

GOLD COAST.

AFFAIRS OF THE GOLD COAST

AND

THREATENED ASHANTI INVASION.

Maps will be found at pages 66, 93, 94, 132, 133, 159, 163,
and 188.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
August 1881.



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139	To Governor Sir S. Rowe.	Aug. 19, 1881	Instructing him to address a suitable message to the King of Ashanti, in accordance with the instructions contained in Lord Kimberley's despatch of the 29th July.	197

APPENDIX.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	Date.	Subject.	Page.
	To Lieut.-Governor Lees.	April 25, 1879	Pointing out that such demands as that sent to the King of Ashanti respecting Adansi should not be made unless the Local Government is quite prepared to enforce compliance with them.	198

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1.	Sketch of position at Elmina, by Capt. Jackson	- - -	to face page 66
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communicating to the King of Ashanti the intelligence of Mr. Ussher's death, and warning him not to take part in any intrigues against the Gold Coast Government or, any country under its protection.

With regard to this latter part of your proposed message I have to point out that Adansi, to which country I understand you to refer, is not within the Gold Coast Protectorate, nor in any way under the protection of the Colonial Government, and as your action in addressing the King of Ashanti in the terms you mention is entirely contrary to the instructions laid down in my predecessor's despatch, of 25th April, 1879,* I conclude that you are not aware of those instructions, to which (especially the sixth paragraph) I desire that you will strictly conform.

Lieutenant-Governor Griffith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 3.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Telegraphic.)

(Received, February 5, 1881.)

Cape Coast, January 24, 1881.

It is with the deepest regret I have to state to your Lordship my belief that the Ashantis intend to force another war upon the Gold Coast Colony, and that they may commence hostilities at any moment. On 18th January an Ashanti Prince, who had escaped from Coomassie, entreated British protection; next day a messenger from the King of Ashanti, bearing his gold axe and accompanied by ambassadors, one being Saibee Enquie, who signed the treaty of peace with Sir Garnet Wolseley at Fomannah, requested an audience, when they demanded that the refugee should be given up to them. I declined, whereupon Enquie, supported by the others, stated that if I did not surrender the man the King of Ashanti would attack Assin. I called Enquie's attention to the Treaty Articles 1 and 3, and warned him that the consequence of breaking them would be very serious, the messenger and suite then left, but subsequently I instructed them to remain at Cape Coast until to-day, considering it best to put my reply to the King's demand in writing.

The refusal of a demand from Ashanti accompanied by the gold axe means war on the part of the Ashantis; that they will cut their way to the accomplishment of their purpose. The gold axe was sent down in 1863 and 1873, and war followed. All chiefs, public officers, and respectable merchants warn me to prepare for war with the Ashantis, and that it is imminent. I am very loath to believe it, but nevertheless am taking every available measure and precaution in my power for the protection of the Colony. I shall carefully avoid provoking hostilities, and shall act strictly on the defensive.

I have 186 West Indian troops here, and 120 Houssas at Elmina; have despatched Mr. Newenham with 75 Houssas and three 7-pounder guns to Prahsu, making up strength there to 115; will support 40 men at Mansue; have sent for 90 Houssas from Accra and Quittah; employed "Corisco" steamer to go to Sierra Leone to request 400 troops to be sent on by "Lualaba;" "Corisco" will then go direct to Madeira with this telegram. Have written to Commodore Richards asking him to come here, and written to Commanders of any of Her Majesty's ships likewise. All public works not absolutely necessary stopped. Precautions ordered in all directions, and especially for putting Elmina and Christiansborg castles and Axim forts in a state of defence. Orders issued respecting protection. Public funds at Accra to be lodged in castle. Prisoners in gaols will be in the way, but will be looked after carefully. Out stations attended to. Purchase of provisions ordered for Elmina Castle and Axim. Shall arm native levies in case of need, but your Lordship may rely upon my acting with the utmost caution and prudence in every proceeding.

I would submit for consideration the advisability of making preparations for sending troops from England, so that they may be ready for transport, and be sent here promptly should war break out. The "Volta" steamer will leave this in four days, and anything transpiring will be reported by her. In case of absolute necessity, I shall not hesitate to send a steamer to Madeira direct. Possibly the promptitude with which I have been

able to make every preparation thus far, in which I have been most ably assisted by Captain Hay and other officers, may have a good effect on the Ashantis, and bring them to their senses, and I hope this may be the case; but nevertheless, as I cannot count on more than about 1,000 men, West Indian and Houssas, plus any blue jackets and marines, to contend with at least 10,000 armed Ashantis, it is my duty to recommend to your Lordship that troops should be held in readiness to be sent out pending further information as to necessity.

No. 4.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 5, 1881.

WITH reference to the telegram* from the Administrator of the Gold Coast Colony of which a copy was transmitted to you to-day from this office, and to the Earl of Kimberley's personal communication with the Secretary of State for War at the War Office this afternoon, I am directed by Lord Kimberley to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Childers that his Lordship understands that arrangements are being made for dispatching immediately to the Gold Coast in a steamer going direct from the West Indies, the detachments of the West India regiments now stationed in Jamaica and Barbados, and that no troops will be withdrawn for the purpose from British Guiana or British Honduras where any avoidable reduction of the garrison is not desirable.

Lord Kimberley has desired Sir Samuel Rowe, K.C.M.G., the Governor of the Gold Coast, to start for the Colony by the mail steamer of Saturday next, and proposes to send the telegram of which I am to enclose you a copy to Administrator Brandford Griffith.

I am to request that his Lordship may be informed whether Mr. Secretary Childers concurs in that portion of the telegram which relates to the proposed reinforcements, and if so, that the blank may be filled up with the proper number.

Telegrams sent to Madeira on next Monday afternoon will overtake the mail steamer which sailed for West Africa about six days ago.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT

No. 5.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to LIEUT.-GOVERNOR
W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

(Telegraphic.)

February 7. YOUR telegram as to Ashanti of January 24.* Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your intention to act on defensive, and trust that you may avert war. Unless you see any objection, remove Ashanti prince at once to Sierra Leone, and inform Ashanti king that you have done so, to show that whilst the prince will be thus placed altogether beyond the reach of the Ashantis, he will be at the same time prevented from the possibility of carrying on intrigues against Ashanti Government. Assure King that Her Majesty's Government is most desirous to remain on friendly terms with him, but warn him that he will incur very serious risk if he breaks the Treaty and provokes hostilities with a power the superior strength of which he knows by experience.

Reinforcements of about 400 troops of West India Regiments ordered to proceed at once from West Indies to Gold Coast, and may be expected to arrive about March 7.

Sir S. Rowe will proceed to Gold Coast to assume government by steamer of Saturday next.

* No. 3.

No. 6.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ADMIRALTY.

SIR, Downing Street, February 7, 1881.
I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a telegram* received on Saturday last from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast, reporting an apprehended outbreak of war with Ashanti.

With reference to that part of the telegram in which Mr. Griffith states that he has written to Commodore Richards and to the commanders of any of Her Majesty's ships, I am to point out that the Commodore is understood to be at the present moment with Sir G. Pomeroy Colley, in Natal, and therefore unable to proceed to the Gold Coast.

Lord Kimberley would be glad if their Lordships were able to take steps to ensure the early presence on the Gold Coast of one or more of Her Majesty's ships.

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 7.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, War Office, February 7, 1881.
IN reply to your letter of the 5th instant,† forwarding, for Mr. Childers' concurrence, a draft of a telegram which it is proposed to forward to the Administrator of the Gold Coast Colony with regard to the reinforcements to be sent to that Colony, &c. I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, that Mr. Childers concurs in the same being dispatched accordingly, and the draft telegram‡ is herewith returned to you, the blank having been filled in as requested.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 8.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.— (Received, February 7, 1881.)

Extract.

Elmina Castle, January 5, 1881.
IN a Despatch§ that I wrote to your Lordship shortly before I left Accra, I stated the course I contemplated pursuing, based upon Mr. Watts' note, with reference to the King of Ashanti in connexion with Adansi. Subsequently, upon looking further into the matter, I found that Adansi was not within our Protectorate, but was one of the countries the King of Ashanti had bound himself by treaty to leave unmolested, as will appear by sections 1 and 3 of the treaty of which I send a copy, and, therefore, that the letter I had in view to address to him would not be required.

Shortly after my arrival here, I sent for the Chief Taboo, from whom Mr. Watt had obtained his information, and interrogated him upon the matter. He said that Opokoo of Bequah, the chief general of the King of Ashanti, had sworn publicly to the King to restore Adansi to his rule first, and Denkera afterwards. I inquired whether he thought that Opokoo was in earnest, or was intoxicated when he made the declaration, or whether it was done merely in a spirit of bravado? He said the man was given to drink, but that he could not say whether he was under its influence at the time, or was in earnest, or boasting; that his King (of Adansi) had sent to inform him of what he told Mr. Watt, as the King was suspicious of Ashanti, but that this feeling was of some date as he had sent him a year ago to Elmina to buy ammunition and guns to arm

* No. 3.

† No. 4.

‡ No. 5.

§ No. 1.

the Adansis, and that he had already sent up over a thousand guns. I inquired if the spies the King of Adansi had sent out to obtain intelligence whether the Ashantis were moving bodies of troops about, had returned? He said people had been despatched as if on hunting expeditions to find out what the Ashantis were doing, but he had not yet heard if any information had been obtained. He said they would not yield to the Ashanti, but would fight them if matters come to that point. I asked if the King of Ashanti was well off. He said he had been, before the late war, but now he was poor, and wished to regain his old ascendancy so as to get tribute. I told Chief Taboo to let me know if he should hear of any intrigues being carried on by Ashanti, as well as of any movement of troops thence.

After giving to the whole matter the best consideration in my power, I decided to send a messenger to the King of Ashanti to inform him, in accordance with native etiquette, of Mr. Ussher's death; and I forward herewith a copy of my letter to the King. I also directed the messenger when he reached Fomannah to call on the King of Adansi and give him the same information.

I took advantage of the opportunity to give to the messenger, who I was told could be trusted with safety, certain confidential instructions, a copy of which is transmitted herewith. He will take three weeks to go to Ashanti and return to Cape Coast.

I am somewhat suspicious that the Ashantis are working quietly with a view to the reacquisition of their lost territories. There is a wonderful network of communication between the natives which enables them to pick up information and to work quietly towards the attainment of any desired object, and they practice a diplomacy which, in its way, and after their fashion, they deserve credit for. It is not easy to trace it, and yet there is strong suspicion on my mind that there is a connexion between the circumstances I will mention. Several months ago the King of Ashanti sent messengers to Governor Ussher to thank him for some presents. The Governor dismissed them months past, and yet they linger at Cape Coast stating, when told by Mr. Watt they need not remain, that they were waiting for another messenger who the King was going to send. When I went to Accra, I found messengers there from the King of Gaman, who sent to say the King of Ashanti had sent to tell him that he, the King of Ashanti, had paid money to the Queen that the Gaman country should be placed under his rule, and, that the Queen having consented to it, the Gamans were now his people, and he desired they should return to him; and the King of Gaman wished to know if there was any truth in the statement. Of course I told him there was not. Again, about the same time, Mr. Buhl, the Secretary of the Basel Missionary Society, informed me that Mr. Ramsayer, who had been a prisoner at Coomassie, had written him that there were rumours in the country that Ashanti was going to war, and begged, if the Government knew of any likelihood of this he might have early information so as to remove from the station he was at, which was not far from the Ashanti boundaries. Then, lastly, comes the tale from Adansi.

It must be remembered, however, that the desire of Ashanti to recover her lost ascendancy over the tribes who became independent of her as a consequence of the late war dates back at least as far as 1879, as I find by reports which I discovered just as I was leaving Accra, and when I had not time to look into them, nor to examine the correspondence in connexion with them. The reports were made on 9th and 29th March 1879, by Captain Hay, who had been sent by Governor Lees to Adansi to ascertain the state of affairs there, and were transmitted to the Colonial Office in Governor Lees' despatch of 14th April 1879.*

The message and messenger I have sent may elicit some information as to the state of affairs at, and the movements if any of, Ashanti, which will be at once communicated to your Lordship, whose indulgence I must crave for this lengthy despatch, which has grown from my desire to place before your Lordship all the information I have obtained on the subject it relates to.

* Not printed.

Enclosure 1 in No. 8.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Cape Coast, November 17, 1880.

WE, the undersigned, Envoy of the King of Ashanti, have great honour to write this to inquire after your Excellency's health, and to inform you that we are still here waiting, according to our master's command, for another messenger to come with us to Accra to see your Excellency.

We have sent up to our master the kind presents which your Excellency sent to him, which they will be acceptable indeed, and produce friendly and grateful feelings in our master.

Hoping this will find your Excellency in good health,

With great respect,
We have, &c.

(Signed) ASIBE ANTCH his
X

(Signed) BUSUMBRU GWIRA mark
his
X
mark

To His Excellency H. T. Ussher, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, CAPE COAST,

THE GOVERNOR would like to know what further, if any thing, the above have to say. His Excellency dismissed them from his presence months ago with presents for their king, but for some reason unknown to the Governor they still hang on at Cape Coast. Kindly get particulars.

27th November, 1880.

(Signed) A. M.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

THE Ashanti messengers inform me that when they had the honour of an interview with His Excellency the Governor they stated that it was the intention of the King of Ashanti to send another messenger to His Excellency, and that until the arrival of such messenger they purposed to return to the society of their wives at Cape Coast. The Ashanti messengers further state that the said messenger is daily expected, and that, after his arrival, it will be necessary for them again to solicit another interview with His Excellency in order to deliver the message of their King.

November 29, 1880.

(Signed) EDMUND WATT,
Civil Commissioner.

Treasury and Customs, Cape Coast,
December 8, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I yesterday received a visit from an Ashanti chief called Coffee Enquien and a very numerous suite.

They desired me to express to the Governor the thanks of the King of Ashanti for the presents lately received, and to assure His Excellency that they are highly appreciated.

The chief further requested I would state that the king had heard with great sorrow of the death of the Queen of Djuabin, and that his majesty and his majesty's people would mourn for her as a child of their own house.

In order to avoid any unnecessary expense, I told the chief that I would at once convey his message to Accra, that it would not be necessary for him and his suite to remain here, and that they might leave Cape Coast when it was convenient for them to do so.

The Private Secretary,
Government House, Christiansborg.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND WATT,
Civil Commissioner.

Enclosure 2 in No. 8.

TREATY of PEACE between Major-General Sir G. WOLSELEY, K.C.M.G., C.B., acting on behalf of HER MAJESTY VICTORIA, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and SAIBER ENQUIE, acting on behalf of HIS MAJESTY KOFFEE KALKALI, King of Ashanti:—

Article 1.—There shall be hereafter perpetual peace between the Queen of England and her allies on the Coast on the one part, and the King of Ashanti and all his people on the other part.

Article 2.—The King of Ashanti promises to pay the sum of 50,000 ounces of approved gold as indemnity for the expenses he has occasioned to Her Majesty the Queen of England by the late war; and undertakes to pay 1,000 ounces of gold forthwith, and the remainder by such instalments as Her Majesty's Government may from time to time demand.

Article 3.—The King of Ashanti, on the part of himself and his successors, renounces all right or title to any tribute or homage from the Kings of Denkera, Assin, Akim, Adansi, and the other allies of Her Majesty formerly subject to the King of Ashanti.

Article 4.—The King, on the other part of himself and of his heirs and successors, does hereby further renounce for ever all pretensions of supremacy over Elmina, or over any of the tribes formerly connected with the Dutch Government, and to any tribute or homage from such tribes, as well as to any payment or acknowledgment of any kind by the British Government in respect of Elmina, or any other of the British forts or possessions on the Coast.

Article 5.—The King will at once withdraw all his troops from Appolonia and its vicinity, and from the neighbourhood of Dixcove, Secondee, and the adjoining coast line.

Article 6.—There shall be freedom of trade between Ashanti and Her Majesty's forts on the coast, all persons being at liberty to carry their merchandize from the coast to Coomassie, or from that place to any of Her Majesty's possessions on the coast.

Article 7.—The King of Ashanti guarantees that the road from Coomassie to the River Prah shall always be kept, and free from bush to a width of 15 feet.

Article 8.—As Her Majesty's subjects and the people of Ashanti are henceforth to be friends for ever, the king, in order to prove the sincerity of his friendship for Queen Victoria, promises to use his best endeavours to check the practice of human sacrifice, with a view to hereafter putting an end to it altogether, as the practice is repugnant to the feelings of all Christian nations.

Article 9.—One copy of this Treaty shall be signed by the King of Ashanti, and sent to the Administrator of Her Majesty's Government at Cape Coast Castle within fourteen days from this date.

Article 10.—This Treaty shall be known as the Treaty of Fommanah.

Dated at Fommanah, this 13th day of February 1874.

Enclosure 3 in No. 8.

Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH to the KING OF ASHANTI.

Castle of St. George, Elmina,
January 5, 1881.

YOUR MAJESTY,

It is with deep regret that I communicate to you the death of His Excellency Mr. Ussher, the late Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Possessions on the Gold Coast of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India. This sad event took place at Christiansborg Castle on the 1st day of December 1880.

I send this letter to Your Majesty by a trustworthy messenger, named Joseph F. Parker, who will deliver it to you.

I have, &c.,

To His Majesty the King of Ashanti,
Coomassie.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH.
Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 4 in No. 8.

Castle of St. George, Elmina,
January 5, 1881.

MR. PARKER,

YOU will receive herewith a letter addressed to the King of Ashanti, and will start for Coomassie to-morrow morning, 6th January.

On arriving at Coomassie you will send to let the King know of your coming, and that you have a letter from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony for him. When he receives you, you will deliver the letter, and, should the King ask you to do so, you will read and translate it for him.

You will receive any reply the King may desire to send by you, and, having got it, will return to this place at once.

You are to endeavour, without attracting attention, to ascertain whether any preparations are in progress for making war by Ashanti; and, if so, to find out against what people or tribe any expedition is intended to be directed. You are to observe whether any men are being drilled, and by what officers; and whether any Houssas form part of the army, and, if so, to what extent.

You must try to find out whether the Ashantis are well supplied with ammunition, and also with guns and rifles, and of what sort or make the last two are.

I am informed that Opokoo of Bequia has promised to bring Adansi first, and then Denkera, under the rule of Ashanti again. You must try to discover how far this is correct.

✓ The chief of Bayin Town, Appolonia, has, I am told, sent a messenger to the King of Ashanti, you must find out if this is the case, and the object for which the messenger was sent.

Pick up any other useful information you may meet with.

On returning, when you pass through Fommanah, try and find out if there is any news to be had there respecting the movements or conduct of the Ashantis.

Commit all the information you collect, immediately after you get it, to writing, so that nothing may be forgotten or misunderstood.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH.
Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Joseph Parker.

No. 9.

SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

39, Spring Gardens, S.W., February 9, 1881.

SIR,

WITH reference to my proposed departure to the Gold Coast, I have the honour to submit to the notice of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, the names of the under mentioned officers whom it appears to me desirable to employ temporarily on the Gold Coast on special service.

I have placed opposite the names of each officer the duty for which I think he has special qualifications, but I think it desirable that each of these officers should be distinctly informed that he will be expected to make himself generally useful in any capacity, and in carrying out any duty on which I may think fit to employ him.

These officers should also, I think, be told that their present service will not give them any claim on the Colonial Government after the expiration of the special duty on which it is proposed to employ them.

It will, however, be within the discretion of the Governor to recommend to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State that any one of these officers should hereafter be attached to the permanent civil staff of the Colony, in such a position and at such a rate of pay as the Right Honourable the Secretary of State may be please to approve.

I have already had the honour to ask Lord Kimberley's permission to avail myself temporarily of the service of Mr. Evans, Assistant Colonial Secretary and Treasurer, at Sierra Leone.

I would submit further that Captain Jackson, lately appointed Inspector of Police, and who has expressed his wish to serve with me on the Gold Coast, is likely to be of assistance to me as possessing good knowledge of secretarial work in addition to his professional knowledge as an officer of Artillery well accustomed to the use of gun cotton.

The police duties of Captain Jackson as Inspector may be well carried on by Inspector Rivington.

Mr. Hughes has but lately been transferred from the Gold Coast to Sierra Leone; his local knowledge will be of value, and his health has hitherto been very good when

travelling on the Gold Coast. He does not possess any local knowledge which renders his services of special value at Sierra Leone.

Captain Barrow was private secretary to the late Mr. Ussher. Some years ago he served on the Gold Coast and at Lagos as a military officer. He lately visited the Emir of Nupè, on the Niger, to bring down recruits for the Houssa force.

I am not able to submit the name of a young military officer as aide-de-camp, but I hope to be able to do so in the course of the day, after an interview with the military secretary, and, at the same time, I hope to be able to submit the name of an officer on the commissariat staff who would be of assistance in clerical work, and whose knowledge of commissariat would enable me to make such arrangements as will greatly tend to the health of those officers more directly executive and set them more free for general duty than they otherwise would be.

I would propose to engage Captain Clough, a merchant seaman, to supervise the landing and shipping of stores, and I specially desire to obtain his services on account of his local knowledge of the Volta bar. He has successfully taken out to the Volta from England two very small steam vessels, and remained there working them for some time.

Captain Ommalley has promised to make inquiries for me as to the salary which it would be necessary to give a shorthand writer, and such a person would be exceedingly useful.

He is also making inquiries with a view of obtaining a person who understands the construction of an ordinary land telegraph line of single wire.

In addition to these persons I am of opinion that if the Ashanti King is in earnest the services of at least six other officers, in addition to those attached to the Houssa force and to my personal staff, will be absolutely required if a successful attempt is to be made to induce the native tribes to make an early resistance to the Ashanti attack.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE.

No. 10.

COLONIAL OFFICE to SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G.

Extract.

Downing Street, February 9, 1881.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date,* submitting the names of various officers whom you are desirous of employing on special service on the Gold Coast.

Lord Kimberley approves of the proposals which you have laid before him, and I am to authorise you to engage the services of the officers in question upon the terms and under the conditions specified in your letter.

The Officer Administering the Government at Sierra Leone will be instructed to permit Mr. Evans and Captain Jackson to accompany you to the Gold Coast.

No. 11.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, February 10, 1881.

I HAVE laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 7th instant,† requesting that steps may be taken to ensure the early presence on the Gold Coast of one or more of Her Majesty's ships, in consequence of apprehended war with Ashanti.

2. In reply my Lords desire me to request that you will inform the Earl of Kimberley that, owing to the Transvaal war, both Commodore Richards, commanding the "Boadicea," and Captain Domville, commanding the "Dido," are at Durban with their ships, but that Her Majesty's gun vessels "Flirt" and "Rambler," and the gun boats "Foam," "Firefly," and the steam vessel "Pioneer," are on the West Coast of Africa, and one or more are on the "Bights" division, with Cape Coast Castle as head quarters.

I am further to state that H.M.S. "Champion," a corvette, commanded by a captain, left Madeira yesterday with orders to proceed to St. Vincent, Cape de Verdes, to which

* No. 9.

† No. 6.

place it is proposed to send telegraphic orders for this ship to call at Sierra Leone and Cape Coast Castle, to be available in case of necessity.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

P.S.—The nature of any orders given to the captain of the "Champion" will be duly communicated to you.

No. 12.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE and ADMIRALTY.

Downing Street, February 10, 1881.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to request you to move the Secretary of State for War

To War Office:

Lieut. A. H. Pain, 75th Regt.

Lieut. Hart, R.E.

Lieut. Druitt, R.E.

Commissary Bennett.

To Admiralty:

Capt. Sandwith, R.M.

Lieut. Swinburne, R.M.A.

Lieut. Underwood, R.N.

Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty Lordship's disposal the services of the officers named in the margin, whom it is desired should accompany Sir Samuel Rowe to the Gold Coast, on "special service," in consequence of the apprehended outbreak of war with Ashanti.

It is proposed that these officers should receive, in addition to the ordinary pay of their rank, a special allowance of 1*l.* per diem from Colonial funds from the date of their embarkation.

The officers in question should be instructed to communicate with Sir S. Rowe, 39, Spring Gardens, as to the time and place at which they will be required to embark.

I have, &c.

The Under Secretary of State, War Office,
and

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 13.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE.

Downing Street, February 10, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that, in view of the apprehended outbreak of war with Ashanti, I have, at the request of Sir S. Rowe, sanctioned his taking with him to the Gold Coast, on special service, Mr. Evans, Assistant Colonial Secretary, and Captain Jackson, Inspector General of Police at Sierra Leone.

I have accordingly to instruct you to permit these officers to join Sir S. Rowe, on his arrival at Sierra Leone, and proceed with him to the Gold Coast.

I have, &c.

The Officer Administering the Government.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 14.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G.

Downing Street, February 10, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge Lieut.-Governor Griffith's Despatch of the 5th ultimo,* reporting that he had sent a messenger to the King of Ashanti to inform him of the death of the late Governor Ussher, and furnishing information generally as to the relations between the Gold Coast Government and Ashanti.

I have to express my approval of Mr. Griffith's proceedings, and in particular of his not having addressed to the King of Ashanti the communication which in his previous Despatch of the 30th December† he had expressed his intention of making with respect to Adansi.

I have, &c.

Sir S. Rowe.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received February 11, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, January 24, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a telegram which I send on to-day by the steamer "Corisco," to Her Majesty's Consul at Madeira, for transmission to your Lordship, with intelligence of the probability of the Ashantis commencing hostilities against this Colony. The telegram is very full, and, therefore, it is unnecessary for me to do more than to request your Lordship's attention to the documents forwarded herewith, which will show the grounds upon which my action in this matter has been based.

2. When the Ashanti messenger arrived with what is termed the gold axe, I had no knowledge of its significance, and it was only upon the receipt of a private note from Mr. Collyer, the Queen's Advocate, that I became aware of its serious import, and finding a consensus of opinion upon the matter, I immediately determined to act as promptly as possible.

3. I submitted a statement of what had occurred up to the 22nd instant to the Executive Council on that day, and the steps taken, and proposed to be taken, met with the unanimous concurrence of members. A statement of the proceedings in question (transmitted herewith) will give a full account of what has occurred, and I supplement this with statements made by Prince Owoosoo, and by the linguist of Chief Chibboo of Fanti Yancoomassie.

4. I forward a copy of my letter to the officer in command of the troops at Sierra Leone, in which I request him to give me all the aid in his power with officers and men of the 1st West India Regiment, and to send them on by the steamer "Lualaba," and I hope to receive this reinforcement in 10 to 12 days.

5. I have authorized that immediate steps should be taken to provide stores, &c. to enable a strength of 700 men to take the field for six months.

6. I forward copies of letters which I have written to Commodore Richards, C.B.V.C., and to the captains of any of Her Majesty's ships on this station, requesting them to repair to Cape Coast as I shall want their assistance.

7. Copies of documents are enclosed,* which will place before your Lordship information as to many matters of detail, and which may be useful for reference.

8. A copy is transmitted of the state of the constabulary of the Gold Coast Colony, on 31st December 1880, together with returns of ammunition Nos. 1 and 2.*

9. I forward a statement of the approximate strength of the different tribes that Ashanti can bring into the field, as estimated by Captain Hay (Acting Colonial Secretary), Prince Owoosoo, of Ashanti, and the messenger of King Chibboo, by which it will be seen that—

Captain Hay estimated them (in 1879) at	20,910
Prince Owoosoo at	- 18,510
And Chibboo's messenger	- 23,700
Or taking the average	- 21,040

men. Only about half are said to be armed, and with flint lock guns.

10. In the interest of the Colony, in order to obtain the assistance of troops, and to place your Lordship in possession of the earliest information as to the state of matters here, I have agreed with the captain of the mail steamer "Corisco" to proceed direct to Sierra Leone, and thence to Maderia with a telegram for the sum of one thousand guineas. The bill on the Crown agents, in payment of this service, *is to be drawn here.*

11. I transmit herewith a copy of my letter to the King of Ashanti, the original of which will be delivered to his messengers to-morrow, and I hope it may have the good effect, in combination with the knowledge he will obtain of the proceedings of this Government for defence, of bringing him to his senses, and thereby of preventing him from commencing a course of action which, while it cannot but be disastrous to him, must land this Colony in serious pecuniary embarrassment and greatly retard its progress.

12. Your Lordship may rest assured that I shall do all in my power in case of hostilities by the Ashantis to limit the area of their operations, but with the modest force at my command it will be necessary to act with great caution and circumspection awaiting reinforcements reaching the Colony. It would be advisable that these should

* Not printed.

be held ready to embark, but I think they should not do so until it is certain beyond a doubt that the Ashantis are equal to their threat.

13. I cannot speak too highly of the valuable assistance I have received from the Acting Colonial Secretary, Captain Hay, who has been most indefatigable in every way, and whose knowledge of the Colony and Protectorate, and of local matters generally, has been of the greatest help to me. The Queen's Advocate, Mr. Collyer, and Captain Bolton, of the 1st West India Regiment, in command of the garrison here, have been unsparing of themselves in the support they have given me. Indeed, without the able assistance I have met with I could not have got matters into the state of preparedness in which, I think I may safely say, they now are.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 15.*

TELEGRAM to be forwarded from MADERIA, by HER MAJESTY'S CONSUL there, immediately on the arrival of the S.S. "Corisco."

Enclosure 2 in No. 15.

STATEMENT of OWOOSOO OF GAMAN.

I AM a native of Gaman, a son of Osai Cudjoe, Prince of Ashanti. I was living in Coomassie for many years, and a few years ago the present King of Ashanti ordered that I, as a native of Gaman by birth, should go to my country, because a portion of the Gamans have declared themselves enemies to the Ashantis; and he charged me with having caught a man who stole my gold book, and stated that I was not right in so doing, and therefore I should be punished for it. I therefore escaped to the Protectorate to be under the British government. On arrival at Quissah, I was apprehended by 40 men of Adansi with the intention of sending me back to Coomassie; but begging them earnestly I was subsequently liberated on giving them 3s., which was paid for me by a native gentleman, whom I met at Quissah, belonging to Cape Coast. On the day after I got to Cape Coast a son of the late Chief Amanquah Koomah, and three court cryers, arrived with an axe from the King of Ashanti for the express purpose of compelling me to return to Coomassie. They are lodged at the house of Prince Anshah. Their message was made known to me by Mr. Davies, the Government interpreter. I beg, therefore, the Governor to send me back to Gaman, accompanied by such messengers as his Excellency may select.

The state of affairs in Coomassie is deplorable. The Ashantis are preparing to attack Gaman, and they have already despatched thither a captain in command of 5,000 men. The total strength of the Ashanti army will be about 20,000 when the men of all their villages are collected. These represent the real Ashanti army, and are not mixed with foreigners, especially there are no Houssas amongst them. They are all armed with flint guns. They have, however, 300 Sniders; but as they do not know how to use them, they have become useless to them. The Ashanti army has had some drilling, but it is not like that of the Houssas here. It is very inferior to the English drilling. At Coomassie I was ordered to eat the skull of the late king of Gaman, which was kept there as a trophy from the conquest of Gaman, but I did not do it.

(Signed) OSAI.

Elmina Castle, 18th January 1881.

Taken down by

A. J. QUANSAH,

2nd Clerk Governor's Office.

Enclosure 3 in No. 15.

EXTRACT of a LETTER from Mr. COLLYER, Queen's Advocate, to Captain J. S. HAY.

DEAR HAY,

Cape Coast Castle, January 19, 1881.

I HEAR that Ashanti messengers are down here on a solemn mission. They are delaying in a stately way, but probably they will be over at Elmina before long.

A Gaman prince it appears has escaped from Coomassie, where he was held as a hostage, and has been for many years. He was helped off by an Assin man and is here or at Elmina. The Ashantis demand his extradition, and bring down with them the gold axe, which means serious palaver. They want the Gaman and the Assin man, and of course would cut off their heads the moment they get them. I think it is partly in the nature of a "try on," but it may be serious.

I thought I had better send over to let the Governor know, if he has not already heard from Dudley.

I hear that the Ashanti messengers say that Gansah, an Ashanti general, has already started to make war on the Gamans. Owoos Koko, another general, is also said to be in motion.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) W. R. COLLYER.

Enclosure 4 in No. 15.

Elmina Castle, Friday, January 20, 1881.

Amankrah.—I am a native of Assin Euhassa, under King Chibou. I don't know Owoosoo anywhere except about three weeks ago when I was coming from Coomassie with Mr. Duncan, we happened to meet Owoosoo at Quissah near Fommannah, and he took hold of us and begged them to bring him to the Governor. On our arrival at a place called Aquausrain, Owoosoo told us that he will pass through the bush fearing that if he passed through the town he would be detected and taken back to Coomassie. The people hearing this ran to the bush and seized him. We begged them to release him because he ran away from Coomassie to British protection. The people then took 3s. from them which Mr. Duncan paid and got Owoosoo released. I told the people that I am subject to King Chibou, and I knew very well that the Adansis and Assins have eaten fetish, and why if any man come in to seek British protection, you, the Adansis, would not permit him to do so, but took money from him before allowing him to proceed to the coast, and I would report the circumstance to King Chibou.

On our way coming we happened to meet several Ashanti people who did not speak to us. When we arrived at Prahsue, we showed Owoosoo to the clerk stationed there, and reported the circumstance to him. He told us that as we were in charge of Owoosoo it did not require him to send anyone to accompany Owoosoo, and told us to hand him over to Mr. Davis the Government interpreter, which we did. Mr. Davis showed Owoosoo to the Commissioner who directed him to come to Elmina.

Further examination of Owoosoo on 20th January.

The Ashantis cannot carry on two wars simultaneously, because they must get through with one before they commence with another. The Ashantis prefer the dry season for fighting. In the wet season most part of the armies got sick and died, so on account of that they do not choose to go to war during the wet season. The dry season commences in Coomassie about this time. On the coast the dry season commences much sooner. The dry season at Coomassie never lasts long. He himself heard with his own ears Opokoo swear a great oath of Ashanti that he would come and fight the Adansis and bring them to Ashanti rule. Opokoo was not drunk at the time when he swore; he Owoosoo found that Opokoo determined to carry out his oath.

The Ashanti generals are young men, except one Beningpah, who is an aged man. Being young men he does not think they have much experience. They have no best captain except one, Opokoo, another man to the Opokoo first mentioned. They are relatives. Except Beningpah and Captain Opokoo the king has no best generals or captains. Owoosoo does not know what Prince Ansah has gone to Axim for. Five thousand men were ordered for an attack on Gaman before he escaped, and 1,600 had left Coomassie for the purpose. The Coomassie men have no guns. For the 300 Snider guns obtained, the Ashantis had 300 small boxes of ammunition. These had been got by Prince Ansah who ordered them from England. Opokoo and Quabbenah brought

money to Prince Ansaah to pay for them. Dahl had the money. Opokoo (of Besquah) got 60 rifles for his body guard who were placed under Prince Ansaah to be drilled when he was at Coomassie. Owoosoo knew all this as he was there.

He knows You-a-gay, who is the man sent lately to the Gaman frontier. This man is in charge of Asafu Agay's daughter in Coomassie.

The King of Ashanti is much afraid of Asafu Agay, and this is the reason he wishes the English to remove Agay from the Protectorate. Owoosoo has heard that Asafu Agay has been sent to Lagos. The King of Ashanti is very much afraid of Asafu Agay. The Juabin are the Ashantis right hand, and the king is restless when Asafu Agay is at liberty, fearing what he may do at Juabin. The Schwes have not yet eaten fetish with the Ashantis. I do not know if the Schwes and Gamans have eaten fetish. The kings of Schwes and Gaman are one. They have eaten fetish, and when the Ashantis go against the Gamans, the Schwes are to keep behind and crush the Ashantis. It would take about 30 days to hear of any fight between Gaman and Ashanti unless the news came by way of Assinee, which would be in 20 days. The Ashanti ambassadors at Cape Coast are waiting there to watch the motions of the Government. They go about and listen to what is going on and being said, and then send their news to the king. Prince Ansaah is the writer of the letters with the news. The king of Ashanti has much money now, owing to the recent discovery of a rich gold mine, from which some large nuggets worth about 160% have been taken. The Ashantis have plenty of salt and provisions, plantains, yams, and cocoa or eddoes. The meaning of the king of Ashanti sending the gold axe is that the king will cut his way to the accomplishment of his end.

The king only said he would come to fight the Assins if Owoosoo was not sent back. He said this to his people. Owoosoo thinks that he would not do it because of the English people of whom he is afraid. He ran away from Coomassie unassisted. When he arrived at Quissah he met Amangkrah, and so we both came down together. This is the reason the Ashanti people say he was persuaded by Amankrah, but it is not true. Only a linguist of King Chibbou came with him. He was not charged with any crime. The only crimes for which a man was liable to be punished were, swearing the king's great oath or committing improprieties with a wife of the king or of a great chief. He had not done any of these things.

Enclosure 5 in No. 15.

At the Castle St. George D'Elmina,
January 21, 1881.

Quabbenna Annuoah, the linguist of Chibboo, of Fanti Yancoomassie, says, he has come with a message. He was sent by Chibboo to the Governor. He is in charge of the road from Fanti Yancoomassie to Prahsue. A few days ago a man, by name Owoosoo, arrived at Yancoomassie with one Assin man called Amankrah, and reported that he had run away from Coomassie, and begged Chibboo to send his messenger to accompany him to Cape Coast that he might place himself under British protection. King Chibboo desired the Government interpreter, Mr. Davis, to speak to the Governor not to allow Owoosoo to go to anywhere, because he is the only surviving prince of both Gaman, Schwe, and Aowin.

He further states that the Assins who are trading in Coomassie have been detained on account of Owoosoo's escape, but he does not give this as a fact but as hearsay. As soon as he hears from one coming from Coomassie that it is a fact he will report it to the Governor.

In reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's inquiry how he knows that Owoosoo is the only surviving prince of both Gaman, Schwe, and Aowin, he states Owoosoo's ancestors were from Gaman. His grandmother married in Coomassie and bore Owoosoo's mother. His mother married Prince OSai Cudjoe, of Ashanti, and bore Owoosoo to him. The mother of OSai Cudjoe, Owoosoo's father, was called Effuah Sapping, and was sister to the late King Quacoe Duah, of Ashanti. Many years ago Owoosoo's ancestors were permitted to return to Gaman, and about three years ago the king of Gaman, sent to ask the king of Ashanti to permit Owoosoo to return to Gaman which the king declined to do; and what made him (the messenger) and his king (Chibboo) to believe that Owoosoo is the only surviving prince or heir to the throne of Gaman, Schwe, and Aowin, is, that the king of Gaman sent 1,000 peregwans (a peregwan is valued at 8*l*. odd) of gold dust to the king of Ashanti as an inducement to the king of Ashanti to let Owoosoo return to Gaman.

The sending of the gold axe means that if the road by which Owoosoo travelled to get to a place of refuge was so obstructed with trees that it could not be passed over to get at the people who gave him refuge, he, the King of Ashanti, would use his axe to cut a path to fight with the people who protected Owoosoo. This makes the third time the axe has been sent into the Protectorate. The first was in 1863, and then the Ashantis fought the English. The second was in 1873, and again they fought. The third time the axe has been sent is the present, and it means that if the Governor does not compel the Assins, who received Owoosoo at first, to return him to Ashanti, the Ashantis will fight the Assins.

In coming from Coomassie you have to pass the Prah before you can reach Assin. Assin is under British protection, and policemen are quartered there.

Chibboo's own part of Assin can raise 5,000 fighting men. About 2,500 have flint guns; the others none. Yesterday was a week since the King Chibboo had the gong gong beaten, advising all young men to buy guns to arm themselves for their protection in case they should be attacked. They will resist for a few moments and then report the circumstance to the Government. Without the presence of Fantis and of English troops the Assins would not be able to fight the Ashantis very long. As a rule the Assins do not store up powder and ball, as they have no use for them, but they provide themselves with these when they think they are likely to be attacked. At present they have only a few rounds to each gun. They are one with the Akims. He thinks the Akims have twice as many fighting men as the Assins, but cannot be so sure; but they are well armed, and he thinks they can muster 10,000 fighting men, that is both Eastern and Western Akim. He believes they will come to the assistance of Assin if they, the Assins, are attacked. Assin and Akim eat fetish together many years ago. It lasts up to this time.

Before the war of 1874 the king of Ashanti had 40,000 fighting men, but at present he can only get 30,000. There are a great many men in Coomassie, but many are without arms, because when the white men went there, the Ashantis ran away, and threw away their guns, and now the villagers are the people who chiefly have guns. They have principally old flint guns, but many are useless. Of late they got some Sniders, 300, with cartridges, but not many; some one came from Coomassie and reported that part of the Sniders had become useless, because the Ashantis did not know how to use them. They never cleaned them for a week or two, and by this most part became useless. It is about 16 years since he was at Coomassie, but he got all the information he has given from his own son who came down here with him, having just previously arrived from Coomassie. After the war of 1873-4 the Ashantis did not come down to Cape Coast to buy ammunition, but of late some have obtained it by purchase from merchants. The Ashantis are preparing against the Gamans. He has not heard that they are going to attack any others. They have not yet attacked Gaman. Some Assin traders who went to Gaman and returned reported that the Gamans were well armed; they were aware of the intention of the Ashantis to attack them, because the King of Gaman sent some messengers to Cape Coast and informed the white man there that as his country is about to be invaded by the King of Ashanti he begged the white man to send him arms and ammunition, which request was complied with. This was about two years ago.* The King of Ashanti could not carry on two wars at the same time, because he could not get enough men to fight two distinct people at the same time. All the old experienced Ashanti generals have been killed and replaced by young men, who have been selected for the posts. They have no good captains, and they can't get any men just of his size (about 5 ft. 7 in.). The King of Becquah swore to the King of Ashanti that he would go and fight the Adansis. His name is Opokoo. He is a great general. He is one of the greatest Ashanti generals, and has 3,000 fighting men. He is a middle aged man. The road from Cape Coast to Prah is in good order. It can be swept with a broom. The Adansis have cleared their part of the road from the Prah towards Coomassie, but the Ashantis have not done their part, which is overgrown with bush and trees. He does not believe Opokoo will carry out his oath to attack the Adansis. He can't. He only boasts because he knows that if he attacks Adansi the white man will come. Last war Sir Garnet showed the Gatling gun to two men from Ashanti. One was so frightened at it that when he got to the Prah he shot himself. The other went to Coomassie and told the king about it, and that it was folly to fight the white men for their gun would kill all the Ashantis, and before he had done speaking his head was cut off.†

* I could not get any better explanation, nor can I trace anything of the kind as having occurred.—W.B.G.

† I am told by several persons that this is a truthful statement.—W.B.G.

From this month (January) to April is dry season at Coomassie. It lasts till end of April.

The Ashantis take the dry season for war. They never go to war in the wet season on account of the rains which fill all the roads with water.

W.B.G.

Enclosure 6 in No. 15.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY to INSPECTOR-GENERAL GRANT.

Colonial Secretariat, Elmina Castle,
January 21, 1881.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to inform you that in consequence of the unsettled aspect of political affairs on our frontier, his Excellency has decided, as you are aware, to increase the strength of the Gold Coast Constabulary Houssa stationed at Prah sue.

You are therefore requested to supply to each officer a copy of the following general instructions, having in view the fact that they are in the first instance to act only on the defensive so long as no attempt is made to invade the Protectorate by a hostile force. It will be advisable that the officer in command at Prah sue should report without delay all information regarding the movements of Ashanti which may be supplied by the Adansi or any other source he may consider reliable. In addition to having a good look-out kept at Prah sue, it may be advisable to station a few men in charge of a steady non-commissioned officer at Attahwassie (our other ferry) with orders to report at once any signs of a movement in that direction.

Should any attack on a large scale appear probable, the chiefs and people of Assin must be summoned to assist in repelling the same, and every means must be adopted to ensure the integrity of the Protectorate, but with regard to these points, as it is impossible to foresee or to provide for every contingency, the officer in command must act according to the best of his judgment.

A detachment of 40 men of the Gold Coast Constabulary (Houssa) will be sent to Mansue in about a week to form a support. In case of need, or of being overpowered, the officer commanding will retire on Mansue, reporting to Cape Coast by swift messengers the necessity for so doing.

A daily communication with the District Commissioner, Cape Coast, must be kept up, and everything connected with the progress of events on the other side of the Prah must be closely watched and reported at once.

The Inspector-General,
Gold Coast Constabulary, Elmina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. HAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 7 in No. 15.

PART PROCEEDINGS in EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the GOLD COAST COLONY, held at Cape Coast Castle on the 22nd January 1881.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the LIEUT.-GOVERNOR, President.
COLONIAL SECRETARY (Captain J. S. Hay, Acting).
QUEEN'S ADVOCATE (Mr. W. R. Collyer, Acting).
OFFICER Commanding the Troops, Captain W. Bolton, 1st West India Regiment.
CHIEF JUSTICE (Mr. H. W. Macleod, Acting, Extraordinary Member).

THE President stated that he desired to have the opinion and advice of the Council with reference to circumstances he would mention.

On the 18th instant a refugee from Coomassie presented himself at Elmina Castle. He stated that he was an Ashanti prince named Owoosoo, that he had incurred the displeasure of the king, and fearing the consequences had made his escape.

That on arriving at Cape Coast he had reported himself to Mr. Davis, the Government interpreter, who informed him on the following day that a messenger from the king, with the gold axe, accompanied by three court cryers, had arrived, and would proceed the next day to Elmina, to demand that he should be given up to them.

Under these circumstances he entreated that he might be received under British protection, and be sent to Gaman under the care of an escort.

The President stated that he told Owoosoo that he would not be given up to the Ashantis, that he would be free to go where he chose, but that he, the President, could not undertake to have him escorted anywhere.

Owoosoo, on being interrogated, had given valuable information upon Ashanti affairs, and, as a matter of precaution, had been allowed to sleep in the Castle.

The next day (19th) a messenger, a son of the late chief Amanquah Koomah, from the King of Ashanti, requested an audience.

He bore what is termed the gold axe of the King, and was accompanied by three court cryers, and by Saibee Enquie (who signed the Treaty of Fommannah with Sir Garnet Wolseley), and Busoomboro, an Ashanti captain. These two style themselves ambassadors, and about six months ago brought a message from the King to the late Governor Ussher, and have since been residing at the house of Prince Ansah at Cape Coast, although informed by the Civil Commissioner there that the Governor had told them all he had to say, and they need not remain. A chief called Anani was also with the messengers, and Chief Andor, of Elmina, to whose house they were directed on their arrival there, also attended with them.

After the usual compliments the messenger stated that the King had sent him to tell the Governor that a man named Owoosoo, a son of a Prince of Ashanti, whose ancestors were from Gaman, had been persuaded by an Assin trader, called Amangkrah, to run away from Coomassie to the Protectorate; and the King had sent him to ask the Governor to return Owoosoo to Coomassie. He also demanded that Amangkrah should be given up, for the latter had been regarded by the King as a friend, and had been for many years a resident in Coomassie, where there were not less than 2,000 Assin traders who are still there, and who, although they commit all kinds of mischief, are not permitted to be ill-treated; but it had been reported to the King that Amangkrah had gone lately to Gaman and obtained money from the King of that place upon a promise that he would try his best to persuade Owoosoo to go to Gaman.

The messenger on arriving at Edubiase (in Assin) to effect Owoosoo's apprehension, applied to the chief there, telling him of Owoosoo's escape, but the chief told him he could do nothing in the matter. He then proceeded to Cape Coast and related the whole affair to Enquie and Busoomboro, who had accompanied him to Elmina to deliver the King's message.

Enquie then stated that the Assins were the people who always caused palavers between the Ashantis and the Protectorate, and that the King said, if the Governor would not order the return of Owoosoo to Coomassie, he would attack the Assins.

Busoomboro got up and confirmed this statement, which was immediately afterwards endorsed by Chief Anani.

The President stated that he told the messenger that it would always afford the Government of the Gold Coast Colony satisfaction to cultivate friendly relations with the King of Ashanti and other neighbours, and that he would always be ready to listen attentively to any representations from the King of Ashanti, and to comply with any reasonable request he might make. He would remark that there were generally two sides to every story, and Owoosoo's account differed from that of the messenger, as would be seen from what he, the Governor, would read to them, but that did not much matter. Owoosoo had not committed any crime, and having sought British protection, it was impossible for the Lieutenant-Governor to give him up to the King, who might just as well ask him to give up Elmina. An English Governor was entrusted with great powers, but his responsibility was also very very great. He could do many things, but there were also things that he could not do, and compliance with the King's request to send Owoosoo back by the messenger, was one of these. Enquie then asked if the Lieutenant-Governor would prevent Owoosoo from going to Gaman? And was told that he was free to go from British protection, or to remain under it, as he pleased, as the Lieutenant-Governor had no right to control his movements. Owoosoo had asked to be sent to Gaman under the protection of an escort, and had been told distinctly that nothing of the kind would be allowed.

The Lieutenant-Governor continued that he directed Enquie's attention to the treaty made between Sir Garnet Wolseley and himself, for their principals, and asked him whether that treaty was not binding on both parties.

Enquie replied that it was.

The Lieutenant-Governor then directed the 1st and 3rd articles to be read to Enquie. The interpreter was reading by mistake No. 2, in succession to No. 1, the 2nd relating to the payment of 50,000 ozs. of gold, when the Lieutenant-Governor observing that the Ashantis seemed much disconcerted and annoyed, asked the interpreter what article he was reading, and on finding it was the second, had them informed of the mistake, and the 3rd article which states that Denkera, Assin, Akin, and Adansi were to be free from molestation, was then read.

The Lieutenant-Governor then reminded Enquie that he admitted the treaty was in force, and yet he said the King of Ashanti intended to break it by attacking Assin. He was warned that a party to a treaty, who broke it, put himself in the wrong, and that if the King of Ashanti attacked Assin, consequences of the most serious nature would follow; that the man who from some grudge or ill-will put fire to his neighbour's house ran the risk of having his own burnt down, and it would therefore be to the King's advantage that he should be careful as to his proceedings.

The Lieutenant-Governor stated that before dismissing them, he had thought it advisable to hint to the Ashantis that he was well informed as to the course they had been pursuing of late, and as to their position on the whole.

On the evening of the day the Lieutenant-Governor had seen the messengers from Ashanti, he received a private intimation of the significance of the gold axe having been sent, as on friendly missions a silver or gold-headed cane is the test of the King's messenger.

On the following day Chief Andor called and explained to the Lieutenant-Governor why he had attended the messengers; that he had done so as a loyal subject of the Queen, and with the object of watching the conduct of the Ashantis so as to be able to assist the Governor with his advice if it was desired. He handed to the Lieutenant-Governor two testimonial letters from Colonel Evelyn Wood and Sir Garnet Wolseley, as proof that he may be relied upon. In reply to enquiries, he said the gold axe indicated a war palaver, and that if a request made with it was refused, the Ashantis would remove every obstacle to the gaining of their point. His opinion was, that the Ashantis thought the Lieutenant-Governor, being a new man, would not know much about them, and therefore they might impose upon him and get what they demanded, but that he noticed when the Lieutenant-Governor conveyed to them in parable and similes that he was aware of all that they had been and were doing, that they seemed crestfallen and disappointed. He thought they would hardly have the temerity to engage in a war with England again, but that they were smarting under the loss of their former possessions, and might try to regain them. Looking at their known character, however, he considered it advisable that every precaution should be taken so as to be prepared for action on their part.

The Lieutenant-Governor had also seen Chief Tabong, of Adansi, after Chief Andor, and he said the gold axe meant war, if a demand made with it was refused. His own King and people, the Adansis, would certainly resist the Ashantis to the last if attacked, and they were ready for them.

The linguist of the Chief of Assin also had a long interview with the Lieutenant-Governor, and gave much invaluable information. He said the gold axe was sent down to the Government in 1863 and 1873, and in each case was followed by hostilities, and the Ashantis meant war in the present instance if their demand was refused.

Prince Owoosoo also confirmed the significance of the gold axe, but, he added, "the King of Ashanti said he would fight the Assins, if Owoosoo was not sent back; he said this to his people, but I do not think he will do it, because he is afraid of the English."

The Lieutenant-Governor read notes of the information given by Owoosoo, Chief Andor, and others on his questioning them, and stated that he thought, looking to the concurrent testimony, that it was advisable to take every precaution, so as to be prepared for whatever might happen.

He had that morning* despatched Mr. Newenham, of the Gold Coast Constabulary, with Dr. Nundy and 75 men and three 7-pounder M.L.R. guns with ammunition to Prahsue, where 40 men were stationed, bringing up the force to 115 men; and he should send up a supporting force of 40 men to Mansue. Mr. Newenham had had special instructions, and was to act entirely on the defensive.

The Lieutenant-Governor had sent to Accra for 60 men, which would reduce the force there to about 40. He had also ordered 30 men from Quittah, and should send to Lagos

for Captain Bastow, Gold Coast Constabulary, a first rate officer, to command at Prahue.

The Lieutenant-Governor stated that he wished to consult the Council as to the further steps he intended to take. He proposed to secure the services of the mail steamer "Corisco" then due, to proceed direct to Sierra Leone, with a request to the officer commanding the troops there to send all the aid he could, and the Lieutenant-Governor believed this would be from 350 to 400 officers and men.

If the steamer from England, due at Sierra Leone on the 30th January 1881, had not got there when the "Corisco" arrived, the "Corisco" would go on to Madeira direct with a telegram for the Secretary of State, and the troops would be sent by the outward steamer. Should she have left Sierra Leone before the "Corisco" got there, he should arrange for the latter to return with the troops.

The Lieutenant-Governor stated that after he was informed of the significance of the gold axe, he decided to detain the messengers from Ashanti, and to write to the King warning him as to the serious consequences that would follow any attack on the Protectorate. Time would thus be gained, and it would be better to have the matter put before the King in writing. After the departure of the Ashantis he proposed to issue a proclamation prohibiting the sale of ammunition and guns, and he should take steps to provision Elmina Castle, and later on, when matters were more pronounced, he proposed to call upon the native chiefs to assemble their fighting men, and to ascertain the number they could muster and what weapons they had, so that any deficiency might be made up from the Government stock of native arms.

At this point, Mr. Grant, a highly respectable merchant of Cape Coast, was introduced, and his opinion requested as to the situation, when he stated his belief that the Ashantis meant war, which had followed in 1863 and 1873, when demands with the gold axe had been refused. He had heard on good authority that the Ashanti traders on the coast had been ordered to return home, and he thought that preparations should be made for eventualities. He supported his opinion with further detailed information as to minor indications of the intentions of Ashanti, and then withdrew.

The Lieutenant-Governor then enquired of the Council if they considered the steps he proposed to take advisable and necessary under the circumstances, and the Council were unanimously of that opinion.

Captain W. E. Bolton, 1st West India Regiment, commanding the troops on the Gold Coast, suggested that the Lieutenant-Governor should communicate with the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and submit for his consideration the advisability of not less than seven thousand (7,000) infantry, with the requisite number of guns suitable for bush fighting being held in readiness to defend the Colony and the Protectorate, and to meet the Ashanti army, which numbers not less than 20,000 fighting men in the field.

The Lieutenant-Governor informed the Council that if the Ashantis commenced hostilities he would, as a matter of policy and justice, release Asafu Agay.

He then consulted the Council whether they thought he should remain at or near Cape Coast, and the Council were unanimously of opinion that his Excellency should remain, as it was a more central position for watching the proceedings of the Ashantis, and for taking action.

(Signed) J. S. HAY,
Clerk of Executive Council.

Certified true copy.

Enclosure 8 in No. 15.

Lieut.-Governor GRIFFITH to the ADMINISTRATOR of the GOVERNMENT of
SIERRA LEONE.

SIR, Cape Coast Castle, January 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency enclosed herein a letter addressed to the officer commanding the troops at Sierra Leone, in which I have requested him to send me all the men he can possibly spare, and for whose conveyance, as promptly as practicable, I have arranged with the captain of the mail steamer "Corisco."

The necessity for this move arises from the action of the King of Ashanti, who is evidently intent upon forcing another war on this Colony, and I am therefore taking such measures as the emergency demands.

Oblige me by having the enclosed delivered promptly, and by rendering any aid in your power in expediting the departure of the troops.

I also enclose letters for Commodore Richards, and for the captain of any of Her Majesty's ships of war who may be at Sierra Leone, and request you will kindly arrange for the letters being delivered as addressed as soon as practicable.

His Excellency
The Administrator of the Government,
Sierra Leone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure 9 in No. 15.

Lieut.-Governor GRIFFITH to the OFFICER COMMANDING the Troops, Sierra Leone.
Cape Coast Castle, January 23, 1881.

SIR, I HAVE to request that immediately on the receipt of this letter you will be so good as to send me as many officers and men of the troops under your command as you can spare without too great inconvenience, and I hope the total number will not be less than 350, although I shall be glad to have more if you can spare them.

Upon the question of ammunition and commissariat supplies, I shall request Captain Bolton, the Commanding Officer here, to communicate with you.

I think it advisable that a medical staff (with necessaries, and lint especially, as there is none here) should accompany the force to be sent. It would be advisable that as many field howitzers and shell ammunition for same as can be spared from Sierra Leone be despatched with the troops.

I have arranged with the captain of the mail steamer "Corisco" to take this letter on to you without stopping at Sierra Leone, and he should arrive on Friday, 28th, and therefore in time to enable you to send the force required by the outward steamer "Lualaba," due on the 30th January.

I must depend on you to make the most advantageous arrangement possible for transport of the troops required. Payment will be made by draft on the Crown agents at 10 days' sight.

The necessity for my requesting your prompt assistance has arisen from the action of the King of Ashanti, who is evidently intent upon forcing another war on this Colony, and I am there compelled to take such measures for its defence as the situation demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Officer Commanding the Troops,
Sierra Leone.

Enclosure 10 in No. 15.

Lieut.-Governor GRIFFITH to Commodore RICHARDS, V.C., C.B.
Cape Coast Castle, January 23, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to request that on the receipt of this communication you will be so good as to repair to Cape Coast, as I have good reason to apprehend hostilities on the part of the King of Ashanti, and shall require all the assistance you can possibly give me, as I have less than 300 Houssas available, and only 186 men of the 1st West India Regiment. I write, however, by the mail steamer to-day, to request the officer in command of the troops at Sierra Leone to send me as large a force as he can possibly spare, and I am also communicating with the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieut.-Governor.

Commodore Richards, V.C., C.B.,
Commanding H.M. Naval Forces
in West Africa.

P.S.—Accra is so bare of Houssas, as I have had to withdraw 60 men from the force there, that I shall be glad if you can spare a ship of war to lie off the roadstead for the protection of the town, until I can make other arrangements.

W. B. G.

Enclosure 11 in No. 15.

YOUR MAJESTY,

Cape Coast Castle, January 24, 1881.

ON the 19th instant Prince Owoosoo came to me stating that he had left Coomassie, and having arrived at Elmina entreated to be received under British protection. I inquired whether he had been guilty of any crime, but he said he had not. He feared punishment for some venial offence, and had, therefore, escaped. I told him that as long as he behaved well he was at liberty to remain on British soil. He asked me to send him under escort to Gaman, but I declined to do so.

The next day your messenger with a gold axe and court cryers, and attended by Saibee Enquie, Busoomboro, and Anani, desired an audience, and delivered a message from you requesting me to send Owoosoo back to you with them. I said I could not do so, as it was not the custom of England to give up any one who sought her protection. Enquie then said that if I did not give up Owoosoo, your Majesty would attack Assin, and Busoomboro and Anani supported him, whereupon I asked Enquie if he had not signed a treaty at Fommanah with Sir Garnet Wolseley. He admitted this. I inquired whether he considered it binding still. He answered yes. I then read to him Articles 1 and 3 of the treaty, and warned him that if it was broken by an attack on Assin, the consequences would be of the most serious nature, and I told him to mention this to you.

The messengers then left, but I considered that it would be better for me to put the matter before you in a letter, so that there could not be any misunderstanding about it in the future, and I, therefore, sent to request them to be so good as to wait a few days longer.

Your Majesty is aware that by Article 3 of the treaty referred to, Denkera, Assin, Akim, Adansi, and all other allies of Her Majesty during the late war, were to be free from molestation in the future, and, therefore, an attack on Assin would be an infringement of the treaty. But Assin is now a part of the British Protectorate, and should you attack it, you will have commenced war against England, and the consequences will be most serious.

I write to you frankly and as a friendly neighbour, and I hope that as a wise and prudent King you will feel convinced that a war with England is not likely to result in advantage to Ashanti.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant Governor of the
Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 12 in No. 15.

THE following is the approximate strength of the different tribes that Ashanti can bring into the field as estimated by Captain J. S. Hay in his report, dated Fommanah, Adansi, 9th March 1879; Prince Owoosoo of Ashanti; and the messenger of King Chibbo of Assin.

	Capt. J. S. Hay.	Prince Owoosoo of Ashanti.	Messenger of King Chibbo.
Coomassie - - -	6,000	5,000	5,000
Mampong - - -	1,000	800	4,000
Becquah - - -	1,000	3,000	3,000
Kokofo - - -	1,500	4,000	3,000
Denyarsie - - -	700	200	1,000
Amoarfu - - -	300	200	1,000
Archwa - - -	150	100	1,000
Assoomyah - - -	60	60	1,000
Inquantansie - - -	200	150	700
Inquaransah - - -	10,000	5,000	4,000
Grand totals - - -	20,910	18,510	23,700
Total of three Estimates	- - -	- 63,120	
Average	- - -	- 21,040	

No. 16.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Admiralty, February 11, 1881.

SIR, IN further reference to your letter of the 7th instant,* respecting the state of affairs on the Gold Coast Colony, and to my reply thereto of the 10th idem,† I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you for the information of the Earl of Kimberley that telegraphic orders will be sent to Captain Hope, commanding Her Majesty's Corvette "Champion," to proceed at once from St. Vincent, Cape de Verde's, to Sierra Leone and Cape Coast Castle, and to remain at the latter port until further orders, carrying on the duties of senior officer, and collecting the gun vessels and gunboats now on the West Coast, if he requires their service.

2. Captain Hope has been instructed to afford assistance to the local Government for the defence of the Gold Coast Colony if actually necessary.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 17.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

Downing Street, February 14, 1881.

SIR, WITH reference to recent correspondence I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a Despatch‡ from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast, reporting the arrangements he had made in view of the apprehended outbreak of war with Ashanti, together with a copy of a Despatch§ which Lord Kimberley proposes, with the concurrence of Mr. Childers, to address to Sir S. Rowe in reply.

Lord Kimberley will be glad to be furnished with a draft of the instructions which he presumes Mr. Childers will address to the officer who is about to proceed from the West Indies to assume the command of the troops on the Gold Coast.

I am to request that the enclosures to Mr. Griffith's Despatch which are sent in original may be returned as soon as possible.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 18.

SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to COLONIAL OFFICE.

39, Spring Gardens, S.W., February 14, 1881.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to request that you will be pleased to move the Right Honourable the Secretary of State to approve the purchase by the Crown Agents for the Colonies of certain articles which after careful enquiries I am of opinion are urgently needed for the immediate service of the Gold Coast Colony.

I anticipate that the total cost of these will be approximately 3,000l.
Among them I wish to note especially—

Boats.

Tents.

Stationery.

Telegraph materials.

Medicine.

Warlike stores.

Working tools.

Camp equipment.

Further, I would respectfully request that a supply of provisions sufficient for a thousand men for three months may be obtained from the Admiralty victualling yard.

I would ask also that the Crown Agents may purchase a galvanized iron house, which I propose to cause to be erected at the Volta.

I have the honour to attach certain memoranda in which these articles are described in somewhat fuller detail.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE.

Enclosure in No. 18.

BOATS.

Berthon Boats.

Two of the following dimensions: 7 ft. long \times 3 ft. 4 in., weight 42 lbs. Price, approximate, 8*l.* Called in the catalogue "Arctic boats." I propose to send one of these boats at once to Prah sue.

I am told that the bridge across the river at this point has fallen into decay, and is useless or swept away. I propose to attempt to collect information as to the points at which the river is fordable, or at which it is customary for the natives beyond the river to pass it in coming to the sea coast. A steam launch, fit for river work, will hereafter be needed for the service. It will not however be possible to do much in this way before the next coming rainy season.

I am aware of no reason why the Ashantis should confine themselves, in crossing the Prah, to the ford at Prah sue.

On the march they cut tracks through the forest with a rapidity which is very surprising to us.

At present I would request that a good seviceable six-oared gig, with an awning, fit for river work, may be sent out for the use (on the Prah) of the officer at Chamah.

I would ask, further, that a six-oared gig, such as is supplied to naval officers, may be sent out for the Governor's use with the steamer. She should be fitted so as to admit of her being hoisted on board. There are some places on the coast to the westward of Cape Coast at which it is quite safe to land by ship's boats. This is especially the case at Dixcove and Secondee, and it is frequently the case at Elmina Castle, whereas, as far as I am aware, this is hardly ever the case at Cape Coast Castle.

Surf Boats.

Two of the following dimensions:—

Length 26 ft. 0 breadth 6 ft. 0 depth 2 ft. 6 in. Weight about 1 ton. Price 35*l.*

As far as I can learn the Colonial Government does not possess any such boats. At some of the stations the service is in ordinary times carried on by a local contractor, but at some of the stations on the sea coast there is no contractor and no such boats; and it is fitting that two such boats, at least, should be sent out to the Colony at once.

TENTS.

Officer's marquee	-	-	1
Do. circular tents	-	-	12
Tents d'Abri	-	-	12 dozen.

Though according to my former experience the Houssa men bivouac contentedly and sleep well round the camp fire, I think it is desirable that some shelter of this kind be provided for the men and officers.

STATIONERY.

An assorted supply of 100*l.* worth of stationery; I am told this is urgently needed.

TELEGRAPH MATERIALS.

I propose immediately on arrival to erect a single line of electric telegraph to connect the three coast forts of Elmina, Cape Coast Castle, and Anamaboe.

The cost of the wires, insulators, and electric apparatus necessary, and the erection of the line has been estimated at 65*l.* per mile.

MEDICINE.

I have already ordered two field chests of the kind specially designed and fitted for use in West Africa, and two field companions complete for similar service.

HOUSE.

A galvanized iron house similar in size and cost to that supplied to Captain, now Sir John, Glover in 1873. This I propose to cause to be erected on the banks of the Volta. I propose to use it for the safe custody of stores necessary for the service of the steamer and steam launch.

I have inquired from the merchants established there, and so far as I can learn there is no store which the Government can hire for this purpose.

At the close of the Glover expedition I requested the officer then administering the Government of the Gold Coast Colony to take over the custody of the iron store; on his declining to do so, I disposed of the store to Messrs. Swanzy & Co., who inform me they have found it very useful. My action in this instance was approved by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

PROVISIONS.

I would respectfully request that the Crown agents may be directed to procure from the Admiralty victualling yard supplies of the under-mentioned articles sufficient for 1,000 men for three months:—

Rice.	Australian Beef.
Biscuit.	Chocolate.
Salt Beef.	Rum.

Packages of these articles should when complete not weigh more than 50 lbs., this is very important for convenience of transport.

No. 19.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

War Office, February 14, 1881.
I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date,* and to state that Mr. Childers concurs in the Despatch which Lord Kimberley proposes to address to the Governor of the Gold Coast in connection with the apprehended outbreak of war with the Ashantis.

I am at the same time to enclose a copy of a despatch which Mr. Childers proposes, should Lord Kimberley concur, to address to the officer commanding the troops on the Gold Coast.

The enclosures of Mr. Griffith's Despatch will be returned shortly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Enclosure in No. 19.

SIR,

War Office, February 1881.
YOU have been informed by His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief that you have been selected to proceed to the Gold Coast to take command of the troops there.

I have now to acquaint you that the Governor has been instructed that "in any measures which may be taken it is of the utmost importance that the safety of the

“ forts and coast towns should not be imperilled ; and no operations should therefore be contemplated which in the event of failure would leave those positions unprotected.

“ In the event of an invasion of the Protectorate by the Ashantis, you will place the whole of the forces of the Colony, native levies as well as Houssas, under the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops, whose duty it will be to decide, in consultation with you, what operations it may be necessary to undertake.

“ Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the duty of defence must in the first instance devolve upon the native levies, with such assistance in the way of arms and munitions of war, and the counsel and direction of white officers, as the Colonial Government are able to afford, and with the support of the Houssa Constabulary, and possibly some small contingent of West India troops, if in the opinion of the officer commanding they can be employed without in any way compromising the security of the forts on the coast.”

This instruction will be carefully borne in mind by you, and you will on no account engage in any operation in the interior of the country without the clearest instructions from the Governor.

You will of course clearly understand that a mere raid of Ashantis on the border is not to be deemed an invasion of the Protectorate such as is referred to in the passage quoted above.

Unless the Ashantis invade the Protectorate in force, and threaten the safety of the British settlements, the Governor should continue to direct as usual the movements of the Houssa Constabulary and the action of the native tribes in their own defence.

The Governor has also been instructed that should it be determined that you should take the field for active operations with Her Majesty's troops, he will render you every assistance in his power, and place at your disposal, so far as may be consistent with the essential requirements of his Government, all the resources of the Colony.

Colonel Justice.

I have, &c.

No. 20.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G. to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received February 15, 1881.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cape Coast, 30th January.—Nothing of much importance has transpired since last telegram,* endeavouring to raise native forces in all quarters ; assembled chiefs of this place with King of Anamaboe on 27th January, and directed them to ascertain and inform me as to numbers of fighting men they could bring out with and without arms, all agreed that the refusal of Ashantis request with gold axe meant war ; Ashantis reported leaving the coast for their homes, and very few coming in. In case of hostilities being commenced by Ashanti, will telegraph information as quickly as possible via Saint Vincent.

No. 21.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, February 15, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that a telegram has been received from Captain Hope, of H.M.S. “Champion,” dated the 14th instant, at St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands, acknowledging the receipt of the orders to proceed to Cape Coast Castle, and stating that he would leave on the evening of the 14th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

The Under Secretary of State
Colonial Office.

No. 22.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

Downing Street, February 15, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant-Governor Griffith's Despatch of the 24th January,* confirming his telegram of the same date, furnishing the evidence upon which his apprehension of an outbreak of war with Ashanti was founded, and reporting the steps which he had taken in consequence.

2. I have to express my approval of the energetic measures adopted by Mr. Griffith to meet the emergency which had arisen.

3. He was undoubtedly right in refusing to comply with the demand of the King of Ashanti for the surrender of the Gaman Prince Owoosoo, and the Assin trader Amangkrah, and I approve of the letter which he addressed to the King in reply to his message.

4. Mr. Griffith will, however, have learnt from my telegram of the 7th instant that I am of opinion that it might be judicious to remove Owoosoo from the Gold Coast. If you find that this has not been done you will of course be guided by the state of affairs on your arrival in determining whether it is expedient to remove him.

5. You will use every endeavour to induce the native tribes within the Protectorate to combine for their own defence, and in organising their forces you will have the assistance of the officers who have been placed at your disposal for special service.

6. The Houssa Constabulary, from its peculiar constitution and mobility, will afford a valuable means of establishing a nucleus round which the native levies may rally.

7. But in any measures which may be taken, you should bear in mind that it is of the utmost importance that the safety of the forts and coast towns should not be imperilled, and no operations should therefore be contemplated which in the event of failure would leave those positions unprotected.

8. In the event of an invasion of the Protectorate by the Ashantis, you will place the whole of the forces of the Colony, native levies as well as Houssas, under the officer commanding Her Majesty's troops, whose duty it will be to decide in consultation with Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the duty of defence must in the first instance devolve upon the native levies, with such assistance in the way of arms and munitions of war, and the counsel and direction of white officers as the Colonial Government are able to afford, and with the support of the Houssa Constabulary and possibly some small contingent of West India troops, if in the opinion of the officer commanding they can be employed without in any way compromising the security of the forts on the coast.

9. This is in accordance with the principles laid down by Lord Cardwell in his despatch of 23rd June 1864, to which I have to refer you for your guidance.†

10. The Secretary of State for War has, as you are aware, arranged to send direct from Barbados to the Gold Coast about 500 officers and men of the 2nd West India Regiment to reinforce the troops already there. Colonel Justice will accompany them from Barbados, and on arrival will assume the military command. I have no doubt that he will cordially co-operate with you in any action which may be required for the defence of the Colony, and you will be careful to consult fully and freely with him on all occasions.

11. Should it be determined that he should take the field for active operations with Her Majesty's troops, you will of course render him every assistance in your power, and place at his disposal, so far as may be consistent with the essential requirements of your Government, all the resources of the Colony.

12. But Her Majesty's Government earnestly trust that the necessity for hostile operations may after all not arise, and that you may be able, by timely communications with the King of Ashanti, to prevail upon him to observe the engagements of the Treaty of Fommannah, and to refrain from making war upon the British Settlements or the protected tribes.

13. In the event of your efforts in this direction proving successful, and a war being averted, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it will be desirable to endeavour to make arrangements for periodical meetings, once perhaps in every year, between the King of Ashanti and the Governor of the Gold Coast or his representative, at some

convenient place, so that there may be an opportunity for free and friendly discussion of any points which either party may desire to bring forward.

14. It is possible that these meetings might with advantage take place at Coomassie itself, and that it might be well to send an annual or biennial mission to that city, in charge of some officer of high rank attached to the Gold Coast Government.

15. I shall be glad to receive an expression of your opinion on this point after you have had time fully to consider it.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 23.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, February 17, 1881.
IN reply to your letter of 14th instant,* I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to express his concurrence in the instructions which Mr. Secretary Childers proposes to address to the Officer Commanding the Troops on the Gold Coast.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 24.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR, Downing Street, February 18, 1881.
WITH reference to my Despatch, of the 15th instant,† I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the instructions‡ addressed by the Secretary of State for War to Colonel Justice, who, as you are aware, is about to assume the command of Her Majesty's troops at the Gold Coast.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 25.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, Admiralty, February 21, 1881.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a telegram from Commander Brackenbury of H.M.S. "Flirt," dated 9th February from Elmina.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure in No. 25.

To ADMIRALTY.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina, February 9, 1881.

SITUATION is in the same state as before. Rumours exciting. A brigade of seamen are temporarily in the garrison at Elmina.

Acquaint Commodore at the Cape of Good Hope.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander, R.N.

* No. 19.

† No. 22.

‡ Inclosure in No. 19.

No. 26.

WAR OFFICE TO COLONIAL OFFICE.

War Office, February 21, 1881.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that intelligence has been received from the West Indies which shows that the steamship "Humber," which has been engaged for the conveyance of troops from the West Indies to Cape Coast Castle, arrived at Jamaica on the 18th instant, and will be ready to sail on the 24th instant, instead of 18th as stated by Royal Mail Company.

I have to add that she may be expected at Barbados to embark troops on the 1st March, and she will probably arrive at Cape Coast Castle on the 13th March.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. DEEDES.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

No. 27.

COLONIAL OFFICE TO CROWN AGENTS.

Downing Street, February 22, 1881.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you a copy of a letter* from Sir S. Rowe, Governor of the Gold Coast, enclosing particulars of stores required by the Government of that Colony.

Lord Kimberley desires me to convey to you the necessary authority for the supply of the articles named, 90,000 lbs. biscuits, 180,000 lbs. rice, 50,000 lbs. salt beef, 50,000 lbs. Australian beef, 5,000 lbs. cocoa, 5,000 gallons rum, and I am at the same time to instruct you to pay over to naval funds the cost of the provisions for one thousand men for a period of three months, as noted in the margin, which have been issued by direction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for the service of the Gold Coast Colony.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies.

No. 28.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received February 22, 1881.)

Cape Coast Castle, January 26, 1881.

MY LORD,

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 24th instant† I have not obtained any further intelligence respecting the Ashantis. Yesterday I received the messengers whom I had directed to wait for a letter to their King, which I had read and delivered to them. I received them, with the Ambassadors, in the mess room surrounded by the officers of the garrison, the acting Chief Justice, Puisne Judge Smith, the acting Colonial Secretary, Captain Hay, and the Queen's Advocate, the passages being lined with troops, and the whole affair, I am informed, impressed them very much. They did not object to anything stated in the letter, a copy of which I transmitted for your Lordship's information in my Despatch of 24th instant.†

2. One of Her Majesty's gunboats is now approaching the roadstead, and will probably be the "Flirt," which was at Accra when the "Corisco" left that port.

3. The "Volta" cargo steamer has just arrived with 56 Houssas ordered from Accra. I shall arrange for their being taken on to and landed at Elmina.

4. As the "Volta" will not wait I am unable to transmit copies of my telegram and despatch of 24th instant,† but hope that the originals will not miscarry.

5. I have decided to hold the following places, and have taken steps to provision them, to secure water and fuel, and to put them in the best possible state of defence as promptly as practicable:—Axim, St. George, and St. Jago, Elmina, Cape Coast, Anamaboe, Ussher Fort, Christiansborg Castle, and Quittah. I shall put a company of West Indian troops at St. George, Elmina, to relieve as many Houssas, and Anamaboe will be garrisoned by a company and a half = 100 officers and men.

* No. 18.

† No. 15.

‡ Nos. 3 and 15.

6. The following places will be abandoned if hostilities are commenced by the Ashantis, all stores and ammunition being removed, and the Fanti Police distributed among the forts to be retained:—Dixcove, Secondee, Chama, Commendah, Salt Pond, Appan, Winnebah, Pram Pram and Addah.

7. The merchants of Cape Coast petitioned lately to have certain rocks which greatly interfere with landing cargo and passengers removed. They are just beyond the Castle, and as they will be much in the way of getting the West Indian troops landed I trust your Lordship will approve of the action I am taking in ordering that they should be cleared away with the utmost promptitude. The cost will be under 500*l.*, and by their removal we shall give satisfaction to the mercantile community, and facilitate the landing and embarkation of troops.

8. The arrival of Houssas from Accra enables me to send off 40 men to Mansue, as a support to the force at Prahsue, and they will start to-morrow, 27th.

9. From Tarquah and Prahsue the unofficial accounts are that everything is quiet.

10. In the course of conversation yesterday with Mr. Emissang, an advocate, and a gentleman of great experience in native affairs, he told me that if a request made by Ashantis was accompanied by the gold axe, and refused, they would certainly resort to hostile measures, and that if they did not do so in this case it would be due to their being taken aback and disheartened by the promptitude with which arrangements have been made to meet them.

11. I transmit herewith, copy of a letter just received from Captain Brackenbury of the "Flirt," and of my reply.

12. It would appear from some papers I annex that the Ashantis on the Coast are departing homewards.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 28.

Captain BRACKENBURY to Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle,
January 26, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I received your letter dated January 22. Cape Coast Castle, asking for assistance from Her Majesty's Naval Forces, yesterday afternoon, I immediately weighed from Accra, and arrived here at 9 o'clock this morning.

If you consider the presence on shore of a brigade from the ship necessary to strengthen the garrison, I am prepared to land the following force under my own immediate command until reinforcements arrive, viz., 1 Gatling Gun, 1 24-pr. rocket, and 40 officers seamen, and marines.

In case Artillery is required to strengthen the position, I can mount one or two 20-pr. Armstrong guns in the fort.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. BRACKENBURY,

Commander

and Senior Naval Officer.

His Excellency W. B. Griffith, C.M.G.,
Lieutenant-Governor,
Gold Coast.

Enclosure 2 in No. 28.

Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH to Captain BRACKENBURY.

SIR,

Cape Coast Castle, January 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date and to thank you for the promptitude with which you have attended to my request to come here.

I do not think it necessary for you to land the force you are prepared with, but if it will be convenient to you to come on shore this afternoon we can consult as to the arrangements to be carried out in case of need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

Captain Brackenbury, R.N.,
Senior Naval Officer,
H.M.S. "Flirt."

Enclosure 3 in No. 28.

EXTRACT from a note from Dr. NUNDY, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Mansue, January 25, 1881, 6 a.m.
" START again in a few minutes. Roads clear. No news of any kind about the
" Ashantis. At Dunkrah, the chief brought some Ashanti men to Newenham, who
" had been buying guns at Cape Coast, and trying to steal back into their country
" through the bush instead of going through the main road. We are quite enjoying the
" trip. Weather quite cool."

Note.—Mr. Nundy has gone with the detachment to Prah sue on duty as surgeon.

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. DUDLEY, District Commissioner, Cape Coast, to the
ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, Cape Coast Castle.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Governor that there are very few Ashanti traders in the town. They seem to have been leaving for some days past; very few have come in to replace them, and the number is therefore continually lessening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL DUDLEY,
Insp. G. C. C., Com. Dis. C. C.

Enclosure 4 in No. 28.

The DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS of SALT POND and ANAMABOE, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

District Commissioner's Office,
January 25, 1881.

SIR,

IN compliance with instructions contained in your letter, of the 23d instant, I have the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that it is currently reported here that the Ashanti monarch having sent messengers to swear the great oath on all Ashanti subjects sojourning to the Fanti country for purposes of trade, they are now all returning to the capital. On my visit yesterday to Anamaboe, Mr. Blankson, a merchant of that place, who is considered an authority in matters concerning Ashanti, and who has generally a large number of Ashantis sent to him from the King direct for purposes of trade, informed me that no such great oath has been sworn for the recall of Ashantis trading in this country, and that if they are returning at all it is simply because the great annual yam custom is at hand.* Powder and guns are being sold to Ashantis, but from all I have gathered not to any unusual extent.

His Excellency may be sure of my being on the alert to report further in the event of my hearing anything of any importance.

I have &c.
(Signed) JOHN SMITH,
District Commissioner,
Salt Pond and Anamaboe.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Cape Coast.

* This custom was over by 10th January. W. B.G.

No. 29.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received February 23, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, January 29, 1881.

SINCE my telegram and Despatch on 24th instant,* per steamer "Corisco," and Despatch of 26th instant,† per steamer "Volta," I am without any further information respecting the movements of the Ashantis beyond what is contained in a letter, dated 26th instant, from Mr. Firminger, the District Commissioner at Axim, of which an extract is annexed. The Awooins, to whom he refers, are said to be within our Protectorate. Their disregard of English law to which he alludes, arises from the refusal of the king of that country, and his chief general, to obey summonses which the District Commissioner had issued against them on charges of having murdered some people in sacrifice to their customs, but as I have not as yet been able to ascertain that they are within the Protectorate I have abstained from taking such forcible steps as would be necessary in order to overcome any resistance they might offer to their arrest. The visit of the messengers referred to, will enable me to set the question of jurisdiction at rest, and if we possess it, when matters have quieted down, the power of the law can be asserted.

2. It is to be regretted that the District Commissioner did not strain a point when he heard that 300 kegs of powder, upwards of three tons, were about to be smuggled across the frontier, and seize it. He does not mention the destination of the powder, although it may be inferred from the context that it went to Ashanti; and, if this correct, it shows that the people of that country are providing themselves with one of the first necessities for war.

3. I annex copies of letters from Mr. Newenham, announcing his arrival at Prah sue on the 26th instant, and that he had met there a man from Appolonia, who was journeying to Anamaboe. This man had come from Ashanti and had news which he promised Mr. Newenham to mention to the District Commissioner here, but he has not arrived yet. King Chibbo, of Assin, had offered him to place a hundred men at the disposal of the Government. The huts which were built in 1873 on the road to Prah sue, say at Yancoomassie, Fanti, Mansue, Yancoomassie Assin, and Barreco, though small, were in good order and occupied by natives or the Fanti police. Mr. Newenham reports that all the bridges between Cape Coast and Prah sue are strong, and fit for any transport that would be required. He had ordered them to be made broader by the chiefs.

4. I have decided to raise all the native forces possible, and have issued instructions upon the matter to the commissioners of the Volta district, of Accra, Winnebah, and Axim; whilst at this place I assembled the chiefs on the 27th January, and had a long palaver with them which resulted in their promise, and in that of the King of Anamaboe, to do all they could to raise a large force. They appeared very enthusiastic about the matter. I have written to Captain Moloney, at Lagos, asking him to let me know whether he can raise any useful native force out of the Houssas who have served their time and left the constabulary, and who would be willing to serve in this part of the Colony for a limited period. I enclose for your Lordship's information copies of my Minute to the Acting Colonial Secretary with respect to raising the force referred to, and of a confidential Despatch of date to Captain Moloney upon the subject, together with a copy of the agreement the new men would have to sign, which has been drawn by the Queen's Advocate (acting), Mr. Collyer.

5. I also enclose copy of my Despatch of date to Captain Moloney, requesting the loan of some guns and ammunition.

6. Forty men were despatched to Mansue on the 27th instant, and on the previous day I had despatched by the "Volta" steamer, one 7-pr. M.L. gun, and 40 Snider rifles, with ammunition, to Axim, as will be seen on reference to a copy of the Inspector-General's Report of 26th January annexed. The "Volta" would call at Dixcove and take in 9,000 rounds B.L. ammunition for conveyance to Axim.

7. I requested Captain Bolton, of the 1st West India Regiment, the officer in command of the troops, to furnish me with a list of military supplies of all kinds on hand in the garrison here, and now transmit it for your Lordship's information.

* Nos. 3 and 15.

† No. 28.

8. I also enclose copy of my telegram* to your Lordship of this day's date, † the original of which will be sent by the "Ethiopia" mail steamer to Her Majesty's Consul at Madeira for transmission. In case of urgent necessity, I shall send the first steamer available to St. Vincent, with a telegram for your Lordship.

9. The messenger I despatched to Coomassie on the 6th January should have returned by the 27th. I can only account for his absence by the supposition that the King had postponed giving him his *congé* until the messengers with the gold axe had returned.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 47.

Mr. FIRMINER to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Received at Cape Coast Castle, on 28th January 4 p.m.—W. B. G.

(Extract.)

Axim Fort, January 26, 1881.

I find that messengers are on the road to Cape Coast from Abeyou, King of Awooin, claiming the aid of the British Government against Cocouchee, King of Sayfui (a dependency of Ashanti), who it is alleged has sent Abeyou a declaration of war. I have every reason to believe that this is a falsehood, and that their object is to discover whether there is any intention to send an expedition to Awooin. I find that the Awooins have long been on the most intimate terms with the Ashantis, and that their disregard for English law is owing to the advice from Coomassie. While at Bayin some days ago, I discovered that Awoosie Ackah, the king, had sent one of his cane bearers on a friendly mission to Coomassie to reside there, and had received Ketey Cobran to stay at Bayin, no doubt to keep the two stools well informed of all that was going on. Should any trouble occur with Ashanti I am assured that the people from Bayin to the frontier would join them. I am also informed beyond doubt that three-hundred (twenty-five pound) kegs of powder were smuggled across the frontier last month, and had it not been for the stringent regulations with regard to officers quitting their posts, I think I could have made a large seizure.

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

From Artillery Inspector NEWENHAM to the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER of Cape Coast.

Prah sue Fort, January 27, 1881.

Received January 28, 5 p.m.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that the huts which were built at Yancoomasie Fanti, Mansue, Yancoomasie Assin, and Barreco during the war of 1873 are small but in good order; other huts were built during that expedition, but they are not now in existence, the present huts are occupied by natives, or the Fanti police.

All the bridges between Cape Coast and Prah sue are strong and fit for any transport that would be required; I have given orders for them to be made broader.

The orders received by me with regard to the bridges, huts, &c., have been read and interpreted to the chief at each station on the Prah sue road.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. F. W. NEWENHAM,
Cape Coast Constabulary.

The District Commissioner,
Cape Coast.

* No. 20.

† Qy. January 30th.

Enclosure 3 in No. 29.

Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH to Captain C. A. MOLONEY.

SIR,

Cape Coast Castle, January 29, 1881.

In another Despatch to your Excellency by this mail I have requested you to send Captain Bastow to Elmina, and asked for the loan of certain arms with ammunition. I have had to take these and other steps in consequence of the action of the King of Ashanti, who appears determined to force another war upon the colony. I wish you, in deciding as to compliance with my request, to consider carefully whether any danger to your Government may arise by the lessening of your means of defence, because, if so, I would prefer not to diminish the strength of your position in any way, particularly as at the present moment I could not very well aid you should you be in difficulties.

2. As bearing upon this point, do you think you could raise any useful native force among the Houssas who are farmers? Many men who have served their time in, and retired from, the constabulary might be willing to re-enlist for a limited period to serve anywhere in the colony, and I suppose these could soon pick up their drill again. I would not confine you only to men who had previously served if other good Houssas, or suitable fighting men, could be obtained. I should be particularly obliged to have your views as to whether my suggestion can be made to take a practical shape, and, if so, to know within what time you think the force could be collected, as, should your opinion be favourable, I should at once instruct you to take action in the matter. I annex the form of agreement the men would have to sign. They would receive the same pay as the constabulary. As to uniforms, have you any old or spare supply?

3. Do you think it would be necessary for local purposes to increase the constabulary at Lagos?

4. I intend that Captain Bastow shall proceed to Prahsue to take charge of the force there, which numbers 115 men and three 7-pounders, under the command of Mr. Newenham. Dr. Nundy is also at Prahsue. Forty men are at Mansue.

5. Should any of Her Majesty's ships call at Lagos, be so good as to request the captains to come here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.His Excellency
Captain C. A. Moloney,
Acting Administrator, Lagos.

Enclosure 4 in No. 29.

Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH to Captain C. A. MOLONEY.

SIR,

Cape Coast Castle, January 29, 1881.

By this mail Mr. Lysaght, Gold Coast constabulary, will proceed to Lagos to replace Captain Bastow, who I request your Excellency to send to Elmina as promptly as possible.

2. If your Excellency should be clearly of opinion that without inconvenience, whether present or prospective, to the public service the Gatling gun on board the "Gertrude," together with all appliances for use on shore, two 7-pounder M.L.R. guns, 10 to 20 revolvers, and twelve gunners (two being accustomed to the Gatling gun), together with the ammunition named in the list annexed, can be spared for the use of the Gold Coast Government, I request you will be so good as to lend them, or, if you cannot spare all, then such as you can dispense with temporarily, to this Government, and have them shipped by the steamer which will take Captain Bastow to Elmina. I shall be glad, however, if your Excellency would make the 7-pounder guns deliverable at Accra in case of the district commissioner requesting the commander of the mail steamer to land them there, or, if he should not demand them, then to make delivery to the same officer here if required, otherwise to land them at Elmina.

3. The arms and ammunition will be returned (or, in case of need, replaced) to the Colony as soon as they shall have answered the purpose for which they are required.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.His Excellency
Captain C. A. Moloney,
Acting Administrator, Lagos.

No. 30.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Received February 23, 1881.)

Extract.

Cape Coast Castle, January 30, 1881.

IN continuation of my Despatch, of yesterday,* I transmit herewith copy of a letter dated 28th instant, and received this morning from the officer commanding the force at Prahue, reporting all quiet there. I also forward copy of a communication from the District Commissioner at Axim which contains some interesting intelligence as to his proceedings. He also states that he was obliged to take Prince Ansah (of Ashanti) into the fort to protect him from a threatened attack on the part of the Fanti population. Prince Ansah returned to Cape Coast by the "Ambriz" steamer this morning, and I have instructed the District Commissioner to prevent his being molested in any way by the people of the place.

I propose to issue a Proclamation to-morrow forbidding the sale or delivery of arms, as I understand that the Ashanti, Enquie, who is remaining here, is expecting shipments through a foreign house in the neighbourhood, and from other sources in various directions.

I purpose going to Axim to-morrow by the H.M.S. "Flirt," and returning on Wednesday, the 2nd February.

From the state of affairs at the Cape, it is not unlikely that Commodore Richards may remain there, instead of being at Sierra Leone, as I understood he had arranged to be, by 15th February, in which case I shall have less assistance from the navy than I have been anticipating. I am sure, however, that Captain Brackenbury of H.M.S. "Flirt," the senior naval officer on the station at present, will give me all the aid in his power.

P.S.—30th January. The messenger I sent to Ashanti returned this morning, but his report is not yet ready. He states that the King spoke to him about the escape of Owoosoo, and said he threw everything upon the Governor, and that there would be great trouble if the man was not sent back. The messenger heard that after the gold axe was despatched 1,000 men had been sent on the road to Gaman to intercept Owoosoo if he should try to go there. The messenger's report will be forwarded by next mail.

W. B. G.

Enclosure 1 in No. 30.

From R. E. FIRMINGER, Axim Fort, to the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Axim Fort,

Axim, January 29, 1881.

(Received January 30, 8 a.m.)

W. B. G.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that in accordance with his Excellency's Minute of the 24th instant I have commenced to place this fort in a proper state of defence, and believe that in a few days I can render it virtually impregnable, provided I have a sufficient garrison. With the white men I expect from Tarquah, I think 20 more Houssas, say 16 infantry and 4 artillerymen, would be enough.

I have held a meeting of the King and chiefs of this town, but I am very dissatisfied with their attitude. In fact, I think it probable that they will join the Ashantis as they did in the last campaign. On receipt of his Excellency's Minute I sent to King Blay, but he has not had time yet to come to Axim. I have noted the paragraph concerning the officers, at the out-stations.

I have communicated with the Inspector-General with regard to the men and ammunition.

I have noted the paragraphs concerning provisions, native food, and water.

I have informed you, for his Excellency's information, that I was obliged to take Prince Ansah into the fort here last night to protect him from a threatened attack on the part of the Fanti population here; he leaves for Cape Coast by the mail steamer just in.

The King informs me that the companies here have no guns, powder, or lead, and that if the Government will provide them they are willing to fight against the Ashantis if necessary. I will, however, find out shortly what their intentions are, and report accordingly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. E. FIRMIER,
District Commissioner.

To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 2 in No. 30.

Mr. E. A. W. NEWENHAM to the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, Cape Coast.

Prahue Fort, January 28, 1881.

Received, Commissioner, Cape Coast, 9 p.m., January 30, 1881.

SIR,

W. B. G.

I HAVE the honour to report all quiet up to this morning. At 6 a.m. I had gun practice with case shot up and down the Prah river, and skirmished the infantry around the camp. My friction tubes are not all good, I have requisitioned to Elmina for new boxes. A Government messenger passed here from Ashanti yesterday evening, but was not inclined to give me much information.

I have a guard at Attawasic (our other ferry), as that is the most likely place for the Ashantis to cross. I got in bamboos yesterday, and am repairing and strengthening the stockade to-day.

The District Commissioner,
Cape Coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. A. W. NEWENHAM.

No. 31.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

(Telegraphic.)

February 24.--Troops from West Indies will probably arrive Cape Coast about 13th March.

No. 32.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, Feb. 24, 1881.

I HAVE received Lieut.-Governor Griffith's Despatches of the 29th and 30th ultimo,* and enclosures reporting further on the attitude of the Ashantis, and detailing the steps taken by him for securing the safety of the colony.

2. Mr. Griffith has acted with commendable promptitude and energy, and I entirely approve of his proceedings.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

* Nos. 29 and 30.

No. 33.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Telegraphic.)

(Received February 25, 1881.)

Cape Coast, 6th February 1881.—Situation unchanged. Reliable intelligence from Ashanti not expected for a week. 215 officers and men from Sierra Leone arrived 2nd February. Forts to be held are ready against attack. Naval contingent 70, under Commander Brackenbury, senior officer in command, will operate at Elmina. Available force,—Naval 70, 1st West India Regiment 400, Houssas Elmina 140, Prahsue 115, Mansue 40, 155, 295; total 765. Naval force will be doubled when "Rambler" and "Pioneer" arrive in about 10 days. West India troops will hold Cape Coast Castle, Connors Hill Lighthouse, and Anamaboe. With force at command can only defend forts and towns around, but do not wish troops sent unless specially requested. Prepared for Ashantis should they come near towns; but force too small to operate in bush. If Accra threatened, can place troops there rapidly by and assist with gun boats.

No. 34.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, Admiralty, February 25, 1881.
I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Earl of Kimberley, copy of three letters received from Commander Brackenbury of H.M.S. "Flirt," dated the 25th, 26th, and 29th January last, reporting his proceedings in connection with the threatened war with the King of Ashanti.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 34.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the SENIOR OFFICER, BIGHTS DIVISION.

SIR, H.M.S. "Flirt," at Accra, January 25, 1881.
I HAVE the honour to report that I conveyed His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to Elmina on 2nd January, and remained at anchor off Cape Coast Castle until the 13th.

Having despatched my yearly returns by the mail of the 13th, I sailed for Quitta to coal.

On arrival at Quitta (January 16) I found only $7\frac{1}{2}$ tons of coal on board the "Primula," but most fortunately was able to procure 25 tons out of the homeward bound mail steamer "Corisco" (purchased under clause 5 of contract with Messrs. Swanzy Bros., dated 23rd March 1877). Having thus sufficient on board to take me to Sierra Leone, I left Quitta on the 19th, and, after exercising firing heavy guns at a target, anchored off Accra on the 20th and received the mail of 17th December, 1880, left here by the "Malimba."

Accra being the central position of the station, and having very little coal, I resolved to await here the arrival of the next mail bringing news of the 25th and 31st December 1880, and due about 25th January. Also to look out for any cruiser coming which probably (this being headquarters) would be ordered here.

I have this moment (4 p.m.) received a confidential letter from the Lieutenant Governor at Cape Coast, desiring my immediate presence at Cape Coast Castle, he apprehending hostilities from the Ashantis.

Leaving orders to be joined at Cape Coast Castle by any of Her Majesty's ships arriving here, I intend starting immediately steam is up. Copy of Requisition from Lieutenant-Governor enclosed.

I have, &c.

Commodore Richards, C.B., A.D.C., (Signed)
Senior Officer, Cape of Good Hope and
West Coast of Africa.

J. W. BRACKENBURY, Commander,
Senior Officer, Bights Division.

J. W. BRACKENBURY, Commander, and Senior Officer, Bights Division.

SIR, Cape Coast Castle, January 22, 1881.
 ON the receipt of this letter I request you will be so good as to repair to this place, as I have good reason to apprehend hostilities on the part of the Ashantis, and shall require assistance. I am sending to Sierra Leone for troops, and also ask aid from the Commodore.

The Commander of any of
 Her Majesty's Ships of War
 on this Station.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) W. B. GRIFFITH,
 Lieutenant Governor,
 Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 34.

REPORT of PROCEEDINGS of SENIOR OFFICER, BIGHTS DIVISION.

SIR, H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle,
 January 26, 1881.
 I HAVE the honour to report that, on receipt of a despatch from His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of the Gold Coast at Cape Coast Castle, asking for assistance, hostilities being apprehended from the Ashantis, I weighed from Accra at 7 p.m. on January 25th and arrived off Cape Coast Castle at 9 a.m. this morning.

Early in the morning I paraded the landing party, fully equipped, and ready to land at a moment's notice, as follows:—2 lieutenants, 1 gunner (acting), 2 petty officers, 1st cl., 22 blue-jackets, 1 armourer, 1 bugler boy, 2 carpenters, 1 sick berth attendant, 1 ship's steward assistant, 1 corporal, and 8 privates R.M.L.I., total, Nos. 42.

One Gatling gun (field equipment complete) and one 24-pr. rocket.

On announcing my arrival to the Lieutenant Governor, I stated my readiness to assist, if necessary, with my force in strengthening the garrison, now entirely composed of African troops. The "Volta" with Houssas from Accra arrived here the same time as I did, and proceeded to Elmina to land them, returning to this anchorage at 4 p.m.

The services of this ship being likely to be required at any part of the coast, I am augmenting my store of coal by taking 30 tons from the steamer "Volta."

I forward a copy of my letter to his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and his reply, also the copy of a telegram he sent to the Foreign Office* on January 24th.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
 Commander and Senior Officer,
 Bights Division.

Enclosures 3 and 4 in No. 34.†

Enclosure 5 in No. 34.

Telegram.‡

Lieutenant Governor BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, Cape Coast, to the Right Hon. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Downing Street, London.

COPY of TELEGRAM forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul, Madeira, this day, for transmission to the Admiralty and to Senior Naval Officer, Cape of Good Hope.

GOVERNOR has telegraphed to Foreign Office.* War imminent with Ashanti. Troops should be held in readiness. Garrison of Sierra Leone sent for. Squadron required. Detailed account by mail. Am acting in concert with Governor. No other man of war present.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
 H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle,
 26th January 1881. Commander and Senior Officer,
 Bights Division.

* Qy. Colonial Office.

† See Enclosures 1 and 2 in No. 46.

‡ Vide No 3.

Enclosure 6 in No. 34.

PROCEEDINGS of the SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER at Cape Coast Castle.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle,
January 29, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I despatched a telegram (through H.B.M. Consul at Madeira) and a detailed account of the situation here by the British and African Steam Navigation Company's Steamer "Volta," which sailed at 11 p.m. on January 26th, after supplying me with 30 tons of coal, which filled the bunkers, thus rendering me free to cruise for a lengthened period without requiring a further supply.

On the morning of the 27th I visited His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor at Cape Coast Castle, and was present at a palaver with the native chiefs. His Excellency asked the meaning of the "Gold Axe," and the unanimous opinion of the chiefs was that the axe meant "that the King of Ashanti would cut his way through any difficulty or opposition to achieve his object." All former wars had been preceded by the gold axe being sent in as now, accompanying a demand from the king. I informed His Excellency of my readiness to co-operate in every possible way, but would prefer (until reinforced by other ships) liberating the garrisons of Elmina or Cape Coast Castle (thus allowing them to strengthen their outposts) to operating further up the coast. By my garrisoning Elmina or Cape Coast Castle I should still be close to the ship and at the best point for communication.

Once reinforced, or in case hostilities commence, of course I would proceed to the point most in need; but at present I consider it very desirable to be here to direct the movements of any ship arriving, and also to be able to communicate with their Lordships frequently. Elsewhere I should be entirely cut off from the mails.

I am anxiously expecting a cruiser from Ascension, and should I find the Commodore is there I will immediately send her back with all despatch to acquaint him of the situation, retaining on board the "Flirt" such men and weapons from her as can be spared to strengthen my force in case of landing suddenly.

If the commodore is at the Cape my telegram to him from Madeira will acquaint him of the state of affairs on the coast, and should he be at sea and proceeding to Sierra Leone, according to the intention he had when I got my sailing orders to meet him there on February 15th, triplicate despatches of all that has taken place awaits him there.

I would have sent the "Flirt" across to Ascension had I been certain of meeting the Commodore, but a newspaper of December 11th reports his detention at the Cape, and as hostilities may break out at any moment, I am unwilling to send the only ship of war on this division away at a critical moment without a certainty of her succeeding in her mission. I am sending a telegram to captains of any of Her Majesty's ships arriving at Madeira, or St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands (both great ports of call), acquainting them of the situation and requesting them to communicate with the Admiralty.

I have thus done all in my power to facilitate the assembly of a naval force here in case of hostilities; at the same time their Lordships, being kept acquainted with the state of affairs to the last moment by telegraph, and moreover knowing the movements of all ships, can best judge of the expediency of giving or withholding reinforcements to the African squadron.

Pending the arrival of my senior officer, the whole of the available force at my command will be utilized where most required, according to the circumstances.

Mails from England have been most irregular, latest received being dated December 17th, 1880. The mails of December 24th and 31st are now overdue, and on January 31st the mail of January 8th should be here.

The enclosed telegrams and orders have been issued by me and go by this mail, January 30th, 3 p.m. Mail steamer "Ambriz" has arrived from England with mails of 24th and 31st December 1880. She reports that the people are flying into Axim from the interior to place themselves under the protection of the fortress.

The Lieutenant Governor has not informed me of any change to-day.

I think it very probable I may go to Axim to-morrow to ascertain the state of affairs. No news of the commodore's movements.

The homeward bound mail steamer "Ethiopia" leaves here in about an hour's time.

I have, &c.

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
Whitehall, London, S.W.

(Signed)

JOHN W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander and Senior Officer,
Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 7 in No. 34.

DUPLICATE of TELEGRAM sent to H.M. CONSUL at MADEIRA, for transmission on the 29th January, 1881.

From Commander BRACKENBURY, H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle, to the SECRETARY of the ADMIRALTY, Whitehall, London.

NOTHING new. Same state as before. Informed ships arriving at Madeira and Cape de Verde Islands as follows: Governor of the Gold Coast confidentially reports war with Ashanti imminent. It is desirable to send telegram to the Admiralty for instructions.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle.
29th January, 1881.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander and Senior Officer,
Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 8 in No. 34.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Cape Coast Castle.
January 29, 1881.

SIR,

THE Governor of the Gold Coast reports war with Ashanti imminent.

It is desirable all ships belonging to this squadron should immediately muster at Cape Coast Castle.

Gatling guns and rockets should be prepared for service in the field, and landing party be ready organized for instant disembarkation on arrival here.

A list of men forming the landing party, and the weapons available for active service on shore, should be prepared for the senior officer.

Upper deck cargoes of coal and provisions should be got in, so that ships may be prepared for detached service for as long a time as possible.

I have, &c.

To the Commanders or Officers Commanding any of Her Majesty's Ships belonging to the West Coast of Africa Squadron arriving at Sierra Leone.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander and Senior Officer,
Cape Coast Castle.

No. 35.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

Extract.

Downing Street, February 25, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant Governor Griffith's Despatch of the 26th of January,* reporting the further steps which he had taken in consequence of the threatened hostilities on the part of the Ashantis, and I desire to express my approval of the precautions which Mr. Griffith has adopted.

No. 36.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Received February 28, 1881).

(Telegraphic.)

Cape Coast, 9th February.—Situation unimproved. Continuing preparations. Object to avert war, if possible, by prompt and energetic measures calculated to show Ashantis we shall be ready if forced. Brackenbury on shore at Elmina in command. Ammunition and guns from Lagos and Houssas from Quitta arrived this morning. 100 men withdrawn from Prabsue to strengthen Elmina. 15 left for observation. Messengers from Ashanti yesterday, king asking why we are going to fight him. Gold axe had not arrived Coomassie when messengers left. Suspicious indications from Prabsue last night. Report on 7th from Apollonia, Ashantis had invaded Protectorate. Sent for definite information. Don't send troops without requisition, but be prepared with them.

No. 37.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

War Office, March 3, 1881.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a letter from the officer commanding the troops on the west coast of Africa, reporting that, in compliance with the request of the Lieutenant Governor of the Gold Coast, he had despatched some troops to that place, for the purpose of strengthening the garrison, and to request that you will state to Lord Kimberley that Mr. Childers proposes to approve the steps taken by Captain Pollard on the occasion.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

Enclosure 1 in No. 37.

From Captain H. W. POLLARD, 1st West India Regiment, Commanding Troops West Coast of Africa, to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, War Office, London.

Sierra Leone, January 31, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War, a copy of an official letter* received from the Lieutenant Governor of the Gold Coast by the last mail, and to report that in compliance with his urgent request I despatched to Cape Coast Castle on the 29th instant, a day after the receipt of the letter above referred to, per mail steamer "Cameroon," the detail as per margin, for the purpose of strengthening the garrison at that station.

1st West India Regiment.

1 Captain.
3 Subalterns.
8 Sergeants.
200 Rank and File.

Army Medical Department.

2 Surgeons.

His Excellency the Administrator-in-Chief, West Africa Settlements, having kindly placed at my disposal the services of Captain Jackson, R.N., that officer proceeded to Cape Coast Castle in addition to the above detail.

The mail steamer "Corisco," which brought the news, did not stay in harbour any length of time, so that I had time only to communicate to the Adjutant General my action in the matter.

I beg to state that in the event of a further demand for troops from this station I propose to send every available man, with the exception of one officer and 25 men of the 1st West India Regiment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. POLLARD,
Captain Commanding the Troops,
West Coast of Africa.

No. 38.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 5, 1881.)

MY LORD,

THE S.S. "Benin" has called in here this morning, but as she leaves immediately I have not time to transmit copies of my despatch and telegram of 6th instant to your Lordship, but the situation remains unchanged.

2. I now transmit copy of a letter from the District Commissioner at Axim, dated 5th instant, in which he states, on the authority of a letter of 4th instant from the assistant examining officer at Appolonia, forwarding a message from certain kings in that direction, that the Ashantis had invaded the Protectorate. But I await further information, as African statements require to be tested thoroughly before they can be accepted.

* Enclosure 9 in No. 15.

3. Yesterday I received two messengers from the King of Ashanti with this message: "King say what pass for some years ago that is all finished. He is looking all his people to come down for trade. A report reached the King, the officers and Houssa soldiers are making bridges to cross the Prah. The King has therefore sent his sword bearer and Court cryer to ask his friend the Governor why he is going to fight." The messengers stated, in reply to my enquiries, that they met the gold axe one day's journey from Coomassie, that there were no bridges over the Prah, and that the road from Prah sue to Cape Coast was quite unmolested. I shall not reply to the King for some days' awaiting further information.

4. I enclose a letter receive from Prah sue last night by which it will be seen that the King sent to enquire when Coomassie would be attacked.

5. I cannot ask your Lordship for aid from England until I feel convinced that it is absolutely necessary. It is difficult to understand the Ashantis beyond being sure of this, that they are crafty, persistent, mendacious, and treacherous, and not without some organization in their arrangements. I have a strong impression that they mean mischief, but until there is a certainty of this I am obliged to defer asking for troops from England. Should I have to do so, I think 3,000 resolute men would be enough to settle the affair. At the same time I am not competent to advise on the military question. In the event of necessity, if a mail steamer is not available, I shall send H.M.S. "Firefly" to St. Vincent with a telegram.

6. The enclosed copies of despatches from Lagos will show that I have got some ammunition thence, together with Captain Bastow and 12 gunners, a Gatling, and two 7-pounder M.L.R. guns.

7. I have also received 30 Houssas from Quittah. These go to Elmina.

8. From Prah sue 100 men and the officers have been withdrawn to strengthen Elmina. Fifteen men are left to watch the Ashantis. I have appointed Commander Brackenbury to take charge of all arrangements at Elmina when he landed yesterday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 38.

Mr. FIRMINGER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Axim Fort, February 5, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have just received a letter from my assistant examining officer at Appolonia, copy enclosed, in which I am informed that the Ashantis have invaded the Protectorate. The man Ajapon has gone to discover the number of troops, &c., &c.; immediately I hear from him I will communicate the news to you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. FIRMINGER,
District Commissioner.

The Honourable
the Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 2 in No. 38.

Mr. JOHN AHINAQUAH to the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER, AXIM.

Customs Office, Appolonia,
February 4, 1881.

SIR,

I AM requested by King Yainsoo Ackah of Bayin to state to your Worship, for the information of his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast Colony, that King Abyaw of Enkey has sent a messenger to inform him that Quacoe Chei, who was once of British subjects, and King of Saywhee, has now joined Ashantis, and King of Coomassie has made a chief of him, and the said Quacoe Chei, King of Saywhee, has encamped, together with Ashanti troops, at a place called Adiamrah, near Enkey, British protected territory, and despatched a messenger to Abyaw to prepare himself, for he is ready to fight against. If he runs to the belly of a flat fish, he will easily take him out of it as quick as possible.

Ajapon states that the place called Adiamrah is only three days' journey to King Blay's districts, but he will go to Enkey to ascertain the truth of it, as he has heard of the war, and he returns; then he is a coward, if he goes and not return within 15 days; then he may be caught by Ashantis. He never revealed any of your message to any Appolonian save King Blay and few of his chiefs.

The King Yainsoo Ackah states you told him if he hears anything he must let you know. This is what he has been informed from the interior, and lays before you to-day, and request to inform you also. After your departure from this place he learned some news from Axim of very important, and regrets that you never made known unto him whilst he remains your subjects.

I am desired by King of Atuabor to inform you, in answer to your letter of the 2nd instant, that he is very much delighted at the instructions therein contained, but, as regards the guns, he begs to relate to you, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, that he may be pleased to direct some vessel here with guns, and he will buy from her, but in purchasing guns from Assinee he cannot get good ones, and it can take much time before he gets a quantity which he desires.

One messenger has been sent by King Blay, together with Ajapon, to the interior to ascertain the truth of case as his Excellency directed.

The reply of this letter is urgently required.

The District Commissioner,
Axim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN AHINAQUAH,
Assistant Examining Officer.

Enclosure 3 in No. 38.

From E. W. NEWENHAM at Prah sue to the DISTRICT COMMISSIONER at Cape Coast.

Prah sue Fort, February 6, 1881.
Received 8th February, 8 P.M.

W. B. G.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival this morning at Prah sue of messengers from the King of Ashanti. They came ostensibly to ask that they might receive timely notice before we marched up to Coomassie, but whether their real object was to see our strength at Prah sue it is hard to tell. It seems that both the Adansis and Ashantis believe that our next move would be to take Coomassie. I might add that the King of Adansi sent some messengers yesterday for the purpose of warning me not to put much faith upon the statements of the messengers from the King of Ashanti who were coming to-day.

The District Commissioner,
Cape Coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. NEWENHAM,
Commanding Detachment G.C.C.,
Prah sue.

Enclosure 4 in No. 38.

Captain MOLONEY to Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

Government House, Lagos, February 6, 1881.

SIR,

WITH reference to your Excellency's Despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report the arrival here yesterday, ex SS. "Ambriz," of Assistant-Inspector Lysaght, for duty in this settlement.

2. In compliance with your instructions, Assistant-Inspector Bastow, Gunner Sergeant-major James, and eleven gunners of the Gold Coast Constabulary, proceed to Cape Coast or Elmina by the SS. "Benin," which takes this Despatch.

3. I have also caused to be forwarded by the same opportunity the guns and munitions of war, as per attached list, having complied with your demand as far as I prudently can.

4. The requisition for transport of two 7-pounder R.M.L. guns and ammunition therefore provides for their delivery as directed by you, but I fear they will have to be carried on to Cape Coast or Elmina, the SS. "Benin" not touching, I understand, at Accra.

5. It is but due to Captain Bastow to say that I part with him with regret. He has done his work here as commanding the constabulary well, a conclusion I am justified in arriving at from the state of advancement in efficiency to which he has brought the force. I am sorry, for the sake of the constabulary, as well as for the settlement, that it has become a necessity to remove him to the Gold Coast, but I trust such transfer will be but temporary, and that when circumstances may admit of the same your Excellency will allow of his return to Lagos to persevere in work of which he has made such a good beginning. In addition to being a good soldier, this officer possesses the admirable trait of being the opposite in disposition to the perfunctory individual one so often sees among officers in West Africa.

His Excellency
Lieutenant-Governor Griffith, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Acting Administrator.

Enclosure 5 in No. 38.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for his Excellency's information, that according to his instructions received this day I have caused to be embarked on SS. "Ekuro" the following detail:—

- 1 assistant-inspector, Gold Coast Constabulary.
- 1 gunner sergeant-major.
- 11 rank and file.

Munitions as under:

- 2 7-pounder R.M.L. guns.
- 1 .045 Gatling gun.
- 10 revolvers.
- 9 cases Gatling cartridge.
- 1 box of powder, 6 oz.
- 5 boxes „ 12 oz.
- 9 „ common shell.
- 18 „ shrapnel „
- 18 „ „ case.
- 500 rounds revolver.

This leaves a reasonable supply in Lagos magazine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. BASTOW,
Assistant-Inspector.
Gold Coast Constabulary.

No. 39.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 7, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, February 5, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information copies of letters received on the 2nd instant from the Administrator-in-Chief of the Government, Sierra Leone, and the officer commanding the troops, West Coast, Africa respecting having sent here at my request a portion of the 1st West India Regiment, together with two surgeons, and advising that the services of Captain Jackson, R.A., the Inspector-General of Police at Sierra Leone, had, at the request of the officer commanding the troops, been placed at his disposal for service with the troops sent here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 39.

ADMINISTRATOR-IN-CHIEF to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR GRIFFITH.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
January 28, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch, dated the 23rd ultimo, with its enclosures.

2. The officer commanding the troops is sending by the mail steamer "Cameroon," which was signalled to return here after having left the port, as many men as he can possibly spare.

Commodore Richards is at the Cape, and is not likely to visit the West Coast as usual, as he has already landed a force in connection with the rebellion in the Transvaal. Should any gunboat arrive, I will order her to proceed without delay to Cape Coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. STREETEN,
Administrator-in-Chief.

His Excellency
W. Brandford Griffith, Esq.,
Lieutenant-Governor Gold Coast Colony,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 2 in No. 39.

ADMINISTRATOR-IN-CHIEF to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

Government House, Sierra Leone,
January 29, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have, at the request of the officer commanding the troops, placed the services of Captain Henry Moore Jackson, R.A., Inspector-General of Police, at his disposal for service with the troops sent from here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. W. STREETEN,
Administrator-in-Chief.

His Excellency
W. Brandford Griffith, Esq.,
Lieutenant-Governor Gold Coast Colony,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 3 in No. 39.

FROM OFFICER COMMANDING the TROOPS, West Coast of Africa, to the
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR, Gold Coast Colony.

Brigade Office, Sierra Leone, January 29, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your letter of the 23rd instant, and in reply beg to inform you that, in compliance with your urgent request, I have this day despatched to Cape Coast Castle by the steamer "Cameroon" the detail as per margin, being the all available force that can be spared from this station under the circumstances. Provisions for 400 men for 30 days have been shipped for the use of the troops, and field howitzers and shell ammunition for same are also sent with the force.

Two surgeons with necessary medicines have been detailed to accompany the force. I beg further to inform you that, his Excellency the Administrator-in-Chief of the West African Settlements having been pleased to place at my disposal the services of Captain Jackson, R.A., that officer proceeds per S.S. "Cameroon" to Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. POLLARD, Captain
Commanding the Troops,
West Coast of Africa.

His Excellency
the Lieutenant-Governor of the
Gold Coast Colony,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 40.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 7, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, February 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of my despatches, of 29th and 30th January, and telegram of last date.*

2. On 31st January I left at 5 p.m. in H.M.S. "Flirt" for Axim, to inspect the fort there, and to have an interview with the chiefs, in order to ascertain what assistance they could give in men in the event of the Ashantis attacking that place. I landed with Commander Brackenbury, Captain J. S. Hay, Acting Colonial Secretary, and Captain Bolton, commanding the troops, early next day, and made a thorough inspection of the fort. Mr. Firminger, of the Gold Coast Constabulary, deserves great credit for the forwardness of his preparations, in which he has been ably assisted by Dr. Ross. There are three brass guns in good order, and a 7-pounder M.L. sent down recently, and the fort is fairly supplied with small arms and ammunition. Some few alterations required were being pushed on rapidly, and by this time the fort is in a proper state of defence. Gunners were wanted, and I have supplied ten from Elmina. The employés of the Gold Mining Companies, probably from 30 to 40 white men, have been instructed, in the event of the Ashantis approaching Tarquah or Axim, to seek the protection of the fort, and in such case will add considerably to the strength of the garrison.

3. In the course of the day I had the King and chiefs assembled, and asked their opinion of the meaning of the King of Ashanti's sending his Axe to me. They expressed themselves unanimously that it was intended to convey that if the King's request was not complied with he would accomplish his object by force; and that, coupled with the threat of attacking Assin, it signified his determination for war. I enquired, if they were in my position, what they would do? They exclaimed, prepare for war. I then asked what number of fighting men they could command, when the following particulars were given:

The King, No. 3 Company	-	-	-	-	150
Chief Attah, of No. 1 Company	-	-	-	-	200
„ Essien „ 2 „	-	-	-	-	160
„ Anowyie „ 4 „	-	-	-	-	100
Total	-	-	-	-	610

But they could arm only 100, and would require guns for the others, and ammunition. They agreed that if the Government would give them guns they would pay one third of the cost. Powder and lead can be purchased to a moderate extent at Axim, but I should have to supply the flint lock guns from Elmina, where there are 1,800. There were 1,500 at Accra which were taken from the Juabins in 1877, but they are almost all unserviceable.

4. The chiefs at Axim engaged to get their men out, and clear away the bush near the town.

5. I enclose copy of a letter from Mr. Firminger by which it will be seen that King Blay, of Attaboe, engages to aid with 5,000 men, and will increase the number to 7,000 in a fortnight's time. I have given authority for him to bring in 2,000 guns free of duty. King Blay did good service in the last war, and was presented in 1875 with a sword of honour.

6. Axim was left near sunset, and the next morning I landed at Elmina to inspect the forts there, and was agreeably surprised at the progress made by Inspector-General Grant in the measures taken to increase the defensive capacity of the fine old fortress of St. George. Sand bags were piled up wherever likely to be necessary; embrasures had been added, reduced, or removed; weak points were being strengthened; and, in short, no precautions had been lost sight of that appeared to be requisite.

7. Commander Brackenbury, Captain Bolton, and Inspector-General Grant, visited St. Jago to consider what steps should be taken with reference to it. They were of opinion that, as it occupied a dominant position, it should be fortified as far as practicable, and also that Java Hill should be held to insure the safety of the town. Steps will

* Nos. 29, 30, and 20.

accordingly be taken for these purposes. Yesterday Captain Jackson, R.A., was dispatched to lay out a redoubt on Java Hill, which will be occupied by the naval contingent.

8. At Elmina I summoned the chiefs, and spoke to them as to those at Axim. They said that if the King of Ashanti's request when accompanied by the Gold Axe was refused, that he would carry his point at all risks; and that his intention was unmistakable in connection with the threat of attacking Assin. The safest course, therefore, was for the Government to make preparations for a war with Ashanti. They would ascertain what men they could supply, but they would require assistance in guns and ammunition. Subsequently they informed the Inspector-General that they could not decide on the number of men they could collect until hostilities commenced. I have directed the Inspector-General to inform them that it will be too late then; that I cannot supply their want of arms, &c. if I do not know the quantity required; and that if they are so unwilling to help themselves they cannot expect the Government to protect their town. The Elminas are the only people who have exhibited lukewarmness in the present state of affairs.

9. At a meeting of the Executive Council on the 30th January a Proclamation was agreed upon, forbidding the import and export of arms, munitions of war, and salt. It has been sent to Accra to be published in the Gazette, and until that is done it cannot have any legal effect. I expect it will be operative about the 8th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 40.

MR. FIRMINGER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Axim Fort, January 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that, in accordance with his minute of the 24th instant, I had an interview with King Blay of Attarboe and his principal chiefs yesterday. His conduct was everything that could be desired, and he promises to place 5,000 men at the disposal of the British Government with one week's notice, and to add 2,000 more within 14 days. He asks me to inform his Excellency that during the long peace most of his guns have become useless; and he begs that the Government will supply him with as many as possible, and with 150 kegs of powder (25 lbs.) and 50 bars of lead; he also requests permission to import 2,000 guns from Assinee, free of duty.

The behaviour of King Blay seems to have effected a great change in the attitude of the Axim people, who now declare themselves quite ready to join him against the Ashantis, provided the Governor can find them arms and ammunition. The King of Axim informs that (at the least) he can muster 3,000 men. I have not yet sent for the kings of Bayin and Princes, but I feel far more confidence now that the King of Attarboe has displayed such loyal alacrity. I feel sure that if the Government will supply the necessary ammunition, and as large a supply of guns as possible, I could raise in three weeks a Native contingent here from twelve to fifteen thousand men, and men who have proved themselves before to be a fair match for the Ashantis.

The merchants and miners here have about three or four thousand pounds of gunpowder in bond, which in the event of a war I should store in the fort, and which of course they would place at once at the service of the Government.

I have repaired my magazine sufficiently to keep ammunition in good order for at least six months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. FIRMINGER,
District Commissioner.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast.

No. 41.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the
RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.—(Received March 7, 1881).

MY LORD,

Cape Coast Castle, February 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of the documents handed to me on the 4th instant by Mr. Parker, the messenger I despatched to the King of Ashanti on 6th January.

2. It will be observed, in what purports to be the King's letter, that he refers to Owoosoo's case as a serious one, and urges on me to send him back to Coomassie. The King's letter is, on the whole, not unfriendly. It is out of the question, however, that Owoosoo should be sent back, as his life would not be worth five minutes' purchase. And when the King finds that he cannot get Owoosoo he may determine to carry out his threat of attacking Assin.

3. The King's letter, and other documents, which will reach your Lordship by this mail, will show why such great value is attached to Owoosoo. He has lived all his life in the King's palace. He knows all that has been passing in Ashanti for years, and would be a valuable acquisition to Gaman, Schue, and Owoin, to the thrones of which he is next heir; and whose people are at enmity with Ashanti. And no doubt the King suspects that this Government would obtain valuable information from the Prince about Ashanti, which the King of that country would prefer should not be known.

4. In the papers of private information put in by Mr. Parker, in obedience to the confidential instructions I gave him on his departure, some interesting particulars are given. I have marked with arrows the statement he received that, "If they get no good answer from the British Government they will prepare for war. The King is much vexed about the matter, but is endeavouring to blind the Government while he makes preparations."

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.Lieutenant-Governor.
&c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 41.

The following LETTER was dictated in the ASHANTI LANGUAGE to MR. PARKER at COOMASSIE, and entered into his note book there in English.

SIR,

I AM sorry to hear the news contained in your letter which has reached me in regard of the death of Governor Ussher. However, "the Lord gave and hath taken away."

Your Excellency, I beg that you will allow me to say the following few words:—

I have no objection whatever to the Fantis and Assins who come to Coomassie to make their trade. I am well pleased with them. But some of the Assin people, your Excellency, when they have finished their trade are in the habit of coaxing other men's people and slaves, and taking them down to their own country. They often do so, and my people have now and then reported it to me, but I have taken no notice. But your Excellency, there is one man named Amankra, a native of Assin, who used to make his trade at Coomassie, whom I knew to be a man of good character, and to whom I have sometimes given presents. It happened that in the month of December it was reported to me that this man, Amankra, and a scholar named Mr. Duncan, a shoemaker at Cape Coast, actually had kidnapped the Prince Owoosu Tharsen Mandie, and had taken him down to Fanti. As my men told me, they took off his cloth and give him some clothes to put on, and walked with him, not in the main roads, but through the bush by night, so that nobody might see them. This, your Excellency, grieves me much, and also my chiefs and people, that such a common fellow as Amankra should dare to come direct to my country and take away a Prince of the Royal blood, a member of my family, from the town. And if it had not been for the British Government, and their colonization of the Fanti country, I should have sent men down to follow, and should have had both them (Amankra and Duncan) and the Prince brought back to me. No doubt other

nations and people will speak evil or bad of me, because I, being a King, have put a stop to such pursuit, which I do because I have no ill mind against the British Government and the Fantis. But this one case, your Excellency, is a serious one; and, therefore, I, the King of Ashanti, and my chiefs, beg your Excellency and councillors to look and see to it, and find the men and get my son back to me, or to his native land, as we throw the whole matter into the hands of your Excellency and councillors. Truly, had I been informed of his going, as he wishes to go, I might have sent express messengers with him freely to Gaman, with some guard also to protect him in the way.

The whole fact is this, your Excellency, that some years ago, after a war between the Gamans on the one side, and the Ashantis, Denkeras, Assins, Akims (joined even by some of the Fantis) on the other, the latter party were victorious, and took the Queen of Gaman, named Tambiah, the grandmother of Prince Owoosoo, and some others, and carried them as captives to Coomassie. She bore a female child at Coomassie, and the Vice King OSai Cudjoe had this daughter of the said Queen as a wife, of which marriage the said Prince Owoosoo was born. So he is of the royal blood in this city of Coomassie. Some years after the peace was made between the Gamans and Ashantis the King of Gaman sent messengers to Coomassie to tell the King of Ashanti that the Gamans wished to redeem all the captives, including Queen Tambiah, and to bring them back to Gaman. So the King called all his chiefs and told them of the matter, and they all agreed together and gave the captives up, as was requested.

After this matter was finished, Queen Tambiah stood in the presence of the King and chiefs at Coomassie, and promised that she would not take her grandson Owoosoo, the Prince, to go with them, because he was a freeborn son of the said Prince OSai Cudjoe; but that he should remain with his father, the Prince. So they left the Prince Owoosoo at Coomassie, and departed to Gaman at that time, with all the Gamans who were born at Coomassie, and their relations.

Again, after some years had passed, the same Gamans sent to Coomassie to tell the King and chiefs that they wanted to redeem this Prince Owoosoo to Gaman, and we, the Ashantis, refused to give him up to them, because he is a Prince of the Royal blood of Coomassie, as his grandmother said in the presence of many in those days. Therefore, your Excellency, he is Prince of the royal blood in Coomassie, and not a slave or pawn to any.

This is the case, your Excellency, with regard to which I humbly solicit you and your councillors to endeavour to assist me in getting my son back to Coomassie. With many thanks to your Excellency, as I pray for mercy, these are the words of

(Signed) COBBINA BONSO,

King of Ashanti.

To W. Brandford Griffith, Esq.,
Lieut.-Governor of the Gold Coast Colony.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

MR. PARKER to Lieut-Governor GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

SIR,

ON my arrival at Bubowassie, the fenced guard, I was stopped, and I put the man who stopped me expressly to inform the King that I had been sent as a messenger to him from the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, to deliver a letter to him.

On the 13th of January the cane-bearer whom I had sent returned to me, and brought word from the King that I was to wait till Saturday the 15th before entering the town. On my arrival at Coomassie on the 15th, I delivered the letter to the King. He told me to go home, and he would send for me. I went home, and afterwards a cane-bearer came and called me, I went with him to the Chief's house together with eight Chiefs. They asked me to open the letter and explain it to them, and I did so. Then the King told me to go back home.

On the 22nd the King again sent for me to appear in the market place. I went and met all his Chiefs together, and he made a custom for the late Mr. Ussher, our Governor and Commander-in-Chief, for which I thanked them and their King, giving them the customary present of a double flask of gin.

I am told that the King has 1,000 Snider rifles, 600 for his own body guard and 400 delivered to his Chiefs and captains. He has sent a Chief named Owoosoo Korkor Kooma, with 300 Sniders to guard the Gaman roads, their intention is to prepare themselves gradually for war.

The King of Coomassie has a good supply of ammunition and guns.

The above information was given me by one of the King's people, an Ashanti man whose name I do not know, he was not a Chief.

As to the drilling of his troops I saw nothing like European drill, no Houssas formed, nor any regular officers. The King gives the Sniders to his own native men.

The troops he had on the Gaman roads were 3,700 armed with guns, 300 Sniders, making a total of 4,000 men altogether.

The same informant told me that when the King heard that Prince Owoosoo had run away from the town he sent for all his Chiefs up to Bantama and consulted what to do. He told his Chiefs that he meant to catch all the Assin traders in the town of Coomassie and put them in irons. But after the King had given orders to that effect the Queen of Kokofu (sister to the King's mother) on hearing of it ran to her sister Effuah Kobill, the Queen mother, and begged her to prevent the King from doing what he intended, on the ground that, as the King had sent a messenger to the British Government, it would be better to wait for a reply; and meanwhile to blind the traders to what was happening and to make them go on with their trade. She advised the King to beat the gongong through the town to let the traders know that they might go on with their trade, and that they need not think any thing of what had passed nor be anxious for further news. The King followed the advice thus given to him.

I was told by the same man that after the messenger bearing the axe had been sent down to the coast the King ordered one of his Chiefs with a thousand armed men to go down to Savee Ahwhindoo to watch that road for the purpose of intercepting Owoosoo and Amankra and bringing them back to Coomassie. He said that if the King caught them they would certainly be killed.

I learned from an Assin trader whom I met at Coomassie that Prince Owoosoo was very badly treated by the King, for this reason, that if the Prince got away to his native land Gaman he would be able to give his people advice with respect to what went on at Coomassie, which would be useful with a view to making war against the Ashantis. But as the Ashantis have heard of the Prince being at Cape Coast, they are waiting to hear what the British Government will say, and then they will know what to do. If they get no good answer from the British Government they will prepare for war. The King is much vexed about the matter, but is endeavouring to blind the Government while he makes preparations.

On my arrival at Fomannah, in the evening on my way up, I delivered your Excellency's message to the King of Adansi. I had a conversation with the King soon after my arrival, and he told me that the King of Ashanti had sent to tell him that the piece of land, the possession of which he and Ahinsah disputed, now belonged to the King of Ashanti; and that he had replied to the messenger that the land was his own; whereupon the messenger answered that if he meant that he would never obey the King's commands or go under his rule he had better go over to the other side of the Prah, and that he told the messenger to tell the King of Ashanti that he would never go from his place nor obey the King's commands, but that he had sworn to die under the British Government, and that the messenger then told the King of Adansi that the Prah was the boundary between the British and the Ashantis.

I was told by the same Assin man (Quabinah Ashanti) that Opokoo at Bequia went to the King of Ashanti and promised that he would go and bring the Adansis, Denkeras, and Odumassie back to the Ashantis, but the King replied that he should not go at present, but leave them alone for a time, as he was waiting for something, after which he would open the question.

I privately enquired the name of the messenger from Bayin, Appolonia, and found it was Cobbina Awuo. The King's cane-bearer who was sent to accompany me to the Prah told me that Awuo was sent to take an oath and say that the Chief of Bayin in Appolonia had sent him to the King of Coomassie, with his compliments, and to say that the people of Bayin were in agreement with the King of Coomassie and under his rule, and that whenever anything of importance happened at Bayin he would at once inform the King of Coomassie; and to ask that if there were any news at Coomassie the King would not fail to inform him of it, also to remind the King that Bayin town in Appolonia had supplied the King with plenty of arms and ammunition, he had only to apply at once to the Chief of Bayin, and all would be supplied to him.

On my leaving Coomassie the King gave me a man to accompany me to the Prah, but when we got as far as Assirman the messenger returned, in consequence of information he received from his friends on the way down, to the effect that British troops were coming to fight against the Ashantis. So he told me that he would return and report this rumour to the King.

After I had left Coomassie for the coast, while I was on the road, the King sent me a present of nine ackies gold dust (2*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*) as a present, which at first I intended not to take; but afterwards I thought that, as it was the usual custom in such cases, I ought to take it; so I took it and returned the King my thanks for it.

At Fomannah the Chief of that place sent me in the same way a present of 4*s* 6*d.* in cash.

W. Brandford Griffith, Esq.,

Lieut.-Governor, Gold Coast Colony.

(Signed)

JOSEPH PARKER.

Coomassie, January 24, 1881.

No. 42.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT
HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Received March 7, 1881.)

Extract.

Cape Coast Castle, February 6, 1881.

PRINCE OSSEO ANSAH, of Ashanti, returned from Axim on 30th January. The next day he called on me; Captains Hay and Bolton, and my private secretary, being present. He mentioned that, owing to fear of being attacked at Axim by people from Cape Coast, he had been obliged to seek the protection of the fort. I expressed my regret at his having been put to inconvenience, and stated that the District Commissioner here was instructed to prevent his being molested in any way. He then expressed his regret at the shameful state of political affairs between the Ashantis and the Gold Coast Colony, and that he was not here when the messengers arrived. He was of opinion that a great mistake had been committed; that the King of Ashanti could not be in his senses if he thought of engaging in war with England; and he was sure, when the King discovered how his action had been viewed by the Government, he would explain that he did not entertain the hostile intentions attributed to him.

I asked Prince Anseh whether, when messages of peace were sent from Ashanti, they were sent with a cane or sword, or with the gold axe? He said, with either of the two first named. I inquired whether, when the gold axe was sent with a request, it did not mean war if the request was refused. He fenced the question, and said it meant a serious matter certainly. I pressed him upon the point, and asked whether the gold axe was not sent down in pursuit of refugees in 1863, who were refused, when war ensued. He admitted this. I asked if it had not been sent down in 1873? He did not think so. I told him one of the clerks in the Administrator's office, who was then in the Castle, had seen it brought to Governor Harley. Still he doubted. I put the original question straight to him, Did not the axe mean war when a request with it was refused? He said he must admit that it did with previous kings, but he could not bring himself to believe the present King of Ashanti would dare to cope with England. I enquired whether a messenger would dare to say anything in a message which had not been told him by the King? He said, no. Suppose he did, I said, what would be the result? He would be killed, he replied. Then I remarked, the words I was told were those of the King? He assented. I then asked whether the Ashantis were accustomed to making vain threats, or carried them out? He replied, they meant what they said. I asked, that being so, can I draw any other inference from the King of Ashanti's sending the gold axe with the threat of attacking Assin, if I refused his request, than that he intends to commence hostilities against the colony? He admitted the force of this conclusion, but still he could not believe the King would be so mad as to proceed to war.

He then deplored the state of affairs and the false position in which he was placed; that he had been treated extremely ill by the King in money matters; that he was suspected by both Ashantis and English; that he felt attached to his country, and was anxious to save her from the tribulation that would follow if she had the folly to engage in war with England. He then handed me the draft of a letter he had written to the late Governor Ussher in May 1880, in which he described his position and asked the Governor to use his influence to speak favourably on his (Anseh's) behalf to the King's envoys who had been sent to the Governor, to cause the King of Ashanti to do him justice, and give him satisfaction. I asked Prince Anseh if I could take a copy of the letter, to which he assented, and I also transmit a copy of it herewith.

Before leaving, he told me he should send a special messenger to the King of Ashanti, so that he might understand clearly the critical position of affairs. I told him, that was his business; that I should act up to my convictions; that I should not

do anything to provoke hostilities, and should not strike the first blow, but that the first hostile act on the part of Ashanti would mean war, and that immediately afterwards the Ashantis would have to try conclusions with troops from England. I added that I abhorred war, but that circumstances might arise to render it inevitable; that if by his influence at Coomassie he could bring about a friendly understanding, and so prevent it, it would be greatly to his credit; but that an ample apology would have to be made for what had been done, and other matters, to which I would not then allude, would also have to be considered. He then left, stating that he would see me on my return from Axim.

On the 3rd instant Prince Anseh called again. He alluded to the arrival of West India troops. I told him they had been sent for only nine days ago. He expressed surprise at their arriving in so short a time. I said troops from England would be placed here with corresponding rapidity when I deemed it necessary. He then said, the ambassadors, Enquie and Busoom Buro, denied altogether having said that if I would not give up Owoosoo the King of Ashanti would attack Assin. I told him that would not do now, it was too late for denial. That they had told the interpreter here so; that they had said the same thing substantially to the District Commissioner; that they made the statement to me at Elmina in the presence of Chief Andor; that I had written what they told me in the letter to the King which had been read to them and to the messengers publicly, when they assented to everything. I added that, after the messengers left the Castle, Mr. Quansah, who had interpreted the letter to them in the presence of another interpreter, said to me he was glad to find the Ashantis had not objected to what was stated in the letter; that he fully expected they would have done so, as it was a trick of their people to deny today what they asserted yesterday. Prince Anseh admitted that the evidence was against the denial of the ambassadors. He then said he had sent a special messenger to Coomassie to the King, and expected to get a reply in about 12 days. I said I should be very glad if he could succeed in his object; but that he must clearly understand that I should expect ample amends, and that, as the King, by his action, had caused the colony to go to considerable expense, he would have to make it good; that this expense would hardly be covered now by from three to five thousand oz., and that it would increase daily. The prince instantly suggested I should suspend further proceedings until he could hear from Ashanti. I replied, If you were accredited to me by the King I might listen to you; but you are not. On the contrary, you have told me you cannot get the King to listen to you. He may say, I won't take the Prince's advice. I will go to war; and then, where should I be if I had hearkened to you? No, I said, I won't abate one tittle of my preparations; I shall be ready for whatever may happen. I repeat, I don't want war. It does no good in the end. It wastes life and treasure; it stops farming and trading, and throws a country back for years. There is room enough, I remarked, for both Ashanti and England in West Africa. I shall not provoke war, but if Ashanti begins it, it will go on until a solid settlement is arrived at, and then, I said, Ashanti will have to pay up the 48,400 ozs. of gold she owes, besides the cost of the war she is threatening, and may find her ultimate position not improved in the end. Before taking leave the Prince stated that all his influence would be used to avert war.

In addition to the copy attached of Prince Anseh's letter to Governor Ussher, I transmit copies of two statements made by hammockmen to Captain Hay in March 1879. It will be observed that Prince Anseh in his letter alludes to a mission sent from Ashanti to Gaman in which a white man Nielson was employed. He was a Swede or German. It appears that Anseh joined the King of Ashanti in giving a message to this man Nielson in the name of Her Majesty, to be delivered to the Gamans, as will be seen by the statements forwarded. Nielson met with a fate which cannot excite sympathy, looking to the part he was playing.

On the day after the Prince's last interview with me, eight Ashantis left his residence, where the ambassadors Enchie and Busoom Buro are lodged, for Coomassie, with loads of powder, brass rods, and other things for the King.

Enclosure 1 in No. 42.

Mr. ANSAH to Governor USSHER, C.M.G.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

Cape Coast, May 17, 1880.

I BEG leave respectfully to approach your Excellency with a subject which for a long period has been lying heavily in my mind, and which on account of its delicate

nature I have been hesitating to find a proper channel through which I can convey it to you, in order to obtain redress, and justice done to me; at length I find no other than writing direct to your Excellency, and I sincerely hope your Excellency will give me your kind sympathy and support.

The subject is the shameful treatment I have experienced from my royal relative, his Majesty the King of Ashanti.

For many years (not including the great services rendered to Ashanti before the lamentable war of 1873 and 1874) I have spent time, strength, and money, leaving my little profitable business, in going up and down to Coomassie, through urgent calls of the King to go and assist him in his government.

I bring one or two instances. During the great confusion of the country, and the Djabin rebellion and war, which nearly cost the entire ruin of Ashanti, and an end of the dynasty of his Majesty King Mensah, I was called for to Coomassie by the King. And while at Coomassie, through my assistance, endeavours, and exertions, such as counselling, and speaking to the great chiefs and people of Ashanti at that critical time, and by correspondence with the government and merchants on the coast, I brought success to the King and his people, and for this success through my humble exertions, which the whole of Ashanti now acknowledged, and confessed that I saved them and their country, and which his Majesty also confessed the same, the King then promised me a liberal bounty for this service rendered to himself and his country. I spent ten months at this time in Coomassie, living upon my own resources, besides the expenses of travelling, going up to Coomassie, and coming down to Cape Coast, not a penny for which I received from the King. I came away to the coast with nothing, and am ashamed to say his Majesty has never yet to this day fulfilled his promises to me.

On another occasion I was called for to prepare a mission to Gaman to settle a difficult matter between that country and Ashanti, which, if it had not been for my presence in Coomassie, and the mission which I prepared and sent up to Bontoku, some startling and fearful catastrophe might have fallen upon the King and his country. The present successes of these also, were through my humble counsels, exertions, and correspondence with the interior people, which have now made the people of Gaman alter their hostile policy, and the great chieftains of Gaman have become now friendly to the King of Ashanti. I spent also at this time 16 months in Coomassie, living entirely upon my own resources, and came away to the coast with empty hand, greatly ruined by this Gaman mission, and the calling me away by the King from time to time from my profitable small business with a respectable firm in England have made my business a stand-still, and increased my liabilities, which is distressing to me and my family now.

Although the King at the first onset sent me 80 oz. gold for to prepare this mission to Gaman, which I did my utmost to the satisfaction of the King by hiring for the mission nearly 60 men, viz., hammockmen, carriers, servants, and besides employing one European (Mr. Nielson) as the head of the mission, and an interpreter (Huydecoper) for him, and bought all necessary provision for the mission, yet I knew before the mission started that the 80 oz. which the King sent me for the preparation of the mission will not cover all the expenses of the mission, therefore, on my arrival at Coomassie, I plainly told the King that the gold was not enough, and explained to him the account how the gold was spent before the mission started from Cape Coast on 8th April 1878, and I strongly impressed upon him to prepare gold against the return of the mission from Gaman, and I suggested to him (the King) at the time before living witnesses that he would require the least 150 pereguins, their own money, equal to 337 oz., 8 acs., 1215/., and I brought before his Majesty also that the white man (Mr. Nielson) and his interpreter require a liberal remuneration, I told him that the white man deserves 200/., and the interpreter 100/ for their services when they return; one month was the agreement for their return from Gaman.

In the way of digression, after every explanation to the King about the 80 ozs. which he sent me to prepare that mission, I was greatly astonished for being informed by the interpreter (Huydecoper), when he came from Coomassie to Cape Coast, that the King told him, when he was leaving Coomassie, that he sent the 80 oz. to him (the interpreter) and the white man alone for their own use, for the mission, and therefore the interpreter must ask me if any of the 80 oz. remaining. I must give him 50 oz. as a loan from the King. From this question I have an idea now that the King looks to me as his debtor, instead of his being much indebted to me.

The interpreter also informed me that the King gave him 20 oz., 72/., and that he was not satisfied with it. He now has found something to build his hopes upon of

receiving more, and that is on account of the shortness of time in Coomassie, and the delays of the King of Ashanti did not allow me to settle a fixed salary for him (the interpreter); while we were on the way going up to Coomassie I called the interpreter and asked him what he will agree for his pay as an interpreter for the mission, but he did not tell me, but delayed till we got to Coomassie, and at the eleventh hour he then, he told me the exorbitant sum of 50 pereguins, equal to 405*l.*, whilst his master, Mr. Nielson, told me he would take 150*l.*; of course, I refused to listen to him or to give such an amount to him, I told him it was impossible; he was so humble at the time, he called me papa, and then he told me he leaves the matter to my trust to plead with the King for him for what I think is proper and reasonable. And now he takes an advantage of that, and threatening to summons me for an extraordinary amount of 1,004*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.* as his pay for his services in the mission.

The difficulties I am now experiencing in Cape Coast are enough to send me and my family into poverty, for the men also who were employed in that mission are upon me, because I was ordered by the King of Ashanti to take them for his mission to Gaman for their pay, which they make out to be 537*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* stg., and they also threatening to summon me, besides the remuneration of poor late Nielson, 200*l.*, who was employed as the head of the mission, and who died as soon as he got to Gaman, who must certainly have his pay.

I have already paid to some of these men, since I arrived at Cape Coast, nearly twenty pounds (20*l.*) out of my own pocket. The King of Ashanti has left all these heavy liabilities and difficulties upon me, without the least care, or concern, to send money to pay the above claim. Such is the King's unnatural disposition towards me.

One instance, which hurts and grieves me much, is this; one of those men whom the King sent from Coomassie to Gaman to inquire after Mr. Nielson and the mission, and was detained there by the King of Gaman, for a considerable time, this messenger came to Cape Coast, and reckoned the time of his detention at Gaman, and summoned me in the court here for his pay, which he made out to be 63*l.*, &c., and I was sentenced to pay him 27*l.*, including the costs. His honour, the Judge (W. R. Collyer), saw that the King of Ashanti was right and proper party to pay this amount, showed me kindness and compassion, and gave me time to communicate with the King; my servant whom I sent for that purpose was sent back by the King, who never cared about the difficulties upon me, and must say with three ounces gold, one half of which was made up of bad gold. So I have to pay all the 27*l.* myself, which will make fifty pounds (50*l.*) paid out of my own pocket.

Time will fail me if I were to relate all the shameful and ill treatment I have experienced from the hands of the King of Ashanti for all my endeavours to do him and his country good. If those shameful treatments of the King of Ashanti to me were all, I could perhaps have borne it, but while I have to contend with his ingratitude and unnatural feelings towards me, his own relative too, and not to mention what I have suffered on the cause of Ashanti in the late war, my house plundered, my servants murdered, myself and family nearly lost our lives, and the loss of all my small little property, so that I became a most distressed and ruined man; but I have to contend with enemies here, and there, who often turned my best exertions to do the King and his country good to bad account against me.

I can give many instances of this kind, but they will be too many, and tedious to relate. I bring only one instance: During my last visit to Coomassie it was said that I had ordered 5,000 Snider rifles for the King of Ashanti, and that I engaged Houssas from the Houssa constabulary force, and offering them higher wages, more than the Government here given to the Houssas in the Colony, and that by this I was enticing the Houssas to desert from the Colony to join my Ashanti Houssa troops, and that also I was drilling those Houssas, and have prepared disciplined men for invading the Protectorate. There was never a falsehood more carefully manufactured by an enemy or enemies against me than this.

The story of the Sniders is simply thus. Before I came from England in 1874 the envoys of the King of Ashanti at Cape Coast had received a letter from a French gentleman in France, offering to supply the King of Ashanti some Sniders, and the envoys had communicated the matter to the King sometime before my arrival from England.

When I visited Coomassie in 1875 the King spoke of it, but I did not give him any encouragement on the subject. On my last visit in 1878 the King again brought the subject of the Sniders, and was more in earnest about it, as he found that I was cold on the subject; he was going to send gold and order the Sniders without me, and, as I have friends in England who will be glad for the order, I made him (the King) send the gold with the order for three hundred (300) Sniders to a friend in England. The Snider;

arrived in January 15th, 1879, and they were sent to the King's village, where he keeps a magazine; there they remained until a few weeks before I left Coomassie, when the King had given a few of the Sniders to one of his chiefs named Fininpon to be a kind of bodyguard; this was in June 22nd, 1879, and I left for the coast August 18th, 1879.

To my recollection I never saw an Houssa man to speak to during my sixteen months' stay in Coomassie, and how and where I engaged and got them from to drill them and formed Houssa troops for war? I do not understand military drill myself. I challenge anyone to bring and substantiate any of the accusations against me. I trust that I have always proved my loyalty and peaceful character towards the Government.

I beg humbly to say to your Excellency, as I said to your predecessor, I can assure you that all I have said and done whilst in Coomassie I have been studying the interest of the British Government and the maintenance of peace and good understanding between the Government and the King of Ashanti.

It happens sometimes that an individual's best exertions for good are misconstrued, and he who has been most sincere in his endeavours is reported and believed to be acting falsely and with great insincerity; I can assure you that it appears to have happened to me just in this way.

You must admit the delicate position which I stand with regard to my country and yours; although I feel great obligation to England, yet my walks in the affairs of your Government and my country must be upon true faithfulness and justice, and I am sure if I were to walk otherwise you would be the first of persons to charge me with want of patriotism and faithfulness to my country. Apart from the ill-treatment of the King of Ashanti, I love my country (Ashanti), and as I see her prosperity lies in friendly relationship with England I wish her peace with England, and to secure this peace it is my duty, whenever I visit Coomassie, to offer faithful suggestions to the King's council, of which I am a member by birth, which may bring some good to subsist the good understanding between the King of Ashanti and your Excellency's Government, and even to offer faithful suggestions to your Excellency too; and if ever my suggestions were not heeded on both sides I shall have the satisfaction in my mind that I have done my duty.

Hence it is owned by many observing people that whenever I visit Coomassie there was always good trade from many Ashanti traders flocking to the coast, and many people from the protectorate flocking to Coomassie and other Ashanti markets; thus confidence and good feelings between the two nations are manifested by their mingling together.

So my visits to Coomassie have never been attended with evil to both countries, but peace, concord, and friendship.

Although those false reports about me have turned me aside from the main path of my subject, yet they all show that whatever sufferings, false reports, suspicions, and bad accounts which have been heaped upon me are all through my humble exertions and best intentions for good and welfare of his Majesty the King of Ashanti and his country.

Therefore I appeal to your Excellency whether you consider me deserving of all the ill-treatment from the King of Ashanti, who appears to be incapable to perceive the worth of having an educated relative who has at heart the interest and welfare of his country, and of whom the whole Ashanti confessed, "If we had listened to our Prince's councils before the war we would not have brought these calamities upon us." Our Prince has saved us from the Djabin rebellion, &c.

In conclusion, if the King of Ashanti would not see my services and fulfil his promises, must I sacrifice the support of self and my family by paying his liabilities in the Gamaa mission? I have already made some sacrifices to support the dignity of the King, thinking they would move his Majesty to appreciate the interest I have taken in him, but they were "pearls cast before swine."

I am now therefore on the brink of ruin, and I intreat your Excellency, as Her Majesty's subject under your Excellency's government, for support in the matter of my subject now before you by using your Excellency's moral influence to speak favorably on my behalf to the King's envoys sent to your Excellency, now on the coast, to cause the King of Ashanti to do me justice and give me satisfaction.

In the meantime I would ask your Excellency for any situation in the Government which your Excellency may deem suitable to my age.

To His Excellency
H. T. Ussher, Esq., C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

I beg to remain, &c.
(Signed) J. OSSOO ANSAH,
of Ashanti.

STATEMENT made by PRINCE OWOOSOO in reply to an enquiry addressed him by Lieutenant Governor.

WHEN in Coomassie in 1879, a report reached the King that the white man who was sent to Gaman in company with one Huydecoper has died in one of the villages near Bontoku. The King, on demanding the cause of his death, was told that he died of wounds from gunshot, and it was stated that he (the white man) first fired at some Gamans, and killed one; the people then seized their guns and fired at him, and he received wounds which terminated his life some weeks after. On Mr. Huydecoper's arrival at Coomassie, the King ordered his chiefs and captains to collect a certain sum of money to the amount of 40 oz., and gave to Huydecoper, requesting him to keep the matter secret, so that it might not be known to anyone that the white man was killed by the Gamans. The King asked his chiefs, captains, and others to keep the matter secret.

5/2/81.

Enclosure 2 in No. 42.

Cape Coast, March 24, 1879.

CUDJOE OBIMPEY states:—I was one of Prince Ansah's hammockmen and went with him to Coomassie and then on to Gaman. When Prince Ansah engaged us he said he had received orders from our Queen of England to proceed to the interior, so we went with him. When we got to Coomassie Prince Ansah reduced our pay, saying that as we were going to Gaman on the Queen's business he would only give us 1s. 6d. a day. We went with the white man and Hydecoper with a message from the King of Ashanti and Prince Ansah to the King of Gaman; the message given to the King of Gaman was that the white man and Hydecoper had been sent by the Queen of England and the Fanti chiefs to tell him he had better leave off fighting with the Ashantis, and that he must give up all the Ashantis he had seized. The day we arrived I saw 3,700 Ashantis made prisoners by the Gamans, and the white man told the King of Gaman to hand them back to the King of Ashanti. The King of Gaman did not give the prisoners up, and he has them now. Very soon the white man was taken ill and died. When the white man died Hydecoper would not give us hammockmen any pay or subsistence, and Hydecoper wanted to send us back to Coomassie, but the King of Gaman was afraid, as he was fighting them, they might hurt us; he passed us down through Sehwee to the coast. The King of Gaman gave us one ounce of gold to purchase food on the road, and the King of Sehwee gave us 1½ achie also for food.

When I left Gaman I heard that Hydecoper had run into the Ashanti country to a place called Bandah, one day's journey from Bontookoo. We cannot get our pay.

(Signed) J. S. HAY.

Enclosure 3 in No. 42.

Cape Coast, March 25, 1879.

TAMFUBEN states:—I was one of Mr. Hydecoper's hammockmen to take him to Gaman. An Ashanti man named Coffee Imprah took a cane with him given by Prince Ansah in the name of Her Majesty the Queen of England. When we left Coomassie, Prince Ansah said to Mr. Nielson, the white man, and Mr. Hydecoper, his interpreter, to go to Bontookoo and Gaman and give the King of Gaman the following message, "The Queen of England has sent me with her cane as her messenger, and all the chiefs of the Fantis, in order to see the King of Gaman to speak to him about some palaver between him and the Ashantis. That the Queen of England had given the whole country from Kerinkando near Assini to Dahomey to the King of Ashanti, and if the King of Gaman fought with the Ashantis the Queen of England would give him no help, so he had better leave off and go and serve the King of Ashanti." I was present when Nielson and Hydecoper delivered this message to the chiefs of Gaman, the King himself refused to see Nielson and Hydecoper. When this message was delivered the chiefs gave no answer. The white man (Nielson) died, and Hydecoper never saw the King of Gaman. Hydecoper refused to give us any pay or subsistence, and told me and the other carriers to go where we liked, he would not give us anything. A chief of Gaman took us to the King, and he gave us subsistence and sent us to the coast, and we arrived here about two months ago.

No. 43.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, March 8, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the perusal of the Earl of Kimberley copy of a letter dated the 9th ultimo, from the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. "Flirt," at Elmina, reporting the position of affairs on the Gold Coast, and the steps he had taken in view of a possible attack by the Ashantis.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 43.

PROCEEDINGS of the SENIOR OFFICER, BIGHTS DIVISION, West Coast of Africa.

SIR,

H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina, February 9, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the situation still continues in the same state of uncertainty.

The "Firefly" is kept ready to convey despatches to St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands, or to proceed to any place where she may be required.

Outlying detachments have been concentrated, and will reinforce the present scanty garrisons in the important places likely to be attacked, and orders issued to prevent the isolation of outposts, by directing them to fall back (in case of the enemy advancing) on Elmina and Cape Coast Castle.

Having embarked the Marines and three seamen of the "Firefly" with a rocket, I anchored off Elmina on the morning of the 8th and landed the following Naval Brigade:—

2 Lieutenants.	1 Ship's Cook.
1 Surgeon.	1 Ship's Steward Assistant.
1 Gunner.	1 Armourer's Crew.
25 P.O's. and Seamen.	1 Boy, 1 c. (Bugler)
2 Carpenter's Mates.	15 Marines.

Total 50, 1 Gatling, and 2 24-pr. rockets.

The garrison of Elmina being at present very weak, and the earthworks now in progress to be manned by the naval brigade, I thought it expedient to land my men to accustom them to service on shore, and to the position they will probably have to defend. In case hostilities do not immediately commence I will, as soon as the garrison of Elmina is reinforced by the Houssas from Prahue, re-embark my men, thus rendering me free to cruise and visit the whole of the coast.

The mail from England arrived last night, and I received my appointment to the "Victoria and Albert," Commander Hammick being my successor. Should hostilities still be threatening when my successor arrives, I may consider it my duty (being the Senior Commander on the coast, aware of all that has been taking place, and appointed by you to act as senior officer) to remain in command of the squadron until I hear further either from you or their Lordships, or until matters are satisfactorily arranged ashore and afloat, when I will proceed to take up my appointment in England.

It is most difficult to ascertain whether the King of Ashanti means war or not. From some quarters reports come that the enemy is actually taking the field. From others that the King has no intention of commencing hostilities. During this period of uncertainty and suspense I think all precautions should be taken to arm, garrison, and provision the points likely to be attacked, and everything that we can do to prepare for eventualities is now being done. Axim, Elmina, Cape Coast Castle, Quitta, are being strengthened to resist attack. Accra is weakly garrisoned, and from my knowledge of the place difficult to cover with the small force available, but I hope shortly to examine the position and see what means can be taken to protect the town.

As I am closing, a steamer is coming in with a detachment of 40 Houssas, and a Gatling from Lagos, which force will be thrown into Elmina Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. BRACKENBURY,

Commodore Richards, C.B., A.D.C.,
Senior Officer,
Cape of Good Hope and
West Coast of Africa.

Commander and Senior Officer,
West Coast of Africa.

Enclosure 2 in No. 43.

DUPLICATE of TELEGRAM forwarded (through Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Madeira) from Elmina this 9th day of February 1881.

From Commander BRACKENBURY, H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina, to Commodore RICHARDS, Senior Naval Officer, Cape of Good Hope, and to the SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY, Whitehall, London.

SITUATION is same state as before. Rumours conflicting. Brigade of seamen temporarily in Garrison Elmina.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander,
Senior Officer, Bights Division.

H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina,
February 9, 1881.

No. 44.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 9, 1881.)
(Telegraphic.)

Elmina, February 18, 1881.

MESSENGERS from Ashanti received to-day. King disclaims ambassadors' threat as to attacking Assin, it was Enquie's act and should be overlooked. King entertained only friendly feelings towards English, gold axe meant nothing; if it is reported that Ashanti are ready to attack any part of the protectorate, report will be false, the King wishes to be friends with this Government. Message, although peaceful in tone, is not altogether satisfactory. Reply will be carefully considered and very guarded. Unable to send full account this mail, will endeavour to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion, but Ashantis are very unreliable.

No. 45.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, Admiralty, March 9, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Kimberley, that the following telegram has this day been received from Commander Brackenbury of H.M.S. "Flirt," dated Elmina, 18th February forwarded from Madeira on the 8th instant.

"Messenger from King received to-day, peaceful in tone, but requiring to be guarded in actions."

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 46.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, March 9, 1881.

IN reply to your letter of the 3rd instant,* I am directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for War, that his Lordship concurs in the proposed approval of the action taken by the officer commanding the troops on the West Coast of Africa, on the receipt of the request from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Gold Coast for the despatch of troops to that Colony in consequence of threatened hostilities on the part of the Ashantis.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD WINGFIELD.

* No. 37.

H

No. 47.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant Governor Griffith's despatches of the 5th and 6th February,* on the subject of the relations of the Colonial Government with Ashanti, and the measures taken in view of the apprehended outbreak of hostilities.

I have to express my approval of Mr. Griffith's proceedings as reported in these despatches.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 48.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 17, 1881.

I HAVE observed that in his despatch of 29th January,† Mr. Griffith proposes that "when matters have quieted down the power of the law" should be "asserted" against the Awooins if it is found that they are within the Protectorate.

I understand the Awooins to be a native tribe residing in the interior to the north-west of Axim, and so far as I am aware the boundaries of the Protectorate in this direction have never been clearly defined.

In Lord Carnarvon's despatch of the 20th August 1874,‡ he suggested that "it may be worthy of consideration whether some limitation should not be put on what are usually regarded as the boundaries of British jurisdiction in the little known regions of the north-west."

I should strongly deprecate any extension of the responsibilities of the British Government on the Gold Coast, which are already more than sufficiently onerous.

Unless, therefore, it is clear that the Awooins are within the recognised bounds of the Protectorate, and they have themselves acknowledged that they are so, no measures should be taken for asserting authority over them.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 49.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 17, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 15, 1881.

THE political relations of this Government with Ashanti remain unchanged since the date of my last despatch of 9th instant.§

2. I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of my despatches of 6th February, with telegram of same date;|| and of 9th February§ with telegram of equal date.¶

3. I also forward a memorandum of what passed between the messengers from Ashanti, whose arrival I referred to in my despatch of 9th February, and myself, when I received them. I have not given them a reply as yet, as it was stated when I left Cape Coast on the 10th for this place that other messengers might be expected to arrive shortly, and when those who are still at Cape Coast left Coomassie the gold axe and my letter to the

* Nos. 39, 40, 41, 42.

† No. 29.

‡ No. 2 of [C. 1139] of 1875.

§ No. 38.

|| Nos. 40 and 33.

¶ No. 36.

King had not reached that place. My letter would inform the King that this Government had no wish for war, that it was himself who threatened it. I consider it wiser under all circumstances to defer sending any reply to the King for the present, and time is no object to Ashantis.

4. I enclose copies of letters from the District Commissioners at Addah (dated 3rd February), at Odumassie (dated 3rd February), and at Quittah (dated 7th February), by which it will be seen that the tribes in those directions were quiet and apparently in ignorance of any intentions of the Ashantis to make war. Indeed at Quittah the Commissioner states, "The chiefs and people about here seem to think that the Ashantis will hardly make war." Every District Commissioner has received instructions to keep a sharp look-out, and to communicate any suspicious movements or occurrences to headquarters at once.

5. Herewith I transmit, for your Lordship's information, copies of letters from the District Commissioners at Axim (dated 31st January), at Odumassie (dated 6th February), and from the Inspector General at Elmina (dated 6th February), showing the native forces that can be raised in the places indicated, and it is very satisfactory to note the loyal conduct of King Blay of Attarboe, and the good effect his course of action has had upon the Axim people. It will be seen by Lieutenant Rumsey's letter from Odumassie that King Sackitey says that he can get about 4,000 Krobos, and the King of Akropong promises 5,000 men in a fortnight, but the District Commissioner thinks that, allowing for native calculation and procrastination, 5,000 men might be collected in a fortnight, but that arms would be required for the greater number of them. The Elmina people appear to have been moved by my message to them, as mentioned in despatch of 6th instant, paragraph 8,* as it will be seen by the Inspector General's letter that they requested I might be informed they could muster 4,500 men, but that they had no guns.

6. The following statement exhibits the number of men the native chiefs report that they can, if necessary, bring into the field:—

King Blay of Attarboe	-	-	-	-	7,000
King of Axim	-	-	-	-	3,000
Chief of Boutry	-	-	-	-	3,500
Chief of Bushua	-	-	-	-	500
Chief of Dixcove	-	-	-	-	1,000
Chief of Acquadah	-	-	-	-	200
					<hr/>
King of Taccarady	-	-	-	-	5,200
Chiefs of Elmina	-	-	-	-	800
Chiefs of Cape Coast	-	-	-	-	4,500
King Tandoh Gomoah	-	-	-	-	3,050
Chiefs of Accra	-	-	-	-	4,000
Chiefs of Christiansborg	-	-	-	-	4,000
King Sackitey of Krobo	-	-	-	-	1,000
King of Acquapim	-	-	-	-	4,000
King Chibboo of Assin	-	-	-	-	5,000
					<hr/>
Total	-	-	-	-	41,650
					<hr/>
Wassaw, East and West, say	-	-	-	-	8,350
					<hr/>
Total men	-	-	-	-	50,000

7. Of this number it would probably be safe to assume that not more than half would be available when wanted, say 25,000.

8. The forces to be raised by King Blay of Attarboe and the King of Axim will be superintended by the District Commissioner at the last-named place. Those of Boutry, Bushua, Dixcove, and Acquadah, by some one yet to be appointed. Those of the chiefs of Elmina by the Inspector-General Gold Coast Constabulary, Captain Grant. Those at Cape Coast by Mr. Dudley Gold Coast Constabulary, the District Commissioner there. To Gomoah I have ordered Assistant Inspector Brennan from Quittah. I shall have to find a man for Accra and Christiansborg, as the District Commissioner there has his hands quite full enough. The forces of the Kings of Krobo and Aquapim will be superintended by Lieutenant Rumsey, District Commissioner of the Volta; and I shall send Mr. Cuscaden, Civil Commissioner, Tarquah, to the Wassaws, to organise a force of the natives in those countries.

9. It will be seen that my object is to appoint Commissioners to several points along the frontier where kings and chiefs can best muster their forces, and by means of the Commissioners give them a certain *status* and create a feeling of cohesion. It would be the duty of the Commissioners to obtain reliable information of all that the Ashantis were doing, and to engender a feeling of enthusiasm among the protected tribes, so that, partly armed by the Colony, and supported by British prestige, they themselves might, by a united effort, not only drive the invader back to, but might pursue and punish him in his own country.

10. The Commissioners will be instructed to act as far as possible in concert, so as to take measures for simultaneous action where necessary. Captain Brackenbury, who has been so good as to give me his views upon the question, is of opinion that the "natives, armed and encouraged by their sudden acquisition of power, and led by their Commissioners, should concentrate or act in concert *without any loss of time, and should,*" he thinks, "with every prospect of success, and without a European soldier being brought forward. Europeans require so much attendance that they lose a great deal of their efficiency. By working native troops—and numbers must be encouraged, not stinted—carriers, and the numberless camp followers of an army, are dispensed with, and the only attendants required would be those of the Commissioners and their staff." Undoubtedly it would be an enormous convenience and saving in all directions if European troops could be dispensed with, but, looking to the native character as a whole, as it has been seen in the past, I question whether the Government should rely solely on African forces.

11. I add these further observations of Captain Brackenbury; he remarks: "Whether the natives should be armed before any decisive action of hostility from the Ashantis—officers knowing the natives should decide—perhaps it would be hazardous, but the Commissioners should be established without delay, and made to *take up* their appointments. Organization should begin, and the arms purchased and placed under the Commissioners' charge, and these Commissioners (who undoubtedly have a most delicate game to play) must be held responsible for the arming of their districts at the right time. The prevention of war is the great object. A partial arming of one or two tribes, though effective, is not a great movement; but this simultaneous arming of a nation must have a great effect, and liberal rewards should be given to deserving chiefs when all is over. 12,000 arms would be none too many."

12. The difficulty I shall have to contend with, with respect to the native levies, will be that of supplying them with arms, for in the expectation of getting a gun from the Government each man will say that he has not got one, although he has. I have 2,500 serviceable flint lock guns at this place and Accra. Assuming that 25,000 natives should be provided for, less, say, 5,000 who may have arms, then arms must be found for 20,000. Of these, 2,500 are in store, reducing the quantity to 17,500, of which about 2,500 could probably be purchased in the Colony. The remaining 15,000 would have to be procured from England, so that until this supply could be obtained there would be arms for 10,000 men only.

13. I request, therefore, that your Lordship, if you approve of my recommendation, will cause arrangements to be made for the purchase and shipment of 15,000 flint lock guns for account of the Gold Coast Colony. I hope useful weapons in so large a quantity may be procurable at the cost of a few shillings each.

14. There will also be required 400 quarter barrels of gunpowder, 50 tons of buckshot, 50,000 gun flints, and 10,000 buckshot cartridges. A requisition is enclosed for all of these.

15. Commander Brackenbury pointed out to me to-day that the Gatling gun from Lagos, which he says is a splendid one, is furnished with two drums only, which would be exhausted in a few minutes with active firing, and the efficiency of the arm would then not only be at end, but the moral effect would be injurious to the side using it; and he recommended that six drums should be ordered at once, and a good supply of cartridges with them. I enclose some correspondence with the Inspector-General upon the subject, and a requisition for what is required, and request your Lordship's approval of the demand, and that the Crown Agents may be directed to ship the drums and cartridges promptly. Meanwhile, Commander Brackenbury has improvised an apparatus which will act as a makeshift for the Gatling drums pending their arrival.

16. I enclose copy of a letter from the Inspector-General, requesting that four heliographs for signalling purposes should be sent out; and I crave your Lordship's approval of the requisition for them which is forwarded herewith.

17. I had intended in the first instance to provision Axim and Elmina, but, finding such supplies as I could purchase on the spot far more costly than if obtained direct

from England, in which case they would also be fresher and of better quality. I have thus far postponed any action with respect to provisioning the forts, but as I am advised that this should not be longer delayed, I am constrained to send a list of such supplies as I am informed will be required, and I have to request your Lordship's approval of the requisition, and that the Crown Agents may be directed to send out these supplies as promptly as practicable. One advantage of getting out the articles ordered is that whatever portions of them may not be required can be sold easily in the Colony and, very likely, without loss.

18. In the hurry of writing on the 9th instant I stated in paragraph 8 of my Despatch, of the 9th instant,* "From Prahue 100 men and the officer have been withdrawn to strengthen Elmina, 15 men are left to watch the Ashantis"; but the withdrawal had not then taken place, although it had been ordered. On 6th February Commander Brackenbury, in a note to me, stated, "The garrison (Elmina) is very weak. If we only had the men the place can be beautifully protected." It had been arranged on the 4th instant that Commander Brackenbury, Captain Jackson, R.A., and Captain Bolton, commanding the troops, should visit Elmina, and decide as to the steps to be taken to defend the town; and should meet and report their proceedings to me on the 7th. On that day the parties named (except Captain Jackson, who remained at Elmina working and sent in a report) together with the Acting Colonial Secretary, Queen's Advocate, and the Inspector General, met me at Cape Coast Castle, when I presented Captain Jackson's report, of which I transmit a copy herewith for your Lordship's information; and I may say, in passing, that it was decided to approve of Captain Jackson's proposals. The redoubt in the garden was completed under his energetic superintendence, and the remaining works are in progress.

19. I then stated that Commander Brackenbury had written to me on the day before that the garrison at Elmina was very weak, and that I had been considering how I could supply men to strengthen it. That Mr. Cuscaden had asked for special instructions for his guidance at Prahue, and was about starting for that place, but that I had sent to stop him in consequence of the intelligence received a few minutes before from Axim that the Ashantis had invaded the Protectorate. I pointed out that my object in increasing the force at Prahue was to show the Ashantis that we were thoroughly on the alert, and by a bold and energetic move to disincline them to hostilities, and at the same time to encourage the protected tribes in the neighbourhood; that if the Ashantis had really commenced hostilities, as I had no support to assist Prahue in case it was surrounded by the enemy, if that should happen, the small force would be caught in a trap and destroyed; that to remove it would probably be regretted by the protected tribes, but that if the Axim news was true we should want the men at Elmina, whereas if they were left at Prahue they might be annihilated. I therefore proposed to send Mr. Cuscaden to bring down the force at Prahue, together with the ammunition there.

20. Commander Brackenbury considered that the object in retiring from this advanced position was this; as an effective check on the main body of the enemy advancing, they were useless and would be eventually overcome. They were therefore only a source of weakness in case of hostilities, and the 100 men thus released from outpost would be a great addition to the present very weak position under Captain Grant at Elmina. He did not wish to hurry the withdrawal, but if hostilities were on the point of commencing it seemed to him better to retire quietly with guns and ammunition than risk an encounter against enormous odds, or the chance of being beleaguered, whilst we should be powerless to relieve them, not wishing to weaken our already scanty garrison, and leave important positions open to attack. He was therefore for retiring the Prahue garrison at once, with guns and ammunition, on Elmina, leaving 15 men with an intelligent clerk to watch the frontier, and they could retire on Mansue on the advance of the Ashantis; the Mansue force on verifying the advance of the enemy to retire on Cape Coast Castle.

21. The Acting Colonial Secretary was averse to the withdrawal, as it would dishearten our allies and might encourage the Ashantis. Captain Bolton thought that the total force should not be withdrawn, but that the number of men ordinarily kept at Prahue, 40, should be retained. Captain Grant concurred with Commander Brackenbury. Ultimately it was decided that Mr. Cuscaden should continue his journey to Prahue to bring down the garrison, guns, and ammunition, leaving a steady non-commissioned officer, clerk, and 15 men, who were to remain for purposes of observation, and to retire on Mansue in the event of need.

22. Mr. Cuscaden, with his usual energy and promptitude, reached Prahue in 48 hours, and in 3½ days afterwards returned to this place on the 13th instant with 92 men,

* No. 38.

4 guns, and as much ammunition as he could get carriers for. He left 16 men in charge of the remaining ammunition and 7 sick. I enclose his report as to his proceedings.

23. In this report, as well as in conversation with me, his account of Prah sue was up to make a special report and to attend to the transport of the ammunition left there. I had several volunteers for the duty, but I selected Captain Jackson, R.A., whose scientific attainments I thought made him the best man for the work. He started for Prah sue early on the 14th, and may be expected back on or before the 24th. I enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of the instructions delivered to him. I asked Mr. Cuscaden whether the natives expressed any disappointment at the withdrawal of the Houssas. He stated that he had conversed with King Chibboo, who said the Ashantis were sending down messengers to settle the palaver. Chibboo was not discontented at the removal.

24. As the Ashanti messengers and others had complained to me of the ill-treatment of their traders by Adansis, I availed myself of Captain Jackson's visit to Prah sue to send a letter by him to be forwarded on to the King of Adansi. In that letter I asked the King's attention to the outrages his people were charged with, and advised him to put a stop to such proceedings, and to punish the wrong-doers. A copy of the letter is transmitted herewith.

25. The clerk stationed at Prah sue keeps a return of persons crossing the river. This paper is closed every Saturday and a copy sent for my information. It may interest your Lordship to see the particulars for the period from 15th January to 12th February, it being remembered that the Ashanti messengers, with the gold axe, arrived here on 19th January and left Cape Coast on 26th.

NUMBER of PERSONS crossing the PRAH.					
			To Coomassie.	From Coomassie.	
January 15th	-	-	-	299	346
" 22nd	-	-	-	430	340
" 29th	-	-	-	427	232
February 5th	-	-	-	439	58
" 12th	-	-	-	239	7
			<u>1,834</u>	<u>983</u>	

These figures indicate that the Ashantis have been returning from the Protectorate homewards, and that the number coming into the Protectorate has fallen in a fortnight from 232 to 7. This is, to say the least of it, a suspicious circumstance.

26. I regret, my Lord, that, owing to a deficiency of Despatch paper, I have been unable for some time to comply with the regulation as to uniformity of size, &c., in the papers used for official purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 49.

MEMORANDUM.

Cape Coast Castle,
Tuesday, February 8, 1881.

In the mess-room, 1st West India Regiment.

PRESENT :

Lieutenant-Governor; Acting Colonial Secretary Captain Hay; Queen's Advocate Mr. Collyer; Captain Bolton; Captain Ellis, 1st West India Regiment; Private Secretary.

Two messengers from the King of Ashanti (accompanied by Enchie and Captain Bosum Boroo) presented themselves.
One is a court-cryer; the other a sword-bearer.
The messengers' names are Cobbena Ewnah and Cobbena Oyantakie.

They deliver the following message from the King of Ashanti :

King say what pass for some years ago that is all finished ; he is looking to all his people to come down to the coast for trade. A report reached the King that officers and Houssa soldiers are making bridges to cross the Prah. The king has, therefore, sent his sword-bearer and court-cryer to ask his friend the Governor why he is going to fight ?

Cobbena Ewnah states that he met the messengers with the axe at a place called Ancawasia, one day's distance from Coomassie.

The messenger, Cobbena Ewnah, states of himself Adansi people clearing the road. He saw the Adansis seize two Kokofoo traders ; they took away their goods, powder and cloth. The Adansis took a gun from the messengers, who came with the axe at a place called Ansah. They also seized a trader from the sea coast, took away his goods, and flogged him. He went to the officer, and complained, and showed him his marks. When they met the man he said, " I showed this to the officer," and they saw blood flowing from his face. They came down with two officers' servants from the Prah.

Adansi has many villages ; therefore they did not see the King.

The Adansis are clearing the road.

The Governor remarked that the Adansis were doing what they agreed to do by the treaty ; that is, in keeping the road clear, and that the King of Ashanti had agreed to do the same thing with his roads by the treaty. When this was interpreted to the messengers they laughed.

Enchie and Busom Boroo vouched that the messengers came from the King of Ashanti. The King had not got the Lieutenant-Governor's letter when the messengers left, because the messengers with it had not arrived when they last left Coomassie.

On the Governor inquiring whether messengers were not sacred in this country, and could pass anywhere, how was it that the Adansis took the gun from them, those with the gold axe ? The messengers explained that the gun was not taken from the messengers with the axe, but from a trader who joined them. The messengers told them that the Adansis had taken away the gun. They crossed the Prah in a canoe. There was no bridge over the Prah. They came along the road from the Prah without being disturbed by any one.

The Lieutenant-Governor said he would consider the matter, and send a letter to the King by the messengers.

When the conversation was over I read and interpreted the foregoing to the Ashanti messengers in the presence of Mr. Davis, court interpreter, and they said it was perfectly correct.

(Signed) A. J. QUANSAH, Second Clerk,
Governor's Office,
8th February 1881.

Enclosure 2 in No. 49.

The CIVIL COMMISSIONER, Volta District, to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Odumase, February 3, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency, that the spies sent into Aquamo, as reported in my letter returned here this afternoon.

2. They inform me that they have been as far as the town of Aquamo itself, and have mixed with the people, and talked with them, also that they have seen and talked with some Ashantis who are living in Acquamo, and that neither from their conversations nor from their own observations could they gather any news of the present or intended movements of the Ashantis ; in fact, from what these men report, it would seem that any movements of the Ashantis are at present unknown or unnoticed in this part.

3. King Sackity assures me that the evidence of these men is to be trusted, also that he is on friendly terms with the King of Aquamo, who, he is sure, will let him know of any news which he may hear from Ashanti.

4. The spies sent towards Beggor, in Akim, will probably not return for a day or two. I therefore report up to the present time, and on their return will report further.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. MURRAY RUMSEY,
Civil Commissioner,
Volta District.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 3 in No. 49.

Mr. FIRMINGER to ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Axim Fort, January 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that, in accordance with his minute of the 24th instant, I had an interview with King Blay of Attarboe and his principal chiefs yesterday. His conduct was everything that could be desired, and he promises to place 5,000 men at the disposal of the British Government with one week's notice, and to add 2,000 more within 14 days. He asks me to inform his Excellency that during the long peace most of his guns have become useless, and he begs that the Government will supply him with as many as possible, and with 150 kegs of powder (25 lbs.) and 50 bars of lead. He also requests permission to import 2,000 guns from Assinee free of duty.

The behaviour of King Blay seems to have effected a great change in the attitude of the Axim people, who now declare themselves quite ready to join him against the Ashantis, provided the Government can find them arms and ammunition. The King of Axim informs me that (at the least) he can muster 3,000 men. I have not yet sent for the Kings of Bayin and princes, but I feel far more confidence now that the King of Attarboe has displayed such loyal alacrity. I feel sure that if the Government will supply the necessary ammunition, and as large a supply of guns as possible, I could raise in three weeks a native contingent here of from 12,000 to 15,000 men, and men who have proved themselves before to be a fair match for the Ashantis.

The merchants and miners here have about 3,000 or 4,000 pounds of gunpowder in bond, which, in the event of a war, I should store in the fort, and which of course they would place at once at the service of the Government.

I have repaired my magazine sufficiently to keep ammunition in good order for at least six months.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. FIRMINGER,
District Commissioner.

Enclosure 4 in No. 49.

EXTRACT of CIVIL COMMISSIONER, Volta District's Letter.

SIR,

Odumassie, February 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 4th of your letter marked "Secret," and dated 29th January, and with regard to the same to report as follows for the information of his Excellency.

2. I have consulted with King Sackeety as to the feasibility of raising a force, if necessary, to act against Ashanti.

3. King Sackeety says that he can get about 4,000 Krobos, but, as many of them are away at their plantations at the present time, it will probably take a week or 10 days to get them together.

4. Yesterday, the 5th, I went to Akropong to consult with the King of Aquapim on this subject, returning here to-day; he promises for 5,000 men, having 14 days to collect them.

5. Making allowance for native calculation and procrastination, I think it might be expected that from these two tribes, Krobos and Aquapims, 5,000 men might be collected in about a fortnight, arms would be required for the greater number of them.

6. I propose writing to the head chief of Akim at Kebbi on the subject.

7. The spies sent into Akim have returned, and report that they have been as far as Begoro and into the bush, where they met with some Acquons; they heard that the Ashantis had attacked the Adansis, and that some of the Adansis had taken refuge at Asoum Acron, the Prah in Akim, they could hear no reason given for the movements of the Ashantis, nor anything of their intentions. I am sending again into Akim.

I have, &c.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

(Signed) R. MURRAY RUMSEY.

Enclosure 5 in No. 49.

Inspector-General GRANT to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, Elmina, February 6, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday I communicated to the Chiefs of this town the contents of your letter of the 4th instant.

The chiefs have been with me to-day and requested me to inform the Lieutenant-Governor that they can muster 4,500 men, but that they have no guns.

They state that after the last war all their guns were taken from them by the Government, and they now look to the Government to supply them with arms.

They also expressed their belief that the Ashantis would not come to Elmina while the British Government was here.

The Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. GRANT,
Inspector-General, G.C.C.

Enclosure 6 in No. 49.

Lieut.-Governor GRIFFITH to the KING OF ADANSI.

KING, Elmina Castle, February 14, 1881.

I SEND my compliments and good wishes to you, and hope you, and your Chiefs and people, are well and prospering.

I write to tell you I have heard that some of your people ill-treat Ashantis passing on the road through your country, and take their goods from them. Complaints have been made to me about this. I hope you will inquire into the matter, and where the charges are proved punish the wrong doers. If any of your people disturb persons travelling through Adansi it will lead to trouble between you and your neighbours, which it will be better should not be. I speak to a wise and sensible king, who will not let my words fall to the ground.

I am glad to hear that you are putting the road through your country in good order. It is well you should do this.

I have seen Chief Tabong. He knows my good-will towards you.

I have been hoping Chief Cotico would have come to see me. I heard he was coming.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieut.-Governor.

To the King of Adansi.

Enclosure 7 in No. 49.

SIR, Elmina Castle, February 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your Excellency's instructions I have visited the position of Elmina.

2. There are three directions from which the town is open to attack, viz., the west, the north-east, and the east. The first and last are already protected, the first by Elmina Castle; the last also by the guns of the Castle, in addition to which this road (that from Cape Coast Castle), as it lies open to the sea, would be under the guns of any of Her Majesty's ships which might be stationed here.

3. The approach from the north-east, which is that adopted by the Ashantis in the last war, is at present undefended, but is commanded by the Government garden and by Java Hill. The last of these is a very strong natural position, and with but little trouble can be made almost impregnable, but it does not entirely protect a road by which a successful rush into the town might be made, and it should, in my opinion, be held in conjunction with the Government garden, which I consider the most important position, as it completely covers the only road at present undefended, and also commands the approach from the north-east even more efficiently than Java Hill.

4. I propose therefore that Java Hill be occupied by a couple of field guns protected by a very slight breastwork, and supported by a small detachment in shelter trenches; that a strong redoubt be, if possible, thrown up in the east corner of the Government garden, to be held by a naval brigade with two or three field guns and a Gatling gun, if the Royal Navy can furnish sufficient men. If I am able to erect such a redoubt as I propose, I believe that 150 men could hold it against any odds so long as the enemy were without artillery. If the Naval Brigade be considered insufficient to hold this post, they might occupy Java Hill, and the detachment which would otherwise have held Java Hill might be sent to the Government garden with instructions to hold it as long as possible, and then to retire upon either Java Hill or Elmina Castle.

5. I subjoin a rough sketch of the position.

His Excellency W. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. JACKSON,
Captain, R.E.

Enclosure 8 in No. 49.

MR. CUSCADEN to the INSPECTOR-GENERAL, G.C.C.

SIR,

St. George de Elmina, February 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of the Officer Commanding the Forces that, in accordance with instructions received, I proceeded to Prahue on the evening of the 7th inst. and arrived there at 4 p.m. on the 9th.

I took over the command of the detachment from Mr. Newenham.

The following morning I started for Elmina with ninety-three men (93) and two officers of the Houssa force, together with three 7 pr. M.L.R. guns, one howitzer, and seventy-five cases of ammunition, and arrived here at 2 p.m. on the 13th.

I left behind 16 picked men in charge of an intelligent non-commissioned officer to watch the frontier, with orders to fall back on Mansue, should they hear of the approach of the Ashanti army.

I directed the officer in charge of the detachment at Mansue to retire on Cape Coast should this position be threatened.

In the magazine (which is roofed with thatch) I found 29,958 rounds of Snider B.L. ammunition; one box revolver ammunition; 21 boxes of ammunition for howitzer gun; 4 cases Hale's rockets; a rocket trough, together with a quantity of shot and shell.

I brought away as much of the Snider ammunition as I could, there were no carriers to be had.

I made the non-commissioned officers and men each carry a box of ammunition till I got some assistance.

The gunners were not able to carry their guns, although I gave them 15 men from the ranks. Even then they could not get along which shows pretty clearly that, in case they had to retreat, the guns would most probably have been lost. I found (so-called) Prahue Fort nothing more than a bamboo house surrounded by a weak fence of the same material.

The fort is on the bank of River Prah.

The opposite side of the river is covered with a dense bush. At present the river is so low that a man could easily walk across from the fort to the opposite side.

The Inspector-General,
Gold Coast Constabulary,
Elmina Castle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. CUSCADEN,
District Commissioner,
Tarquah.



- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| A. Elmina Castle. | E. Old stone Fort, can be repaired, will hold about 30 men. |
| B. St. Jago Castle. | FFF. Road by which attack was made in '74. |
| C. Java Hill. | GGG. Road now undefended. |
| D. Government Gardens. | HHH. Cape Coast Castle Road |

1378

No. 50.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT
HONOURABLE THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.—(Received March 17.)

Extract.

Elmina Castle, February 16, 1881.

THE post of this morning has brought a letter from Mr. Edmund Bannerman to the Acting Colonial Secretary, a copy of which I transmit herewith.

Your Lordship will observe the great interest Mr. Bannerman takes in the matter his letter refers to, so much so that he has consulted King Gharthey of Winnebah as to the significance of the King of Ashanti's gold axe. Gharthey says it is for peace; it means to cut away the obstacles that will cause dispute or war. He cautiously adds, however, "As you did not mention the articles that accompanied the golden axe, I cannot fully explain." Possibly, had Gharthey known of the threat to attack Assin, it might have influenced his opinion unfavourably as to the peaceful intent of the weapon.

Mr. Bannerman states, "I learn from several sources that the Ashanti ambassadors Antchie and Busumbru deny having delivered any such message as that conveyed to his Excellency." Prince Ansah first mooted this, but was unable to support the ambassador's later statement against the evidence, which completely annihilated it. But, my Lord, if the character of the Ashantis for mendacity, deceit, and fraud, was not universally known, this circumstance ought to be a warning to all who have dealings with them. If the highest officers of the Ashanti king will not hesitate to tell a glaring falsehood on a most important matter, what confidence can we place in any transactions with them? It is lamentable that they should be so utterly untrustworthy.

Mr. Bannerman's letter is interesting in one respect, in the following observation, which is very characteristic of him. He states, "I would venture to lay a wager that the King will hasten to send you an humble apology and utterly repudiate the act or alleged act of his ambassadors, if he has not done so already and before this reaches you."

It was rumoured at Cape Coast yesterday that messengers from the King of Ashanti were en route to this place; that they had reached Yancomassie, where they awaited advices from their friends at Cape Coast, and they were expected to arrive there on Thursday 17th.

Enclosure in No. 50.

MR. E. BANNERMAN to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

DEAR CAPTAIN HAY,

Christiansborg, February 12, 1881.

I HAVE not heard from you since the despatch of my last two letters to you.

I trust that it is only the pressure of extra work at present on your hands, and not any annoyance at my plain speaking, that has deprived me of the pleasure of further communications from you.

Every hour that passes over our heads, instead of causing me to alter my views of the present aspect of affairs, only serves to confirm me in those views.

I took the trouble to write to King Gharthey of Winnebah to ask his opinion as to the meaning of the golden axe, &c. I enclose you his reply for your perusal and information. You will find it contained on the fourth page of his letter. King Gharthey resided for a considerable time in Coomassie, and, having been a very prominent member of the late Fanti confederation, his opinion ought to be taken to be, at least as weighty on such a subject as that of any of the Cape Coast chiefs; to me it is infinitely more so.

The Reverend Mr. Steiner returned only a day or two ago from Quahoo, and he says that everything was quiet up there, and the only rumours of war he heard were as he approached the coast.

Are you aware that the Reverend Mr. Buck and another Basel missionary have gone on a visit to Coomassie with a view to setting up business there as missionaries? If the King means war, doubtless he will panyar them and hold them as "material guarantees," as the late Emperor Nicholas of Russia would have it.

I learn from several sources that the Ashanti ambassadors, Antchie and Busumbru, deny having delivered any such message as that conveyed to his Excellency. Whether they did or not, and whether, if they did, they were instructed to do so by the King, or not, I would venture to lay a wager that the King will hasten to send you a humble

apology and utterly repudiate the act or alleged act of his ambassadors, if he has not done so already and before this letter reaches you.

It is not true that the golden axe was sent down in 1872-3, war was made on that occasion without notice and on no pretext. I am afraid that the Fantis, or rather the Cape Coast people, write their history backwards.

Everything quiet here at present, in spite of all the alarming rumours. But there is a rumour that the Ahwoonahs are preparing to give trouble if the news regarding Ashanti proves true. But even this I cannot believe.

Captain J. S. Hay.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) E. BANNERMAN.

EXTRACT from a LETTER from KING GHARTEY of WINNEBAH to Mr. E. BANNERMAN.

* * * * *

About the Ashanti affairs, the ax is not emblem or sign for war, it is for peace rather than war, it means to cut the path obstacles that will cause dispute or war. As you did not mention the articles that accompany the golden ax I cannot fully explain. I knew more of these signs of emblems when I was at Ashanti. May be wrongly interpreted as you say golden cluster of palm tree is sign for war, that is on account of the thorns on it.

(Signed) GHARTEY IV.

No. 51.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 17, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 18, 1881.

My despatches for this mail were made up on 15th, but the "Malemba" steamer did not arrive here until yesterday, when I received a letter from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast, in which he stated that messengers had arrived from Ashanti and related their message to him, upon which he advised them to see me early, and they replied that they would do so to-day. I enclose copy of this communication.

2. The contradictory statements about the gold axe appeared to me improbable, and I had little doubt that a different explanation would be given when I received the messengers.

3. Considering that the message might prove of sufficient importance to warrant the act, I prevailed upon the commander of the "Malemba" to wait until to-day. The cost, 100^l., has been paid here.

4. This morning I convened the Executive Council, and caused Commander Brackenbury to be sworn in as an Extraordinary Member, as I wished to have the benefit of his advice.

5. I stated to the Council that I thought little reliance was to be placed upon Ashantian statements. That what had been related to the District Commissioner was, if it was correct, thoroughly untrue as to the question of the axe, but that I held a strong opinion that no honourable opportunity of averting or staving off a war should be lost. If hostilities were to commence there was not more than a month of the dry season remaining, and it would never do to bring Europeans here in the rainy season. Then again, I had to consider that probably the Government at home could ill spare a man at the moment. That even if war could not be averted it would be better so to act that it might be postponed, as, if forced upon us, the Imperial Government might be in a better position to send out troops later on than at present. I alluded to the conduct of the King and his ambassadors as unsatisfactory and untrustworthy, but I thought that if the present message gave a satisfactory opening for an amicable arrangement it should not be lost, but I should expect at least an ample apology for the insult offered. The Council concurred in these views, and it was agreed that if the message from Ashanti was of a peaceful character it would be better to ask your Lordship to let the requisitions, which will go on by this mail, for arms and ammunition, except what is wanted for the Gatling gun and heliographs, remain in abeyance for the present.

6. I transmit to your Lordship in a telegram* the pith of what was stated by the messengers. The King throws the blame of the declaration respecting Assin upon

Saibee Enquie, expresses his desire for peace, and requests that reports to the contrary may not be attended to, or that he may be applied to. He ignores the gold axe, and says if I will consult any chiefs they will tell me it meant nothing.

7. It is from unsatisfactory statements of this kind that the difficulty arises of dealing with Ashanti. The King was evidently taken aback at the promptitude with which precautions were taken to resist him, and, getting alarmed, he wishes to make it appear that his original message was of the most peaceful and friendly character, and he disclaims all idea of attacking the Protectorate. The position is a difficult and delicate one, and requires great care and caution in dealing with it. I think an ample apology should be made, and I shall turn my efforts in that direction.

8. The palaver lasted for some time, and I cannot get the full account written out for this mail. It will be sent by the next.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieutenant Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 51.

Mr. DUDLEY to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Cape Coast, Gold Coast,

February 17, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor that Ashanti messengers, as under—

1 linguist, Bendi,

1 sword-bearer, Akampong Daban,

3 court-criers,

and followers, presented themselves to me this morning.

After the usual compliments, they reviewed the whole of the late proceedings, declaring that any offensive terms and statements used by the previous messengers were "additions by way of explanation" of Enquie, on whom they cast the whole blame, and that the golden axe was brought without the knowledge and order and against the wish of King Mensah. The linguist Bendi reiterated several times that he was the late King Quako Dua's man, who was celebrated for his peaceful disposition, and the friendly terms he was on with Governor Maclean and the English Government, and that the present desire of the King of Ashanti was that all things should go on peaceably as before.

They again mentioned petty annoyances of the Adansis and Assins.

I replied briefly that I was most happy to receive the message, and that they had better deliver it as soon as possible to his Excellency the Governor at Elmina. This, they stated, was their intention, and that they would be at Elmina by dawn to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CECIL DUDLEY,

Inspector Gold Coast Constabulary,

District Commissioner, Cape Coast.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary, Elmina.

No. 52.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G. to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 18, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two communications from Mr. Edmund Bannerman, a native gentleman and advocate, residing at Accra. The first was delivered to me by hand on the 30th January, after the mail had gone. It was marked "Important" without and "Private" within, but I informed the writer that, being addressed to me officially, I should transmit a copy of it to your Lordship. The second was given to Mr. Macleod officially, and he forwarded it to me.

2. Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Bannerman in his first paper appears to have heard and seen "an unprecedented alarm, almost approaching to a scare, caused by the

report of the approach of a body of Ashantis to the frontier," and, being convinced that the whole affair was a canard, had deemed it his duty, as special correspondent of the "Standard," to convey to that journal the information contained in his letter to me. I can only say, my Lord, that I have not heard a word from anyone else in Accra with reference to what Mr. Bannerman alludes to, but, on the contrary, my information has always been that Accra was very quiet.

3. Mr. Bannerman's second paper is interesting in respect that it throws some light upon the value the Ashantis attach to Prince Owoosoo, and also upon the symbolical importance of the gold axe, for, as to the last, he states, "With reference to the golden axe, it does not necessarily imply a declaration of war. It is quite as often, as not, emblematical of peace, or to convince the individual to whom it is sent that the message accompanying it really and truly comes from the King." "Opinions seem to differ as to whether in this instance it is symbolic of peace or war."

4. Mr. Bannerman does not appear to have known, when writing his second paper, that the Ashanti ambassadors had told me, if Owoosoo was not given up to them, their King would attack Assin. Possibly, had he been aware of this, it would have satisfied him that, in this particular case, the gold axe did not mean peace.

5. Mr. Bannerman is, I understand, the son of an Ashanti princess and in frequent communication with the King at Coomassie. Prince Ossoo Ansah is well known as an Ashanti prince who has had the advantage of an English education, and is a near relative and well known agent of the King of Ashanti. In a recent interview with the Prince he stated that when messages of peace were sent from Ashanti they were sent with a cane or sword, not with the axe. He admitted that the gold axe had been sent in 1863, and, the request it accompanied having been refused, war had followed. When asked if the gold axe meant war when a request with it was declined, he said he must admit that it did with previous kings, but he could not bring himself to believe that the present King of Ashanti would dare to cope with England. When questioned whether the Ashantis were accustomed to making vain threats, or carried them out, he replied they meant what they said, and when I asked, "That being so, can I draw any other inference from the King of Ashanti's sending the gold axe with the threat of attacking Assin if I refused his request (which I had done) than that he intended to commence hostilities against the Colony?" he admitted the force of the conclusion, although he could not believe the King would be so mad as to proceed to war.

6. I have trespassed on your Lordship's attention to the communications from Mr. Bannerman in order to show how he looks at the gold axe affair, and the view taken of it by Prince Ansah. Both of them more or less agree as to its significance, against which they place their opinions that the King of Ashanti must be insane if he intends to make war against England. I can only add my hope that the King of Ashanti may very shortly give me a satisfactory assurance that there is a wide gulf between his symbol and threat and his intentions, and that the last are really pacific and may be relied upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieut.-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c.

&c.

&c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 52.

Mr. E. BANNERMAN to Lieut.-Governor GRIFFITH, C.M.G. (Received January 30, 1881.)

Private.

MY DEAR SIR,

Christiansborg, January 27, 1881.

HEARING and seeing that there is unprecedented alarm, almost approaching to a scare, caused by the report of the approach of a body of Ashantis to the frontier, I deem it right to acquaint your Excellency that I have been informed by some of the Juabin chiefs now in Accra that this body of men is nothing more than a peaceable embassy despatched from Coomassie jointly by the King of Ashanti, the young King of Juabin, and the Princess Marnsah of Juabin, for the purpose of proceeding to Accra to make "custom" for the late Queen Afracoomah of Juabin, as well as for an Ashanti chief of the name of Nyanchi, both of whom died here last year, and at the same time to thank the Governor in the King's name for having placed it out of the power of Assafo Adjay to intrigue any further with his subjects, and also to condole with the Government upon the occasion of the death of Governor Usher. Of course I

do not for a moment expect that your Excellency will accept as gospel this hypothesis of the Juabins, as, being yourself nearer the scene, you may have been placed in possession of authentic information which would render belief therein utterly impossible. However, so convinced am I that the whole affair is a "canard," that I have deemed it my duty, as special correspondent to the "Standard," to convey to that journal the information which I am now imparting to your Excellency, with such further observations as other facts which have come to my knowledge justify me in adding.

If the present Acting Colonial Secretary was in the Colony at the time, it may, perhaps, be in his recollection that on the occasion of the late chief Nyanchi, whose name I have already mentioned in this letter, arriving near the Prah in 1878, on his way to Accra, a similar, rumour was raised and Sir Sanford Freeling had to interfere before that chief could manage to cross the Prah in safety.

If I might be permitted to do so, I should observe that none but those totally ignorant of the present internal condition of the Ashanti kingdom could genuinely entertain the belief that the King desired to increase the number of his enemies by adding the English Government, above all, to the list. That would certainly be one way of returning thanks to the Government for ridding him of his most formidable and most implacable foe. The King of Ashanti might be capable of doing so were he mad, but we have yet to learn that he is in that condition.

I repeat that it will be found ere long that the whole affair is a canard raised by the cowardly tribes on the borders of the Prah at the sight of what might possibly be an unusually large number of Ashantis approaching their frontier, but at the same time one which will ultimately prove very costly to the Colony.

His Excellency Governor Griffith,
Cape Coast.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) E. BANNERMAN.

Enclosure 2 in No. 52.

MEMORANDUM handed by Mr. Edmund Bannerman to Mr. Macleod.

IN order that one should have a clear idea of the reason why the King of Ashanti is so anxious to have the refugee, Owoosoo, restored to him, it is proper that his history should be known.

In the year 1820 the Ashantis invaded the Gaman country, and completely subdued it.

They brought with them to Coomassie, amongst the captives, a certain female connected with the Gaman stool, and whose male offspring, if she should have any, would be entitled to the Gaman stool.

This Princess of Gaman was given in marriage to one Odumata, the highest in rank of the Ashanti chiefs not of the royal blood.

An only daughter was the result of this marriage.

This daughter was given in marriage, about 40 years ago, to the then heir-apparent, to the stool of Coomassie, one Osai Quajoe; two sons were born to Prince Osai Quajoe by this daughter of the Gaman princess.

The elder was allowed by the King of Ashanti to go to Gaman, where he soon after died, not without very strong suspicion of foul play.

The younger son is this refugee, Owoosoo, who it will be seen is to all intents and purposes an Ashanti prince quite as much as a Gaman prince.

His elder brother having met with what the Ashantis firmly believe to be foul play at the hands of the Gaman chiefs, because he was the offspring of one who, had he lived, would have been a King of Ashanti, and the present relations existing between Coomassie and Buntookoo being so very strained, the King of Coomassie very naturally feels keenly the abduction, as the Ashantis say it is, of Prince Owoosoo with a view to his being taken to Gaman to be placed, as they believe he would be, on the stool of Buntookoo.

With regard to the golden axe, it does not necessarily imply a declaration of war. It is quite as often, as not, emblematical of peace, or to convince the individual to whom it is sent that the message accompanying it really and truly comes from the King.

Opinions seem to differ as to whether in this instance it is symbolic of peace or war.

Those that are of opinion that it means war appear to have arrived, or rather jumped, at that opinion, without the slightest regard to the several facts staring them in the face, which ought to convince them that it is hardly possible for the Ashantis to go to war with us at all, or at least not at present, or without our having three months' notice.

We have Ashantis going to and fro and trading in all our principal towns both on the coast and in Eastern and Western Akim; and more coming down daily still from Coomassie and the other places. They all discuss this matter of the golden axe most freely with all inquirers, and express their opinion thereon, and impart information most unreservedly.

They dare not open their mouths if they were not quite certain that their King, though most anxious to get back his relative, did not look upon the matter as one of peace or war.

I have conversed with Ashantis who have been in Accra for years, with some that have been here for a few weeks only, and again with others who left Coomassie after the bearers of the golden axe left, and they are all unanimous in saying that the idea of war never could have entered the heart of a single Ashanti, from the King to the public executioner; and that if such had been the case the whole of the Ashantis on the coast would have disappeared suddenly one night without a soul knowing of their intention to leave.

They further state that if anything could urge or induce the King to go to war it might be the massing of troops on the Prah; but that even this will not have that effect.

I am inclined to the opinion that in less than a month clear proof of the King's pacific, if not friendly, disposition will be unmistakeably evinced.

(Signed) E. BANNERMAN.

Christiansborg.

2/2/81.

Enclosure 3 in No. 52.

FROM the PRIVATE SECRETARY to Mr. EDMUND BANNERMAN.

SIR,

Cape Coast Castle, February 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour, by direction of the Lieutenant-Governor, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 27th January (on the 30th of that month) marked "Important" on the envelope, and "Private" on the letter, and to state that, as it relates to a question of public interest, it will be his Excellency's duty to transmit a copy of your communication to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Private Secretary.

Edmund Bannerman, Esq.,
Christiansborg.

No. 53.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 18, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies* of a Special Government Gazette of this Colony, dated 31st January, containing a Proclamation issued in Executive Council, prohibiting "arms, ammunition, gunpowder, and other munitions of war, from being imported within the limits" affected by the "Gold Coast Customs Ordinance, 1876," and further prohibiting arms, ammunition, gunpowder, and salt, from being exported beyond the limits of the said jurisdiction.

2. By the 47th section of the Ordinance referred to the Governor may, during the subsistence of such Proclamation, authorise by license any person to import or bring into the jurisdiction any of the articles mentioned above.

3. I also transmit herewith copies of the Proclamation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 54.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 18, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 11, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Despatch, of 14th January,* with the intelligence of Sir Samuel Rowe's appointment to the Government of this Colony, that the Governor-in-Chief would be detained for some little time in Paris, and that, pending his arrival here, your Lordship depended on my carrying on the Government in accordance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and that I would not initiate any new policy, or take any measures of importance, not absolutely necessary, without your Lordship's previous consent and approval.

2. Your Lordship has indicated the exact line of conduct I laid down for adoption on succeeding to the position I have the honour to hold. In homely language, I considered it was my duty to hold the reins until the coachman came, not to drive the coach, and I have kept this rule steadily in view, the only deviation being the adoption of measures I considered it absolutely necessary to take for the protection of the Colony, so that it might not drift into war consequent upon the recent action of the King of Ashanti. In this anxious, trying, and difficult position, I have taken, and shall continue to take, all steps which I think calculated to avert war, or to be partially prepared for it if, unfortunately, it should be commenced by Ashanti, and whilst I am thus necessarily incurring expense I am doing all that is possible, by strict supervision and check, to limit such expenditure to what is absolutely necessary for the safety of the coast towns of the Colony capable of defence in the event of their being attacked.

3. My Lord, quite irrespective of the lower motive of self-interest, I am anxious to show by my conduct as the Governor of this Colony that I have its interest at heart, and earnestly desire so to carry on my short administration that I may win the reward I most hope for, the approval of my conduct by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

No. 55.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 19, 1881.)

(Telegraphic).

Elmina, 28th February. Received telegram 7th February.† "Champion" arrived 25th. Message to King of Ashanti's messengers. Glad to hear of his peaceful intentions, and will be his friend whilst he keeps them. That Governor Rowe is coming from England. Will be here very soon; and think it better to let full reply to message, and also other business, be left to him to deal with, as he is coming direct from England, and knows the views of the Government in this matter. No relaxation of precaution. Ashanti's feeling want of salt. Preparing for reception West Indian troops. "Champion," "Flirt," "Rambler," "Firefly," at Elmina. "Pioneer," Cape Coast.

No. 56.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, March 19, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Earl of Kimberley, copies of two letters received from Commander Brackenbury, of H.M.S. "Flirt," dated the 17th and 18th February last, reporting his proceedings and the state of affairs at Elmina.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

* Not printed.

† No. 5.

Enclosure 1 in No. 56.

PROCEEDINGS of SENIOR OFFICER, Bight's Division, West Coast of Africa.

SIR,

H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina, February 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that the situation still remains in a state of uncertainty. The reports of passengers to and from Coomassie shew that the Ashantis are all going away from the Gold Coast, and scarcely any now cross the Prah towards the coast. An embassy is daily expected bringing back the King's answer to the Governor's demand for an explanation.

The garrison of Elmina having been reinforced by detachments of Houssas, I have re-embarked the Naval Brigade until decisive action commences. The few days they were landed were beneficial to them in every way. The men were drilled at the Gatling as a field gun, at the 7-pr., also at skirmishing, and became accustomed to their new organization. I found we were quite independent of assistance from anybody; ammunition, provisions, &c., were provided from the ship, and the only thing required was a place of shelter for the men.

The matter of arming native levies is now being considered, and Commissioners are at once to report on the capabilities for war of their respective districts. I am sanguine of success in this movement, which is of the utmost importance, and hope that, should hostilities break out, all our friendly tribes being armed simultaneously, and working in concert through the Commissioners, the Ashantis may be repulsed and even pursued by the tribes in our Protectorate. In the last war many of these tribes were hostile to us.

However, the matter of organising them is by no means an easy one, as there are numberless petty jealousies, &c., among the different peoples to be smoothed over so as to make them work together.

I am assisting the Lieutenant-Governor in every possible way.

The bush has been cleared round the immediate vicinity, and from the out-works now in progress (if only proper garrisons could be thrown into them) an enemy attacking the town, and however numerous, would be repulsed. The arrival of the "Rambler," "Foam," and "Pioneer" will place a fair force at my disposal, and I am anxiously waiting the appearance of these vessels on the coast.

"Firefly" is at Cape Coast Castle. I am obliged to keep her detached on account of the mails, which do not call here. Communication is kept up by steam cutter.

The Lieutenant-Governor has, within the last few days, taken up his residence at Elmina, and reports no change in the situation up to this time, but his Excellency may delay the homeward mail now in, on account of the embassy which he is informed is on its way to Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

J. W. BRACKENBURY,
Commander, and Senior Officer,
West Coast Division.Commodore F. W. Richards, C.B., A.D.C.,
Senior Officer,
West Coast of Africa.

Enclosure 2 in No. 56.

REPORT of PROCEEDINGS of the SENIOR OFFICER, Bights Division, West Coast of Africa.

SIR,

H.M.S. "Flirt," Elmina, February 18, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that messengers from the King of Ashanti were received this morning; these messengers state that the King never intended to threaten war on Assin if the fugitive prince were not given up, but that this was entirely a fabrication on the part of the first envoys. The King says all rumours about his attacking the Protectorate are false. He desires to be friendly. The gold axe means nothing.

So far the message is peaceful in its bearing, but all the envoys give such different accounts to different people, when questioned, that it is difficult (knowing the mendacity of the Ashantis) to ascertain the real truth.

That envoys from a King such as the Monarch of Ashanti is represented to be should state anything they have not previously been told to say, seems incredible. My opinion is that the first embassy, accompanied with the axe, was meant to intimidate. Seeing, however, that the fugitive was not to be given up, and that preparations were being made to resist aggression, more peaceable councils have probably prevailed at Coomassie, the Ashantis not being ready for immediate war.

The different embassies have, for the time being, been dismissed, until his Excellency has made up his mind how to act.

The mail is on the point of starting and council only just broken up, I am therefore much pressed for time, and thus hurriedly stated what has taken place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. W. BRACKENBURY,
 Commodore F. W. Richards, C.B., A.D.C., Commander and Senior Officer,
 Senior Officer, Cape of Good Hope and West Coast Division.
 West Coast of Africa.

No. 57.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, March 19, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies copy of a letter from the Captain of H.M.S. "Champion," dated the 20th February, from Sierra Leone, reporting his proceedings, and relative to the state of matters at the Gold Coast.

2. My Lords desire me to state that, if the later news received from Elmina is confirmed by information received by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, my Lords propose to telegraph to Madeira or St. Vincent to instruct the Captain of H.M.S. "Champion" that if affairs are peaceful he may proceed to the Pacific Station in execution of his original orders.

I am to observe that this will still leave the "Flirt," "Rambler," "Foam," "Firefly," and "Pioneer," at or in the vicinity of the Gold Coast.

I am, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
 Colonial Office.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 57.

H.M.S. "Champion," Sierra Leone,
 February 20, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a letter received, on my arrival here, from Commander Brackenbury of H.M.S. "Flirt," senior officer at Cape Coast Castle.

2. In consequence of this information, in addition to the usual stowage of coal, I propose taking on board 50 extra tons in the bunkers, and 60 tons on deck, for the small vessels, and as many extra provisions as can conveniently be stowed below and on deck.

3. The ship's company have been organised for landing, and I am prepared to send a force of 150 men with two Gatling guns if necessary.

4. I have entered 100 additional Kroomen, beyond the usual complement of the ship, to act as carriers on shore, as I understand the transport at Cape Coast Castle cannot be relied on, and although this number would not be sufficient altogether, I consider it would act as a nucleus.

5. We have been unable to obtain any necessary stores, such as filters, waterproof sheets, &c., from the Commissariat, and I am relying on a supply coming out in the "Wye." I have, however, purchased 50 ounces of quinine pending her arrival.

6. I am informed that there is no coal at Cape Coast Castle. There is a supply here of about 1,700 tons of patent fuel, and the "British and African Steam Navigation Company" have made an offer to take down 100 or more tons each week at 22s. 6d. a ton. A firm here has also offered a schooner, which will carry 350 tons, to take coals, &c., and to act as a depôt there, at 200l. a month. She might be a month on a passage.

In the meanwhile the mail steamers are prepared to supply vessels with small quantities, and this ship is amply furnished for some time, so I have made no contracts.

7. Owing to disease among the cattle, no fresh beef can be procured here, nor I am given to understand, at Cape Coast Castle either, it being dependent on Sierra Leone.

8. No further information has been received here than was conveyed in the original telegram from the Administrator of Cape Coast Castle. A force of 200 men of West India Regiment and a Commissary officer were despatched from here on its receipt.

9. I have been unable to obtain any reliable information as to the movements of the ships on this station, but from Commander Brackenbury's letter they are evidently ordered to assemble at Cape Coast Castle.

10. I propose leaving this afternoon as soon as the different supplies are on board, and though prepared in every way to act at once, should the emergency require it, for the defence of the Cape Coast Colony, I shall refrain from landing any men, unless absolutely necessary, until the arrival of Sir Samuel Rowe, the Governor-in-Chief, who is coming out in the packet due about the 2nd March at Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. R. HOPE,
Captain and Senior Officer,
West Coast, Africa.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
Whitehall, London.

P.S.—With reference to paragraph 4, at the last moment the extra Kroomen have declined to embark as carriers for the shore, I have accordingly requested the Governor to collect "Waterloo" men, who are the best for that purpose, and, should the news by the next steamer render it probable that a force would have to be landed, to send them down by Packet or the "Wye," should Sir Samuel Rowe concur.

(Signed) G. R. HOPE,
Captain.

No. 58.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF
KIMBERLEY. (Received March 21, 1881.)

Telegraphic.

Elmina, March 4th. Just landed. Situation unchanged. Ashanti Ambassador still [here?], not yet seen by me. Ashantis not in the Protectorate. Messenger to-day from Adansi states that no Ashanti army has moved from Coomassie.

No. 59.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant-Governor Griffith's Despatches, of 15th and 16th February,* on the subject of the relations of the Gold Coast Government with Ashanti.

I approve of the intention expressed by Mr. Griffith to use every effort to induce the natives to defend themselves in the event of an invasion of the Protectorate.

Our position on the Gold Coast will never be satisfactory unless the tribes of the Protectorate can be induced to show more spirit and energy in their own defence. At the same time, I greatly doubt whether it would be prudent to encourage them, as Mr. Griffith suggests, to pursue and punish the Ashantis in their own country.

An invasion of the Ashanti country by the Fanti tribes, unsupported by British forces would be a perilous enterprise, and in the event of their repulse it might become necessary to employ British forces to avert from the Colony the consequences of the disaster.

As you were informed in my Despatch of 18th instant,† I have authorised the Crown Agents to send out the arms and ammunition for which requisitions were enclosed in Mr. Griffith's Despatch of 15th February,‡ but in view of the large amount of provisions which have been already sent out, in accordance with the desire which you expressed before leaving England, I have not thought it desirable to cause a further supply to be forwarded before hearing from you whether they are still required.

Sir S. Rowe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

* Nos. 49 and 50.

† Not printed.

‡ No. 49.

No. 60.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ADMIRALTY.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 22, 1881.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant,* and enclosures, and to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that in the present aspect of affairs at the Gold Coast his Lordship sees no objection to the instructions which their Lordships propose to issue to the captain of Her Majesty's Ship "Champion."

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 61.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. the EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 24, 1881.)

Telegraphic.

Elmina, 11th March. Ashanti Ambassadors seen on 6th. Present at general reception. Told by me that meeting was only complimentary. Said that they wished Ansah present when giving official message, and that they were glad to see that I had come; hoped all trouble would pass away. Joined in drinking Her Majesty's health. Said that they loved Her Majesty. Hear they say that King never meant war. Ansah says King is sorry for message. Best informed outsiders say Ashantis are much afraid of the consequences of message, and fear preparations, especially telegraph. Some say that King will pay fine if asked. Am rather inclined to think Ashantis are really somewhat frightened, at least those here. Daily polite messages from me and them. Impossible and undesirable for me to attempt to push them rapidly to a declaration of policy. If made could not much rely on it, as King would repudiate it unless pleasant to him. Am organizing new staff, and accustoming old to new system. So far well pleased with progress made, especially in native affairs. All working earnestly and pleasantly. My own general feeling hopeful. Mail in the roadstead.

14th March. Since preparing foregoing, steamer "Ararat" has come, and will reach Madeira before the steamer which sailed on 11th. No official change in the situation. Part Ashanti Ambassadors have gone at their own wish, with my permission, to Coomassie; they take no instruction from me. Consider political progress satisfactory. Took oath of office on the 12th at Cape Coast Castle and Elmina; large gathering of local Chiefs and residents. Courteous congratulations from all parties Ashantis included.

Steamer "Wye" came 12th, with 8 Officers and 50 men, 1st West.

No. 62.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 25, 1881.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of Lieutenant-Governor Griffith's despatch of the 11th ultimo.†

2. I have to request that you will inform Mr. Griffith that Her Majesty's Government are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which he has carried on the temporary administration of the Government of the Gold Coast at an unusually critical time, and fully recognize the energy which he has shown in making preparations for the defence of the Colony.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

* No. 57.

† No. 54.

No. 63.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 26, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information copy of a letter of this date, which I have addressed to Captain Hope, H.M.S. "Champion," the Senior Naval Officer in command on this station, with reference to Commander Brackenbury, who leaves by this steamer for England. This officer's services have been most valuable to me, and, if I am not out of place in making the request, I would most respectfully ask your Lordship to bring them to the favourable notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c.

Lieutenant-Governor.

Enclosure in No. 63.

Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH to Captain HOPE, R.N.

SIR,

Elmina Castle, February 26, 1881.

As your arrival relieves Commander Brackenbury, C.M.G., and he will be starting for England immediately, I desire to express to you my sense of the valuable services I have received from that officer since the political relations between Ashanti and this Colony became so strained.

Commander Brackenbury was at Accra when he heard of what had taken place here, and he immediately came to my assistance. And ever since he has been of great use to me, not only by the energy and promptitude with which he went to work with a view to the defence of Elmina, but by his practical ability in other ways; his readiness to face difficulties, and in Executive Council, and otherwise, by his advice, grounded on strong good sense and an earnest desire to do all in his power to help me. In several instances his quick perception of the strong or weak points of a subject, his habit of going straight at difficulties and grasping the essential matter to be dealt with, have been most advantageous in helping me to master some of the difficult questions I have had to face.

Commander Brackenbury is only a type of the officers of your noble profession, an example of what others, in the same situation he has occupied with me, would also have done; but it is because he has filled that position, and I have thus been afforded the opportunity of observing and appreciating his sterling qualities, that I take a sincere and grateful pleasure in bearing testimony to them, and in expressing my earnest hope that his valuable services to this Government will have their well-deserved weight with the authorities at home.

I shall transmit a copy of this letter for the information of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Lieutenant-Governor.

Captain Hope, R.N.,
Commanding Her Majesty's
Naval Forces on this Station.
H.M.S. "Champion."

No. 64.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.—(Received March 26, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 26, 1881.

In my Despatch of 9th February,* I referred to a communication forwarded by the District Commissioner at Axim that the Ashantis had invaded the Protectorate. I stated that I had asked for further information, as African statements required to be thoroughly tested before acceptance.

* No. 38.

2. The further information has never been received, but I now transmit for your Lordship's information a message I received on the 19th instant from the King of Eorsu-Safi, who seeks British protection, and states that the report of fighting by the King of Aowin in his town was not true. It was the King of Aowin who sent to tell the examining officer at Apollonia that the Ashantis had invaded the Protectorate. So much for the truth of native statements as a rule.

3. I trust your Lordship will approve of my reply to the message received from the King of Eorsu-Safi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 64.

Mr. DUDLEY to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Cape Coast, Gold Coast,
February 17, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that a messenger purporting to come from Chief Quow Quitche of Eorsu-Safi, came to me this morning and stated that the Chief sent his salutations, and begged to declare that he considered himself, his people, and his country, under the English Government, and that he wanted to have nothing whatever to do with the King of Ashanti.

The messenger proceeds to Elmina this afternoon.

The messenger left Safi 11 days ago, but eight days only was spent in actual travelling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL DUDLEY,
Inspector, Gold Coast Constabulary, and
Commanding District Cape Coast.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Gold Coast, Elmina.

Enclosure 2 in No. 64.

(Saint George D'Elmina, February 19, 1881.)

Received Messenger.

CUFFEE ENQUAH from KING QUOW QUITCHE of EORSU-SAFI.

THE King sent me to see the Governor of Cape Coast personally, and to tell him the King of Ashanti has troubled Safi enough and put heavy fine upon him, so, therefore, he does not want any more to do with Ashanti, and he has come away from under his protection. So he tells the Governor he runs to him for protection, not wishing to be any more with Ashanti. And he has sent to tell the King of Ashanti he must not send any more of his messengers to Safi, and he heard the King's messengers were at the coast, and he, the King of Safi, did not want to see any of them. The report of fighting by the King of Aowin in his town is not true.

REPLY.

Give my compliments to your King and tell him I have listened attentively to his friendly message, and that I will report it to the Queen in England, but that I cannot hold out to him any hope that the Queen will extend the Protectorate, as it is already very large and entails great responsibility. Tell the King, I think, if he is free to do so, that his wisest course would be to ally his nation with the Gamans so that they could help each other if attacked by an enemy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor,
Gold Coast Colony.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON.
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.—(Received March 26, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, February 27 and 28, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of my despatch of 18th February, and telegram of same date,* *viâ* Madeira.

2. H.M.S. "Champion," Captain Hope, arrived on the morning of the 25th instant from Sierra Leone, where, finding the outward mail steamer, she took from her the mails from Liverpool and Madeira for this place, and came on at once.

3. I transmit herewith for your Lordship's information copies of letters which have passed between Captain Hope and myself, and to which I ask reference.

4. I also transmit copy of a letter, dated 4th January, at St. Helena, from Captain Domville, of H.M.S. "Dido," informing me that Commodore Richards' visit to the Coast had been deferred on account of the unsettled state of affairs in South Africa.

5. In my despatch of 24th January† I have in part anticipated your Lordship's direction‡ as to what I should say to the King of Ashanti when replying to his first message.

6. With respect to the instruction in the telegram referring to Prince Owoosoo, I think it will be best to let the matter lie over until the Governor arrives, when, upon a consideration of all the circumstances affecting the question, he will be in a position to determine as to the best course to be pursued.

7. On the receipt of your Lordship's telegram, I immediately communicated to the officer in command of the troops at Cape Coast (Captain Pollard) that 400 West Indians might be expected to arrive about the 7th March, and yesterday he applied to me to know what public buildings could be placed at his disposal. To-day I have seen Mr. Blissett, the Senior Commissariat officer, and informed him that the upper part of Gothic House and the church could be utilized, and I would have hut accommodation erected to meet any deficiency in these buildings to house the troops. The church has been used before as a hospital, and is without pews, benches being used for seats. I have directed these last to be removed to and stored at Government House.

8. I am very glad of the intelligence that Sir Samuel Rowe will be here shortly, as his local acquaintance with almost every portion of the Colony, his knowledge of the various tribes, and the experience which he gained in the last war with Ashanti, eminently fit him, especially at the present moment, for the position he has to occupy.

9. I transmit herewith a report of what passed between the messengers from the King of Ashanti and myself when I met them on the 18th. A summary of their message was sent to your Lordship in my Despatch of 18th instant, and telegram of same date.*

10. Your Lordship will observe that the object of the message is, by discrediting Enquie, or attributing officiousness to him as expressing his views instead of those of the King, to tone down or remove the essential portions of the message of 19th January, which was virtually a declaration of war. The symbolical intent of the axe is altogether ignored. There is a disclaimer of any intention to attack Assin or the Protectorate in consequence of the treaty between England and Ashanti, and a request that if any such intentions should be attributed to the King they should be regarded as untrue. It will be observed that the King declares, firstly, he is not going to fight with anybody, therein including the Adansis. Then he says the Ashantis would not bring a single gun across the Prah to fight. Now the Adansis are on his side of the river; and "across the Prah," as he words it, means on the Protectorate side. Later on it is stated, "If any one says that the King of Ashanti intends to attack the Protectorate it is all false and not true." But notwithstanding his first declaration that he is not going to fight with Adansi, and would not come down to fight with anybody, there is an Ashantian diplomacy in passing Adansi lightly by afterwards, and in being emphatic about the Protectorate. I believe that the Ashantis will attack Adansi, as they have been for sometime endeavouring to sap the allegiance of some of the principal chiefs, and I believe have succeeded in one or two instances. Again, if it is true that the Adansis have closed the road through their country to the Ashantis, they are simply courting hostilities, and will have to take the consequences. I wrote to the King of Adansi, pointing out to him the impolicy of his conduct, and, as he leans much towards this Government, I hope he will have the good sense to open his roads, and punish any of his people who may molest traders passing to or fro.

* Nos. 51 and 44.

† No. 15.

‡ No. 5.

11. Your Lordship will observe that it was only upon my insisting upon a reply to my inquiry that I elicited the fact that the whole of my letter was not read to the King. The messengers fenced with the question, and ultimately replied to it so as to make it appear that the King had not been informed of that portion of it in which it was stated that if Owoosoo was not given up the King would attack Assin. This was all done to make the blame of the threat rest upon Enquie, as if he had done it of his own motion, and therefore without any authority from the King. Then there was an attempt made to impeach the correctness of Mr. Quansah's interpretation, but this was completely overcome by the evidence of Mr. Davis, the interpreter of the court, and chief Andoh, who was peculiarly situated, as the Ashanti messengers were his guests. There are other portions of the report, which are self-explanatory, and your Lordship will observe that I hinted pretty plainly to the messengers that I expected to be indemnified for the expenses the Colony had been put to by the King's action.

12. With respect to the conduct, morality, and good faith of the Ashantis, I take leave to trouble your Lordship with a few extracts from official reports upon the subject.

13. When Mr. Salmon was Acting Administrator he wrote on 8th November 1872 to Mr. Hennessy: "I think it proper to inform your Excellency, in order that you may be perfectly acquainted with all that transpires, that it is an undoubted fact that the Ashantis are and have been purchasing very large quantities of ammunition, guns, gunpowder, and lead bars. This circumstance also arouses suspicions in the public mind. It is quite possible the Ashantis are contemplating an expedition, they may be even preparing for one; but I do not believe our frontier will be attacked."* I have heard from merchants and others that they had rarely had so brisk a trade in guns and the above-mentioned munitions of war as in October and November last, and so far history appears to be repeating itself as regards the Ashantis, who, besides making large purchases on the British seaboard, obtained immense quantities of these things from the merchants at Assinee.

14. Mr. Salmon, writing to the Colonial Office from Geneva on 17th December 1873, states with reference to the Native tribes: "3. It is difficult to read the motives and designs of these people through the veil with which their innate suspicion, craft, and duplicity, often shroud them so naturally, that the chiefs seem to be swayed unconsciously to themselves, and to be urged to animosity, or inclined to friendship, in opposition to their will. This character applies more or less to all the tribes,† the Ashantis being universally adjudged the palm.

15. In a despatch from Colonel Harley to your Lordship, dated 14th April 1873, he quotes from the evidence given by a cane-bearer whom he had sent with his messenger, Mr. Dawson: "The King says he has a palaver with the Assins, the Denkeras, and the Akims, but not with the white people. But Mr. Dawson thinks it is all false, as the King means war against British authority." Mr. Dawson, who was sent with others on a message to the King of Ashanti, states: "Three days after leaving the Prah they met the invading army, which had left Coomassie on the 9th December. It was the whole Ashanti force now at Coomassie"; and Colonel Harley remarks: "This at once discloses the treachery of the King of Ashanti, who was at the time professing friendship towards the Government through his envoys at Cape Coast." Further on in the despatch he adds: "I am satisfied the King intended war, and his whole effort was directed to deceive the Government here, and to conceal his movements until he was ready, and they could no longer remain unknown."‡ I am strongly inclined to the opinion, my Lord, that this was the policy the present King of Ashanti had also in view recently, but the rapidity with which this Government has carried on its operations for defence has disconcerted him, and, aided by other circumstances which I will allude to presently, now makes him anxious to be on friendly terms.

16. Sir Garnet Wolseley, in a despatch to your Lordship dated 2nd February 1874, observes, "I must frankly confess, my Lord, that in so far as I allowed myself for an instant to suppose that an Ashanti monarch's most solemn promises had the smallest value I was hopelessly in error. I have had ample reason to congratulate myself that I did not allow my military movements to be affected by anything of the kind. The whole negotiation was one treacherous plot on the part of the King, intended to give him time to collect his army and to allure us to the destruction which he still firmly believed that he was able to inflict upon us."‡

Sir G. Wolseley remarks in another despatch: "The whole scheme of Ashanti politics is so based upon treachery that the King does not either understand any other form of negotiation, or believe it possible that others can have honest intentions," and he adds,

* Parl. Paper, No. 1, C. 890, March 1874, page 102, Enclosure No. 9 in No. 53.

† Parl. Paper, No. 4, C. 893, March 1874, page 24, No. 33.

‡ Parl. Paper, No. 1, C. 890, March 1874, No. 3, pages 8, 9, para. 4 and 7. Parl. Paper, No. 8, C. 922, 1st June 1874, No. 10, page 15, para. 5 and 6.

" But I certainly believe that your Lordship may be well convinced that no more
 " utterly atrocious government than that which has thus, perhaps, fallen, ever existed on
 " the face of the earth. Their capital was a charnel-house; their religion a
 " combination of cruelty and treachery; their policy the natural outcome of their
 " religion."*

17. The foregoing official statements, my Lord, indicate the conduct, morality, and characteristics of the Ashantis. As to the King's message, it is a transparent deceit. Whilst I was writing the preceding section (28th February) Prince Ossoo Ansah called on me to say that he was going to the post he has procured at Tarquah, and requested a letter to the District Commissioner at Axim to protect him from molestation. In the course of a short conversation he alluded to the message delivered by the messengers from Ashanti, and expressed his surprise at the King's conduct. He said the whole thing was mere child's play; that, having sent a hostile message, and realizing afterwards its serious import, the King tried to make it appear that Enquie had uttered the threat as to attacking Assin without any authority from him. Prince Ansah scoffed at the idea, as no Ashanti taking the King's message would dare to add to or take from it, except at the cost of his life; and he observed that if Enquie had dared to do so he would have objected to the statements in my letter to the King when it was read and interpreted to the messengers. He said it was a farce, the King trying to get out of the mess in that way. That he thought he would have made an apology and paid a fine so as to put an end to the matter. He also stated that he regretted to hear that human sacrifice was being carried on to an enormous extent at Coomassie. I had heard myself from various sources that Opokoo of Becquah, when his mother died recently, had sacrificed sixty persons, and that eighty had been killed subsequently when some great chief was buried. Prince Ansah said privately to my clerk, Mr. Quansah, in Fanti, just as he left me, that the Ashantis were "rogue people," meaning that the late message was all falsehood, and that he was going to get away as fast as he could to Tarquah.

18. I enclose a letter, dated 19th February, from Prince Ansah. It exhibits a desire to make capital out of the existing state of affairs. I informed him in a private note, in reply, that no such proposition as he suggested could be entered into under existing circumstances.

19. On the 19th instant I despatched the two messengers whose arrival I referred to in my despatches, dated 9th and 15th February,† and I transmit herewith the message I delivered to them.

20. When Captain Jackson was about to start to examine and report upon the state of the stockade at Prah sue, I directed him to gain all possible reliable information respecting the Ashantis. When he reached Prah sue he heard that two Germans attached to the Basel mission had preceded him by three hours and were *en route* to Coomassie. Without a moment's delay he sent a messenger to overtake them with a letter in which he asked them to give him replies to twelve questions according to the information they might acquire at Coomassie. Their reply, dated 18th February, was received on the 21st instant, and I transmit a copy of this interesting and valuable document for your Lordship's information.

21. The missionaries state that the King of Ashanti is afraid of war. They saw no preparations exhibiting an intention to begin it. Defence was as impossible for him as the contrary. 5,000 men were paraded before them, of whom 1,000 were armed with Sniders and bayonets, and the remainder with flint-lock guns. A chief who was to have brought 2,000 men was absent. They estimate the fighting power of Ashanti at 25,000 to 30,000 men. The village people ran away at sight of them, men as well as women, as they said the English were coming against them. The missionaries think Ashantis will not begin war, but will defend themselves if attacked. They are displeased with their government, and some spoke of running away. They heard at Coomassie that the King was well provided with ammunition, and also that the people did not understand well how to handle the Sniders. What they think about the affairs of Ashanti is in short this: Ashanti is on the point to go asunder. All the tributary countries have left them. The King requires his people to bring him a great deal of money, therefore the Ashantis are very displeased, and perhaps the King is afraid his dynasty will lose the throne. That if he can get Adansi again other countries will return under his rule. "If Adansi becomes free Asanti 'is nothing.'" If the tributary tribes are restored to Coomassie Ashanti will be as powerful as before 1873. Today they say the King will yield to any condition made by the British Government, as he is not able to defend even the small rest of his country. The missionaries state that they have made a very instructive journey, and can only say that the way to avert war for ever is to make Adansi free from Coomassie.

* Parl. Paper, No. 14. C. 922, 1st June 1874, pages 19, 20.

† Nos. 38 and 49.

22. From various and what I believe to be reliable sources, I have heard recently that a great commotion had taken place at Coomassie soon after my letter reached the King. It was stated that the Queen of Kokofoo, who is a lady of high rank, on hearing of the King's conduct, had gone to the Queen mother and told her, if her son would go to war with the English, she, the Queen of Kokofoo, would go to the coast and join them, whereupon the Queen mother sought her son and declared to him that if he carried out his views she would hang herself. As this would have been a terrible fetish or misfortune, the King had got alarmed and sent down a would-be-peaceful message.

23. I enclose for your Lordship's information copies of minutes of Council held on 22-25th February. I then suggested three conditions, ample apology, payment of two thousand ounces gold, and freedom of the messengers from punishment. As to the fine, the missionaries' statement, the action of the Queen of Kokofoo and the Queen mother, and the dread of consequences by the King, for Prince Ansah had told me that if the King began hostilities there would probably be a revolution, and he would lose his throne,—all these reasons induced me to think that the money would be paid, and, as a useful lesson, put a stop to further attempts on the part of the King. After hearing the views of members, on the 22nd, as to the difficulty that might arise if, besides an ample apology, a fine was demanded from the Ashantis, and they refused to pay it, I decided to take time to consider the matter. I was glad afterwards that I did so, as on the 25th I had the advantage of receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 7th,* informing me that Sir Samuel Rowe would leave on 12th, and I thought it by far the safest and wisest plan to let all matters lie over for him to deal with, and the other members of Council coincided in this view.

24. Acting on this decision, I sent for the Ashanti messengers, who came accompanied by Enquie, Bossumburu, and Anani, and their followers, and by Chief Andoh. I told them to say to the King that I had received his message and was glad to hear of his peaceful intentions, and that this Government would be his friend whilst he kept them. That Sir Samuel Rowe was coming out as Governor, and, therefore, I thought it would be better to put the whole matter in his hands, as he was coming direct from the Queen, and knew her mind in the matter. I append a copy of what I told the messengers. They requested that one might go with this message to the King, and the other remain to await Sir Samuel Rowe's arrival, and I assented.

25. I append copies of letters from the District Commissioner at Addah, Secondee, Axim, Accra, and Cape Coast, relating to the raising of native forces. That from Addah points to a sort of understanding between the Ashantis and Dahomians, carried on through the Ahwoonahs. I should mention here, my Lord, that the master of the "Malemba" told me, when he was here on the 18th, that at Whydah he had been informed by Mr. Metzgar, one of the most respectable merchants there, that it was rumoured the Dahomians were going to assist the Ashantis against the British, with 6,000 men. I did not mention it in my last despatch, as I did not attach any weight to it, but I do so now, as the District Commissioner at Addah alludes to communications between Ashanti and Dahomey. The Addah chiefs can produce 2,500 fighting men but they will have to be armed. At Secondee 4,400 men will be available, one half requiring arms, &c. A good feeling prevails at Axim and westward, as will be seen by the Commissioner's letter. At Accra the chiefs decline to furnish any men until King Tackie can assume the command. I shall leave this matter to be dealt with by the Governor-in-Chief. With regard to the refusal, Mr. Macleod writes me "that it is all nonsense; they do not care two straws about their King, though I dare say as he is their nominal head, they would like to have him among them." The District Commissioner at Cape Coast states that the King of Denkera can put 4,000 men, with 2,000 guns, in the field. Thus there is abundant fighting power at command if necessity arises and the natives will fight.

26. I enclose for your Lordship's information copies of Captain Jackson's report upon and recommendations and plans respecting Prahue, with respect to which all action must lie over pending the Governor's arrival.

27. I enclose copy of a note from the District Commissioner at Cape Coast to the Acting Colonial Secretary, which is simply a repetition of what I have previously referred to respecting the Queen's of Kokofoo and Ashanti.

28. I trust, my Lord, that your Lordship will forgive my heavy trespass on your valuable time with this long despatch, but I have written at length, and send on numerous documents, so that your Lordship may be in a position to see exactly all that is being done and is passing here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

The Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley,

Lieut.-Governor.

&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 65.

Captain HOPE to Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH.

H.M.S. "Champion,"

Elmina, February 28, 1881.

SIR,

As it seems still possible that the naval forces may have to undertake the defence of Elmina, I have directed Commander Hammick, of H.M.S. "Flirt," to prepare himself to take the command of the Naval Brigade if required for that purpose.

2. I should, therefore, feel obliged if you could direct Captain Jackson, R.A., who, I understand, is the officer superintending the construction of the redoubts which are being constructed, or such other officer as you may depute, to meet Commander Hammick and Gunnery Lieutenant Kirby of this ship at 4.30 this afternoon, that they may inspect them together and send in a report as to what force is required to occupy them and secure the safety of the town and fort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. R. HOPE,
Captain and Senior Naval Officer,
West Coast Division.

Lieutenant-Governor W. Brandford Griffith,
Cape Coast Colony.

Enclosure 2 in No. 65.

Captain DOMVILLE to the GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

H.M.S "Dido," at St. Helena, January 4, 1881.

SIR,

I AM desired by the Commodore commanding to inform you that his visit to the Coast has been deferred on account of the unsettled state of affairs in South Africa, and also to inform you that Commander Brackenbury will remain as senior officer in charge of the West Coast Division, and that the "Rambler" and "Pioneer" are also stationed there under his orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COMPTON DOMVILLE,
Captain and Senior Officer.

The Governor-in-Chief,
Gold Coast.

Enclosure 3 in No. 65.

MESSAGE TO MESSENGERS (2) from KING OF ASHANTI.

St. George D'Elmina, Saturday, February 19, 1881.

GIVE my compliments to the King. I have received his message by you that he has heard white officers and Houssas were building bridges over the Prah; that he wanted his people to trade with the English, and why was I going to fight?

Tell the King what you told me, that you crossed the Prah in a canoe, as there was no bridge over, nor did you see any being built. That you found the road free to all, so that yourselves and traders met with no impediment in coming down; and that I will give an answer to the King's last question in the message I will send shortly by his linguist, sword-bearer, and court cryers.

Let the King know that I have written to Adansi to complain to the King of that place of the ill-treatment his people are said to have inflicted on Ashanti traders, and that I hope the wrong-doers will be punished, and injuries put a stop to, by the King of Adansi.

Enclosure 4 in No. 65.

COPY of a LETTER from two GERMAN MISSIONARIES to Captain JACKSON, R.A.

DEAR SIR,

Dwerasoh, Friday, February 18, 1881.

THIS morning your messenger has arrived here, and we will not hesitate in answering your letter. Had we had any idea of your coming up to Prahue, we should have waited.

1. The King of Ashanti is afraid of war, but we saw no preparations which would have shown the intention to begin soon.

2. Not a single man was removed from Coomassie as long as we have passed the country and stayed at Coomassie.

3. Defensive is as impossible for the Ashantis to-day as the contrary, the lower description of the present state of their land will prove this.

4. When we were to see the King on Saturday, 5th February, he himself with his chiefs with their men, passed by us. Being Germans, we looked especially at the armed men, and, counting them as far as we could, we saw 5,000 with arms, amongst these 1,000 with Sniders and bayonets, all the rest had the usual stone lock guns. We got to hear that one chief failed in coming as we reached the capital on Saturday, his troops amount to 2,000. N.B.—We were expected on Monday.

5. Most of the Ashanti forces are from Coomassie, we think all the troops we saw were Coomassie people, and some gathered from the neighbourhood, but only called for our salutation. But by all means the forces of Ashanti country in her present state cannot surpass 25,000 to 30,000 men.

6. The whole country is full of tales and reports concerning war; in some villages, when they got us but a sight, the inhabitants ran away, men as well as women. Ashanti is no more Ashanti, the Ashanti men are afraid of two white men, which came without arms. The people do not like war at all, but it is said that the Englishmen are coming against them.

7. They expect war, as they have heard something of soldiers stationed at Prah sue, but they will certainly not begin. Perhaps, if they are attacked, they will defend themselves, but they are also quite displeased with their government, and some speak of running away.

8. We reached Coomassie on the 5th February, and left there on Saturday the 12th.

When we passed the Ashanti land we found always the whole population in the villages. Lately the King gave the order to rebuild the villages between Amoforo and Coomassie, and in passing by we saw some people at work. But of course, if the King has the intention to make war he will do whatever he can to hide this intention.

Curious to say, we had no idea of war, we were not remembered by anything at Coomassie that war is in sight, the first word was we heard when we got the first Adansi village. The only thing we heard at Coomassie is that the King is well provided with ammunition, and also that the people do not yet understand well to handle the Sniders.

If you will allow us to say what we think about the affair, it is in short this. Ashanti is on the point to go asunder. All tributary countries have gone away. When we reached the first Ashanti village we heard to our astonishment that we are only six hours from Coomassie, when we left the town we reached after 10 hours Adansi land. Ohwao Akem Ashanti (Ashanti Akem), Adansi, Chabeng, the Vasals on the savannah, and some others separated themselves, the road to Salaga is stopped since some months, the Salaga people kill every Ashanti man they see, so the small Ashanti country has to bring up all the money the King needs, and this is not little, therefore the Ashantis also are very displeased, and perhaps the King is afraid his dynasty will lose the throne at all. If he can get Adansi again, or if the English Government will give up Adansi, all others are afraid, especially Okwao and Ashanti Akem, and will return under Coomassie powers. If Adansi becomes free, Ashanti is nothing. If the tributary states are brought back to Coomassie again the Ashantis have got the same power again they had before 1873. As for to-day, the King will yield to any condition made by the British Government, as he is not even able to defend the small rest of his country.

Again we have to add that the Ashantis, as soon as they see that the British Government is withdrawing from these questions, will come over all the countries mentioned above. On this respect we have made a very instructive journey, and can only say the way to avert war for ever is to make Adansi free from Coomassie.

Please excuse our writing in hurry, the man is anxious to reach Prah sue to-day. We are two German missionaries stationed at Kyebi in Akem, with three interpreters, and we should have been very glad if we would have met any English officer at Prah sue. Even we travelled very strongly, and so your man cannot get Prah sue before evening.

We are, &c.

(Signed) K. BUCK.
D. HUPPENBAUER.

P.S.—Any question can be made through Ch. Buhl, Esq., Christiansborg.

Enclosure 5 in No. 65.

REPORT of a MEETING between His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR and the ASHANTI MESSENGERS at Elmina on Friday, 18th February 1881.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.
 The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.
 The ACTING QUEEN'S ADVOCATE.
 Commander BRACKENBURY, R.N.
 The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSTABULARY.
 Prince OSSOO ANSAH.
 Chief ANDOH, of Elmina.
 Chief AKRAH QUACOE, of Elmina.

The following messengers from the King of Ashanti were introduced by Mr. Davis, the Government Interpreter :

Bendi, the King's Linguist.
 Ajampon Daban, the King's Swordbearer.
 Quacoe Adgidah,
 Quabinah Adjinah,
 Quawinah Acquah Eyinah, } Court Criers.

The former messengers from Ashanti, Enquie, Bossumburu, and Anani, were also in attendance.

After the introduction, the King's Linguist came forward and spoke as follows :

The King of Ashanti sends his compliments to his friend the Governor, and bids me to speak to the Governor's Interpreter and tell him to say to the Governor that some time ago an Assin trader named Amankrah came to Coomassie to trade, and took away the King's son Owoosoo down to the coast.

When Prince Owoosoo ran away from Coomassie the King's messengers came to ask the Governor to give him up. But that could not be done by the law of England. By the law of England, if a man runs to the English Government for protection he cannot be given up. The King, when he has any thing to eat, gives some to the Assin traders in Coomassie. He has no palaver with any of them. But the King of Ashanti says, When my son ran away I applied to the Governor to see if he could give him up to me. But Enquie took his own mind, and said to the Governor, "If you do not give him up, by and by some palaver will come." But your Excellency must know that this is not the King's message.

When the Governor saw, "Enquie," he said, "Give me the paper." He said, "Is your name Enquie? are you Enquie, the man who signed the treaty that Assin, Gaman, and Denkera should be under the English? and you come to tell me this, and break the treaty." Enquie said, "I do not break the treaty. The man who ran away from Coomassie is here, and I beg the Governor to send the man back." Enquie also said, "Your friend the King sent to ask you to try if you could give him back, and if you do not look out for it, by and by palaver will come between Assin and Ashanti. Then you say I broke the treaty." Then the Governor said, "If you say so, I give up the thing and have done." Then the Governor said, "Tell the messengers to come, then I will give my message to the King and let them go away." The Governor said, "This man ran for protection to the English, and you ask me to give him up. But by the English law he cannot be given up. Tell your King I bless him, and God also will bless him." And we took our leave from Elmina to Cape Coast.

Next morning a messenger came and told our messenger that he must not go; the Governor had something to say to the messenger. Then the messenger waited for the Governor to call him, and the Governor said, "If I do not send a book, it will be no good. In that Enquie has said, Enquie has broken the treaty." The messenger said, "No one can read at Coomassie, but as you have given your message in speaking, and also by letter, we will take it also to the King."

Then the letter was sent to the King of Ashanti. They carried the letter to the King, and the King said, "Enquie did not break the treaty. This is merely Enquie's own speech. The King sent him down to the Governor, for the Governor to keep him here on the coast. If Enquie says so to our Governor, our Governor must let it pass. He is the Governor's servant, and it must not be said that he broke the treaty." For this reason the King has sent his linguist and court crier, to let the Governor know that this is the case. We mean to say that Enquie himself said these words, and not the

King. He is the servant of the Governor as well as of the King, and it was his own speech and not the King's message.

Again, we say to our Governor, the King of Adansi made a report that the King of Ashanti is going to march upon them (the Adansis) and fight with them. But in consequence of the treaty between England and Ashanti, the Ashantis would not come down to fight with anybody. They would not bring a single gun across the Prah to fight. As to the people under the English Government, the King will never come to fight any one of them. The King says so. If any one makes any report to the Governor of what we say, it is not true, so the King has sent his linguist and sword-bearer to tell the King's own mind. Some one came and reported to the Governor as to all we have come here for. We come to say that it is all untrue. If the Governor has heard that the Ashantis are ready to attack any part of the Protectorate, it is all not true. Now it is the time for him to put his own town and his own palace in good order. His chiefs also are making their houses good. He wishes to be friend with our Governor, as Quacoe Duah was with Governor Maclean. That is what the King wishes, and that all traders should travel, and that all the young men should come down and get something to eat, and get cloth to wear. If any one says that the King of Ashanti intends to attack the Protectorate, it is all false and not true. He has sent us to speak out that it is not true. He wishes to be friend to our Governor.

As to the gold axe, it means nothing. It is not a parable to anybody; you can ask any of the chiefs about here. Amankrah Acoomah ("the axe bearer") used to bring the axe, but it is no parable. The King says, "You can tell the Governor that the axe " is this."

If any one comes and reports this and this to the Governor, let the Governor send a messenger to ask the King, and the King will send a messenger to the Governor to clear himself.

We have finished. For this reason we are come; we want to be friends with our Governor together. As to what Enquie has said, Enquie is the Governor's servant, and the Governor can forgive Enquie and let that pass.

His Excellency then asked whether the King had received his letter.

The Linguist.—The letter is brought here, and also the messenger.

The Lieutenant-Governor repeated his question, demanding a straightforward answer.

The Linguist, after some hesitation and further pressure, said: The letter was given to the King; we told the King the contents of the letter.

The Lieutenant-Governor.—Did you tell the King that I was a child, and that you could treat me as a child? Do you think this matter is child's play? Enquie would not have dared to say what he said if the King had not told him. He is no servant of mine. He is the King's servant. As to what he said, Enquie said it. Bossumburu followed it up, and Anani also followed it up.

The Linguist.—What Enquie said, and Bossumburu said, and Anani said, was not a bad palaver.

The Lieutenant-Governor.—Were you present when the letter was read to the King? Answer.—We were present.

(His Excellency then caused the letter to the King of Ashanti to be read to the ambassadors in English and Fanti; asking Prince Ansah to check the interpretation.)

The Linguist then said all the contents of the letter were told to the King, except the part that says that if Owoosoo is not given up he will attack Assin. But Enquie only said that if Owoosoo was not given up it would make a row or disturbance. This is the way it was explained to the King.

Enquie, Bossumburu, and Anani then rose, and with great confusion and amid considerable interruption on the part of the other Ashantis stated that they had something to say about Mr. Quansah's interpretation; that it was not right that Enquie never said that the King would fight with Assin. That the King told them to ask for Owoosoo; and that what came after was not the King's words.

Mr. Davis.—The Government interpreter, in answer to his Excellency, said: They told me at my own house at Cape Coast that if Owoosoo was not given up they would attack Assin. The same thing was said again before the District Commissioner.

Chief Andoh, of Elmina, being referred to, said: I was present when the interview took place between the Governor and the Ashanti messengers at Elmina, I have heard the letter read which the Governor sent to the King. The statements in that letter as to what took place at the interview are true. I heard when Enquie stated that if Owoosoo was not given up, by and by some palaver will come between the King and Assin. I

heard when he stated that by and by it would cause some palaver or row. He did not all at once state that the King would fight them, but he said, It is a parable.

In answer to his Excellency, Enquie, Bossumburu, and Anani admitted that they had heard the Governor's letter read at Cape Coast.

Mr. Davis.—I heard the letter read by Quansah to Enquie and the others. They made no objection to it.

Mr. Quansah.—The Fanti word I used to translate "attack" was "Ababa Assinfudoh."

Mr. Davis.—That means "come upon them and fight them."

(He then stated that at the interview between the ambassadors and Mr. Dudley at Cape Coast yesterday they had said that the axe was sent down without the knowledge of the King.)

His Excellency told the ambassadors that all the chiefs whom he had asked had stated that the golden axe meant war.

Prince Anshah, being referred to, now stated that the axe did not always mean war.

The Messengers then added: The whole of the road through the Adansi country is stopped; 600 traders have been driven back by the Adansis, and their property has been taken.

The Governor then caused the letter he had sent to the King of Adansi on this subject to be read, and said—

This letter shows my good will to the Ashantis. But when people come and tell me that they will attack Assin if I do not give up Owoosoo it is a serious business. If a man comes to my house with a stick, and says he means to beat me unless I do something which I cannot do, I think it is time to take a stick myself, that I may be prepared for him, and if afterwards he says that he meant nothing, and I have been put to expense in making my preparations, I think he ought to pay me the amount of the expenses I have incurred.

His Excellency then dismissed the ambassadors, telling them that he would send for them again, and give his answer to the King of Coomassie.

The ambassadors then withdrew.

Enclosure 6 in No. 65.

The LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

The following statement was made to me this morning by Mr. Davis, the Government interpreter, which I now submit for the information of your Excellency.

"An Assin trader who had come from Coomassie told me that when Owoosoo escaped from Coomassie the King of Ashanti, his chiefs, generals, and council, held a meeting, and gave orders to the messengers to take the gold axe and follow Owoosoo wherever he went with the executioner, and to kill him if they got him. The axe was sent by the King and his chiefs. A man named Amankrah was with me when the trader told me this."

(Signed) J. S. H.
22/2/81.

Initialed by Captain Hay, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Enclosure 7 in No. 65.

MESSAGE delivered by LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR to the LINGUIST and SWORD BEARER of the KING of ASHANTI, on Friday, the 25th February.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has received the King of Ashanti's message, and is glad to hear of his Majesty's peaceable intentions. He assures the King that as long as the King of Ashanti keeps such intentions the Governor will be his true friend. But the Governor has received news from England that Sir Samuel Rowe is coming out to be the successor of Governor Ussher, and will be here in a few days, and he thinks it is better to put the whole matter in Sir Samuel Rowe's hands, as he is coming direct from the Queen, and knows her mind in this matter.

Enclosure 8 in No. 65.

Prince OSSOO ANSAH to Lieutenant-Governor GRIFFITH, C.M.G.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Cape Coast, February 19, 1881.

I HUMBLY crave to be permitted to bring before your Excellency's notice, and for your Excellency's consideration, the following suggestions.

From the perusal of the private letter I had the honour to hand to your Excellency a few days ago, your Excellency will see the interest I have always taken in the true welfare of Ashanti, and my ardent desire to see that country at peace with England.

I have most respectfully to suggest at this present crisis a matter of importance in the maintaining of a good understanding between the Governments of England and Ashanti.

It must have appeared to your Excellency, from circumstances that have lately transpired, that the Ashanti ambassadors have caused misunderstandings to arise from not interpreting to the King, through fear, all the message your Excellency entrusted them with.

In the interest of peace and commerce, I beg sincerely and disinterestedly to offer my services to the King of Ashanti and your Excellency to act in the capacity of resident ambassador at Cape Coast, through whom all messages should be delivered to your Excellency, and forwarded to the King of Ashanti; but in doing so, beg to remark that, unless your Excellency orders the same as a part of the new understanding or treaty your Excellency may make with the King, it will be of no avail, as it is unreasonable I should be expected to exert myself in this capacity, continue my residence in Cape Coast on behalf of the King of Ashanti, without being paid for it; therefore I would suggest that your Excellency fix the salary payable by the King, and to ensure the payment the King should lodge with his Excellency the money to pay me with, so that the Government may be satisfied that I am acting in their interest as well as that of the King of Ashanti, and would have the power to withhold the salary and cancel the appointment when they were satisfied my services were not honestly and faithfully performed. I would suggest that a sum equal to two or more years' salary should be lodged in your Excellency's hands at once, and that when the same is exhausted another amount should be applied for; of course, in failure of the amount being paid, your Excellency would see that my services were not appreciated, and I should be at liberty to seek employment in another way.

I am already engaged at a liberal salary to occupy a vacancy at Tarquah, under the manager of the French Gold Coast Mining Company, but will throw the same up for the more important position when decided upon.

Anxiously awaiting your Excellency's reply,

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. OSSOO ANSAH,
Of Ashanti.

To his Excellency
W. B. Griffith, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure 9 in No. 65.

District Commissioner PARKER to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR, District Commissioner's Office, Addah, February 16, 1881.

IN accordance with his Excellency's letter of the 7th instant, I beg to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that I have without delay caused a meeting with the chiefs of my district at big town Addah, and have ascertained and found there are two companies of about 2,500 strong armed men; the chiefs give me to understand very few arms serviceable with their force, being most flint old guns, and if proper arms be supplied they will be ready at any moment when are called upon into the field; they further wish me to bring before his Excellency's information that they have no confidence nor belief towards the Ahwoonahs; in the event of their moving from Addah Ahwoonahs would surely come to distress their town and carry away their children and women. The chiefs again give me to know they have heard privately the King of Dahomey has sent messengers to the chiefs of Ahwoonah to assist the Ashanti war against the British army. Also since five days ago the Ashanti messengers had passed to Ahwoonah from Acquamoo. And as they (the chiefs of

Addah) well aware the Ahwoonah tricks, they shall be glad if his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor would make them as left wing body to watch the movements of the Ahwoonahs, still they have not heard what decision the Ahwoonahs have arrived at with the said messengers.

What I have experienced myself, I find most of the people here are partly family connection with the Ahwoonahs, and the intelligence is true, but I doubt the Ahwoonahs will be foolish enough to join the Ashantis. I have met with a man from Ahwoonah the other day, and ascertained matters from him, and said to me confidentially that very true about the messengers, but for the Ahwoonahs to join the Ashanti war this time against the English, they will never do or dream of so far I could gather.

Any more intelligence shall bring in my weekly report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. PARKER,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast Castle.

Enclosure 10 in No. 65.

Mr. SIMONS to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Fort Orange, Secondee, February 17, 1881.

IN reply to your letters of the 7th and 15th instant, requesting me to convene a meeting of the chiefs of my district as soon as possible, and ascertain the number of men they would be prepared to bring into the field in case of necessity, also the number of men who would have to be supplied with guns, and the quantity of powder and lead that would be required in the event of their being called out, I have the honour to report for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor that the above instructions have been carried out.

The chiefs assembled here on the 11th instant, and promised to deliver their answer to me on the 15th instant. They returned accordingly and informed me that they can put 4,400 men in the field if necessary, *i.e.*, Secondee 1,200, Adjuah 400, Chamah 2,000, and Taccorady 800 men.

They further stated that they were deprived of their arms in 1873 during the Ashanti war, and that at present only one part of the 4,400 men have arms, they will therefore require arms to be supplied to 2,200 men.

With regard to powder and lead, they state that these must solely depend upon circumstances, and that they are unable to give me the exact quantity they would require. However, I enclose herewith an approximate estimate of the number of guns, &c., that may at present be necessary, and trust it will meet with his Excellency's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SIMONS,
District Commissioner.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
Elmina.

APPROXIMATE ESTIMATE of the number of GUNS and AMMUNITION to be supplied to the men of the under-mentioned CHIEFS of the SECONDEE DISTRICT, in the event of their being called to the field.

Name of Place.	Names of Chiefs.	Number of men supplied.	Number of men having no guns.	Number of Guns and Quantity of Ammunition.				Remarks.
				Guns.	Barrels Powder.	Bars Lead.	Flints.	
Secondee	Chief Andries - -	1,000	500	500	10	1,000	1,000	Gunpowder calculated at 1 lb. per man, and the lead at one small bar (trade pattern) per man. Some flints are also required to be kept in reserve.
	Chief Eaketsia - -	200	100	100	2	200	200	
Chamah - -	Chief Fraikoe - -	2,000	1,000	1,000	20	2,000	2,000	
Adjuah - -	Chief Ammoah Agarboo - -	400	200	200	4	400	400	
Taccorady - -	Chief Boiquaisie - -	800	400	400	8	800	800	
	Totals - -	4,400	2,200	2,200	44	4,400	4,400	

Secondee, February 17, 1881.

(Signed) J. SIMONS,
District Commissioner.

Enclosure 11 in No. 65.

Mr. FIRMINGER to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Axim Fort, February 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, that on last Tuesday I held a meeting in the fort here of the two kings and all the principal chiefs (numbering nearly one hundred) of both Eastern and Western Appolonia, which, as his Excellency will be aware, embraces the whole of the seaboard from the French frontier to the river Ancobra, and extends inland to Awooin and Wassaw.

The interview was most successful, King Jansoo Ackah of Western Appolonia and all his chiefs offering to place the same number of men in the field as King Blay; the relations between the two kingdoms are most cordial, and the two kings have agreed jointly to place a contingent of 10,000 men at his Excellency's absolute disposal, provided ten days notice be given them.

King Jansoo Ackah humbly begs that he may be allowed the same privileges as King Blay, viz., to import two thousand guns free of duty, to be supplied with a British flag, and (in the event of war) the same amount of powder and lead as the Eastern Appolonians.

I am happy to inform his Excellency that the tone and manner of all the chiefs without exception was highly satisfactory, and the fighting qualities of the men are undeniable.

I would suggest that immediately upon war being declared at least five thousand of these men under a white officer should be sent through Awooin to Safwhi to cut the great road between French territory and Ashanti, and thus stop at once the importation of arms and ammunition by that route.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. FIRMINGER,
District Commissioner.To the Honourable the Colonial Secretary,
Cape Coast.

Enclosure 12 in No. 65.

District Commissioner DANIEL to COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Fort Ussher, Accra, February 21, 1881.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letters of the 14th and 15th instant, I convened a meeting of the chiefs and headmen of Accra and Christiansborg, which was held at Fort Ussher this day.

2. I have the honour to enclose for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor a copy of the proceedings signed by 47 of the chiefs and headmen.

3. As the chiefs desired that the minutes of the proceedings should be signed by some of the educated natives, whom they designate as "scholars," I allowed seven of them to sign, in addition to the chiefs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NORTH DANIEL,
District Commissioner.To the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

At a meeting of the Chiefs of Accra and Christiansborg, held on Monday, February 21, 1881—

Chief Akramang spoke for the Chiefs of Accra and Christiansborg as follows:—

"We have heard the Governor's letter and all you have to say on the subject, and we are agreed that, until King Tackie of Accra, who commands all the troops, is released from prison, nothing can be done in the way of raising men in defence of the Protectorate, should the Ashantis decide to invade us.

"We promise, however, should King Tackie be released, that we will use our best endeavours to put the Colony in a state of defence, so far as lies in our power."

The above is a true statement of our feelings on this matter, in which Chief Akramang has acted as our spokesman.

	Their		Their
1. Ayeety Agin	-	25. Owoo Quodjoe	-
2. Quow Nunoo	-	26. Ashong Quodjoe	-
3. Antonio Ancra	-	27. Darkoo	-
4. Chief Akramang	-	28. James Abbsashe	-
5. J. H. Badoo	-	29. Abbey Quaye	-
6. Amanee	-	30. Captain Larthey	-
7. Papa Fio	-	31. Sackey Ansa	-
8. Adjabin Aukrah	-	32. Otutoo	-
9. John Abbey	-	33. Quashie Fio	-
10. Kroo	-	34. Okolley	-
11. Daniel Anang	-	35. Aquabina Blankson	-
12. Quacoe Poug	-	36. John Tagoe	-
13. Nerthey Quashie	-	37. Kotey	-
14. France Attoquay	-	38. Aquam Coffie	-
15. Captain Osahn	-	39. Okai Koankra	-
16. Jacob Thompson	-	40. Adjamacoo Ashang	-
17. King Narkoo	-	41. Annah	-
18. John Quartey	-	42. Karanche	-
19. Naah Dowoonah	-	43. Osu Baddoo	-
20. William Bam Pol	-	44. Okai Shepee	-
21. Quow Thompson	-	45. Captain Tettey	-
22. Adja Ayee	-	46. Captain Allotey	-
23. Sape Fro	-	47. Quow	-
24. Quartey Asentee	-	48. Captain Okai	-
	Marks.		Marks.

SCHOLARS.

(Signed)	James Hammond.	(Signed)	R. W. Bruce.
"	P. C. Randolph.	"	Isaac Van der Puije.
"	Alex. Bruce.	"	J. R. Myers.
"	John Van der Puije.		

I certify that the above is a true statement of the proceedings of a meeting of the Chiefs of Accra and Christiansborg, held at Ussher Fort, on the 21st day of February 1881.

To the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) A. NORTH DANIEL,
District Commissioner.

Enclosure 13 in No. 65.

Mr. DUDLEY to the COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,

Cape Coast, February 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that King Quasi Kaye of Denkera states that he can put in the field 4,000 men and 2,000 guns.

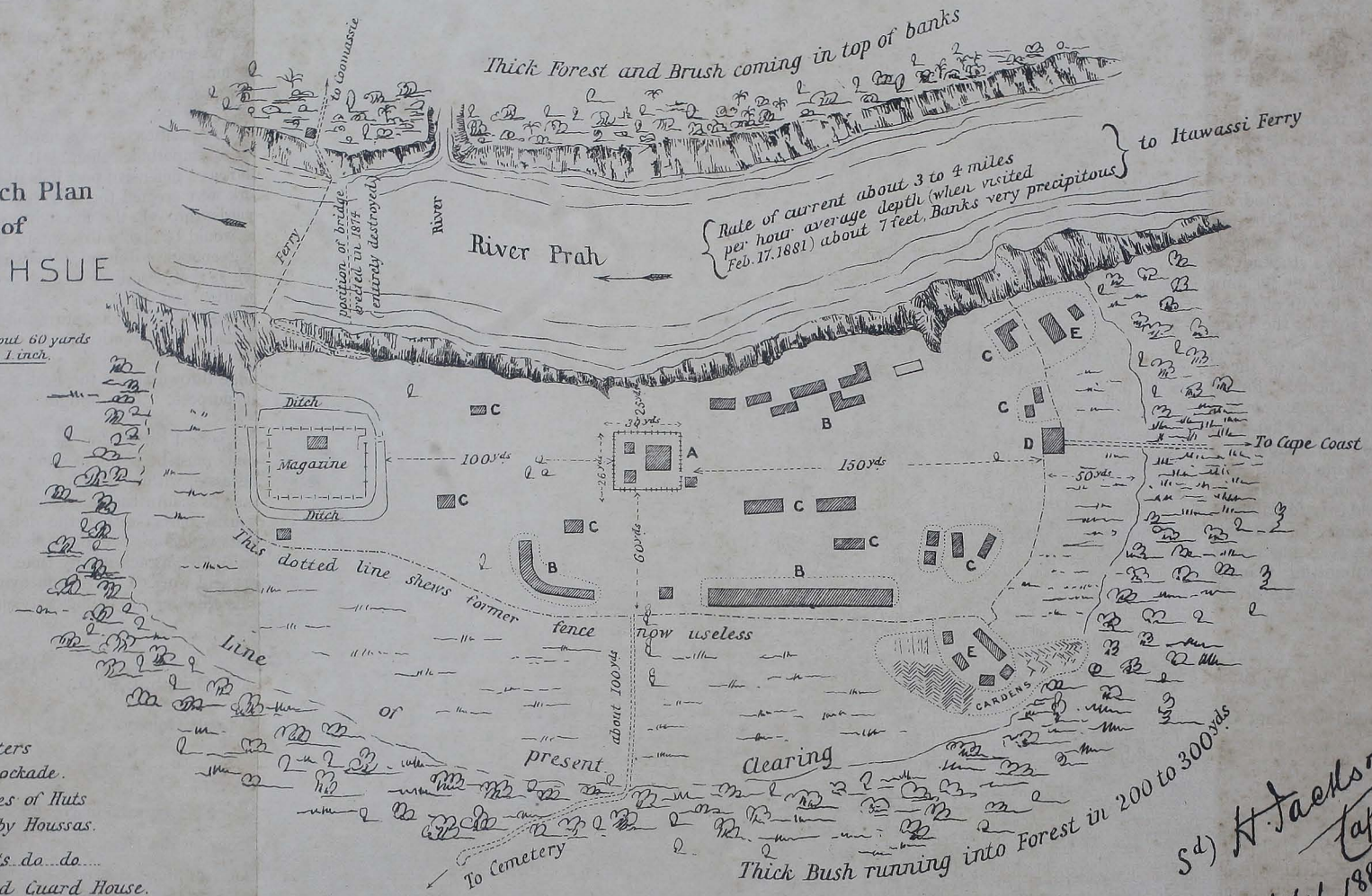
Messengers have appeared before me this morning, purporting to come from Chief Quarten of Bekwei-Safi District; they state they have been sent to place at the disposal of the Government 1,500 able-bodied fighting men and 1,000 guns. I have directed them to proceed to Elmina.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary,
&c. &c. &c.
Gold Coast, Elmina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL DUDLEY,
Inspector Gold Coast Constabulary and
Commanding District Cape Coast.

Sketch Plan of PRAHSUE

Scale about 60 yards to 1 inch.



- A. Officers Quarters and stockade.
- B. Irregular Lines of Huts occupied by Houssas.
- C. Detached Huts do...do...
- D. Entrance and Guard House.
- E. Civilian Huts outside line of fence.

Intelligence Branch. No 31.

Sd) H. Jackson
Capt. R.A.
17 Feb. 1881

Linco⁴ at the Intelligence Dep^t War Office April 1881.

Enclosure 14 in No. 65.

SIR,

Elmina, February 22, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that in accordance with your Excellency's memorandum of the 13th, I started for Prahue on the 14th, arriving on the 17th instant, and reaching Elmina on my return yesterday morning.

2. A portion of the ammunition left at Prahue by the detachment lately withdrawn thence, I found at Mansue, en route for Elmina, and the remainder arrived there the next evening. I sent the whole of this to Elmina under escort of a sergeant and 14 men.

3. With reference to the second part of your Excellency's memorandum, I consider the port at Prahue to be at present quite untenable. I enclose a separate report, accompanied by a sketch map and plans, showing as far as possible both the present state of the position and the proposals now submitted to place it in a proper state of defence.

4. With regard to Mansue, that position appears hardly of sufficient value to make it worth while to erect works of any importance there. It is certainly useful as forming a depôt half way to the Prah, but as a defensive post it is of little value, having no sort of command. If any strong work were erected there, an invading force could, by making a detour of a few hundred yards through the forest, pass it without hindrance, whilst any garrison which the place would be likely to contain would be too small to harass the flank of any force strong enough to invade British territory. I would suggest therefore that a stockade, such as that described in Plan No. 1, be erected at Mansue to supply safe storage for ammunition and depôt stores, and to provide a safe refuge for the small detachment there in case of their being surrounded.

5. The road to the Prah is safe and practicable throughout for the 7-pr. mountain guns.

6. The position of the bridge thrown across the Prah during the war of 1874 appears to me to be the best for that purpose. This bridge is now entirely destroyed, and no trace of it remains.

7. In deciding what defence is best suited for the efficient protection of the passage of the Prah, the following points must be borne in mind, viz., that another ferry besides that at Prahue exists at Itawassie, within $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the former, and that it would therefore probably be necessary to secure that also, and that the Prah, during the dry season, is easily fordable in many parts, so that the defences proposed are practically places of safety for detachments which are peculiarly liable to be cut off from communication with headquarters by a sudden attack at any time.

8. In submitting plans for field works I have endeavoured to propose such as are least liable to damage from this climate, and sufficiently simple to be erected by native labour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. JACKSON,
Captain R.A.

His Excellency W. Brandford Griffith, C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.
Lieut.-Governor Gold Coast Colony.

Enclosure 15 in No. 65.

REPORT ON THE DEFENCES OF PRAHSUE.

The encampment at Prahue (*see plan*) is situated on the bank of the Prah, where the ferry for the road to Coomassie crosses the river. It consists of groups of huts used as barracks, standing in an enclosure of irregular shape about 300 yards long by 100 broad, with a building known as "the Fort," and used as officers' quarters, in the centre. This building is at present surrounded by a light fence of split bamboo, pierced for musketry fire, not bullet-proof itself, and so weak that it could easily be destroyed in a very few minutes.

As it now stands, were the garrison to retire to the so-called "fort," and the enemy to occupy the huts surrounding it, the latter would be under better cover, and could destroy the place at their leisure.

I submit two designs for strengthening the place, which differ from each other only in section. They are both intended to be the same in plan, namely, square redoubts, having the salients cut off and pierced for 7-pr. guns, and enclosing in the centre a house

to contain officers' quarters on the upper floor, the lower story to be divided into rooms to be used as store rooms, magazine hospital, and water tanks, in event of attack. These redoubts would probably be about 100 feet square, but the size must be regulated by the probable strength of the garrisons.

The ferry should be well covered by shelter trenches.

No. 1.

This consists of a strong stockade, to be built of logs not less than 13 to 14 feet long and 6 inches thick when partly squared, so as properly to bear against each other when in position. If it be found impossible to provide a sufficient quantity of timber of this size, the stockade may be constructed of slighter logs or of stout bamboos planted in a double row, leaving a space of one foot between to be filled in with earth well rammed.

The stockade to be pierced for musketry at a height of 7 feet from the ground, standing room for the defenders being provided for by a shelf or banquette 3 feet to 4 feet broad (see section). The redoubt to be protected by a ditch 14 feet wide and 8 to 10 feet deep, the earth taken therefrom to be thrown against the stockade, as shown in section, leaving a beam of not less than 2 feet wide to be planted with sharpened stakes or a stout hedge of prickly pear. The bottom of the ditch to be protected in the same way. Surplus earth to be used for banquette or taken to form a glacis-redoubt, to be drained into ditch. Considering the violent rains to which this climate is subject, it would add greatly to the strength of the work, and make it far more lasting, if the slopes were revetted throughout with rough hurdles staked down on them. These could easily be made of brushwood.

Should it be considered to be advisable to afford protection from the weather to the garrison, a light iron roof might be attached to the stockade (shown in section by red dotted lines) and the width of the banquette increased to seven feet.

No. 2.

This is slightly more elaborate, and is intended to be used as barracks in case of need for the detachment defending it. It chiefly differs from No. 1 in having a banquette nine feet broad sheltered by a bullet-proof roof of double bamboo, covered with planks, if possible, or thatch, if planks be not obtainable, protected by earth one foot deep, well rammed.

A projecting ledge, as shown in sketch (a) would greatly add to the comfort of the garrison, both in rain and sun.

The drainage and other details of construction are practically the same as in No. 1.

I have sketched two different forms of ditch, but the actual form adopted must be left to the judgment of the officer erecting the works, who will be better able to judge what best suits the soil and shape of the ground to be protected.

(Signed) H. JACKSON,
Captain R.A.

Elmina Castle, 22nd February 1881.

Enclosure 16 in No. 65.

From C. DUDLEY, District Commissioner at Cape Coast, to CAPTAIN HAY.

Cape Coast, February 28, 1881.

I hear an Assin trader is here, who told Mr. Davis that he was present when the King of Ashanti held a great council at Bantama; he states there was a great deal of war talk, and that it was intended to put all the Assin traders and other British subjects in Coomassie in irons, &c., that on this the Queen of Kokoko threatened at once to start for the sea coast, and make her peace with the British Government. She then appears to have gone to the King's mother, whom she got over to her side. The Assin trader was being brought to me to repeat his statement, when he took fright and ran away, saying that if the Ashantis heard of his giving information they would kill him the next time he went into the interior. I am trying to get hold of him, and if I succeed will send you his detailed statement.

No. 66.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, March 26, 1881.

In my Despatches of 18th* and 22d instant† I informed you that I had authorised the Crown Agents to comply with the requisitions for arms and warlike materials enclosed in Mr. Griffith's Despatch of 15th February.‡

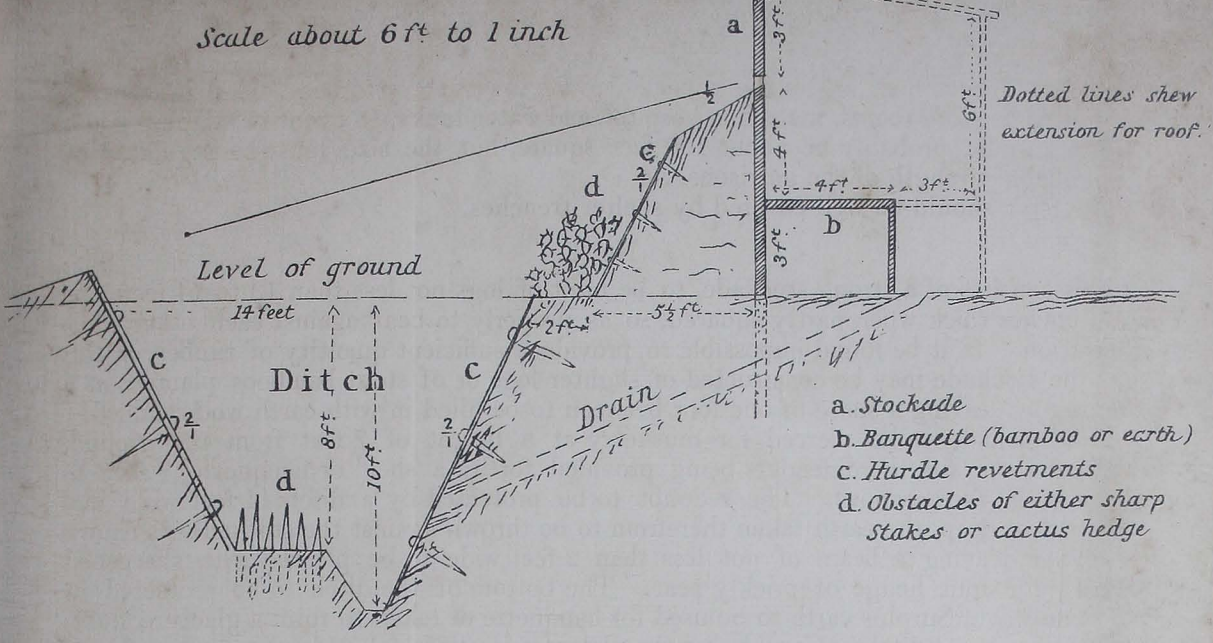
* Not printed.

† No. 59.

‡ No. 49.

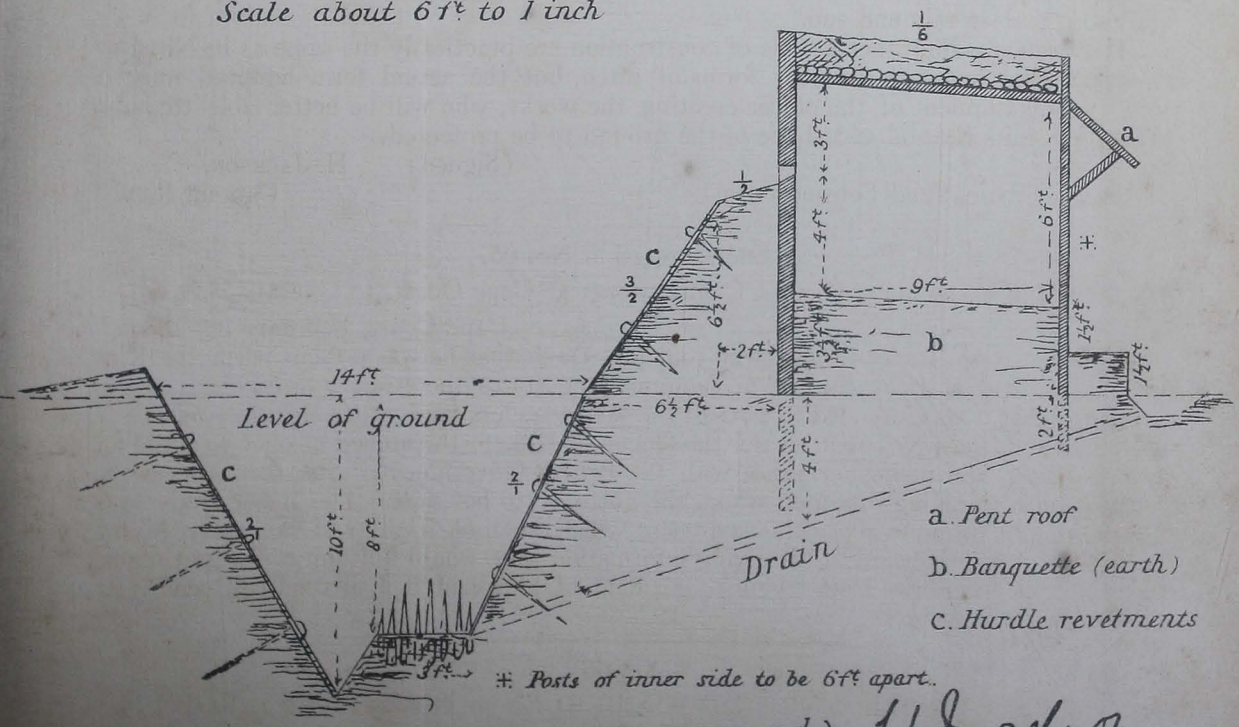
N^o 1.

Scale about 6ft to 1 inch



N^o 2.

Scale about 6ft to 1 inch



sd) H. Jackson
 Capt RA
 22 Feb. 1881

Upon further consideration, however, and in view of the information contained in your telegram of the 11th-14th instant,* I have thought it advisable to postpone the execution of these requisitions until I am in receipt of further intelligence from you as to the probability of an outbreak of war with Ashanti.

I have, however, desired the Crown Agents to furnish me with an estimate of the cost of the articles named in the requisitions.

This must in any case be considerable, and unless the Despatches I may receive from you should show that the arms, &c., are likely to be immediately required, I should wish, before ordering them, to be informed whether your Government has the means of properly storing and keeping them clean and in good order.

In my Despatch of 18 March† I stated that it would probably be of use to have them on the spot in case of any future outbreak of disturbances, but this would of course depend upon their being kept in a serviceable condition, and as I am aware that it is difficult to keep articles in store on the Gold Coast without rendering them liable to serious deterioration, I shall be glad, before finally instructing the Crown Agents to send them out to be favoured with your views upon the subject.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 67.

LIEUT.-GOVERNOR W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, C.M.G. to the RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 28, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, March 3, 1881.

I HAVE to-day been honoured by the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of 4th February,‡ referring to the intention I had expressed in my despatch, of 30th December,§ of communicating with the King of Ashanti respecting Adansi. At the time I did so I was unaware that Adansi was not included in the Protectorate, nor have I yet seen the despatch of 25th April 1879,|| as I have been so closely occupied here that I have had no chance of reading up the despatch books and despatches except for a few months before Mr. Ussher's death. Your Lordship, however, will have observed in a subsequent communication that I had not written to Ashanti as I had intended, having discovered the exact position of Adansi, and that I merely wrote to tell the Ashanti King of the late Governor's death. Your Lordship may rely on me that I will always endeavour to be sure of my ground before I take action in any matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
The Right Honourable The Earl of Kimberley, Lieut.-Governor.
&c. &c. &c.

No. 68.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF
KIMBERLEY. (Received March 28, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina, March 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived with my staff at this place per S.S. "Roquelle" at 8.30 this morning.

2. On my landing at 11.30 a.m. I was received by the Lieut.-Governor¶ and the Acting Colonial Secretary.**

3. The following ships of war belonging to Her Majesty's Navy are in the roads, viz.: H.M.S. "Champion" (Captain George R. Hope), H.M.S. "Flirt" (Commander, R. F. Hammick), H.M.S. "Rambler" (Commander, Hon. A. C. Littleton), H.M.S. "Firefly" (Lieutenant and Commander E. G. F. Law).

4. H.M.S. "Pioneer" (Lieutenant and Commander Henry C. Carré) is at Cape Coast Castle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,
The Right Honourable The Earl of Kimberley, Governor-in-Chief.
&c. &c. &c.

* No. 61.
|| Appendix.

† Not printed.
¶ Mr. Brandford Griffith.

‡ No. 2.
** Captain J. S. Hay.

§ No. 1.

No. 69.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF
KIMBERLEY. (Received March 28, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, March 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying "notes of a statement made by Kotiko," the confidential messenger or ambassador of the King of Adansi, to me this afternoon.

2. I do not place implicit reliance on all he says, but I have no more reason to distrust him than I have to distrust native statements generally.

3. I write this hurriedly to take advantage of the homeward steamer, which is ready to leave, and I apologise to your Lordship for writing thus brusquely.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

SAMUEL ROWE,

The Right Honourable The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Governor-in-Chief.

Enclosure in No. 69.

KOTIKO, ambassador or confidential messenger from the King of Adansi, arrived at this place this morning, and says King of Ashanti had sent men to take charge of a gold mine, which is situated on land at Adansi, possession of which is disputed between certain Adansi men; one of these has asked the King of Ashanti to assist him in enforcing his claim.

2. Since the King of Ashanti heard that English Government had sent increased force to Prah sue he has withdrawn these men. I come from Fommannah, and left that place eight days ago. No Ashantis were at that time in Adansi.

3. The Adansis are the persons who always feel first if there is any trouble between English and Ashanti. No trouble has existed since 1874.

4. But the King of Adansi heard that the English Government has sent troops to Prah sue, and he has sent me to ask what this means, there has been no fight between Adansi and Ashanti.

5. No Ashanti army has passed Adansi. The King of Adansi has heard that an army is being prepared by Ashanti, but he has heard that this army is being prepared to defend himself, if he is attacked, in his own kingdom.

6. The King of Ashanti only began to prepare his army after he heard that the English troops were sent to Prah sue, and the road cleared from Cape Coast Castle to the Prah.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

SAMUEL ROWE,

March 4, 1881.

Governor-in-Chief.

No. 70.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF
KIMBERLEY. (Received March 28, 1881.)

MY LORD,

Elmina Castle, March 4, 1881.

IN another despatch I have informed your Lordship of my arrival here this morning, and I now find that the mail steamer for England is expected to leave this evening, there is therefore very little time afforded me for writing.

2. As far as I have been able to make any enquiry into the state of affairs, I find everything is very much the same as stated in Mr. Griffith's despatch of 27th and 28th February.*

3. A letter dated at Addah, 25th February, was received last night by the Lieutenant Governor from Mr. G. Feurstein, agent of the German factory there, in which he

* No. 65.

remarks, in concluding certain information forwarded, "It appears the Ashantis do mean war in spite of all sayings and peaceable messages to Cape Coast to your own hands."

4. "Kotiko," the chief minister of the King of Adansi, came to see Mr. Griffith early this morning and told him, as Mr. Griffith informs me, not to place any reliance on the King of Ashanti, that his gold axe meant war, and he was accumulating armed men at Coomassie.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAMUEL ROWE,

Governor-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Kimberley,

&c.

&c.

&c.

No. 71.

GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE, K.C.M.G., to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY. (Received March 29, 1881.)

Telegraphic.

21st March. No news of further Ashanti movement. Houssa force returned to Prah, which post, to and fro last news thence 18th, all quiet. King has sent messengers to ask intercession of merchants and missionaries, also of others who are thought to be friendly with him.

Telegraph, completed 16th, in full use; please send more.

"Humber," with Colonel Justice and 489 men, came on the 18th.

Good authority says part of Ashanti ambassadors (see telegram of the 14th) went to insist on King's stepfather, Chief of high rank, coming down; also that the King is gathering forces, but only for local defence if attacked.

"Humber," returning by St. Vincent, takes this telegram.

No. 72.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

War Office, March 30, 1881.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to transmit to you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a copy of a despatch from the Officer Commanding the Troops, Cape Coast Castle, reporting upon the actual state of affairs on the Gold Coast.

I have, &c.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

Enclosure in No. 72.

Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast,
February 26, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report for the information of His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief that I arrived at this station accompanied by Mr. Blissett C.M.G., the Commissary in Charge, on the 21st instant, to personally superintend matters, and report the actual state of affairs. The day following I attended a meeting of council at Elmina, where His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor is at present residing, likewise again yesterday, the 25th instant, the result of both councils being of a very satisfactory nature. The telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies announcing that reinforcements of 400 troops from the West Indies would be despatched immediately was read at the time.

At the council a letter was read, signed by two German missionaries of high respectability who went to Coomassie, and to whom Captain Jackson, Royal Artillery, wrote for information whilst he was reporting on the state of defence of Prabsue.

These gentlemen have afforded valuable information to the following effect, vizt.:

1st.—That the kingdom of Ashanti is in a very disorganized state; anarchy and rebellion may break out at any moment, and the King deposed.

2nd.—The late Ashanti War has had such an intimidating effect on the people generally that to engage in war with such a powerful nation as Great Britain would mean nothing more or less than actual break-up and annihilation of the Ashanti kingdom.

3rd.—The King's mother, who represents great power, states that that if the king engages in war with England she will commit suicide.

Such a result, from an Ashanti point of view, would have a most deterring effect on the King's movements.

4th.—At the present time the kingdom of Ashanti is surrounded and hemmed in by powerful tribes, who would rejoice at the fall of the nation, and who would at our request raise and support large numbers of native levies.

5th.—The present army consists of about 20,000 men altogether, but from this force must be deducted bearers and camp followers.

The actual number of fighting men may be reckoned at 5,000 men. It further appears that they possess 1,000 stand of Snider rifles, but from carelessness and exposure this amount, for effective purposes, may be reduced to 300, the remaining arms consisting of flint locks and old worthless Birmingham guns.

This is the general tenour of the statement of the German missionaries.

I beg most respectfully to adduce the following remarks.

The King of Ashanti tries to repudiate the sending of the golden axe, and states that it came without his knowledge or sanction, and that all his intentions are of a pacific nature.

The sending of the golden axe means war, and the King's messengers stated that it was so. There cannot be any other interpretation, and every king and chief for miles around puts the same construction on it.

The messengers he accredited were his principal chiefs and advisers.

When his Excellency, in accordance with the stipulations of the treaty made in 1874, refused to accede to their request to give up Prince Owoosoo, nephew to the King, the messengers stated that the King meant to fight.

I consider the action taken by the Lieutenant Governor and the prompt manner in which I was enabled to despatch 200 rank and file of the 1st West India Regiment had a very salutary and deterring effect.

I should have felt, however, greater pleasure if, instead of referring the matter home by telegram, His Excellency had simply written, requesting an augmentation of troops from Sierra Leone; the effect would, in my opinion, I respectfully submit, have been the same.

No one could actually dream for a moment that the Ashantis would have suddenly invaded the Colony or marched on the Protectorate.

The crops are not in, and the Ashantis will not move until the rainy season, which does not commence till next month, is over.

They are a deceitful and cunning race, full of treachery, who cannot speak the truth; vide Blue Book and Sir Garnet Wolseley's remarks on their character.

I do not hesitate in stating that the Ashantis are paralysed and will not fight.

At the request of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, and with the sanction of the Officer Commanding the Troops on the Gold Coast, 100 rank and file of the 1st West India Regiment proceeded to Anamaboe on the 9th instant to occupy the fort there, which I consider was a politic action.

The troops are healthy, and I am making arrangements with the Colonial Government for the accommodation of the troops expected from the West Indies.

H.M.S. "Champion" having arrived on the station, 270 marines and blue jackets as a naval brigade could be landed, if necessary, from the men of war at present in the roads.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. W. POLLARD,
Capt. Commanding Troops.

No. 73.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, March 30, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, copy of a Despatch, dated the

26th ultimo, from Captain George R. Hope, commanding H.M.S. "Champion," reporting his arrival at Elmina, and the state of affairs in connexion with the apprehended Ashanti invasion.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 73.

H.M.S. "Champion," Elmina,
February 26, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Sierra Leone on the 20th instant, and arrived here early on the morning of the 25th, and found assembled H.M. Ships "Flirt," "Rambler," "Firefly," and "Pioneer," the latter at Cape Coast Castle. The "Foam" is also expected from the South Coast.

2. Commander Brackenbury was at the time acting as senior officer, his reasons for so doing have been explained by himself in a separate letter to you.

3. I found all the crews had been organised for landing, and every preparation made for that service, as far as the appliances of the ships would permit. The ships were well off for coal and provisions, and with the supply brought down on the "Champion's" upper deck are now nearly completed with the former, and more than so with the latter. There is a supply of 70 tons of coal at Quittah also, on board the "Primula" hulk.

4. I informed the Lieutenant-Governor of my arrival, asking for his view of the present situation, and enclose a copy of his answer received to-day. In the afternoon I landed, and, at his request, was sworn in as an extra-member of the Council, and attended a meeting which had assembled to decide on the answer to be sent to the King of Ashanti by the ambassadors mentioned in Commander Brackenbury's letter of the 18th instant, who had brought down a peaceful message.

5. The proceedings of the Council being secret, I can only say that it was decided that a definite answer should be delayed until the arrival of his Excellency Sir Samuel Rowe, who may be expected direct from home about the 4th proximo, leaving it an open question as to whether we should exact an apology, an indemnity, &c.

6. My personal impression is that the King of Ashanti is now desirous of peace. It is no doubt true that the golden axe has never been sent without meaning a declaration of war, but in Ashanti, as in other places, there is a peace party as well as a war one, and the consensus of all the information I can gather is that this party predominates at present. Again, in four or five weeks, the rains will have commenced, and it is notorious that the natives never fight during them. On the other hand, the Ashantis are proverbially deceitful, and cannot be relied on, and possibly might try a coup de main on some point on the coast.

7. That the forces at the disposal of the Lieutenant-Governor were originally inadequate for defence, if attacked, cannot be denied, but I do not myself think that there is any probability of that at present, and should it occur, with the reinforcements he has received I think no immediate danger need be apprehended. I may remark here that the prompt arrival of the ships has produced a great effect on the native mind, and more particularly that of this ship. It was peculiarly fortunate my arriving on the morning of the day which had been fixed to send the final answer to the King of Ashanti, as they almost attribute it to supernatural agencies.

8. The naval brigade, if landed, would at present undertake the defence of Elmina, in conjunction with 250 Houssahs, and I shall keep the ships assembled here until the situation is clearer.

Individually, I think that Sir Samuel Rowe will have no difficulty in settling the matter amicably, and that the normal state of affairs will soon be resumed, but until his arrival I cannot give a definite opinion as to how soon I can detach the ships to their various stations.

9. I have not had time to re-organise the brigade which might be landed, but, roughly speaking, it might consist of 280 men with—

5 Gatling guns,
1 9-pounder,
2 7-pounders,
5 rocket tubes, and
180 rifles,

or a larger number of rifles, and fewer rockets and small guns. The senior commander would be in command, with the gunnery lieutenant of this ship acting as adjutant under him.

10. The health of the crews is good, and the weather considered not particularly oppressive by those habituated to it.

11. In conclusion, I would bring to your notice the promptitude with which Commander Brackenbury acted, and the responsibility he took on himself in assembling the squadron when the emergency arose. The energy and zeal he has shown in organizing the crews for landing, and also the judgment he has evinced in selecting and having prepared by the military authorities the most advantageous position to occupy for the defence of Elmina, merit also, in my opinion, great commendation. I wish also to bring to your notice that the Lieutenant-Governor W. Griffith, C.M.G., has expressed himself to me in the strongest terms as to the advice and assistance which he has received from Commander Brackenbury during a critical and anxious time. I will only further add that I fully approve of the policy which he has urged the Governor to pursue, and I feel sure that, while his energies have been devoted to preparation for war, he has, when in Council, been the Governor's truest adviser, and tended materially to the preservation of peace.

Affairs having now taken a peaceful turn, much as I should regret the loss of his assistance should any active service occur, I feel I can no longer retain him from the appointment he has received to Her Majesty's yacht, and he returns to England by this packet.

February 28, 1881.

The mail has only just arrived, but I have nothing further to add, nor, in spite of conflicting rumours, do I see any reason to alter my opinion that a war with Ashanti is most improbable.

Commodore F. W. Richards, C.B., A.D.C.,
Commanding-in-Chief Cape of Good Hope
and West Coast of Africa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. R. HOPE,
Captain and Senior Officer,
West Coast Division.

[Enclosure 2 in No. 73.]

SIR,

Elmina Castle, February 26, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in which you inform me that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had directed you to assume temporarily the duties of senior officer on the West Coast of Africa.

In reply to your desire to be informed as to the present position of affairs, I have to state that the King of Ashanti has recently sent messengers to me expressive of his desire to be on friendly terms with this Government. I have no confidence whatever in his professions, and shall not abate the preparations I have made and have in hand for the protection of the towns on the seaboard of the Colony, owing to his virtual declaration of war; but as Sir Samuel Rowe, the recently appointed Governor-in-Chief, will be here very shortly, I sent yesterday to inform the King of Ashanti correspondingly, and that the Governor would reply to his message.

Under these circumstances I am unable to state, in reply to your inquiry, whether the services of the naval forces on the station will be required or not, but, as the Governor-in-Chief will arrive shortly, his Excellency will be in a position to give you more definite information upon the point. I consider the effect of the arrival of H.M.S. "Champion" will have on native opinion in conjunction with the intelligence that further reinforcements of West Indian troops are en route will afford valuable aid to this Government in strengthening Sir Samuel Rowe's hands very materially in his negotiations with the King of Ashanti, whilst I feel most thankful to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty for their kindness to the Colony in diverting the "Champion" from her original destination to this place.

I have, &c.

Captain Hope,
Senior Naval Officer,
H.M.S. "Champion."

(Signed) W. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Lieutenant-Governor.

No. 74.

COLONIAL OFFICE to ADMIRALTY.

SIR,

Downing Street, April 4, 1881.

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to transmit to you a copy of a letter* addressed by the Acting Governor of the Gold Coast to the senior naval officer on the West African Station, and to say that his Lordship has much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty this favourable report of the services rendered by Commander Brackenbury.

The Secretary to the Admiralty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

No. 75.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to GOVERNOR SIR S. ROWE,
K.C.M.G.

SIR,

Downing Street, April 4, 1881.

I HAVE received Lieutenant-Governor Griffith's despatch, of the 26th February,† and its enclosures, and I approve of the answer returned by him to the letter of the King of Eorsu-Safi.

Sir S. Rowe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

No. 76.

ADMIRALTY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

Admiralty, April 6, 1881.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the perusal of the Earl of Kimberley, extract from a letter dated the 11th March, and copy of a letter, dated the 14th March, from Captain Hope of H.M.S. "Champion," reporting the state of affairs at Elmina and the Gold Coast.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Enclosure 1 in No. 76.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER of Captain HOPE, H.M.S. "Champion," Elmina,
11th March 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that there has been but little change in the situation here since my last letter of proceedings of 4th March 1881.

On Sunday, the 6th instant, at the invitation of his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in company with the captains and most of the officers of the squadron, I attended an interview between the Governor and the Ashanti ambassadors. His Excellency made a speech expressing the grief of the Queen at hearing the news from Ashanti, declaring that her heart was still favourably disposed towards them, and that though, as evinced by the quick concentration of ships and troops, and also by the rapid manner in which he, accompanied by so many officers, had come out from England, it was evident that the Queen was prepared to uphold her honour and defend the interests of the Colony, she was yet desirous of remaining at peace with the King of Ashanti. The Ashanti ambassadors desired to reserve their reply until Prince Ossoo Anseh, the Ashanti Prince, who is a kind of hostage amongst us, could be present, and after drinking the Queen's health, in which the ambassadors joined, the interview terminated.

Since then, I understand that ambassadors from the King of Adansi have had interviews with the Governor, and also his Excellency has had conversations with Prince Anseh, but no further formal reception of the Ashanti ambassadors has taken place. I have entered into these details fully, that you may be able to form an opinion on the situation.

His Excellency has been busily employed in organising matters on shore, and with his staff has shown the utmost energy in collecting information, and at the same time making

*Enclosure in No. 63.

† No. 64.

all necessary preparations for a move up country. The last packet brought out 150 tons of provisions for the troops.

The sailmakers and carpenters of the squadron have been employed in making a number of stretchers with awnings, and I propose sending Mr. D. W. Hawkins, acting gunner of the "Flirt," to instruct the Houssas in rocket practice, but otherwise the services of the ships have not been called upon.

A force of 50 Houssas have advanced to Prahsue, as a post of observation, with orders to keep up daily communications, but no other movement of troops has taken place.

Enclosed is a list of the men and arms which I have informed his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief that I am prepared to land for the defence of Elmina, or for marching up the country.

The ships have remained near this anchorage. The "Firefly" went down to Secondee to bring up the district magistrate. At the Governor's request, on account of the great scarcity of fresh meat, H.M.S. "Flirt" has gone to Quitta for a supply for the ships, with orders to call at Accra on her way back to bring the chief justice and several officials who are required here. It is my intention to send each week one of the ships to cruize and visit the coast, to preserve the health of the ship's company. The "Foam" has not yet arrived from the south.

I have semi-officially inquired of the Governor-in-Chief if he considers that the services of this ship and the small vessels are likely to be required for a lengthened period, but his Excellency informs me he is not in a position to discuss the matter with me previous to the departure of this mail.

Enclosure 2 in No. 76.

REPORTING PROCEEDINGS.

SIR,

H.M.S. "Champion," Elmina, March 14, 1881.

I TAKE the opportunity of communicating by the S.S. "Ararat" (Transport No. 3), which arrived yesterday from the Cape of Good Hope with 50 tons of coal for the use of the squadron, to report my proceedings up to date. I also enclose a triplicate of the letter sent by the last mail, as she sails this afternoon, and will probably arrive four days earlier than the regular mail, which left on the 12th instant.

2. His Excellency the Governor was sworn in on the 12th instant, both at Cape Castle and Elmina, with a considerable amount of ceremony. He held a reception in both places afterwards, and addressed the native chiefs. The Ashanti ambassadors were present on both occasions, of their own accord, and went round the daïs and shook hands in a similar manner to the friendly chiefs. His Excellency visited this ship between the ceremonies, and was received with the customary honours.

3. I am informed that the Ashanti ambassadors have sent messengers officially to Coomassie. They have not as yet given any response to the address made to them by the Governor, as narrated in my letter of 11th March 1881. They are no doubt very peaceably inclined, but we have positively no news as to the feeling existing in Coomassie itself.

4. The force of 50 Houssas which started for Prahsue to keep up communication has been detained at Mansue, about half way up, owing to the officer in command having fallen ill.

5. Yesterday I had an interview with his Excellency as to the present situation and probable requirements on the naval service. He informs me that, though fully believing that peace will be maintained, affairs are still in a very delicate position, and that it is impossible to hurry the negotiations with the native chiefs, and that, pending a further favourable development, it would be highly impolitic to, in any way, scatter the forces which are now assembled, and which have no doubt materially tended to bring about the present hopeful state of affairs. His Excellency further informs me that in a few days he purposes convening a council at which the senior naval and military officers will be present, and laying certain propositions before them.

6. H.M.S. "Wye" arrived on the morning of the 12th after a good passage, and is now at Cape Coast Castle discharging military stores. The sheep for the squadron were very acceptable. You will perceive that I am not at present in a position to give an opinion as to the probable length of time her services may be required. The S.S. "Humber" has not yet arrived.