs, who in the lurid shades of that bloodstained charnel house perpetrated the most hideous savagery in honour of Moloch or of Baal, cruelly immolating hecatombs of young children to gain the goodwill of those blocks of wood and of stone. (The partly calcined bones of some of these human sacrifices have recently been excavated at Gezer). And then the traveller pursues his way, past Aceldama, that terrible field of blood, past the pool of Siloam, still sparkling and refreshing, and past the tomb of Absalom, that rebellious son of the great king, whose well-earned death so wrung his father's very heart-strings that in uncontrollable grief he, cries "Would that I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

Leaving all these scenes of lamentation of mourning, and of woe, we now approach the slopes of old Olivet, and partially ascending the sacred mount, the Holy City, Jerusalem—once the joy of the whole earth, and for all time surely its most central point of interest—bursts upon the view. And truly even now it is beautiful for situation, and as the golden domes and cupolas and spires of its mosques and minarets glitter in the brilliant sun, the panorama of the ancient city cannot fail to fascinate and to entrance the spellbound spectator.

But now, descending, we approach "the place which is called Gethsemane." And as, with bated breath and moistened eye, we enter that ever hallowed site, and gaze at those gnarled old olives, how the heart throbs, and what a thrill courses through the veins, as we recall the scene of that most terrible anguish ever witnessed by man or

by angel on this earth of ours. For there the Saviour of the world was feeling the first touch of the hateful, ghoulish load of mankind's sins, which He was bearing for us; there His pure soul was first subjected to the horror of the dread burden, its ghastly miasma so shocking, and so convulsing Him with torture, gnawing, throbbing torture, that his very life-blood welled out in great gouts through the pores of His skin. And for us he was thus suffering. And if we come to him for life and for salvation our Heavenly Father will receive us as His children and our sins will be wholly expiated in virture of those sufferings.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AFRICA. (WESTERN COAST) 1865.

This week we make cullings from the evidence of Colonel Ord, R E. He was sent out specially by the Colonial Office "to examine the state of the public establishments and their efficiency; to examine the financial condition of the settlements and their taxation, their revenue and expenditure . . . to consider our relations with the natives, the influence we exercise over them, the negotiations and engagements existing with them, and the subject of their taxation." The Colonel's report must have been an interesting reading.

After questioning him extensively on matters touching the Sierra Leone and Gambia Settlements the Chairman then said:—

(814.) Turning now to your report on the Gold Coast, is it not the fact that the forts upon that coast were first maintained by English companies, subsidised by the British Government, with a view to hold a trade there in slaves and gold against European rival powers, French, Portuguese, Dutch, Danish and others?—It is so, and also to secure themselves against any aggression by the natives.

(858.) Was the office (Judicial Assessor) created under an Order in Council of 1844, which Order in Council first appointed the Gold Coast as a place for trials?—It did so.

(859.) At the same time was there not a distinct judicial body appointed for the forts themselves at the Gold Coast on the occasion of its seperation from Sierra Leone?—The Charter of 1850 was the first official document that was issued after the date of 1844.

(860.) Was 1850 the date of the first seperation of the Government of the Gold Coast from Sierra Leone? It was so.

(861.) The Judicial establishment then consists now, and has done since the year 1850, of a Chief Justice, Queen's Advocate, Justices of the Peace, and the four Commandants who act as Magistrates at the posts of their government?—It consists at present of those officers, but the appointment of the Queen's Advocate is more recent than the others.

(862.) What was the date of the appointment of the Queen's Advocate?—I am not certain; I believe it was in 1861.

(863.) What does that office of Queen's Advocate mean?—He is a Crown officer.

(864.) A public prosecutor?—Yes; an Attorney General.

(865.) Are those Commandants in any way specially qualified to act as Magistrates?—Not necessarily. In the paucity of respectable persons, the Government is compelled to appoint Military officers in many instances.

(866.) With regard to the jurisdiction maintained over the natives, what is supposed to be the law under which that jurisdiction is maintained?—An agreement with the natives, called a bond, which was entered into in March 1844, by which they agree that crimes and offences may be tried by a judicial officer of the Queen in concert with the chief of the district, moulding native rules and customs to English principles.

(883.) The English claiming as territory only a gun-range round their four forts, and the Dutch claiming as territory a somewhat larger extent round their forts?—The extent of territory claimed by the British Government at the Gold Coast has never been distinctly defined; it is sometimes spoken of as the ground on which the forts are situated, and other times it is said to extend to a cannon-shot from them.

(916.) Is the general understanding of the native tribes the same now as that which I see was given in evidence in 1842, namely, that they understand the forts to belong to the English and the country to belong to them? That is the general understanding although it appears that at Cape Coast Castle the local Government has exercised from time to time within the last 45 years a power of granting to persons portions of unappropriated land in the town of Cape Coast, and this right is now acknowledged by the chiefs; but they object to its being understood to carry with it any right to exercise jurisdiction.

(928.) The poll-tax, which was the first attempt at direct taxation by Lord Grey, appears to have rapidly fallen off, and I believe has gradually ceased?—Yes, since 1861.

(930.) Has not Governor Pine recently attempted the imposition of a similar tax though not a poll-tax?—An ordinance has been recently passed by the local Government (which has not yet been confirmed by the Government at home) prohibiting the sale of wine or spirits, wholesale or retail, until a license has been taken out.

(931.) Was the opposition to this license on the ground that the natives consider themselves (as not being subjects) free from taxation?—The natives at first made great objections to the tax, on the plea that its operations extended to a distance of two miles inland from the seaboard, in fact, over a country in which we had no right to impose taxation.

(932.) Upon what extent of territory was the new tax attempted to be levied?—The ordinance provided for its being levied over the whole of the British possessions, and to a distance of two miles inland.

(933.) Then the natives objected to those licenses on the ground that they had not given their consent, and that without their consent they could not be taxed by the British Government, to which they are not subject?—It was so; but they appear to have recently withdrawn their objections, and I understand that the tax is being enforced without any difficulty.

(1017.) Then, do you think that the Gold Coast Government with its present revenues, could obtain a sufficient number of proper agents to collect a direct tax of this sort efficiently and honestly throughout the Protectorate?—I think that having once failed, it would be extremely difficult to revive the poll-tax. But I believe the natives to be conscious of the propriety of their contributing funds to be expended by the local Government for their benefit, in the better administration of justice, and in furnishing them with schools and medical attendance.

(1018.) Of course the imposition of such a tax tends, as far as it goes, to convert our Protectorate into a direct dominion?—As originally devised by Colonel Hill, it does not appear that this was intended; he called the chiefs together, and constituted with them a legislative assembly, which should have the power to enact laws for the government of the country; this was the origin of the idea of the poll-tax, and if any tax on the people be ever carried out, I conceive that it can only be effected in that manner, namely, with the consent and the direct co-operation of the chiefs themselves.

COMMENDA.

THE PEOPLE AND THE DUTCH FLAG.

(Continued from our last.)

The Ohin having proved false and failed to side with them a proposition was made that a new Ohin should be elected and installed to lead them by the coming struggle. The late Cudjoe Kroo being the next in succession to the stool was unanimously elected and installed in place of Kwoku Nkroomah who had relinquished his position by his duplicity and cowardice through the advice of his Apamfu: this important business having been settled plans were laid and arrangements set on foot for the disposition of their forces for the respective lines of conflict.

All this time scouting parties continued to watch the road leading to Elmina and Chama but discovering no sign of encroachment by a hostile force or forces, the fishermen from the villages, began to feel their way to the beach in order to attempt fishing, taking their guns with them. At first, from fishing, they returned to the villages but subsequently stopped—thinking there was no danger to be apprehended. This movement to the beach was afterwards reported to the Dutch Authorities at Elmina by canoemen who often passed to and from the Ahanta district to buy food. This report, as a matter of fact, stirred up the Authorities. All necessary informations as to the way and manner the town should be invaded and the Commendas brought to subjection having been given by natives to the Authorities, preparations were at once began for the purpose. Everything being on the quiet, the Commendas had no hint of the conspiracy that was being formed against them and continued their fishing with watchfulness and alacrity. The Dutch Authorities having completed their arrangements for the invasion, white and native troops were despatched, one evening, to Commenda. Fortunately on the day of the arrival of the troops the fishermen had been previously ordered to the villages (as if the elders had a presentiment of what was coming) and were all gone. As they were returning, being on hostile ground, some hunters were sent to accompany them. Arriving at the outskirts of the town the hunters began to examine carefully the paths leading to the beach. Suddenly they saw the tents erected on the beach filled with white and native troops and some lounging about on the beach. The discovery was communicated to the fishermen in a whisper and were consulting whether to send information to Kusi-Krome of their arrival or to fire a volley upon them and decamp, when all of a sudden one of the hunters crept stealthily nearer and fired on them. The report of the gun which no doubt took effect, roused the troops up and every man seizing his gun thinking the whole Commendas were upon them, sent volley after volley on the direction from whence proceeded the gun fire, but before the first volley was fired, the attackers had distanced them some miles off. The hunters and the fishermen on their return to Kusi-Krome reported the discovery they had made and the strength of the troops. The news was received by the elders at the camp with silence and irritation and preparations were at once started, by ordering all the five companies scattered at the respective villages, to concentrate all their forces at Kusi-Krome and march to the beach to open hostilities with the troops stationed there.

(To be continued.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

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

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader.*

Dear Mr. Editor,—Kindly allow me to bring to the notice of your many readers the establishment of this agency which aims at giving a helping hand to merchants and traders in Africa who find it so difficult to get on owing to the severe competition in trade. If they could only combine and send us their product, we would do our utmost to sell them for the highest value in the United Kingdom, France or Germany. But they must combine and send us a large shipment at any one time. They must also advise us one or two mails in advance as to the probable quantities of goods they are likely to send, and they should inform us from time to time of the prices which are being paid by large firms in Africa for such products. Those who require European goods can send to us as well. We will place their orders in the hands of proper firms, and see that the many extra charges are lessened. We not only buy and sell, but we are prepared to represent people here and people in Africa in any kind of business whatsoever. I may hint you that the whole scheme is being watched by a powerful syndicate in England which hopes before long, if it is felt that people in Africa would appreciate the benefits of an agency such as this, to place the whole thing on a solid foundation for the benefit of all concerned in the African trade. I am making a tour towards the latter part of August throughout the United Kingdom in the interest of commerce. People should read our little book "How to Buy and Sell to Profit." If it does nothing else, it will open their eyes to the secrets of trade in the United Kingdom.

I am,
Yours for the sake of Africa,
A. B. C MERRIMAN-LABOR,
Manager.

Mr. Editor,—May God help you and all connected with your press in your efforts to constitutionally assert our rights as a people and to further our interest. "The effort is strenuous but laudable." You have undertaken a work and labour of love. May your past successes serve as encouragement to greater and nobler service.

Yours sincerely,—CHRISTIAN S.

Odumase, 5th August, 1905.

Sir,—Permit me to bring before your notice what has come from the lips of an official in the Railway service and has now come to our hearing. "I understand with much surprise that the Clerk who left for not obtaining his leave of absence has obtained an employment somewhere immediately he left. I now want you Mr —to let me know how he was employed in that establishment without Chief Accountants Testimonial and the name of party who recommended him." I thought as much that Mr.—will be surprised and ashamed too to hear of the clerk's engagement—but he seems to have forgotten that there is a God who is watching carefully the evil doings in the world. I would also inform Mr — that it is known that where there is will there is way and he must also know that the clerk obtained employment somewhere in the usual way he had his when he was turned out from the constructions at Obuasi. I cannot blame him because he has been empowered by his General Manager to act as he is doing—the idea of an official in the Stores Department disrecommending a clerk in the Accountants Department, and it has also taken effect.—

Yours truly,—A. TRUE SPEAKER.

11th August 1905.

Chief's Palace, Kumasi, Aug. 11th 1905.

Dear Sir and Editor,—I have noticed Mr Fuller who recently arrived here as Chief Commissioner is trying to be very useful and kind to both the Strangers and the Citizens. I hope the same conduct will be carried through out that any successor may follow.

Thanking you for the space,
I beg to remain, dear sir,
Yours very truly,—CHIEF KOFI SEKCHIBEY his x mark.

Printed at the Office of the GOLD COAST LEADER Salt Pond Road, Cape Coast, by E. J. ACQUAH.

WINNEBA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Musa the Supervisor of Customs who arrived here from Salt Pond on the evening of the 30th inst, left to-day for Appam.

The Omanhin Kodwo Nkum is in town again.

The death rate here during last and this month has been very high.

Rev. C. E. Barnes arrived here from Cape Coast by *s.s. Accra* via Mumford on the evening of the 9th inst. and returned by overland on the 11th.

The D. C. Mr. Bodger who has been on inspection as far as Tantan since the 8th inst. returned to town last evening the 11th inst.

CROWN COLONIES.

As everyone interested in West African Affairs knows, there is great discontent, either implied or expressed, in the Crown Colony System, and an effort is being made, we hear, to get the whole question of Crown Colony administration referred to a Royal Commission. Royal Commissions have it seems, degenerated into devices for postponing the consideration of questions that are really urgent and so if this class of enquiry is required, the desired effect would, perhaps, never be obtained. That discontent is rampant one has only to pick up a popular newspaper published in any one of the colonies to satisfy oneself on the point. The Gold Coast, for instance, has expressed itself as "weary with the red-tapism, circumlocution, and apparent impotence of the authorities." It must be more than a coincidence that the British Colonies, governed by a bureaucracy, are just those which are making least progress of all.—*West Africa*, July 22.

EXTRACTS FROM THE GAZETTE OF JULY 22, 1905.

(Continued from our last.)

Further illustration of the drought which has prevailed is shown by the figures for the rainfall at Sekondi for the months of January to April inclusive in the same year; viz, in 1901, 6.45 inches, in 1902, 17.29; in1903, 11.62; in 1904, 5.23; and in 1905, 3 62 inches.

It will be seen therefore that the estimated well and tank requirements for locomotives might very easily have been under-estimated by the Construction Engineers. The wells all along the line have been very low indeed, and the water pumped up from them, has had large quantities of mud in it. This of necessity has clogged the pumps and has also been extremely bad for the engines, as they cannot keep steam in such circumstances. When the wells gave out,, resort had to be made to the rivers between stations for water, but in many places these have failed also. The river near Kumasi—the Onda—has been dry for months, and the other big river—the Ofin at Dunkwa—would have been in the same state also, had not the two large Gold Dredgers at work there banked up the water near the Railway; although, owing to the Dredgers churning up the mud, the water was of little use. The lack of water has also resulted in the engines, having to go several weeks without having their boilers washed out. In ordinary working this should be done every six days, but at Sekondi where there is no water nearer than 28 miles, the engines have been washed out with sea water.

With regard to the bad state of the engines, these could all be made practically as good as new in a short time with an energetic Locomotive Staff and no sickness to hamper the work. Additions to the staff are now being sent out in place of the drivers and artificers who have resigned and been invalided. No doubt the late Mr. DAVIES who acted as Locomotive Superintendent from June to December last allowed the engines to run down that is, he did not carry out a regular system of keeping up the repairs to engines and the previous officer worked in the same way and so contravened the orders laid down by the General Manager for his guidance. The number of engines in working order is now 7, out of a total of 16.

The health of the Staff generally has, the present year, been very poor and, in the Locomotive Department, particularly so. Attention is drawn to the fact that out of a total of 12 men in the Running Staff, the number of working days from 1st January to 31st May was 1072, and the number of days sick was 237, which works out at a percentage of 77.8; the percentage of days lost through sickness thus amounted to 22.2. At the present time there are only 3 Drivers in the Colony and it has not infrequently occurred that these men have all been sick on the same day, and and there has, therefore, been no alternative but to run the trains with Native Drivers. The percentage of days worked by the Shop Staff of 14 Europeans is 82.6 that is 1,436 working days and 279 days sick.

It will be seen that these figures are very little better than those of the Running Staff; that 279 days out of 1436 were lost, and that the per centage of days on the sick list equalled 17.4 of the whole. For the greater part of the period under review there have only been 4 Fitters in the Colony. It has frequently happened that only one of these has been on duty and as happened on 22nd May, that one Locomotive Foreman, one Fitter, one Carpenter and one Brass moulder presented the whole of the Shop Staff at work. The Locomotive Superintendent himself has been four times on the sick list, including three times in hospital. It will be evident from the figures here furnished that sickness has been a great factor in the failure to bring the engines up to standard.

To return to the question of Wood Fuel. It has been shown in reports to the Government that wood fuel was introduced mainly on the recommendation of the Locomotive Superintendent, that officer representing that he had had a long experience of its use, and that any wood could be utilized, and also that the engines were quite suitable for its consumption: and this was fully reported to the Government two months prior to its introduction. During these two months also the fuel was cut and stacked in convenient places. Meetings were held between the General Manager and the other officers concerned with regard to arranging fuelling stations and allowing for stoppages in the time table.

A strong reason for persevering with the burning of wood fuel is the heavy cost of coal delivered at Sekondi with respect to which repeated representations have been made since the taking over of the Open Lines from the Construction.

In addition to the masters already dealt with the following statement will show the number of times the up train arrived more than one hour late at Tarkwa or Obuasai; or the down train at Tarkwa or Sekondi, during the month of January to April inclusive.

Wood burning was commenced on the 20th March and it will be seen that of the delays mentioned, those due to firewood were proportionately only 1/13ths and 1/14ths respectively of the whole.

* * *

The sundry traffic delays referred to were caused by loading and unloading, shunting, attaching and detaching empties, crossing, transhipping &c.; and the sundry Locomotive delays by engine failures, waiting for engines, hot axles, raising steam, slow driving, ciling engines &c.

A further feature to which the attention of Honourable Members is invited, is the number of trees which have fallen across the line during the period January to April inclusive.

In January 3 trees fell causing no delay to traffic.
" February 21 " " causing 38 hours delay.
" March 39 " " causing delays of 2 hours 15 minutes.
" April 43 " " causing delays of 9 hours 1 minute.

Therefore in this period no less than 106 trees fell across the line causing delays to traffic of nearly 50 hours.

His Excellency states that the bad state of the Engines disclosed is certainly unsatisfactory and most regrettable. Out of 16 Engines there appear to be only 7 in any sort of working order.

With regard to the five causes given by the General Manager for the numerous delays which have taken place, Honourable Members were aware that there had been an abnormal drought during the year which had doubtless contributed in a great measure to the existing state of things. Investigations are being carried out at the present time with a few to obtaining a suitable water supply, but it necessarily takes a considerable time to collect the accurate data on which to base a satisfactory scheme.

With regard to the health of the staff, the General Manager had not adequately represented to the Government that the progress in the workshops had been seriously interfered with on this account. Telegrams had been sent to the Crown Agents in all cases in which the General Manager had represented that the additional artificers were urgently required.

With regard to the use of wood fuel His Excellency states that it was adopted by the Government after due consideration and on the express statement by the General Manager that all necessary preliminary action had been taken. The General Manager should, however, have satisfied himself as to the fitness of the engines to burn wood and should not have relied on the statements made by the Locomotive Superintendent without having personally made full and careful enquiry into the matter.

As to fallen trees—that was a matter which it was very difficult to guard against. It had been estimated that to clear effectively the line of all trees from Sekondi to Kumasi would cost about £38,000, land would probably have to be acquired on either side of the railway to a depth of 200 feet and the cost of this scheme was prohibitive.

With regard to the general working expenses of the railway, the working, in view of what the General Manager has stated, cannot be considered efficient, but His Excellecy did not think it could be said to be extravgant.

Mr. MAIN remarks that the rates are very much lower on the Lagos Railway and the working cost was £388 a mile as against £522 a mile on the Gold Coast Railway.

With regard to the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the working of the Railway general, His Excellency states that the present difficulty would be to select members to sit on the Commission. At the present moment there are two Commissions sitting—one in connection with the Commission of Enquiry into the Restriction on Importation and sale of Gunpowder in Ashanti, and the other on the question of Marriage Laws.

His Excellency will be glad to receive the names of Unofficial Members who are willing to serve, and he would be prepared, say in three months time, to see whether it would be practicable to appoint a Commission.

THE COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE OF SAMUEL.

EN ROUTE.

II.

My Dear Father,—Through the kind offices of our host, we were able to look up the Reverend Cockill, the General Superintendent of the District before rejoining our ship. On the way back, we passed the *C. M. S. Grammar School* where we handed to Mr. Farmer, one of the Tutors, a parcel from Mrs. Maxwell of Cape Coast Castle. The last gentleman we visited was Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden whom we found hard at work studying Arabic—from the characters he had transcribed on a blackboard. He was pleased to make our acquaintance and did not fail to give us sound advice and wise counsel at parting. The Doctor is in many respects a remarkable personality. He was educated in Liberia under the auspices of the Presbyterian Board of Missions: he subsequently became the Principal of his *alma mater* and later on a Professor in the Liberian College. He has also had his innings in the world of politics; for a term, he acted in the capacity of Secretary of State, and eventually represented Liberia at the Court of St. James, London, as Minister Plenipotentiary with conspicuous success. Eight years ago, he had the honour of being enrolled an Honorary Member of the *Athenæum Club* London; in 1880, he was made a Fellow of the American Philological Association and two years after, Corresponding and Honorary Member of the Society of Science and Letters of Bengal. The degrees of M. A. and L. L. D were conferred upon him by American Colleges. It was indeed a privilege to see face to face an African of such mental calibre. He has nobly sustained the reputation and prestige of the intellectual giants of our Race.

At last, after a desperate encounter between the "Countess of Huntingdon" and the "Duke of Marlborough" in which Her Ladyship carried the palm, we were safely conveyed on board. The scrimmage or rumpus that ensues among Sierra Leone boatmen to secure passengers is something terrific. In the course of this trying feat, they simply poured forth the most original, vigorous and expressive pidgin English, I ever heard with marvellous volubility. It is a very rare thing indeed for one to get into a boat without a scuffle and as there are scores and scores of these dingies, the delay as well as the inconvenience caused thereby is not inconsiderable.

Sierra Leone, or according to the Portuguese, Sierra Leona, is a Peninsula about eighteen miles long by twelve broad and is situated between the Sierra Leone Estuary on the North and Yawry Bay on the South.

Behind the town is a range of hills of igneous formation and beds of red sandstone, such as the Sugar Loaf (3,000 feet high), Tower Hill and Mount Horton. The aboriginal tribes called it *Romarong* or the Mountain; but the present name was given to it by Pedro de Cintra (who discovered it in 1462) owing to the "lion-like roaring of thunder on its hill-tops". In 1787, Captain Thompson *bought* the territory from King Tom or Naim Bana of the Tumanees and repatriated it with 400 liberated slaves and 60 Europeans. This early eleemosynary work was continued by Falcon-Wilberbridge (1791), Granville Sharp, William force and Sir Richard Carr Glynn. In 1792, Clarson transplanted 1200 negroes from the Bahamas and Nova Scotia.

Ethnographically, it has been said, Sierra Leone is "an epitome of Africa." There, one meets Timanees, Mandingos, Baggas, Joloffs, Mendees, Sherbros, Gallinas, Sesus, Limbahs, Fulahs, Lokkos, Soorakulis, Krumen, Akus, Balloms, Eboes, &c. &c. a veritable cosmopolite world! The direct descendants of the freed slaves are estimated at 35,000 or thereabouts.

The water supply of the Colony is abundant, and the sanitary condition vastly superior to ours. One great advantage for effective co-operation is the fact, that Sierra Leone has developed into one town although it is still politically divided into villages, such as Kissy, Gloster, Bathurst, Leopold, Charlotte, Regent and Leicester. I am informed, that the Church Missionary Society has spent over half-a-million pounds for the last 82 years on the Colony and is even now supporting several educational institutions. One-and-a-half miles east of Freetown is Fourah Bay College, owned by the Society. It was opened in 1876 with six pupils one of whom was Bishop Crowther to whom you introduced me a few years ago. The College is affiliated to the University of Durham. The *Grammar School* was established in 1846, there is also the *Annie Walsh Memorial Female Institution* which is a flourishing High Class School for girls.

Zachary Macaulay, Sir Charles Macarthy, Sir Stephen Hill, Sir Arthur Kennedy and Sir Samuel Rowe are some of the foremost governors who brought Sierra Leone to its present status.

(To be continued.)

Mid-Atlantic West Coast, Africa,
27th August 1888.

Victoria Park Committee.

Cape Coast, Aug. 18, 1905.

Sir,—I shall thank you to announce in your issue of this week, that a meeting of the Victoria Park Committee will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday the 25th inst. at the District Commissioner's Court. The principal subjects for discussion are—the erection of a club house and the playing of games at the Park on Sundays, a large attendance of members is requested.

Yours faithfully,—AKIWANDE SAVAGE.
Hon. Secretary

The Gold Coast Leader.

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3. Fanti Language—History and interpretation of idioms into the English language and *vice versa*
4. Latin, Greek and French.
5. Mathematics

Pure and mixed—Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration.

6. History and Geography,
7. Writing and Book-keeping.
8. Music.
9. Shorthand and Typewriting
10. Physical Science. Elementary Lectures on the various branches of Physiology.
11. Drawing (Freehand and Model)

The different subjects are entered on successively as the ability and advancement of the student permit: sound proficiency in English and Fanti Grammars, History, Geography and Commercial Arithmetic being invariably required before a pupil devotes much of his time to Classical or Mathematical Studies.

The students are arranged in Four Schools or Departments. The Senior, Junior, Preparatory, and Infant. In the Junior Schools, Boys are carefully prepared for the Higher School by being well grounded by laying in sound foundation of Reading, Writing and Arithmetic.

Before the entrance of a pupil into the School a printed form is forwarded to the parents or guardians to be filled up and returned to the Principal.

The fees of the pupils include the general course of study and are as follow:—

At the Infant	4d.	to 6d.	per month
At the Preparatory	10d.	„ 1/8	„
At the Junior	2/6	„ 3/4	„
At the Senior	5/-	„ 7/-	„

All the above fees are payable in advance.

One month's notice is required before the removal of a pupil.

Extras. In such subjects which are optional apply to the Principal.

Arrangements are being made for a Boarding Department. Friends abroad wishing to send their children will communicate with the Secretary of the School (Mr. Holm.)

ASK THE GENUINE
DR GUILLIÉ'S
TONIC ANTIBILIOUS ELIXIR

For more than eighty years Dr GUILLIÉ'S Elixir has been successfully employed for diseases of the Liver, Stomach, Heart, Gout, Rheumatism, Malarial and Pernicious Fevers, Dysentery, the Grippe or Influenza, Skin Diseases and Intestinal Parasites.

GENERAL DEPOT:
Dr Paul GAGE Fils, 1st Class Druggist
9, rue de Grenelle-St-Germain, PARIS
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DUNVILLE'S
Scotch & Irish Whiskies

having arrived, Clients are invited to call at the Mart of the undersigned when prices will be quoted.

Trial orders solicited!

Also ready made Suitings to hand.

T. McKENZIE SKUES.

NOTICE.

OUT SHORTLY.

Memoirs of West African Celebrities,

(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE GOLD COAST.)

By the

Revd. S. R. B. ATTOH-AHUMA.

(D. Marples & Co. 280 pages. 3/6)
4/- Post Free.

Orders received by Mr. H. Solomon-Ahuma, Jackson Street, Cape Coast Castle.

GENERAL NEWS.

Only last week we reported the death of a man and his wife at a villiage to the Salt Pond district, and early in this Town on last Sunday morning the news was noised about that a man (launderer) and his wife, at the late Ohin Hagan's quarters were found dead (or dying.) Several people went to the place, and after some hours hard work, Dr. Savage and a certain native doctor succeeded to bring them round. What is this?

Mr. J. P. Brown-Pobee, Barrister-at-Law returned home by the s. s. *Zungeru* last Saturday. Mr. Brown-Pobee and Mr. Ward Brew whose arrival we reported the other day are the first two arrivals of our young men who were recently called to the Bar. We wish them all success at the local Bar, with Mr. Brown who had arrived some months before them.

By the way what has become of the local Bar Association, formed about a year ago. We hear next to nothing of this Association, but we hope it is working though.

The Wesleyans have now two young ministers in town, Messrs. Quayson and Barnes.

The new President for the Wesleyan Church elected at the last Conference in July last at Bristol is Charles H. Kelly, an ex-President.

This Church has suffered an almost irreparable loss in the death of the saintly Dr. E. E. Jenkins at Southport (England.)

Bishop Hamlyn returned from his long visit to Sekundi by the *Zungeru* last Saturday.

"There is generally some amiability in even the bitterest enemy, but there is only ever-increasing jealousy, treachery, and hatred, in the bitter friend; the one who smiles and smarts at our every success, and loathes not for the evil there is in us, but for the good."—*Truth.*

The Hon. J. P. Brown returned to Town from Axim, last week.

We have heard with much regret the death at Axim after a protracted illness of Mr. H. Ussher one of the three Appolonian youngmen, who were brought down for training in the High School by the Rev. James Fletcher in the early eighties.

Kwow Egyir is dead.

We learn with much regret the news of the death of the Rev. W. L. Clarke at the Hospital at Sekundi—It is just a year ago when Mr. Clarke lost his wife when staying at the Prospect Hill with Mr. Barnes. Mr. Clarke was a native of the West Indies who came amongst us at the request of the Rev. Mr. Hayford to work with him in connection with the Baptist Mission. We deeply lament his death.

The Rev. N. H. Boston has been offered the post of an Assistant District Commissionership by Governor Probyn, and has accepted same.

We understand the Quist case has been transferred to Accra and that no witnesses would be required at the trial.

KUMASI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

18th Aug.

His Excellency the Governor left here on the 10th instant for Accra.

Ohin Aquasi Trah was brought before Dr Thain on the 9th instant and fined £2.0.0 one of his subjects having killed a cat.

The Chief Commissioner left here on the 14th inst. on inspection. He was led on the way by almost the whole Kumasi Ahinfu at 12 a.m. We heartily wish our Chief Commissioner Mr. Fuller a happy time duing his inspection.

Capt. Pamplin Greene is with us again as the D. C.

SEKONDI

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Aug. 20.

Observing last Sunday week the 6th inst. as Temperance Sunday, the members of the I. O. G. T. Lodges in town paraded to the Wesleyan and Anglican Churches in the morning and afternoon respectively. At the latter, in the course of his sermon, Bishop Hamlyn remarked it was no good excuse to give if "Oncero" attributed the cause of their irregular religious attendances to weariness, as the promulgation of christianity in this country has only been made quite recently, and that the example of the European element living among us should not be looked upon or copied in this respect. While every ear was attentive to this discourse, the noise of the European cricketers could be distinctly heard.

G. C. G. RAILWAY.

An accident befell a certain man at the station yard last Wednesday resulting in the loss of his arm.

The "Karina" brought up from Cape Coast, Mr. Mills under escort, whose case has been tried pre-

liminarily and committed to the Tarkwa Assizes.

In connection with the Railway scandal Mr. M. B. Yankson, clerk in the Accountant's Department, was arrested last week and is still in custody at the Police Station.

TOWN COUNCIL.

Sekundi has not been spared; every inch of *might* and force has been employed to keep *right* behind the dogs. Assempah's house has been sold for 25/- on account of 3/- tax, then the King's palace was the next to be knocked down by the Auctioneer's hammer for £50 on account of 50/- rate. There is one more hope; on the eve of the payment of rates, a cablegram to the Secretary of State was sent as follows—"Inhabitantspaying house rates under protest." On the Council Board exists foreign elements, the most prominent is T. H. Wellington—Auctioneer, whose name was inadvertently omitted in your last issue.

Frightened by the advent of the Rex. v. Quist's case in which he is a witness, Sergt. Williamson lost all consciousness last Tuesday at Tarkwa and started kicking and blowing every body he came across presumably mad. He was tied and carried to the Station where he was examined by the Medical Officer, and found to be malingering. On this discovery he was set at ease and after regaining his composure, Williamson escaped with his life.—*Communicated.*

Mr. Barrister Renner has been in town and left for Cape Coast. He is expected to return to defend and prosecute in two or three leading cases at the coming Divisional Court Assizes.

WINNEBA.

(From our Correspondent.)

Aug. 17.

The Provincial Commissioner Mr. Murphy with Mrs. Murphy arrived here on the evening of the 14th inst. from Cape Coast on inspection. We understand he is to remain in town for a few days whilst D. C. Mr. Bodger goes on inspection in the District.

The Ackumasie (the Black Xmas. of the Winnebas) commenced on last Sunday the 13th inst. and is going on well. We understand they obtained a "pass" for it for two weeks.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Sir Benjamin Pine's evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, in 1865, on the internal affairs of this Protectorate which we publish to-day, speaks for itself; there is enough in it the reader will find, to show that what has been said from time to time on the municipal question of this country in these columns cannot be the outcome of mental aberrations. But we have not been making any comments on the portions of the Report we have been publishing and we make none now; we would however call the attention of the reader specially to the late Governor's answers to the questions under Nos. 3000, 3016, 3026, 3052, 3055 and others equally interesting and opportune.

Sir Benjamin, spoke from his own experience and observations, and at the time he was called in to give his evidence, he was the Governor of St. Kitts and—he was a lawyer. The country may be bad, perhaps not worse climatically or otherwise, than even the great India, on the authority of such a man as Dr. Ronald Ross; the people may be all that they are said to be, but certainly not worse than the other races of mankind, and if set on the right track, or properly trained by those who now boast of superior knowledge as it was done to them ages ago, they could hold their own in this world's history, but none must bear the blame for—"Heaven helps those who help themselves."

It is to be regretted however, that there are men to be found, who would risk dear life itself to be in the country, and to live amongst them, but would do nothing towards the advancement and the elevation of the people, but would mete out to them a "civilized oppression," see them down-trodden on the spot, though perhaps represented otherwise elsewhere, and worse still, vilify them to their hearts' content:some say, this is wilfully done, to shut out others from coming to the "field," so as to carry all before them. But how long are these things to last? It is for the West African Negro to answer, —and the privileged few to realize their responsibility.

Any body would have thought that since the town through the Omanhin with his Abinfu, Asafuhin and principal men have presented a Memorial to His Majesty King Edward VII on the Town Councils Ordinance together with the people of Sekundi for its suspension and repeal, and the subject being now under his consideration, we would hear nothing of the marking in Town and the distress that is being caused to the people of Sekundi, until the King in Council had pronounced on the subject for good or bad: but no; this is not the way of the Crown Colony Policy, especially where it finds itself thousands of miles away and among the blacks, who can be easily terrorized into anything. Whilst we are noticing all this out here which must certainly have a discouraging effect on a certain class of people, (and some would even make a capital of it), the Downing Street gives the assurance that "nothing has been done from this quarter to create the unrest and excitement reported."

It is clear then, that the action of the local Government is a direct breach of faith, a sheer advantage taken to terrorize the people, to emphasize what was once said by an official, when the Mosquito Brigade was at work here, that "We are the government, and can do whatever we like." That's the way to rule under the Crown Colony System—the governed are not to be taken into consideration in anything; this may be so, only one finds it hard to reconcile such a policy with the ideas he holds on the ruling of Great Britain and her dealings with her subject-races. But we shall hear more of these things some day in quarters we least expect.

It may be hard or even cruel to say so, but we say it all the same; the people must quietly submit to all that is being done, remaining unshaken in their loyalty to the Government, for sooner or later "change and peace will be restored" to us, or we should say "on the coast." Efforts are being put forth, we find, to dissuade the other Towns in interesting themselves in the application of the Ordinance to this Town and Sekundi, because it has not been extended to them, nor is it likely to be, so they are told, but we hope those to whom these things are said in quiet places have their heads over their shoulders.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Anonymous letters will not be attended to, or returned

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

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

Communications must reach the Office not later than Wednesday.

Rejected communications cannot be returned.

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

The Gold Coast Leader.

CAPE COAST, AUG. 26, 1905.

THE WAY OUT.

II.

Last week we endeavoured to deal with one or two aspects of the way in which we, as a people, have allowed ourselves to be inveigled into a false position by the powers that be; and we propose pursuing the matter in this and subsequent articles.

What place have we, for instance, to put the matter nakedly, in the government of our country? We are no way in it. The administration of the country is in the hands of the Governor in Council, and we are absolute strangers to the ring within ring, wheel within wheel, of the executive machine. Run through all the offices from the governorship downwards, and what do you find? Even this, that almost every important office of the first order is filled by a white man. We are not so vain as to think that the office of Governor, for example, should be filled by an African; but we may soberly aver that the way ought to be open to aboriginals and Africans of distinction to take and keep any appointment in the service, short of the governorship.

Instead of that, what are the actual facts? The medical service is actually barred to aboriginals, and those who are already in the service may never rise to the top, however able they may be. All the world knows what manoeuvres were made use of in getting rid of the late Dr. Easmon from the principal medical officership, Mr. Barnes from the Public Works Department, where his abilities entitled him to the first place, Mr. Rowland Cole from the Postmaster generalship, and others whose ability, in fairness, entitled them to distinguished positions in the service of the country. But truth to tell, if one may scrutinize the underlying policy, the tendency is more and more to make of the Gold Coast a darling preserve for dumping down Britishers, unable to find work in their own country. Nor is any one misled by the conferring of an "I. S. O." here and there, as a little sop to the grumbling blacks.

In fairness, the standard of promotion should be efficiency. There should be a civil service competitive examination of the West African public service, as it is for the Indian public service. What can be more grotesque and absurd, for instance, than the system of appointing to the bench, magisterial and otherwise, over and over again, men who are in no way competent to administer justice. Justice is generally represented as being blindfolded, with a pair of scales, ready to strike, should the scales turn ever so little as one hair's breadth. Justice, blinded by ignorance, prejudice, and incompetence, is a bugbear and a dire calamity in any community of men with aspirations after, and pretensions to, true civilisation

In the West Indies, local lawyers of prominence rise to the judicial bench and even to the Chief Justiceship. Here, it is not always the case that we can wholly commend a given appointment, to judge by the results. What is there to prevent the appointment of competent practitioners as Stipendiary Magistrates in given districts somewhat on the basis of County Court Judges in England, men, who understanding the language and the ways of the people, would sit with the several *Amanhin*, systematise their court proceedings, ensure British justice, and bring such justice to the very doors of the people and give satisfaction and contentment to all? Surely, it will cost less in the end, and there is no sound argument against its adoption, save that the money will go into the pockets of the blacks, instead to an army of Commissioners of all sorts some of whom, in their heart of hearts, pray to be saved from duties for which they are not qualified, and which they never bargained to perform.

Again, as if the cup of burdens and disabilities were not filled, what do we find when we come to examine into the real effect of the Town Councils Ordinance? Why this. The President, that is, the District Commissioner, by right of his office, being the head of the Council, and the Council being composed by one half of government nominees, and the President having the casting vote in a given Council, the Council is the real, one had almost said, the sole authority in a native town! Go to Sekundi or Accra and see for yourself what voice the *Omanhin* or *Ohin* has in the affairs of the town. If you remember, then, that your friends and allies, the British Government, have the general and the central control in their hands and now have, or is to be added, municipal control, that is, the control of the internal affairs, of, say, Cape Coast—say, you apologists of the Town Councils Ordinance, are not the people of the Gold Coast bound hand and foot, and is not their country left unto them desolate, and do not strangers devour their substance in their presence?

You cannot get out of the logic of facts. There they are, staring you in the face; and whether we shall be slaves, or whether we shall be free in our own country, is for us to say; and we must remember that the verdict will affect both this generation as well as unborn generations.

THE ADMINISTRATORSHIP OF THE GOLD COAST.

Unlike all the other governments on the Western Coast of Africa, that of the Gold Coast is influenced by many surrounding circumstances which make it the most difficult of them all, and require great tact and magnanimity in the executive . . . .

Besides, the extent of country is so large, the views and wishes of the people in each province so different . . . . . the orders for non-intervention which the Administrators are constantly receiving from the Home Authorities are so general, and matters of importance within the Protectorate are so frequently arising requiring prompt, decisive and immediate action, that it is no wonder that the Gold Coast Government is considered by men of experience as a trying ordeal for one who is appointed to fill the important post of head of the executive there.

The Governor or Administrator of the Gold Coast should be a man of tact, resolution and great independence. Whilst firm in his decision, which should only be arrived at after matured consideration, he should be most magnanimous and conciliatory to the inhabitants over whom he exercises supreme authority. He should be a man who, by long experience in the

manners, customs, and habits of the peculiar people of this coast, could form an adequate judgment as to the measures necessary to avert internal disturbance, and to give them a generalized conception of the interest the Home Government has always manifested, and will still continue to manifest, towards their advancement. He should be an official Nelson; not a pedantic martinet, but one who would dare to disobey from a paramount sense of duty.

I verily believe, my Lord, that in the Government of a semi-barbarous race where the aim is to bring up the governed rapidly to advancement in industrial pursuits, education, and general social condition, a *little despotism is absolutely necessary*. But it must be understood that this despotism must not be used for the exertion of uncalled-for arbitrary power, which an intelligent race might think, simply from its superior intelligence, it might be exerted over the other as being less informed. But it should be more on principles of equity, having this object in view—the *material advancement of the people*. It will, however, be a most deplorable thing for any government if this little despotism is exercised for revenge, or for the purpose of satisfying private pique.—*Dr. Horton's "Letters on the Gold Coast."*

LEST WE FORGET.

THE POLICY OF BRITISH MERCHANTS REGARDING THE WEST AFRICAN.

Pope Hennessy, Governor General of British West Africa writing to Lord Kimberley on the 28th December 1872 saidt

* * *

Putting aside, however, the personal matters which Messrs. Forster & Smith and Messrs. Swanzy seem disposed to introduce into their official correspondence, there is no doubt that their refusal to pay the percentage that was formerly allowed, when the Ashanti trade was in existence, is a serious matter, and well worthy of your Lordship's attention.

* * *

The Chief Magistrate and Judicial Assessor, in his letter to Mr. Salmon of the 28th October, notices the fact that all the people of Cape Coast are opposed to the action of the European agents on this matter. He says it is not the movement of a few, but is partaken in by all the people of Cape Coast.

* * *

He is also justified in saying that the claim made by the chiefs is not without certain equivalent, such as board and lodging and a guarantee of good conduct on the part of the natives in their dealings with the merchants.

On the other hand, he draws attention to the fact that the claim the merchants seem to set up of carrying on their trade in absolute independence of native custom and of the wishes of the chiefs, whilst enjoying at the same time the physical support of the Government to aid them in doing so, raises questions of considerable nicety in connection with the positions of the British authorities as officers of a Protecting Government not professing to hold territory or territorial jurisdiction in its ordinary and complete acceptation.

I observe in the Consular despatches from the Oil Rivers that a similar claim to exemption was set up by some merchants, but promptly disallowed by Lord Granville.

In leaving the matter to your Lordship's decision, I will only add that the imputation laid before the Parliamentary Committee of 1865 against the European traders on the Gold Coast, that they make large fortunes by their agency business, and leave no trace behind them of having advanced the African race or identified themselves with the interests of the country, is, I fear, still well founded.

The remarkable contrast between the conduct in this respect of the European merchants on the Gold Coast and those that I have seen in other tropical colonies—in Cochin China, in the Malay Peninsular, in Dutch Borneo and in Ceylon—is indeed most painful.

THE GARDEN TOMB.

(BY A BANKER.)

In a recent number of this series some features of the ravines and valleys encircling the walls of Jerusalem were referred to, the exigencies of space compelling a halt at the valley of the Kidron and Gethsemane Continuing the exploration we now ascend the Mount of Olives, first visitng the ancient village of Bethany, in which the half ruined, stone-built houses may well be the actual sites which tradition has long since assigned to them. We then walk over the rolling slopes of old Olivet, its grassy banks adorned with grape-hyacinths, cyclamens, or other beauty of the floral world; though, being so near the thickly populated city, not growing in that wild and luxuriant profusion as in Galilee and the remoter parts of the Holy Land.

Here the prospect is grand and impressive. To the east the long line of the mountains of Moab lofty Pisgah, whence Moses saw the outspread panorama of the Promised Land, towering high and, bold. Beneath this rugged range lies, sullen and torpid, the wide expanse of the watery sepulchre, the Sodom and Gomorrah, well named the Dead sea; its waveless, heavy waters dark and dismal, and apparently unruffled by the desert wind; its shores arid and lifeless, except perhaps for a few "Apples of Sodom," fair to the sight, but full of repulsive ashes and rottenness within. At the northern extremity of this dear and melancholy inland sea, lies the beautiful and luxuriant valley of the Jordan, the sparkling river, ever purling and plashing in its winding course amidst graceful overhanging trees and sub-tropical plants and flowers not, however, visible from this point. Nearer, though mostly hidden from view by a spur of the mountain, is the old town of Jericho, still, as of old, of evil repute; while scattered about are many sites of historic interest-Gilgal and Micmash, Gibeon and Ramah, Bethabara and Bethphage, all evoking memories of exploits of the great Israelitish leaders, of battles lost and won, or of events in the life of Him who so often trod this sacred mount.

And now, descending, we cross the valley of Jehoshaphat, skirt the ancient turreted and embattled walls of the Holy City, and proceed towards the Damascus gate, opposite to which is perhaps the most intensely interesting site in the world—the "Garden tomb"—which so many of the best authorities now consider to be the actual tomb of our Lord. And who can enter those gates without a throbbing heart and bowed head as he contemplates that perhaps in that very rock hewn cave once lay the human body of the mighty Creator of the universes, who, after having paid the penalty due to Eternal Justice in the stead and on behalf of all who will accept that pardon, on the resurrection morn rose from that angel guarded tomb, and, perhaps on the very spot upon which we stand, uttered those comforting words to the weeping Mary. And, though now seated on His throne in the heaven of heavens, He will hear the cry of all who will but come to Him for eternal life.

THE ACCRA TOWN COUNCIL.

[When it was given out at the Downing Street that the Council had been a huge success, at Accra, we thought we should approach the Council Board, to know which was which, apart from what ANY BODY else would say, and the following was the result: the Public will judge for themselves:—Ed.]

The "Gold Coast Leader" Office.
Cape Coast Castle, August 12, 1905.

Sir,—We beg most respectfully to apply herewith to your office for the following particulars with regards to the operation of the Town Councils Ordinance of 1894 as applied to the Town of Accra:—

(1). Number of Houses sold under the Ordinance, since its application to the town.

(2). The assessment of the Houses.

(3). The rates on such houses, which the occupants were unable to pay and what was paid on them at the sale: (b). The names of the Owners.

(4). Number of houses razed to the ground, by the order of the Board.

(5). The names of the Councillors, stating how they were elected, that is, whether they were elected by the People, or by the Governor.

(6) The Income and Expenditure of the Board each year, since the enforcement of the Ordinance.

We shall be much obliged to you for an early reply to this, and we may add, that in sending the above particulars, you will let us know for settlement the fees payable for the supply of these particulars.

We are, Sir, Your Obedient Servants,
(Sgd.) F. EGYIR-ABAAM.

The Town Clerk.
Accra Town Council.
Accra.

Municipal Office, Accra. 17th. August, 1905.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and to inform you in reply thereto by directions of the President and Members of the Accra Town Council that the Council is unable to furnish you with the particulars you apply for.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant,
(Sgd.)—ELLIS QUARSHIE.
Town Clerk.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AFRICA. (WESTERN COAST) 1865.

With the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley in the chair, Sir Benjamin Pine was called in and examined.

(2980.) Will you state consecutively the various posts and occasions in reference to which you have become acquainted with the West African Coast?—I first went to the African coast in the year 1842, as Queen's Advocate at Sierra Leone. I then acted for about a year in 1847 as Chief Justice at Sierra Leone. I then administered the Government of Sierra Leone for nearly two years, from about 1848 until the end of 1849; afterwards I was transferred to the Colony of Natal, which I administered for six years. I then, at the end of 1856, went back to the Western coast, to the Gold Coast, and I administered that Government from the end of 1856 to the middle of 1858, for about a year and a half.

(2985.) I think that during your Governorship on the Gold Coast you wrote certain despatches to the Home Government, in which you expressed an opinion rather in favour of abandoning the Protectorate?—I did; as I felt the difficulty of maintaining the Protectorate to be so great.

(2986.) Have you since modified those views?—I have since modified those views.

(2987.) Will you state generally the cause of your having modified those views, and in what manner you have modified them?—I may state, that in my opinion that the Protectorate ought to be abandoned arose from the consideration of the exceeding difficulty of exercising the jurisdiction, and the undefined nature of it, and the great difficulty of getting any man who would stay there permanently, having the ability to exercise such a very complicated jurisdiction. I was also influenced by the dislike that I had to meddling with slavery. I felt that it was difficult, without recognizing slavery to exercise any jurisdiction along that coast.

(2988.) How long had the Protectorate been established when you first became Governor of the Gold Coast? It was established under Mr. Maclean's administration, and was placed on its present basis in 1844: in Major Ord's report he seems to attach more importance than I do to the poll-tax, as having altered the character of the Protectorate, but I do not see it did.

(2989.) Lord Stanley] Will you explain in what respects you think that of less importance than Colonel Ord appears to consider it?—I think it was always understood when the Protectorate was established, that we were not bound to take the whole protection of the country upon ourselves; that we were only to act as a sort of standard round which they were to rally in their own defence; that they were to fight, if necessary, under our prestige and the sanction of our name. I do not think that the poll-tax, established in 1843 altered that at all; it was always understood that, in case of any fighting, we were to give them such protection as we could and such assistance as we could, but not to take the whole upon ourselves; nor was it so understood afterwards, I am quite sure.

(2990.) Chairman] Do you think that gradually the relation between the British Government and those protected tribes became more a relation of actual protection than was first intended, or even understood?—I think it has, so far as I can learn; but, in my time, there was a fear of Ashantee invasion; the King of Ashantee sent to me, demanding the delivering up of certain slaves; I sent him a temperate letter, telling him I was very sorry, but I refused, and it went over. The people were very much excited, thinking that there would be an Ashantee war; and the chiefs said, "You hold the flag, and we will fight," meaning by that, that they would do the fighting under our prestige.

(2991.) Do you think it is possible that a great Power like Great Britain should assume any kind of protectorate without practically interfering more and more, and becoming really more or less the governors of the tribes so protected? It is extremely difficult to exercise such a jurisdiction.

(2992.) But do you think that it is possible?—I think it is possible.

(2996.) Is the Judicial Assessor now acting as Chief Justice?—I believe he is.

(2997.) The difference between the two offices being, that instead of the Judicial Assessor merely assisting the native Judicial body, he assumes those Judicial functions himself?—He assumes the Judicial functions himself, and administers justice too much in the Queen's name and not in the name of the native authority, which I think he should do.

(2998.) How was it that that change took place?—There was a change of name; I suppose the Judicial Assessor thought it would be better if he had the name of Chief Justice, and with the change of name there came a change (and naturally enough) in the mode of exercising the office.

(2999.) The change took place from the Judicial Assessorship to the actual Chief Justiceship; did he cease to use the native laws and adopt more exclusively the English laws?—Yes; he went too much on the principles of English laws, ignoring native law too much.

(3000.) Do you think that any judicial establishment upon the principles of English law must interfere too much with ineradicable native customs?—I think it must interfere too much. My notion of the mode of exercising judicial authority there is, that the Judicial Assessor should sit with the chiefs and administer native law, modifying it wherever it is repugnant to the principles of humanity recognized over the whole world and from time to time, as any law is found to be inconvenient, getting the chiefs to agree to a modification of it.

(3008.) Do you think that the administration of the law of English judges interferes with the authority of the chiefs?—I think it has a tendency to do so.

(3009.) Do you think it injuriously weakens their power over their own subjects?—I think so,

if administered in this way, as it often is; for instance, summoning the subjects of the chiefs before our tribunals for small matters, it tends to lower their dignity very much.

(3010.) But you would not propose that we should give up these judicial establishments on that account?—No; I think that our judicial establishments there should exercise a controlling influence, and instead of deciding cases of dispute, should leave the chiefs to decide the cases themselves, and then afterwards allow an appeal in important cases.

(3011.) You think that our judges could assist and control the native judges, and that our Governors could assist and control the native chiefs without, in either case, assuming the principle power on the part of the British Government?—I think they could. So far as I can learn, that was the way in which Mr. Maclean exercised his jurisdiction.

(3012.) Do you think that in that way British interference might gradually train both the native government and the native judges to do without our assistance?—I think so, in course of time; it would take a long time, no doubt; but so long as we see the ship's head put the right way it is enough.

(3013.) You think that by that process of training, through the assistance of the English, they would in time very much modify their own laws and customs?—Yes.

(3014.) And develop a system which might be maintained by themselves without assistance at last?—Yes.

(3015.) Do you conceive that the native governments have a sufficient basis of municipal institutions for such a development without the necessity of introducing new institutions?—They have a basis of municipal institutions, certainly; and I think with a little assistance from us in developing and framing them into something better, they might be established firmly and completely.

(3017.) What were the forms of their judicial tribunals before we established a judicial assessor?—The chief himself used to sit with his head men to decide the cases.

(3018.) The chief was sufficient for all the administration of the law throughout the whole of his tribe, was he?—Yes; he always consulted the aristocracy of his tribe, and he never acted without them.

(3019.) Do you think that Mr. Maclean was successful in adopting this plan?—I think so.

(3025.) You have been acquainted with various parts of the West Coast of Africa; do you think that much mischief has resulted from changes of policy on the part of the English Government?—I think it is the changes of governors. One man goes out and acts on one policy, and another goes and acts on another policy.

(3026.) I see in the manuscript which you placed in my hands this expression: "That we cannot govern that country, and if we cannot help the chiefs to govern it we should be better away." Is that your opinion?—Yes. I do not see how we can govern the Gold Coast, to do that, we must scatter the magistracy all over the coast, and we cannot do that because the climate prohibits it.

(3027.) In any provision for the government of the Gold Coast, you would simply look to a process of enabling the chiefs to govern the country themselves?—Exactly.

(3028.) You do not consider it possible that the British Government should permanently govern the coast?—Certainly not, in the ordinary sense of the Government.

(3030.) We can never settle in that country in the sense of colonising it, you think?—No.

(3051.) I think the sum of your views with regard to the Government of the West Coast of Africa is, that unless we can develop self-government for all the West Coast we shall never arise at any thing better than establishing very hopeless little Crown Colonies?—Yes that is my opinion.

(3052.) Mr. Chichester Fortescue] What do you mean by developing self-government?—I mean gradually accustoming the people to manage their own affairs, so that within a given time, it might be half a century, and it might be a century, we should be free to a great extent, and they might then manage their own affairs.

(3053.) You mean the people directly subject to our Government?—The people directly subject to our Government.

(3054.) In what way would you propose to train them?—I should begin by giving them municipal institutions, by making them drain their towns and take care of their local affairs . . . . .

(3055.) But are these municipal institutions on the coast?—There are the outlines of them on the Gold Coast, the towns are divided into wards, each ward under a headman, and there are companies in the towns having certain privileges.

(3057.) How does that native municipality (if you can call it so) work at Cape Coast?—It does not work at all there; it has been so interferred with by us that it does not work at all. But in the interior, where there has been no interference with the native government, it works very well; they keep their towns in order and keep them clean.

(3061.) You propose that we should endeavour by our influence to establish a more regular form of town government?—Yes; a more regular form of town government.

(3062.) At Cape Coast?—At Cape Coast, and in the towns along the coast.

(To be continued.)

LAW REPORT.

SPECIAL CASE STATED FOR OPINION OF AXIM DIVISIONAL COURT.

Rex. v. Harrison Powell.

Concessions Ordinance Sec. 147 Town Ordinance of 1892.

JUDGMENT.

This is a case which has been stated by the Commissioner of the Western Province for the opinion of this Court and is as follows:—

"Are the Grantees of a Concession to work gold in possession or occupiers of the whole Concession for the purposes of Section 147, or only of the places in it actually used for mining purposes. The village of Broomassie being declared under the Town Ordinance No. 13/92 have the Grantees of the Concession in which it lies any control over its regulation."

I am of opinion that this conviction must be quashed. Apart from the fact altogether that the Village of Broomassie has been created a Town under the Towns Ordinance, it is quite clear, that the Lessees of the Broomassie Concession could under no circumstances prevent Harrison Powell being as he was on the Highway. I have had an opportunity of going carefully into the Certificate of Validity granted in the Broomassie Concession by Mr. Justice Pennington. It would appear that originally the Chiefs conveyed this land in fee simple to one Frank Swanzy Essien of Dixcove, but the learned Judge took very good care in granting the Certificate of Validity to alter all this, and as will be seen from a careful perusal of the Certificate in question (which I have attached as an appendix to this Judgment) all that the present owners of the Concession got is a lease for 99 years. There is also the usual clause in the Certificate protecting the customary rights of natives, what in fact the owner of the Concession have really got are merely certain rights over the exact area known as the Broomassie Concession for mining purposes only, and the present conviction obviously raises the whole question as to what the exact rights of the owner of the Concession are in this Colony.

I am quite clear they can have no possible right to arrest a man under the circumstances which it would appear Powell was arrested, for these reasons as I have already stated, the conviction must be quashed.

(Sgd.) G. K. T. PURCELL.

Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony, Western Province.

Court held at Tarkwa by the Commissioner—Western Province on March 11th, 1905.

Harrison Powell was charged with unlawfully entering upon land belonging to or being in the possession of the Broomassie Mines after having been forbidden so to do.

Criminal Code s. s. 2 Sec. 147. 12/92.

Supt, Niles for Police. Accused unrepresented.

Advanced by prosecution and admitted by Accused that he had been warned off the Mine property by the Police at orders of the Manager on suspicion of amalgam stealing; also admitted that when arrested he was in the Public Street of Broomassie Village, engaged in a lawful errand.

Prosecution alleges:—Broomassie Village is in the Broomassie Concession. The Manager represents the company which is the occupier of the Concession, and was right to turn out any one he objects to.

Court argues:—Broomassie Village, though on the Concession, cannot be said to be in the possession or occupation of the Mine for the purposes of this section. This Village existed before the Mine. It is controlled by a native chief, and is under the Towns Ordinance. The houses do not belong to the Mine though the Police employed by the Mine, keep order in the Village. Many of its inhabitants are not employed on the Mine.

A Concession only gives the grantee certain rights, amongst which would be the right to prevent trespassing on the Mine precincts and even in the villages built by the Mine, and occupied entirely by their tenants; but not a general right to prevent trespassing by all over the Concession.

For instance could the Manager of the Tarquah and Abosso Co., turn trespassers out of Abosso village, or out of Tarkwa native town?

Convicted of unlawful entry.

Sentence. To come up when called on.

Case stated. Are the Grantees of a Concession to work gold possession or occupiers of the whole Concession for the purposes of Section 147, or only of the places in it actually used for Mining purposes. The Village of Broomassie being declared under the Town Ordinance No. 13/92, have the grantees of the Concession in which it lies any control over its regulation.

THE BASEL MISSION CATECHIST'S REJOINDER.

(BY NEMO.)

I have read over the Catechist's rejoinder. It is a pity that he wrote it.

The Catechist is a logician and besides he knows too much of the Scriptures and it is not my intention to quarrel with so powerful an opponent. It is however the impression his teachings are calculated to leave on the minds of the young that has necessitated my writing this at all. Mr. Catechist defeats his own grounds just from the start after saying that the argument that "if it is "just" for a man to divorce his immoral wife, it is equally "just" for woman to divorce an immoral husband" is not supported by Scripture, he goes right away and cites Watson whose name is not in my Bible. What does this Watson say? "Wives who were considered the property of their husbands did not enjoy by the Mosaic states a reciprocal right, and were not at liberty to dissolve the matrimonial alliance by giving a bill of divorce to that effect." But this instead of helping Mr. Catechist destroys his argument. Is he prepared to say that in these days too the wife is considered the property (meaningly the chattel) of her husband? And if he cannot say so why does he argue from a false premiss?

Mr. Catechist again tries to mislead by saying he agrees that conjugal infidelity in the husband is bad(citing scriptures which by the way are not in point) but "I see no scriptural authority for the wife to repudiate her husband on that account; that power was granted by the Mosaic law only to husbands." Mark VI. 17-29. speak of the beheading of John the Baptist and make no mention of divorce. Mark X. 12 reads "And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery." But if the catechist had only read the preceding verse he would not have made the mistake; Verse 11 says "And he saith unto them, whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her."

I have read 1 Cor: VII, 10-14. and the more I read these quotations the more I fear that either Mr. Catechist has not got the same Bible as our ordinary one or that he has a knack for making wrong quotations. Verses 10 and 11 of 1 Cor VII. read "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, let not the wife depart from her husband: but and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband. and let not the husband put away his wife." Where is the licence to man to divorce his wife? Romans VII. 2-3 say nothing about divorce. The writer of the Epistle alluded to the relations between a woman and her husband in order to illustrate what he was teaching, this appears from the context. Even Matt: V. 31-32 cannot support Mr. Catechist's statement that "a wife may leave her husband but she cannot put him away, a husband cannot only leave his wife but can put her away for the sake of adultery." Starting from the 27th

(Continued on the Supplement page 1.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor disclaims responsibility for opinions expressed in these columns.

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

To the Editor, *Gold Coast Leader.*

Sir,—Will you allow me to say a word through your valuable columns, for goodness sake. In the this town we know that there is an Inspector of Nuisance. We beg the Government to give Mr. Santo the Inspector of Nuisance uniform, that every body may know that he is the Inspector of Nuisance.

Yours faithfully,—J. WILLIAMS.

Chama, 17th Aug. 1905.

Dear Mr. Editor,— I have been thinking of writing to the press since I came here, but it has often been somewhat a failure on my part when the attempt was made, particularly when I come to reflect on the recent Great Libel case and the idiosyncrasy of the Authorities of which fact you are aware. However, in looking at the state of things as they are now both past and present, one is puzzled to know as to what will the future be with our race, as matters now stand with them with their protectors, having such measures as only tend to oppress the weak in the land, so far as Africa and the African is concerned. I understand that Quist's case will be tried at Sekondi. But can the reader enlighten me on the reason why the Leader's case was tried at Cape Coast, and now they want "the god of Kumasi's" case to be tried elsewhere. Whatever the consequences may be, ever we will shout—Hurrah! Hurrah!! Hurrah for the gracious Leader!!!

FRED PESSIMIST.

Kumasi (Assafu), Aug., 14th 1905.

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(*Continued from page 4.*)

verse we find as the context shows that Christ was teaching what it is to commit adultery. On the whole the tone of the New Testament shows that the bond of marriage ought not lightly to be dissolved.

I myself cannot see how a husband is capable of bringing "spurious offspring" into his family without detection; and yet this is just the point about which I cannot help but quarrel with the catechist. Worse than the bringing of a "spurious offspring" into the family a husband can condemn his wife to a life-long of untold misery: annually hundreds of cases go to the Doctors which can be traced directly to the imprudent practices of husbands. Imagine a woman rendered incapable of attaining the highest ideal of her life—that of becoming a mother or which is worse still giving birth to sickly babies. Then again by his ill practices a husband succeeds in leaving his wife and children in want. The money that would keep them in tolerable circumstances must necessarily go in presents to the other woman. Mr. Catechist is too practical. It is the "spurious offspring" who would eat his bread that he thinks too much about; he says nothing about feelings—about honour: how hard—how cruel! So that if there be no children to the marriage he would not divorce even for adultery. Can Mr. Catechist say that with the generality of men it is not the question of honour rather than of having to feed other people's children that they divorce their immoral wives especially in this country where the children inherit through the mother? Again Catechist says, Man is not woman's equal and quotes Gen: III. 16. which also does not help him. Man is woman's equal in many respects I shall refer to this later on.

Mr. Catechist goes to Paul and quotes Eph: V. 22-24. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the Church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." If Paul meant by this as Mr. Catechist would have us believe that although the husband may be a fool and take it into his head to visit places of ill-fame, notwithstanding that he by his imprudence may bring the wife into disgrace and ruin, nay, endanger her very life, the wife must submit then I venture to assent that Paul was wrong. But Paul did not mean this for he clearly states in the same chapter verses 25-31, what the duties of husbands are; verses 25 and 27 in particular "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave himself for it; that he might present it to himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Note the comparison "even as Christ also loved the Church." Paul was writing to a people who were Christians—whom he had taught what were the duties of a christian; in these circumstances it stands to reason that he should advise wives to submit to their husbands but if instead of Christ there had been the devil would Paul have given the same advice.

But to return to our equality question, fetch me a man who has no self-respect no self-control and tell me that a woman who is chaste and virtuous is not his equal I would rather tell you that she is above the man. There is no dispute as to quality in the Godhead why should there be any amongst us. God in order to serve his wise counsel made man a leader not an arbitrary ruler; he was to provide for and protect the family—to be as the name implies a house-band; and for this reason gave him a greater degree of firmness which in its highest type is Wisdom but the woman whose name was to be Eve meaning the mother of all living was compensated with a greater degree of tenderness which also in its highest type is Love. Do what he will man cannot love as tenderly as a woman and do what she willwoman cannot be as wise as a man, but blend Wisdom with Love and you have the essence of the creation.

If instead of trying to pervert the Gospel we took the pains to teach our young friends that if they expect to find their wives obedient and chaste it is very much their duty as well to be wise and prudent we would be doing a good service.

TO THE GOLD COAST ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY, CAPE COAST.

London, 4th August, 1905.

Gentlemen.

I address to you as a public body having for its aim the protection of the Aborigines of our country and of their rights, as also of a body having for one of its main objects the material progress of our Country and its peoples this open letter.

The purpose of the establishment of your body, I gather, was, not only for the furtherance of the foregoing, but of gathering together and uniting the peoples of the Gold Coast, whether Fantees or Accras, so that united we might work in consonance for this common purpose and bring about the elevation of our race. It is, therefore, with some measure of pain that I perceive from the local papers that there is disinclination to work hand in hand with our brethren at Accra.

Mr. Mills appears to have suggested that we (the Fantees) and the Accras, should conbine in legitimate and constitutional opposition to the enforcing at Cape Coast and Sekondi of tthe Town Council's Ordinance, which at present is agitating the minds of us all. For putting forward this suggestion—an admirable one in every respect,—Mr. Mills has been sharply taken to ask by the local papers.

Admitting that Mr. Mills at the outset, led the Accra people to withdraw their opposition to the ordinance being put in force at Accra some few years back, he now comes forward after having perceived the mischief wrought by that enactment at Accra and puts before us the proposal which he made. Is this not rather a reason for our uniting with those who have had this act in operation among them for some time and who have grieviously suffered under it, it would I humbly think have much strengthened our case if the course suggested by Mr. Mills had been adopted; for the people of Accra would be speaking of what they actually suffered under the ordinance, and not as we do of what we will suffer in the future under it if enforced in the form in which the ordinance was passed.

The object of your institution being that of the unity and protection of the native races, it should at all times offer an outstretched hand to those of them who may have erred, advertently or inadvertently. If we are going to split the Country into two, and say that what effects Accra does not effect us, and the Accras say that what effect them does not effect us, the sooner we abandon all ideas of unity for a common purpose, and say "Each one for himself and the Devil take the hindmost," the better it will be. If, on the other hand we are to act in unison to at all times attain a certain object then we cannot too soon sink all our differences and form one healthy combination With this object in view, if there is not a branch of your Society established at Accra no time should be lost in making good the defect.

I apprehend that your Society has been watchful of the interests of the Country, and that it has had under its purview all the various enactments which the Government have from time to time passed since its institution. If that be so it is surprising to me that no steps were taken by it to prevent the Town Council's Bill from coming into operation at the time it was enforced at Accra. But I can fairly conceive that it was our usual apathy and indifference to what did not immediately affect us that no constitutional opposition was made by the whole Country to that ordinance, for it was being put into force only at Accra and not at Cape Coast or elsewhere; therefore why should we disturb ourselves and unite with the Accras to oppose it? This habit of ours—a national tendency to leave another in the lurch in any difficulty till we find ourselves in the same predicament—must be cast off. One would have thought that the diplomacy of the Ashantis of old when they invaded our Country would have taught us a lesson never to be forgotten, and that we would always adopt measures in time to combine against what was a Public danger and when ordinances are submitted by the Government giving power to the Governor to extend the operation thereof from town to town, or district to district, or province to province, we should oppose it with all our might, knowing full well that if put into force in one place the Governor could extend its operations elsewhere at his will and pleasure. If this Town Council's Bill had been so regarded by us that act which is now being fought might have been successfully defeated years ago. As the guardian of the interest of the Country, the Society, having assumed that responsibility, should see to it that those interests are duly preserved and not bartered or given away by any part or portion of the Community. This brings me to another matter which lies at the root of all our troubles, and that is—the system of Government.

The Crown Colony System as it obtains on the Gold Coast gives us no right of representation in the Legislative Council; and although the Governor may recommend for appointment to it three or four native gentlemen as unofficial members whom we ourselves would be the first to elect if the power were vested in us, yet under the present constitution they are the Governor's and not our representatives. Further these gentlemen being in a minority are always outvoted by the official members. Herein lies the distinction and the difficulty of the position in which these gentlemen are placed in the Council. We have harped upon this subject for years; and instead of our working strenuously to get this evil remedied and to obtain a better form of Government, we sit quietly down under it and then complain that the Government passes harsh laws and measures which are oppressive to us and which take no note, for our native institutions which might be made adaptable to our requirements of to-day instead of forcing on us European ideas which are not fitted to our surroundings. This is the root evil of all our troubles, and untill we have that removed we shall continue to suffer in the future as we have in the past.

You have an instance of what can happen under the present System of Government, when the whole of the legal machinery of the Government is brought to bear against the "Gold Coast Leader" for exposing the misconduct (to use a mild term) of a Government Official. Could such a thing have happened under any Government but such of that of Russia? If this is not sufficient to prove to you that live, honor, and liberty are not safe under such a constitution, what more do you need to make you awake to such a fact? A fearless and independent press is indispensable to us. The mistake the Government make is to regard frank and fearless criticism of the action of the Government or its officials as hostile and seditious, instead of welcoming the exposure of wrong doing or the fairly called for criticisms of its acts.

When the deputation on the Lands Bill was here in 1898 a petition touching this question was presented to the Colonial Office. Mr. Chamberlain if I mistake not, referred the deputation to the Governor through whom the petition was to be forwarded and submitted to the Right Hon. Gentleman. But what has been done in the matter? We have simply gone to sleep over it; instead of being up and doing and agitating for the reform which we need of the present system of Government, or at least of the Constitution of the Legislative and Executive Council. Until we accomplish this we shall always have our revenue wasted on such like movements as the idiotic search for the golden stool of Ashanti (The true history of which has not yet been written) and other like tomfoolery. No man but a fool would seek to live under any other Government but the British but then we demand a fair field and no favor, and the granting of that British justice of which they so justly boast and are justly proud but which under the system under which we live are not meted out to us.

In this connection I would draw the attention of the Society to the imperative necessity of their advising our Kings and Chiefs to educate the heirs to their stools and to send them to England after they have passed through the Fantee Schools, to finish their education. This step would deprive the Government of one of their weapons; for our Kings and Chiefs would then be able to make their representations on behalf of their peoples more felt, and the Officials could not term them Agitators and persons of no consequence. This course the Government ought to have undertaken for the better Government of the people and the advancement of the country; that duty now devolves upon us. In fact, we ought to do our best to hasten the day when all our Kings and Chiefs shall be educated men, capable of meeting any officials and discussing with them any matter in the King's as English. Upon this subject I addressed Mr. Chamberlain some years ago and will in due course send you a copy of my letter for publication.

In the latter part of the fifties we had a National Assembly composed of the Kings and Chiefs with the Governor as President. If in those times we had such a representative body, why not so now? Why should the rights of our Kings and Chiefs be ignored? It is for you to ponder over these matters and to determine on the course to be pursued.

What have we recently seen? The people, desiring municipal institutions approached the Government in 1887 and 1888, and having objections to anything in the shape of direct taxation suggested that the ad valorem duty should be increased for the purpose of enabling the Municipality to duly perform their functions. The Government jumped at the idea of increased duty, imposed that, and put the revenue accruing from it into the general exchequer, and misapplied same in loans to other Colonies and to other purposes not contemplated by us when the increase ad valorem duty was suggested; instead of applying it to the Sanitary and other improvements of the town and then complained of their unsanitary condition &c. Now, when they seek to impose rates and taxes under the Town Council's Ordinance the provisions of which would but make the Town Councils another department of the Government and when this is brought to their notice, they say, "Oh but you have had the interest accruing from the loans"! And the money we have since expended in expeditions and Missions by which you have been benefited." As well might a trustee or guardian who had received money from the trust estate for specific purposes to improve the Estate lend out the monies and get up shooting parties on the Estate and launch out in other unnecessary expenses the principal part of which went into his own pocket and the pockets of his friends, and say that the Estate had benefitted by it and his Cestqi que trust also. This is the exact position of the Government. If one mentions this a howl of execration leaps forth from the Official throat; and this is the result of the Crown System of Government as it prevails on the Gold Coast, and so it will always be while we tamely submit to it. It is not a question of fighting the Government it is one of using every legitimate and constitutional means within our reach, and of pressing the question home and standing up for our rights until the Government shall grant them.

The Authorities here are not unwilling to do what is right; but we must bear in mind that they have only the versions of their representatives on the spot for their guidance, and they have not here anyone representing us who is in direct touch with our people who can think as we think and whose knowledge of our people and our institutions is not the growth of a day, but who is one of us, and knows our modes of thought and can look at things from our point of view and submit them to those in authority and power here.

This brings me to another question of vital importance. Why have we not an Agent here to represent us and a first class firm of Solicitors with whom we could consult on all matters affecting our interest and on all enactments which the local Government contemplates passing? This is a matter for your consideration and I have every reason to think that the Authorities here would not view with disapproval the appointment of some such Agent in England; but such a person must at all times be one of our representative men, such as Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Sarbah, and several others whom we have at home. I put this forward for deliberation for our position in the British Empire is unique, and I consider that it is such as to warrant our taking such a step and submitting the name of the gentleman whom we may elect for the Governor to lay before the Colonial Office. It is only a question of means we have men able and capable enough to meet all Officials on the same platform, and we should allow nothing to deter us from seeking this representation here, views put forth by such an authority in direct touch with us would I am confident have due weight with the Powers that be.

I would urge our people not to be hasty in any action