

# AFRICAN TRADING;

OR,

## THE TRIALS

OF

# WILLIAM NARH OCANSEY,

OF ADDAH, WEST COAST OF AFRICA,

RIVER VOLTA.

WRITTEN BY

JOHN E. OCANSEY,

*During his short stay in Liverpool, England,  
in the Year 1881.*

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## P R E F A C E .

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WILLIAM NARI OCANSEY is a native of Addah, situated on the Banks of the River Volta, West Coast of Africa, near to Accra, the capital town, and is a British possession, the people of Addah, being British subjects. Addah is the trade port, and is established between the bar of the River Volta and the sea.

# The Trials

OF

## William Narh Ocanscy.

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### SECTION I.

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WILLIAM NARH OCANSEY is a native of Addah, and his trade is that of a general merchant. He was inducted into the knowledge of mercantile business when a comparatively young man, and has followed it, with varying success, for more than forty years.

He is a man who could almost use the day and night for trade—never weary, never tired,—always doing something. His natural qualifications would lead people to say that he was a born merchant. Though he can neither read nor write, he is so quick, shrewd, and sagacious, that he can trade in any way in native fashion as well as any learned man. And thus going on for some years in his poor native fashion, and, by the help of God, who taught him justice and uprightness, his business increased to such a degree that he was obliged to engage book people as assistants, clerks, and agents. For several years this success and enlargement went on rapidly, until his business became profitable and substantial.

But an interruption to this pleasant state of affairs took place in the year 1863, and losses and crosses followed on the heels of one another for seven years, up to the year 1870.

Between the years 1863 to 1868 he lost about five thousand pounds sterling. This loss was occasioned by the war breaking out between the Angulans and the people of Addah, which war, like a wild running water, flowed and covered all the regions of Accrepay, Accra, Ackym, and Cape Coast Castle. In this war he was shot in the left breast, the ball lodging in the back, and it had to be cut out. For months his life was despaired of, and for years it made him weak and feeble.

He suffered also from a conflagration in one of these years, whilst the war was still in force.

After the fourth year, the war was over, and from 1868 to 1874 he continued his trade, his clerks and agents assisting him with all their power.

But he was not yet clear from misfortune, for he lost upwards of £2,000 by the unexpected death of one of his agents.

It appears that Mr. W. N. Ocansey had opened a factory at a place called Quitta, below the River Volta, and handed it over to his agent. The first goods sent to this factory amounted to the sum of £2,000, which the agent disposed of mostly on credit to Quitta people. When he was called upon for his statement of account it was found that his affairs were all in confusion, and he could not give any satisfaction to his employer. Gathering all the money he could get together, he bought palm oil and palm kernels with it, and shipped the produce on one of the African Steamers, and then jumped on board himself and went off to England, without the knowledge or consent of his employer.

After being in England some time, he found it would be best for him to return to Africa; but whilst on his way he was stricken down by fever, and died on board of ship, but his body was landed at a port called Winnebah. The news of his death reached his elder brother first, and then was sent on to Mr. W. N. Ocansey, who was very sorry to lose his agent in such a manner.

The elder brother at once proceeded down to Quitta, to look after and arrange the affairs of his departed brother; but he returned, saying he could not make head or tail of his agency. About three or four months after this Mr. W. N. Ocansey, having a just and legal cause, tried to claim the amount from the deceased's elder brother; and in order to ensure a fair trial, the case was brought before the Court at Accra, where the English Government is established.

The Court decided that the elder brother should pay the amount claimed; but he failed to do so, owing to having suffered many losses and inconveniences in his own affairs, as well as with his late brother's. Mr. Ocansey had therefore to suffer the loss of his £2,000 and expenses.

The past no longer is in my power,  
 The future who shall live to see?  
 Mine only is the present hour,  
 Lent to be all laid out for Thee,  
 Now, Saviour, with Thy grace endowed,  
 Now let me serve and please my God.  
 Why should I ask the future load  
 To aggravate my present care:  
 Strong in the grace to-day bestowed,  
 The evil of to-day I bear;  
 And if to-morrow's care I see,  
 Fresh grace shall still suffice for me.

In the early part of 1875 one of Messrs. F. & A. Swanzy's vessels was wrecked at Addah. The natives broke on board and took possession, and abstracted and divided the cargo. Mr. Ocansey warned them and strongly urged them to desist, but they despised his counsel, thinking they were free to plunder a wreck as in the olden time. But they shortly found themselves in the wrong box, and their conduct brought a great loss upon Mr. Ocansey, because he was the chief of the Royal Family of the place.

It appears that Mr. Crocker, who was the agent of Messrs. F. and A. Swanzy, and who resided at Accra, hearing of the loss and plunder of the vessel and cargo, immediately instituted an action against the King of Addah, who was elder brother of Mr. W. N. Ocansey. to shew cause why he allowed his people to plunder and convey away the goods from the wreck, whilst she was on British territory.

The case was tried, and settled that the Addah people pay the English Government the value of the goods and the ship. That claim was handed to the king. The natives then met together, and it was proposed to make a collection from every house in the place to enable the king to pay the claim to the Government. Mr. W. N. Ocansey had then to stand as overseer or security on behalf of his brother, the king, and had to use all his influence, and devote his valuable time and attention, in making the collection from house to house.

The value of the wreck was put down at 5000 dollars, but the natives could not contribute that amount in the time appointed. They wanted more warning, or a longer time to

collect their shares. One month was allowed, but at the end of that time nothing could be got from them. The agent of Messrs. Swanzy then renewed their claim to the Government, who at once sent a force of soldiers with Commandant to Addah to enquire of the king Dosoo whether his people were ready to pay or not. If not, the king would be arrested. When the force arrived at Addah, the king and the natives arranged themselves before them, and begged for a longer time, as they had to send to all the villages about, and to bring back those who had escaped away to avoid payment. After considerable discussion and many complaints, time was allowed. But the real cause of the delay on the part of the natives to pay their contributions was this:—They said that the little goods they had taken away from the wreck would not amount to one-fifth of the sum charged to them. That the wreck was only visible for a few days, when she sank, and all her cargo went down with her; and it was a great injustice to call upon them to pay for goods which were at the bottom of the sea! and that after the vessel sank the natives did not obtain a single article from her. They also testified that some bales of goods and about 200 barrels of rum had been landed and saved by the firm's agent at Addah, Mr. Charles Cassah; and they demanded that the value of the bales and barrels of rum should be deducted from the amount charged to them.

When Mr. Charles Cassah found how he was blamed by the natives for not giving a true and faithful report to his principals, and that they also were greatly displeased with him on account of his conduct about the wreck of the vessel consigned to him, he removed his agency at

Addah, and went up into the interior part of the Volta, and established a business at a place called Akuse, but the climate not agreeing with him, he died suddenly.

The Commandant having considered the condition of the natives, allowed them three months more to settle the whole claim, and the force returned to Accra.

Shortly after, the Government appointed J. S. Parker, Esq., as a permanent Commandant for the district of Addah, and he was received by the natives with pleasure.

A month had passed, and the natives had not responded to the collection. The Commandant, Mr. Parker, who was empowered to settle all cases in the court at Addah, sent a message to the king that he wanted to see him personally about the wreck affair. The king did not hesitate, but went down at once, according to the request of the Commandant.

In answer to the question as to whether he was going on with the collection, the king replied that he had only received a few dollars from the natives. The Commandant then advised him to hurry them, because when the appointed time had expired, he could not do otherwise than his duty.

The king, on his return from the Government House, reported the conversation to his brother, Mr. W. N. Ocansey, who felt deeply and keenly the idea of the imprisonment of his brother on account of this national debt. From that time Mr. W. N. Ocansey did not rest, but assisted the king in going from house to house and claiming the shares of each man and woman; and they continued at this unpleasant task day after day until the appointed time. When the collection

was counted before the king, it was found only to amount to 2000 dollars. Their bitter experience in collecting that amount convinced them that they could not get more from the natives at that time, and so the king and Mr. W. N. Ocansey entered into an agreement that the king should advance 1,000 dollars, and Mr. W. N. Ocansey 2,000 dollars, which, with the 2,000 dollars already collected from the natives, would make the total demanded by the Government.

It was in 1876 that this unfortunate and unpleasant business was settled with the Government, but there still remained the debt due to the king and W. N. Ocansey. No sooner did the natives hear that the king and his brother had paid the debt to the Government in full, than they began secretly to depart out of the town and hide themselves in the villages, so as to avoid paying any further demands. But the king could not do otherwise than endeavour to collect his money, and he therefore began to issue warrants on them one by one, and in a few months had collected 1,000 dollars, which was the amount he had advanced, but there still remained the 2,000 dollars which Mr. W. N. Ocansey had advanced.

But the natives became angry and irritated, and began to hate the king on account of his warrants, and they secretly watched his ways and poisoned him, so that he died in the end of the year 1876, leaving many orphans under the care of Mr. W. N. Ocansey. This was a severe bereavement and disappointment to the Ocansey family.

The year 1877 was a very prosperous year in business, and nothing was lost either in trade or

*old Ameyar, of Attorco together with King Goso of Adaper  
born by King Adjora I of Ada's 2nd son named Kanor  
Adjora (King Adjora I's mother was an Ioruna from the  
late tribe); and Aglogbarte 12 and Akvesihu (w. N. Ocansey)  
were later born by old Ocansey with the same woman (same*

by family deaths, but in the earlier part of the year 1878 dark clouds began to gather and the chastening hand of the Lord was upon them.

Just after the customs of the country to the memory of the late king had been finished, on the 10th of February, 1878, one of the elder brothers of Mr. W. N. Ocansey died. He was a clever, talented man, and lived at a village called Attorco, Old Amenyar, on the other side of the River Volta.

But there were streaks of sunshine even in the darkest hour, for on the 28th of April in the same year, Mr. W. N. Ocansey had the pleasure of witnessing the marriage of one of his sons, Mr. John E. Ocansey, who was married to Miss Salome Ocansey. And in the month of February, 1879, they presented him with a little grandson named Alfred John Ocansey. In the same year, he witnessed the marriage of his elder son, William B. Ocansey, who married Miss Eustina Ocansey, but their happiness was soon clouded over by the loss of the mother of the latter.

In the month of August of this year, Mr. W. N. Ocansey sustained a very heavy loss. He had been away up to his factories on the banks of the River Volta, and had collected forty butts of palm oil. The usual way adopted by the Volta people to convey the oil down to Addah (the sea-port) is to lash or string all the casks with long and very strong ropes, and then launch them into the river to be floated down by the strong current, but guided and towed by one or two small canoes; but on this occasion he was overtaken by a flood, and the current was rapid and strong, and instead of reaching Addah, as he had expected, on the 30th of August at day

time, he and his cargo got there at midnight on the 28th. Being late at night, none of his people were out to help him to draw the cargo in from the rapid current which was carrying it past the port and away out to sea.

It is usual when oil has been collected up the river, and is all ready for towing down, that word is sent to their people to be on the look-out and ready with boats and ropes to draw the oil on shore out of the current. Mr. W. N. Ocansey had attended to all this, but he could not calculate on the flood which filled the river, which hurried him on faster than he expected; consequently no one was about when he came opposite to Addah, and he and the cargo were swept past away out to the bar where the sea and river meet, and form such mighty waves that they would destroy anything that came near to them. After straining themselves to the utmost without success, they lost confidence. "Let go the oil," cried Mr. Ocansey, "that we may save our lives!" So the boys that were with him in the guiding canoe let go the oil, and they pulled back half-way between the bar and the landing place, and landed there to go home with empty hands, and report their marvellous loss to the family.

"My God, my Father, while I stray  
Far from my home, in life's rough way,  
O teach me from my heart to say,  
Thy will be done.

"Though dark my path, and sad my lot,  
Let me be still, and murmur not,  
But breathe the prayer divinely taught,  
Thy will be done".

On the following morning when the news spread outside, all the natives, with the white

traders, came and visited him, to express their sympathy and sorrow at his loss. He then sent out people to walk along the sea-shores to see if any of the butts had been stranded or washed up, but they returned with no news. He then made a written communication to the small ports along the coast, and to the trading steamers, especially the S.S. "Ambrize," which was expected the same night that the loss occurred. But all their answers were alike, nothing had been seen of the butts of oil, which must now be regarded as entirely lost and the value of it was £630.

On the 20th of April, 1880, another severe and heavy blow fell on the family by the death of the third son, Mr. Gordon Samuel Oansey. He was one of the greatest helps to his father, and had charge of a factory far away up in the interior part of the River Volta. Having stayed seven years in that establishment he was on his way home to be married, but on the 15th of March he was attacked with a heavy fever with vomiting, and this continued and increased until the 28th of April, when he died.

"Out of the deep I cry,  
Just at the point to die,  
Hastening to infernal pain ;  
Jesus, Lord, I cry to Thee,  
Help a feeble child of man,  
Shew forth all Thy power in me."

At midnight on the 15th of May 1880, and during a violent thunderstorm and a down-pour of rain, a thunderbolt rushed into the beach-yard of Mr. W. N. Oansey, and dashed itself against the flag pole, which stood close to the new large buildings, and this arrested and broke

its force. All the members of the Ocansey family and their children, together with the white men traders, were in the building, and it was most marvellous and providential that they all escaped from instant death.

“ Ah ! whither should I go,  
    Burdened, and sick, and faint ?  
To whom should I my trouble show,  
    And pour out my complaint ? ”



## SECTION II.

The Voyage of Mr. JOHN E. OCANSEY  
from the River Volta to England, in the S.S.  
"Mayumba," starting on April 28th, 1881.

IT was another unfortunate and miserable circumstance that occasioned his departure from Africa.

It appears that shortly after the loss of his forty butts of oil, Mr. Ocansey decided to buy a steam launch to ascend the rivers and bring his palm oil down to Addah, without fear of loss. He therefore wrote to one of his commission agents in Liverpool, England, whose name is Robert W. Hickson, trading under the name of Messrs. Hickson, Sykes & Co., and enquired if he could purchase a steam launch for him. A reply to this letter arrived at Addah, stating he could get one if Mr. Ocansey would send him the money in African produce. Mr. Ocansey then shipped a large quantity of palm oil to Hickson, and sent him at the same time the order for the steam launch, which had to be built: length, 62 feet; width, 12 feet 11 inches; and depth, 7 feet; and to draw  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet in the water when loaded. That order reached Liverpool about the month of March, 1880. Hickson wrote to acknowledge the receipt of the order and the produce, and at the same time requested that more produce be sent to

complete the purchase, which was estimated at £2,200. He also said that the builders had commenced, and he thought he should be able to dispatch her so as to reach Addah in July or August. But he added that the builder would not deliver her unless the full amount was paid down.

The account sales of the first shipment of oil to Hickson showed that he had realised £1,478; and Mr. W. N. Ocansey being very anxious to obtain the launch for his large business, immediately shipped another consignment to complete the payment. He had the fullest confidence in Hickson. For many years he had been trading with white men in Liverpool, London, and Glasgow, and none of them—to their honour—had ever deceived him. They had rendered him faithful account sales of the oil he had sent to them, and they had judiciously purchased and sent whatever he told them to buy for him. He had been trading with Hickson for over twelve months, and therefore he had full confidence in him, and relied on his word and honesty as a white man.

The account sales of the last shipment of oil was sent by Hickson to Addah, and it was found on adding the two amounts together that he had received £2,678 11s. 8d to pay for the steam launch. But the vessel did not arrive as promised, and then Hickson began to write and make many unnecessary excuses. In November he wrote to say that the vessel was now ready, but that he was afraid to despatch her because the equinoctial gales were on, and she would not be able to pass through the Bay of Biscay. Then he wrote again to say it would not be safe to send her during the winter, but that she

should sail from Liverpool early in the month of April, 1881.

This was a great grief and disappointment to Mr. W. N. Ocansey, and he became uneasy and alarmed at the broken promises and the delay, and he decided that it would be better that someone should go to Liverpool and see whether the vessel was built and ready. He then appointed one of his sons, Mr. John E. Ocansey to go by the first steamer and see Hickson personally. About a week after this decision was taken, the S.S. "Mayumba" arrived at Addah, and Mr. John E. Ocansey, having received authority and all the papers and letters relating to the unpleasant business, prepared himself for a voyage to England. And he will now speak for himself and describe the voyage.

I went on board the "Mayumba" on the 28th of April, 1881, at twelve o'clock noon. On ascending her deck I found one young white man, who was a passenger from Benin, and two ladies from Victoria, who were going to their home in England. After the captain had received on board my fifty-one casks of palm oil and fifty bags of palm kernels, he ordered the anchor to be weighed and the engines began to move. I looked towards my home and beheld on the beach all the family standing to see me off and to bid me good-bye. I felt a deep sorrow in my heart when I saw them, and when I beheld our house flag go up and down as a sign of farewell, for I was leaving them all in trouble and on a miserable errand. However, I tried to hold and steady my mind, and to put all my confidence in God, who only can take care of the stranger in a

strange land, as well as on the wide, boisterous sea.

“ Lord of the wide, extensive main,  
Whose power the wind, the sea controls,  
Whose hand doth earth and heaven sustain,  
Whose Spirit leads believing souls.

“ For Thee I leave my native shore,  
I whom Thy love delights to keep ;  
In other climes thy works explore,  
And see Thy wonders in the deep.

“ 'Tis here Thine unknown paths I trace,  
Which dark to human eyes appear ;  
While through the mighty waves I pass,  
Faith only sees that God is here.”

The steamer then swung around with her bow to windward, and commenced her long journey to Europe. Soon after we met the S.S. “Odessa,” out from Liverpool, and we proceeded on and anchored at Prampram on the same day. We next started for Accra, where we met the S.S. “Volta,” from Ham-lurgh. On the 29th we started from Accra to Bayrecoo, and on the same day to Winnebah, where we met the steamer “Bonny,” from Liverpool, and then on to Appam. On the 30th we sailed to Saltpond and to Annamboe, and from thence on to Cape Coast Castle. I now began to observe many strange things, and the advance of European ideas and customs. At Cape Coast Castle there are many finely-built houses belonging to the natives and to the white men. They were beautifully situated and seemed very pleasant. There were also six English men-of-war at anchor in the roads. We then started for Elmina, where we saw ten more men-of-war, and we received on board eleven soldiers and two officers as passengers. Considerable excitement was observed here, as

I was informed that the governor was present. From Elmina, we proceeded on and again anchored at a place called Axim on the 2nd May. I observed here a fine, plain sandy beach, similar to Addah. Starting from thence we called in on the same day at Assinee and Bassar, towns situated on the shore, with fine sandy beaches stretching away on both sides. On the following day we called in at Half Jack, situated near a fine river; and here there were many fine sailing vessels at anchor, and some coming and going. On the 4th we came to anchor at Cape Palmas, the town of which is built on a sharp pointed high hill, running out into the sea. Many of the houses, which are light and airy structures, are perched up on the hill, and look very beautiful from the deck of the steamer. There was also a very fine light-house built out on the rocks. From thence we started for Sinoe. Here the country is flat or level, with a fine sandy beach. Trees and brushwood grow abundantly along the sides of the river and down to and along the shore. Here we received another passenger, a white man, who was said to be the superintendent of one of the gold mines, and he brought with him a box of gold weighing 90 oz. On the 6th we were at Grand Bassar, and met the steamer Ambriz out from Liverpool, and took on board a native passenger. There is a fine river here, the banks of which, as well as all along the sea board, is lined with dense bushy trees.

We then proceeded on to Liberia—the model colony—where many of the coloured people of America come to. It is finely situated on hilly ground, and has a nice calm beach. On the

8th, we were at Sierra Leone, and here I noticed great activity and advancement. The country round about is covered with nice green hills and mountains, and the houses are pleasantly built on them. There are many large, fine buildings built for and used by the English Government, who have vastly improved the place, and have made splendid roads and streets. There are also several large workshops, and the large crane or winch at the landing station, opposite the Government warehouse, seemed a very useful and powerful machine in loading and discharging cargoes quickly. It was a very beautiful, calm day when we were there, and the sea on the fine beach was as calm as a river. Here you can land or come on board at any time of the day or night, and never get wet by the sea. When I went on shore it was just the time of evening prayer, and I went in with some people to St. George's Cathedral. It was to me a very grand building, with stained windows of different glasses, and a large bell which strikes of itself by clock-work. I returned on board at 8-30, pleased with this break in my journey, for there was very much to interest me in the large number of sailing vessels, steamers, and steam launches. Having received cargo on board, ten passengers came alongside, one of them being the Rev. Mr. Williams, a Wesleyan missionary, and a lady teacher from one of the native schools, who brought a pianoforte with her. This was a pleasing addition to our company, for afterwards public worship was conducted on board every Sunday, with good singing, led by Miss Macartney. We steamed away to Isles-de-loss; which we reached on the same day, and made fast alongside an old American

hulk, from which we received fifty casks of gum. This place appeared very curious and strange to me. It seemed like a lot of abrupt conical hills all gathered together, with narrow dark paths through them, and the sea surrounding the whole, so that a stranger could not tell the way to get in or out. But these islands were interesting because we were told they were the last land we should see for some time. Hitherto we had been sailing along the coast, and almost daily calling at one place or another. Now we were going far out into the ocean, and would not see land—all would be sea. And thus we proceeded on for four days and nights over the deep, wide, boundless sea.

“ Jesu, lover of my soul,  
 Let me to Thy bosom fly,  
 While the nearer waters roll,  
 While the tempest still is high.  
 Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
 Till the storm of life is past,  
 Safe into the haven guide,  
 O receive my soul at last.  
 “ Other refuge have I none,  
 Hangs my helpless soul on Thee,  
 Leave, oh! leave me not alone,  
 Still support and comfort me.  
 All my trust on Thee is stayed,  
 All my help from Thee I bring;  
 Cover my defenceless head  
 With the shadow of Thy wing.”

Quite unexpectedly to me, on the sixth day at noon, whilst I was inside the saloon, I heard a commotion—a rapid tramp of feet—and then loud and hearty shouts, “Land! land!” I hurried up on to the poop to enquire what was the matter, when a friend said to me, “Look! don’t you see something above the waters?” But I could not see it; it was too far off for my

eyesight. "Wait," he said, "and I will bring you my spy-glass, and you will then see it plainly," and he ran down into the saloon, and returned with the glass, with which, when he had handed it to me, and I had looked through it, I beheld the top of a large mountain in the midst of the sea. This was Grand Canary. The steamer's head was steadily pointed towards it, and on the evening of the 17th May, and after having been seven days out of sight of land, we came close to it, and dropped anchor. And I thought it was grand! perhaps because I had been so long on the sea, and was yearning for the land, and because the place in itself was most beautifully situated in the midst of the ocean; and all the houses being cleanly painted, and glistening white in the bright sunshine, gave me a great idea of beauty. The mountains, from their base and half-way up, are covered with trees and plantations, but beyond that, and to their tops, they are bare and barren.

" God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform ;  
He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm."

We steamed away the same evening, and next day came to Teneriffe, which is another island, like a great mountain dropped down into the middle of the ocean. The tops of the mountain appeared scorched and barren, and conveyed an unfavourable impression; but when I went on shore, oh! I was charmed and surprised at the beauty of the place. There was a fine beach; and the shops, houses, buildings and streets were very fine and pleasing, more so than any others I had ever seen. Now, I thought, I begin to see the wonders of Nature!

On the 19th we reached Madeira in the evening. This is another great mountain in the ocean; but it is larger and more beautiful and more fruitful than the other two. I went ashore that night, though it was after seven o'clock, but it was as light as noonday, and continued so as I passed leisurely through the fine streets with their light houses, so that I did not recognise the night to be night, but just as the day.

When we were about three days' sail from Liverpool we began to see lighthouse vessels and iron buoys with bells and lights upon them, and they are so anchored out in the sea that they form a kind of road for the vessels to pass in. We had now been out from Madeira eight days, and it was a great delight for us to reach the river Mersey, at Liverpool, on the 27th day of May. And oh! what a busy, wonderful sight it was! Along the river sides are the docks, and these were all full of steamers and sailing ships; and their masts stood out like a forest of trees with no leaves on them. And the river, too, was full of vessels at anchor, and moving constantly up and down and backwards and forwards. I saw a very large one with four masts and four chimneys, and another one, almost square, with paddles, filled with hundreds of live cattle, bringing them over the wide and deep river. Indeed they appeared to me in all sizes and in all shapes, and were too wonderful for me to describe here, for I was told there were about six thousand in and about the river!

When we had cast our anchor in the river, a steam launch with two chimneys, called a tender, came alongside (for our vessel was not

going into dock then), and received all our thirty-two passengers and their luggage, and took us to the landing stage, where we landed, and all our boxes were taken into a large Government room to be examined by the custom-house officers. It was said there were 200 of them, all dressed in uniform. The boxes are opened for them, and they put their hands down into them



Rock Battery and Lighthouse, New Brighton, Liverpool.

to feel if there is anything that should pay the customs duties, and when they find there is not, they close the box and put a chalk mark upon it, and you can then take it away and go to your lodgings.

And now, when the voyage was over and all the dangers past, I felt a deep sense of gratitude to my Heavenly Father for His kind

protection. I had often heard of the dangers of the mighty deep sea—of the strong and violent winds that raised the waves mountains high—of the vessels plunging and labouring against the raging elements, and the sailors being at their wits' end; and I had an especial dread of the terrible Bay of Biscay! But we had come along our great journey as if we had been on a summer trip; and I had escaped from sea sickness and from all fear of danger.

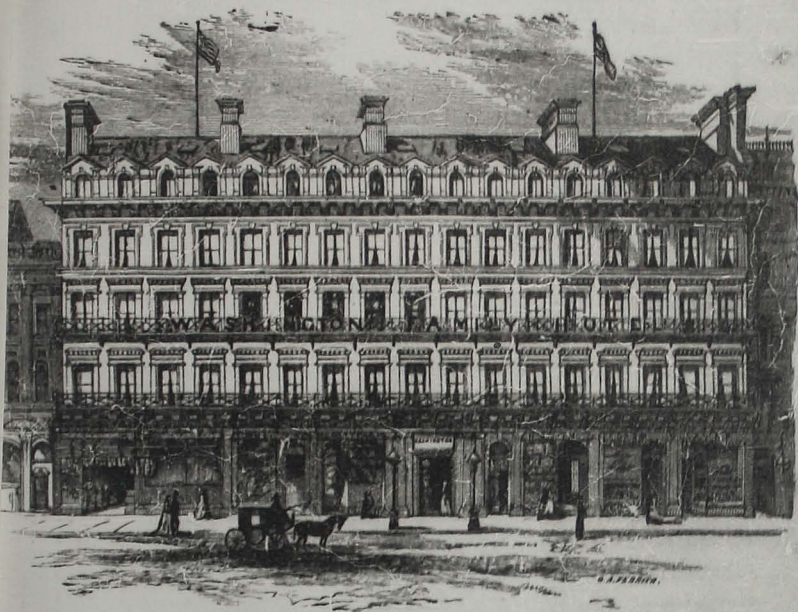
"I'll praise my Maker while I've breath,  
And when my eyes are lost in death,  
Praise shall employ my nobler powers:  
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,  
While life, or thought, or being last,  
Or immortality endures."

When I first walked through the streets of Liverpool I thought it was a feast day, because every man and woman I met appeared so well and nicely dressed. So I asked what feast it was to-day that caused everybody to be dressed up and walking about. But I was quickly told it was not a feast, but the usual style and custom of the place, and that if anyone would dare to go without being dressed, they would be punished by the Government. The next day when I went out I saw it was just the same, and large numbers of ladies, very grandly dressed, were walking about, and stopping to look in the large glass windows of the various shops.

The streets are very broad, and are divided or shared into three parts. The middle is made with small paving stones, with sand and tar run in between them, to make them smooth and firm; and this is the part for the horses, carts, and carriages. Each side of this is a wide walk covered with smooth flags for the people only.

to walk on. Many big coaches called "omnibuses," with three and four horses drawing them, run constantly to all parts of the town and to the villages, and the people get inside and on the top. Besides, there are dark streets used only by the railways, that go under the other streets, and they too are crowded with passengers.

Liverpool is a very large city. The length of it, I consider, will be as far as from Addah



Washington Hotel, Liverpool.

to Weycoomaber, and the breadth from Addah to Lolonar, all thickly covered with houses. It would be two days of African travel to go from one end to the other.

On the first Sunday I was there I went to worship in the Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant, which is near to where I lodge.

When I went in, I saw a large body of hearers, all the seats seemed full, and the chapel will hold 2,000 people. The church was quite different to any I had ever seen in Africa, and for the first time in my life I saw and heard an organ; I had only known it by its name before. The minister came in and went up the stairs into the pulpit, and gave out the number of the hymn that had to be sung. Then the organ gently and sweetly played over the tune that had to be sung to the hymn. It seemed to me like low and silvery voices. Then the organist pulled out the stops, and played with force and power, and all the people sang together with it, that the sound filled all the church, and it was like as if the angels were singing above. Oh! all my body trembled, and I wanted no one to tell me that God was there. The devout and attentive manner in which all the people behaved, both great and small, was clear evidence to me that it was God's house.

On the second Sunday, I attended the Methodist Free Church, Russell Street. It was the Sabbath School Anniversary, and all the Scholars were arranged on a platform, and sang hymns that they had been trained to sing, accompanied by the organ, and oh! how sweet and beautiful they did seem to me! Moreover, I felt more at ease and at home here, for I knew some of the tunes and the hymns; and their way of conducting the service is similar to that of the Wesleyans on the Coast. I made many friends in this place of worship. They came to me after the service, and gave me a most friendly invitation to dine with the minister at the house of Mr. J. Looney, Mount Vernon Green, and I spent a most pleasant and enjoyable day with the

family. Mr. George Quilliam, watch manufacturer, of Elizabeth Street, was exceedingly kind and obliging, and I am proud to rank him amongst my friends.

When I first came to my lodgings at 24, Oxford Street, Liverpool, I was very awkward and shy, but I tried to conceal my ignorance and ask no questions. When I first went into my bedroom, I did not know how to put the gas out, so I blew at it, and put it out! and got into bed, and fell fast asleep! Now I had done a very dangerous thing, and it was by God's providence that I had been preserved. Early the next morning, my landlady, Mrs. Lyle, rose up in great haste and alarm, and began to speak loud, and say that the house was full of gas! and she came trembling to my room door, and said, "Mr. Ocansey, did you blow out the gas last night?" I said, "Yes, I did." She exclaimed, "Good God!" and she continued, "I thank God that after that you did not strike or scratch a match, for if you had, the house would have been blown to pieces, and all in it killed. Do you not know that gas is as dangerous as gunpowder?" I was amazed, and had to confess that I did not know how to put it out. She then called me to look near to the pipe, and shewed me a small screw fastened into it, and she said, "When you want to put out the gas again, don't blow at it, but turn the screw this way, and it will go out without danger." I then thanked her, and asked her if there were any other dangerous things in the room? but she said there was nothing more.

On Sunday, the 26th of June, I visited the Blue-coat School, where many young orphan boys and girls are taken in and educated. After

passing through and inspecting the apartments in which they live, I went into their church to attend the service. It was a large building, capable of holding 2,000 persons, besides all the Blue-coat Scholars, which number about 300, and 100 lady teachers, singers, and servants. The church was very full, and I was told the people come to hear the singing, which is very fine, for the scholars are well trained. After the people were all seated, the organist came in, and began to play a soft, sweet exercise, which I thought to be part of the service. The pulpit was there, but there was no one in it, and I began to feel uneasy about the minister—why did he delay? had he not arrived? was he taken ill? Still the organist went on playing what appeared a long time. But see! now he pulls out the stops of the organ, and rises to his exercise with great energy, and changes the sound of the organ until it is like a large band of music marching. I could hardly think it was the organ, for I thought I heard many instruments, and the drums beating, and it swelled louder and louder in great deep tones until the place shook with the sound. Then he played a fine march, and the scholars, boys and girls, came marching in, two by two, so close that they touched each other in walking, and kept step to the music most correctly. Oh how nice and pleasant it was, and how clean and healthy they all appeared! Nothing pleased me more than the large white broad collars over their necks. They came marching on through the middle of the Church with steady, solid step to the tones of the drum-playing organ. Then one little boy, about ten years of age, ascended into the pulpit, and taking the hymn-book, gave out



Warehouses, Back Goree, Liverpool.

the hymn like an aged minister. Then the organist, after preparing his stops, began to play, and all the people rise and sing—

“ Before Jehovah’s awful throne,  
 Ye nations, bow with sacred joy ;  
 Know that the Lord is God alone,  
 He can create and He destroy.”

After that, twelve boys came forward in a line just before the organ and pulpit, and one of them, taking a book called a Catechism, asked the others a great many questions, which they answered very willingly, and with great ability. Then six girls came forward, and they were asked many questions out of the Bible, and they also answered very correctly and cleverly. A collection was then made, and afterwards a hymn sung, and the little boy gave the benediction. Then, without the least noise or confusion, they form into procession, and march out to the sound of the organ. We followed them, and passed through their eating rooms: Their evening meal was then prepared and on the tables; their bread on wooden plates, and their tea and milk in tin cups. I was told that they were all poor and destitute children that were taken in, who had no father or mother, and that the expense of keeping them is defrayed by some of the people of the city, who give yearly subscriptions, as they think fit.

On Sunday, the 1st of July, I attended the Methodist Free Church, Russell Street, and then I noticed that there were two ministers in the pulpit. One, a gentleman, gave out the hymns, prayed, and read two lessons from the Bible. Then he retired, and a lady came forward, Miss Pooke, about thirty years of age, dressed plainly in black, and looking very

modest, but very earnest, and gave out her text from the Bible, and began to preach in a fluent and excellent style, equal to the best of ministers, on "Abraham offering up Isaac, or personal sacrifices for God."

Liverpool, I have said, is a large place, with crowds of people. Down by the docks, and near to where we landed, are the merchants' offices, very fine, large buildings, built



of stone and marble, and five and six stories high. The streets are wide and thronged with crowds of people, looking wide awake and earnest, and walking fast, and hurrying about as if they had a great deal of business to do in a little time. Every house seemed to be a place of business, and all the shops were well stocked with all kinds of fine things. At night the streets are all lighted up with numerous

gas and electric lights, and are as bright as though it were day.

On the day following my arrival, I make enquiries about Hickson, Sykes & Co., and then I found they had been declared bankrupt, and that the 17th of June had been appointed for the meeting of their creditors. This was terrible news. I felt my heart sink, and I could not eat for three days. I thought of my dear father and the heavy loss he would sustain of £2,678 11s. 8d., besides all the delay in the enlargement of his business for want of the steam launch, for which he had already paid, and which ought to have been out and in full working order. I now found that I could do nothing but wait and attend the meeting of creditors. But I remembered that I had business in London, and on the 7th of June I decided to visit that great city to see some of my firm's agents. At eleven o'clock in the morning we left Lime Street Station, Liverpool, and arrived in Euston Square Station, London, at 3-50 in the afternoon, travelling at some times at the rate of sixty miles in one hour!

When I first went into the railway train, I observed they were like great coaches, mounted on springs, with strong, heavy wheels. Six persons can sit side by side in a row, and they are so high that a man can stand upright with his hat on and not touch the top. The seats are cushioned, and the carriages have large, strong glass windows at each end, and a lamp at the top to give light when they are rushing through the dark tunnels. Some carriages will carry fifty or more persons, and the carriages can be hooked on, one after the other, according to the number of passengers. A large and

powerful engine, with fires burning inside, was fastened to the front of the carriages. The steam was coming out of the top, or chimney, with great force and noise. After I had been inside, and secured my seat, I came out and stood on the platform, near to the door, to look at the large station, and all the people coming and going, and I was greatly astonished to see so large a place. You can walk about for half-an-hour before you can go all round it; and yet this vast place is all covered over with a glass roof, supported and held up by iron beams and pillars. Whilst I was gazing about a gentleman came up, dressed in a blue suit, with silver buttons. I thought he was a soldier; but he shouted out, "Take your seats, gentlemen; show your tickets." I immediately jumped inside, and he took my ticket and made a small cut in it, and then shut the door with a loud bang. I then heard a bell ring and the engine gave a loud screech, or whistle, and began to move very slowly at first, but gradually increased in speed, and we shot into a dark tunnel, which is made under the houses for about two miles, until we came out into the light in the country. I was bewildered with the motion of the carriages, and the great noise they made in rushing through the tunnel. The carriages were certainly very comfortable, and the lamp in the top gave us good light. But it was pleasant to break out into the sunshine again. Then I settled and composed myself to look out of the window on the country, and behold! all the trees of the field seemed to be flying away from us backwards! It was then I saw how swiftly we were going; swifter than a bird can fly through the sky!

And thus the engine rushed and pushed away with all its might; and we went dashing along past houses, villages, and through the midst of large towns, and over high bridges, and darted in and out of deep tunnels, with such a loud noise that I could not hear the sound of my own voice. As I looked out on the country it seemed very green and beautiful. There were many cattle in the fields; and all the land is divided by hedges, and long lines of bushes and trees. There were many houses and towns all the way, and large factories with long chimneys.

After we had been flying along in this way for more than four hours, the train began to get quiet and to go slower, until it stopped; and a man, dressed as an officer, came and violently opened the door, and shouted out, "Tickets, please!" and he took them from us; then I knew I was in the great city of London! But I was not tired of the journey, it was so pleasant, and so short a time in coming such a long distance.

I consider the distance from Liverpool to London to be equal in length as from Addah to Cape Coast Castle, and that journey by land takes us fourteen days, and now I have travelled it in four hours and half!

Oh, I do pray that I may live to see one of these railways on the West Coast of Africa! What a saving of time and trouble it will be to the poor Africans, who have to make their long and weary journeys on foot, carrying their heavy loads on their heads, under a broiling, burning sun! Oh! may God look down in mercy and remember for good the poor Africans, that they also may enjoy the benefits, advantages, and pleasures of knowledge and

civilization! Oh! that they would consider and be wise, and rise up like the prodigal son, and say, "I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants." And God, our merciful Father, will in no wise cast us out; but He will, instead of servants, make us as His dear children. I have had conversations with many intelligent, high-minded Christian people in England, and they all say that the improvement of the white man is derived from nothing but the Word of God. Africa, I hope, will not cast away this most sacred, precious Word, which is now being preached amongst them in very many places by white men. In some places it has been preached for fifty years, in others forty, thirty, twenty, and ten years, and in all it has produced some precious fruit. Oh! may the knowledge of the Lord spread over Africa as the waters cover the great deep! Then shall Africa find out her great wealth and riches,—then will the earth yield her increase, and God, even our God, shall bless us.

"Come home, come home, you are weary at heart;  
For the way has been dark, and so lonely and wild;  
Oh! prodigal child, come home, oh! come home!

Come home, come home, oh! come home.

"Come home, come home, from the sorrow and blame,  
From the sin and the shame, and the tempter that smiled;  
Oh! prodigal child, come home, oh! come home!"

Africa is rising—she is lifting up her head, and the light is spreading. Not many years back, and but few Africans came to Europe, and those who did were generally from Sierra

Leone and connected with the government. But now native African traders and their sons from far away up the coast come on their own business; and the kindness shown to them is so great that they are filled with pleasure and gratitude. They are taken to see anything that is useful and profitable, and they are improved and not spoiled. When they return to their friends and neighbours, they have very much to say, and are listened to with respect and confidence. Then their people are proud and pleased that the English have respected them; and they are far more ready to accept English ways and customs. And thus, little by little, Africa will be changed, as England was changed; for she too has come out of the darkness into God's marvellous light.

When I got out from the railway train at Euston Square, in London, there was great confusion and noise, and I was for a little time bewildered where to go or what to do. But I went out into the street with the other people, and to an hotel quite near. I then wrote to my friend to say that I had arrived, and would he kindly send or call for me. There was no answer that night, but early the next morning a gentleman and a carriage with two horses came for me, and I was very glad, for I thought I would be lost if no one came. We drove off to a railway station, and we went down many steps in a dark tunnel lit up with many lamps. The train came, and we got in and went off *under the streets* of London. When the train stopped, we got out and went up many steps, and then we got into the streets of the city; and oh, what a noise and commotion! I was startled. The streets were filled with carriages, omnibuses, tramway

cars, horses and carts of all kinds and sizes, and so close together that we could not pass through them. Thousands of them came on and on without end. And the sides of the streets are just as thronged with people, many thousands, all walking fast, and pushing and crushing, that they would knock you down by coming against you if you were not careful and watchful. We pressed our way amongst and through them, until we came to my friend's office in Watling Street.

My business kept me till six o'clock in the evening, when I had to return; but I was not going back by the same way that I came in the morning, for my friend had engaged apartments for me at 28, Finsbury Square. So the gentleman who was directing me took me to see a very wonderful clock, such as I had never seen or thought of before. The clock is erected on the top of a very high house, and it has four faces to tell the time; above the clock faces there are large bells, and behind them four men, made of metal, stand ready with their arms uplifted, and hammers in their hands, to strike the hours. One of the faces shows the time in England, the second in Egypt, the third in America, and the fourth in Africa. It wanted five minutes to the hour, and there was a large crowd of people gathered, all looking up. I stopped, and asked, what was the matter? Then my friend explained about it, and whilst he was speaking, the hour arrived, and the men, with their hammers, struck the large bells that gave out a loud and pleasant sound.

Having arrived at my lodgings, my friend bade me good-bye, and I went in and had my tea, and I took it with ease, and spent much

time about it, so that I began to think it was time to go to bed, but it was not dark, the sun was still in the heavens. I then read and lounged about. On looking at my watch I saw it was nine o'clock. "What a curious country this is!" I said; "there seems to be no night. In my home in Africa the night begins to come on always, all the year round, by five o'clock, and it is quite dark at six; but now it is half-past ten, and the day is not entirely gone!

On the following morning it was arranged to take me to see St. Paul's Cathedral. We walked along through the crowded streets until we came to a large square; and in it, and almost filling it, but just leaving a road right around it, was a very large chapel. I was quite astonished when I saw it; I could not take it all in with my eye at the first. My friend, who was always watching me to see if I noticed things, looked curiously at me, and then he said, "This is St. Paul's Cathedral, the largest in England." There were steps all round it, leading to the entrance doors. So we went up into the first hall, which is exceedingly wide and large. There I saw long rows of chair seats, marked A, B, C, to Z. The front of the pulpit contains 100 chairs, marked A; the left side 100 chairs, marked B; the right side 100 chairs, marked C; and thus they continue in hundreds until they come to Z.

The service was very grand. There was a number of men and boys, called choristers, or singers, all arrayed in white robes, together with about twenty-four aged ministers, some of them being very old, and who also wear white garments, and they all have to attend to the services, and worship morning and evening the Almighty God.

- “ Who are these arrayed in white,  
Brighter than the noontday sun ?  
Foremost of the sons of light !  
Nearest the Eternal Throne.
- “ These are they who bore the Cross,  
Nobly for the Master stood ;  
Sufferers in His righteous cause,  
Followers of the dying Lord.
- “ Out of great distress they came,  
Washed their robes by faith below  
In the blood of yonder Lamb,  
Blood that washes white as snow.
- “ Therefore are they next the Throne,  
Serve their Maker day and night ;  
God resides amongst His own,—  
God does in His saints delight.”

We sat down to worship with them, for my soul was thirsting for the living God, and the time went very quickly past. The service consists in reading portions of the Bible that are arranged for the day, chanting the Psalms, reading prayers and singing hymns, accompanied with the powerful organ, that almost speaks the words in many tones, which are changed by the stops, sometimes loud and swelling, and at other times soft and low.

After the service, we were then allowed by the door-keeper to go inside and see the pictures and the monuments, and the statues, or marble figures of St. Paul, St. Peter and St. John, with many other modern and beloved men, as well as captains and commanders in the army and navy who died in the wars.

After that, another guide came and took us up many stairs to see the galleries. One is called the whispering gallery ; and if you go and put your face to the wall and speak very low in a whisper, it can be heard away off at the other end quite plainly. We then went up

hundreds of steps to the second gallery, and then still upwards to the third, where we saw the large clock and the bells. There is still a fourth gallery, which leads to the dome of the Cathedral. There is a walk all round on the outside, with rails to keep you safe; and from this outside gallery you can see all the great city of London, and far beyond. But I declined to go there, for already my legs began to shake as if I had gone too far. So we descended again until we reached the street. Here I noticed a carriage, with a large cask on it, drawn by a large, fat horse. At the back of the cask was an iron pipe going across, and holes made in it right along. Whilst I was looking, the man sitting in the front pulled a string, and all the water shot out of the iron pipe at the back, and came down like rain on the streets. I said to my companion, "What is that man and his horse trying to do, wetting all the streets like that?" He said, "Did you never see that before? That is to keep the dust from blowing into our eyes and dirtying our clothes."

As I passed along the streets, I noticed the people looking at me very earnestly. The small boys especially would stand and stare, and would sometimes call out to me, "Holloa! blacky, can't you wash your face before you come out in the morning, and make it white?" My companion kindly said, "You must not take notice of them, because they do not know any better."

The next morning, my kind friend came again for me at my lodgings, and we went to see the Thames Embankment, a long, strong wall built alongside the river. We there saw Cleopatra's

Needle, a long upright monument made of marble, and lately brought from Egypt. We then went into the Houses of Parliament, but the members were not there; and we crossed the road and went into Westminster Abbey, which is a grand church, where they bury the kings and queens and all the great men of England: Their monuments are all round on the walls, and are very interesting. We also visited Buckingham Palace, one of the residences of the Queen; and Marlborough House, the residence of the Prince of Wales; and closed a heavy day's work by going to Madame Tussaud's wax-work exhibition. All the figures were dressed up like living men and women. The following day was entirely spent in the Crystal Palace, a very large collection of buildings all covered in by glass roofs. The inside is full of wonders; so many that I am bewildered when I think of them, and I really cannot describe them. There were all kinds of machines working away as if they were in a factory. I stayed all the day looking first at one thing and then another, and yet they said I had not seen half of what there was in. At nine o'clock we all went outside of the building to see the fireworks, which appeared to me very curious, grand, and frightful. Altogether I was eight days in London, and every day I was out seeing some grand thing, until I got as tired as if I had been on a long, weary journey.

London is a very great place; I thought far too big and confusing, and I would not like to stay there. I was glad, therefore, to come back to Liverpool and be quiet.

My friends in Liverpool are very kind to me, and often ask me to their private houses. I

went with one friend, and he introduced me to his family, one little boy and two girls. During the evening, one of the little girls, about six years of age, came and said to me, "Mr. Ocansey, I wish when you go back to Africa that you would send your little black boy here, and then he could carry my books to school for me." The father said, "Mary, my love, what are you saying? Suppose I give you to Mr. Ocansey, and he will take you to Africa, and then you will have to carry the books for the black boy?" She looked round smart, and said, "But I shall not go to Africa, the sun will make me a black girl, and you said just now that they have no good schools in Africa."

On another occasion, as I was going with a friend to his home, we had to go down a street leading to the docks, when a poor white boy came and ran along with us, and sometimes before us, begging for a penny. He looked so beseechingly, and begged so strongly, that I said to him, "What is it you want?" He said, "A penny, please!" And I was just going to give him one when my friend said, "No! do not do it; you encourage begging, and we want to put it down; for no one in England need beg in the street if they are honest and willing to work." But the boy still followed us, and he looked so miserable that I gave him a penny, and then he left us with his thanks.

My friend now explained to me that every man who lives in a house in England is taxed every year to keep the poor, and the sick, and the cripples in a large house called a workhouse, and that when that is too full they give 1s., 2s., or 3s. or more per week to the poor people to keep them in their own houses. And he said

they that follow you and beg are idle and very bad, and ought not to be helped, for they spend it in strong drink, and the parents of those ragged children are somewhere near, and take the money from them.



The Sunday mornings in Liverpool are very pleasant to me. There are a great many churches, with beautiful sweet bells, and these all commence to ring and mix their sounds on the Sabbath morning, and they are sweet music to me, and make me long to worship God.

“ While in joyful chorus  
 Chime the Sabbath bells,  
 Let us seek the temple  
 Where our Father dwells ;  
 Bending there before Him,  
 Ask for grace divine,  
 Light of hope eternal,  
 In our hearts to shine.

“ Welcome day, holy day,  
 Hear the passing moments gently say,  
 ‘ Watch and pray, watch and pray,  
 Come to Jesus, come away.’

“ Day of rest from labour,  
 Pure and tranquil rest ;  
 Day of sweet refreshing,  
 By our Father blest.  
 May our soul’s devotion  
 Kindle while we sing  
 Praise to Him who made it,  
 Praise to God our King !

“ Welcome day, holy day,  
 Hear the passing moments gently say,  
 ‘ Watch and pray, watch and pray,  
 Come to Jesus, come away.’ ”

When I knew that the trial in which I was concerned would be delayed until the end of July, I felt depressed as to what I should do in the interval to fill up my time. I thought I should be killed by idleness, or lost for something to do. But every day I find too short to do what I would like ; and my English friends say they will teach me to combine business with pleasure. But I say it is all pleasure, and not business to me.

One day I arranged to visit Manchester with my friend Mr. Wood, of the firm of Messrs. Edwards Brothers, and we went on the same railway that took me to London, but after we had gone on the line for some distance, there was a parting in the rails which branched off to Manchester, and we ran on them, and got from Liverpool to Manchester in forty-five minutes. When we came near to the city, I looked out of the window, and I saw that the railway was very high up on large arches above the houses, and that we looked down on their roofs and on their chimneys. All about, for a very long distance,

there were great, tall, brick-built chimneys standing up like a forest of trees, but all sending out clouds of black smoke and steam. I thought the people would have to hold their breath in such dense, thick, black smoke, same as our people do when they go down in the water; but when I left the carriages, and got into the city, I found no smell of smoke—all was pleasant.

At twelve o'clock at noon I was in the streets, when I heard a great many bells ringing, and I looked about to see if there was a fire somewhere. Then the gates of the factories opened quickly, and there was a great crowd of people running and pushing with all their might to get out, and then I concluded the fire must be there, and that they are escaping for their lives, and I think I shall have to run too; but I enquired what was the matter, and I was told, "Oh, it is only meal-hour," or dinner-time; all the people were going to "chop," as we say in Africa, for one hour. Manchester is also a very large city; as large, I am told, as Liverpool, but the people are not so much in the streets—they work in the mills and factories.

After our business was done, we went to see the Zoological Gardens, which are about two miles from the city. It was a new and strange sight to me—it was wonderland! The gardens were beautifully laid out, and then there was a large collection of wild living birds and beasts, such as I had never seen before. We had to pay at the gate to get admission into the gardens, but afterwards we could walk about wherever we pleased. All the birds and the wild beasts were in large cages with strong iron bars, and men called keepers are appointed to look after them, and to feed them. You have to buy a

small book as you enter, called a guide; and it tells you the name of everything in the gardens, and where you can find them. The book shewed us that there were 164 cages to be seen. Some of the animals were like what I had seen in Africa, but most of them were new and strange to me, and came from England, and from far-off countries. We came to a large house in the gardens, and it was called the elephant house, and there I saw two large Indian Elephants. I was greatly pleased with their size and with their wisdom. They moved their long trunks about from one side to another amongst the people as though they were begging or asking for something. And the people, and sometimes little children, gave them biscuits, which they quickly twisted into their large mouths; and sometimes they got money, and put it into a box, but the money slipped down beside the man who sold the biscuits, and he gave the elephants the number of biscuits the money would buy, and they knew how many they should have, and would wait for and insist on the right number. I was also greatly pleased with the seals from the Polar seas. They have faces like a dog, with large sparkling eyes, and very smooth, hairy, glossy skins. They dive down in the water, and keep down a long time, and then when they pop up they can spring on to the rocks prepared for them, and move about with their flappers, which are like feet. The keepers buy dead fish for them, and throw them into the water, but the seals watch them coming and catch them as they touch the water, they are so quick. I was well pleased with what I saw, but it would take a long time to look carefully at everything; besides, we were hurried

to see the grand fireworks, which were very wonderful; but perhaps I could not better describe it than by copying the advertisement explaining it:—

MESSRS. DANSON'S

Entirely New Colossal Open-air Picture

OF THE

Bay and Town of Navarino,

WITH THE

DISTANT MOUNTAINS OF THE MOREA,

SHIewing THE

*Allied Squadrons of England, France, and Russia,*

Under the Command of ADMIRAL CODRINGTON, and representing the Ships of the three Great Powers arrayed in line of Battle against the combined Fleets of

TURKEY AND EGYPT.

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, at dusk, during the season, to October 17th inclusive, will be depicted the Grand Naval Spectacle of the

**Battle of Navarino,**

FOUGHT ON THE 20th OCTOBER, 1827.

The Brilliant Spectacle will represent the Great Ships of War taking up their various positions; the Pouring in of Broadside after Broadside; the Boarding of the Enemy's Ships amidst the smoke and fire from the burning vessels; the explosion of Magazines, &c. ending in the

**Total Destruction of the Turkish Fleet.**

The whole concluding with a Grand Pyrotechnic Device representing the Shield and Trident of Neptune, the Caduceus of Mercury, and the Shield, Spear, and Helmet of Britannia, emblematic of the Commerce and Naval Power of Britain.

Terminating with a Transparent Portrait

**ADMIRAL CODRINGTON,**

Surrounded with a Wreath of Oak Leaves,

And the Motto "*Britannia Rules the Waves.*"

The whole of the Picture has been painted and the spectacular pyrotechnic effects designed and arranged by the Messrs. Danson, of London.

On another day, my friend Mr. M. Herschell arranged for me to go to Southport, which is about twenty miles from Liverpool. Starting from the Exchange Station we reached it in one hour. I was told that but a few years since all the land was wild sandhills, but they have been cleared away, and a beautiful large town is now built, and many families from Liverpool, Manchester and other towns come to live here for their health; for there are no factories and no smoke, therefore abundance of pure air. Many thousands of people will come in the railway trains in the morning and remain but one day to refresh themselves, and then go home at night. The streets are all very wide, clean and straight; and the houses facing the sea are very high and have many rooms, which are hired and paid for by the strangers that come to stay a short time for their pleasure. The way in which the town lies on the banks of the river Mersey brought to my recollection part of West Africa, say from Addah to Argrarvay; but here at Southport there were no trees and bushes by the river side as there are in Africa. But the place is very pretty indeed, and there is a long pier, or stage, supported on iron pillars, running far into the sea. There is a little railway on this stage, or pier, and you can ride upon it, or you can walk down; and if you feel it is too long you can sit down on the wooden benches, or in the little shelter houses. When the tide goes back, then a large part of the beach is bare and dry; and the people bring out horses and donkeys for hire, and very little children, and boys and girls, as well as men and women, pay their money and have great fun in taking a ride. I saw also

that they had boats mounted on four wheels, and the people pay twopence and climb into them. Then the sails are hoisted, and the wind makes them run on the dry sand just like as if they were in the water! There were also steam launches to take the people out to sea on pleasure, for sixpence.

The beach and the river side were crowded with people out enjoying themselves, and it seemed to me very gay and pleasant. There was also plenty of music.

After we had been on the beach a long time, we came back into the town, and again I was greatly pleased to see the very long streets, and to notice the beautiful, sweet flowers that were growing in the little gardens in front of the houses. There is a grand building, covered in with glass roofs, and warmed by iron pipes, through which hot water is forced. It is called the "Winter Gardens," because in the winter time in England, when all the trees are bare, and all the ground barren and covered with snow, inside of this building, or garden, all the African flowers and trees are in full bloom, and the people come in and are warmed, and enjoy the beautiful sight. Southport is not a trade town like Liverpool or Manchester, but a town of pleasure and refreshment for the summer time. Many gentlemen come from it to Liverpool for business every day, and I saw some of them arrange themselves in parties of four and play cards, and I thought railway travelling is indeed very pleasant; for in Africa, when a man is travelling, where can he put his heavy load down and play cards, and still be travelling?

On returning, my friend asked me to go with him to his home, and we were walking up the

streets to Everton Valley, when I saw a crowd of people gathered together looking at something on the ground. I pushed in amongst them, and then I saw a man who had taken too much drink, or spirits, and he could not stand up or walk; and the policeman came and pulled him up and dragged him to the lock-up, or jail, until the morning, when he would then be brought before the magistrates; and it was said they would fine him five shillings and costs for being drunk. Well, I thought, I have been here two months, and I have seen many thousands of English people, and this is the only one I have seen drunk and incapable; whereas, if I had been in Africa, I could see a dozen or more men drunk every day. Yes, in Africa we have too much drink, and that is one thing we must try to cure, or else our people will not rise to be a great people.

The street cries of Liverpool have puzzled and amused me very much. One morning I heard quite an alarm and loud shouting. I jumped up from the breakfast table, and said, "Now, there is a row, and so early in the morning!" But when I looked out I saw two strong, stout old women, with large baskets on their heads, shouting with all their strength something that did not appear to me as English, but as my native tongue, and I thought they said *Muhoohoo!* and sung it loud and long. But the door of the house opposite opened, and the servant looked out, and the women were watching for someone to buy, and they saw her, and went and put down their baskets at her feet on the steps, and then I saw that one basket was full of fish, and the other of vegetables, which they wanted to sell.

A few days after I had been in Liverpool, and was walking down the streets, a small boy ran up to me, and touched his cap to salute me. I thought, perhaps, he knew me. He then pointed down to my boots, and I looked down too, for I began to be uneasy, thinking there was something wrong with my feet; but the boy continued touching his cap and pointing to my boots, and crying out "Shine, sir!" "Shine, sir; only a penny!" Then I saw he had blacking and brushes, and a little stand to rest the foot on; and he wanted to earn a penny by blacking my boots!

In the afternoons, and evenings especially, quite a large number of small boys and girls are in the streets selling newspapers. And they are very quick, and watch every person going up or down the street to see if they will buy one. Now I like the newspaper. It is a luxury to me as it is to the white man. It is very cheap, and contains much information from all parts, and about many things. Then I thought I would buy one, and I put my hand in my pocket to see if I had a copper. Instantly the boys and girls detected my intention, and half-a-dozen came bounding towards me, and thrusting their papers at me, said, "Please buy from me!" "Please take mine; I saw you first!" and I could hardly get away from them.

On the 14th of July, the African steamer "Lualaba," arrived in Liverpool from the West Coast of Africa; and I learned on looking over the names of the passengers that Mr. Christian Jacobson, of Quitta, was a passenger on board. Mr. Jacobson is the companion of my youth, my best friend, and a relative of the Ocansey family. I lost no time, therefore, in

going down to the steamer, but all the passengers had gone ashore, and gone away into the city. So I had to begin to enquire all about "where had Mr. Jacobson gone to?" and at last I found him at the Alexandra Hotel, Dale Street. And he had been making many enquiries after me, so that when we saw each other we were glad indeed, and thanked God together for His journeying mercies and kind protection. And now, with my friend's presence, I began to feel quite at home and comfortable, for he came to my lodgings to live with me, and he tells me all the latest news of my family. He is the first *native* of Quitta who has visited Europe. May he be the forerunner of many hundreds!

After our first salutations were over, then, to my great sorrow, I learned that he had come on a similar miserable business as myself, namely, to try to recover a bad debt.

It appears that Mr. Jacobson had been trading with Messrs. Taylor & Co., of 72, Virginia Street, Glasgow, and had consigned to them African produce to the value of £183. Immediately after they had received the produce and realised cash for it, than the firm failed, without sending Mr. Jacobson money or goods. But they wrote a letter to him saying that they had an account due to them by some people in Grand Bassar, on the Coast of Africa, and that if Mr. Jacobson could get that account he might pay himself; and, if he could not, then they would give it into the hands of their agents at Sierra Leone, and, if they got it, then Mr. Jacobson should be paid! Now, Mr. Jacobson is a young man just venturing out into trade; and it does seem very cruel that he should meet with such heartless conduct, and suffer so great

a loss, on the doorstep of his life. To ask him, who lives at Quitta, to collect another man's account from the people at Grand Bassar, is adding insult to injury. It takes the mail steamer sixteen days to go from Quitta to Grand Bassar! and the Quitta people have no dealings with them. Mr. Jacobson was advised by his friends to go with the steamer to Sierra Leone, and there see the agents of Messrs. Taylor & Co. who would know more about the account, and the likelihood of obtaining it from the people indebted. But when he called upon them they said they could not help him, for at Grand Bassar there was no British protection, and if they went or sent to demand the debt they would be sure to be killed or robbed! So Mr. Jacobson came on to England, and he wrote to Messrs. Taylor & Co. to say that he had arrived and that he would call upon them for his account. But they sent a letter back at once, saying that they had nothing to do with their past affairs; that they had paid a part or composition to those who would receive it, and as to his account they still expected it would be got from the people of Grand Bassar, and they could say no more as to that matter, but if Mr. Jacobson would send them any more produce they would do well for him! This letter came to him from Glasgow to Liverpool on Monday evening, and when it was read we both sorrowed greatly, and could not go out to fulfil an invitation. He has not only lost his £183, but he has paid £54 for his return ticket, and loses his valuable time, and receives a deep wound in his trading experience that will fill him with suspicions all his life. White men who act so unrighteously do a great injury to their race,

for we are afraid to send our goods to them ; and in trying to protect ourselves we have to give a deal of trouble even to the honest and straightforward merchant. But we must commit our ways to the Lord, and pray that if we have to suffer so much by the loss of our worldly goods, He would recompense us in some other way, and give to us the spirit of resignation which Job had when he lost all, and could say: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out;" "and having food and raiment let us therewith be content" "Yea, blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Some of my friends in Liverpool have great faith in Africa, and they say they are sure Africa will be one of the great countries of the future. "And who knows," they say to me, "but what God in His providence and wisdom may call *you* to take some humble part in hastening on the chariot wheels? therefore prepare yourself by observation and experience to encourage your people." And so they take me about to see how the English people do their business and take their pleasure. I have been through the markets on the Saturday mornings, when the stalls have been filled with butchers' meat, and all kinds of fowls, and fruits, and flowers, and vegetables; for all these things are now in their prime, it being summer time; and a large business is being carried on, for the markets are crowded with people. I have also been to one of the newspaper offices, and seen the large and wonderful machine that prints the paper and cuts and folds them at the same time.

On Sunday afternoon, July 17th, I was asked, along with Mr. Jacobson, to attend a preaching

service in the open air. It was said that it was an old English custom to preach in the open air, and that it was greatly prized by many, but that other people did not care for it. "But if you come you will see many English people who do not attend church or chapel, but who have got into bad ways and drink too much. Still, the gospel is for them, and they ought to hear it, and if they will not come to us we must go to them. And besides, we want you to see the dark side of English life as well as the bright." So I went, and was much pleased with the earnest addresses that were given. There were, I thought, nearly 1,000 persons standing about Gill-street market, and they listened very attentively, and sang some of the hymns. But I saw they were not like the regular chapel-people, some of the men who lived near came out without their coats or hats on, smoking their pipes; and there were many women with babies, but no Sunday clothes on, and I saw many of them wipe the tears from their eyes as they listened to the speakers.

There was a coloured man there, who seemed to be well known by every one, and especially by the small boys, who made very free with him, calling him "Abraham." Seeing us present, he looked quite pleased, and came smiling up to us, and said that he came from New York, America, and that his people (the coloured people) have fine chapels there. He wanted to have a great deal of talk, but I did not feel towards him, for as I looked at his dirty dress and his face, I thought "you do not live a good life." I asked about him after the service, and they told me he was a "knocker-up," and they explained it by saying that he lives by going

out early every morning and knocking loudly at the doors of people who have to get up and go to their business, and they pay him so much per week. After the service we went for tea to the house of that mother to all black boys, Mrs. Looney, and there were many friends with us. After tea they were very anxious for me and Mr. Jacobson to sing together, so he played the piano, and we sang a hymn in English, and then I played, and we sang a hymn in our native language. Then the friends all sang, and we had a most enjoyable time.

Although sight-seeing was extremely interesting and instructive to me, I always felt some sensation of the miserable business that had brought me to England. There were times when this depression of feeling came over me like a thick, black cloud, and I could not raise myself above it. I would not come down into the city because I felt I could not mix up in any society with any pleasure. So I remained all day in my lodgings, and very long days and nights they were. And to be true and faithful, I must confess I began to be home-sick, and impatient of every hour's delay that separated me from my home and friends. And what had I to expect from this wretched trial? There was no money to recover. In some foolish or mysterious way Hickson had either spent or lost all our money; and now our only consolation was that we should uphold the power of the law, and punish a dishonest, fraudulent man. However, I was glad the time was drawing near when we should be done with it, and having come to and known the bitter end, we might start afresh, and endeavour to regain our lost ground in the great battle of life.

“ On to the conflict, soldiers, for the right,  
 Arm you with the Spirit's sword, and march to the fight ;  
 Truth be your watchward, sound the ringing cry,  
 Victory, victory, victory !

“ Ever this the war cry, victory, victory ;  
 Ever this the war cry, victory ;  
 Write it on your banners, waft it on the breeze,  
 Victory, victory, victory !

“ Fiercely it rages, deadly is the strife,  
 But the prize that you shall win is everlasting life ;  
 Jesus shall crown you, your reward shall be  
 Victory, victory, victory !

“ Valiant and cheerful, marching right along,  
 Every foe shall quit the field, though haughty and strong ;  
 Fear shall oppress them, truth shall make them free ;  
 Victory, victory, victory !

“ Soon shall the warfare and the conflict cease,  
 Soon shall dawn the welcome day of victory and peace ;  
 Foes all subdued, we'll raise the joyful cry,  
 Victory, victory, victory !

“ Then when we reach the palace of the King,  
 All the triumphs of the fight, rejoicing we will bring,  
 Swell loud the chorus through eternity,  
 Victory, victory, victory !”



## SECTION III.

## THE TRIAL OF ROBERT W. HICKSON.

## THE LIVERPOOL ASSIZES.

THE Commission for holding the Liverpool Assizes was opened July 26th, 1881, by Mr. Justice Lopes. His Lordship arrived in the Nisi Prius Court, St. George's Hall, at five o'clock, and was accompanied on the bench by the Mayor (Mr. W. B. Forwood), the High Sheriff (Mr. William Foster), the Town-clerk (Mr. Rayner), the under Sheriff (Mr. W. T. Sharp), and the High Sheriff's Chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Allen, vicar of Lancaster). The Commission was read by Mr. T. M. Shuttleworth, clerk of the Crown. His Lordship afterwards attended service at St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral. The business of the Assizes will commence at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, Lord Chief Justice Coleridge presiding in the Civil Court, and Mr. Justice Lopes in the Crown Court.

THE INDICTMENT.  

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Robert W. Hickson, Ship Owner, (trading as Hickson, Sykes & Co.,) Insurance Broker, and Manager of the Mersey Marine Insurance Company, Carlton Buildings, 3, Rymford Street, Liverpool, charged with having, at Liverpool, on the 28th May, 1880, and subsequent other days, been entrusted by John E. Ocansey and others, as a Merchant or Agent, with certain securities for the payment of money, with directions in writing to apply and pay the proceeds thereof for a certain purpose, specified in such directions, did, in violation of good faith, and contrary to the terms of such directions, convert to his own use and benefit such proceeds.

THE ASSIZE COURT AND ITS  
SURROUNDINGS.

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On the morning of the 27th I was at St. George's Hall before ten o'clock. There was a large crowd of people gathered all around and standing on the steps. I was told that most of them were people who had cases in the court and their witnesses, and the jurymen, and the solicitors, and their clerks, &c. At ten o'clock a very handsome carriage came down the street and stopped at the door of the large London and North-Western Hotel, opposite to the hall. The carriage was drawn by four very splendid horses, and their harness was all ornamented with gold. The driver, who was an aged, stout man, was grandly dressed in livery, with a three square cocked hat; and two men, dressed in the same way, and holding a white stick in one hand, stood on a small platform at the end of the carriage, holding on by a strap.

The people then ran and surrounded the entrance to the hotel, to get a sight of the judge as he came down to get into his carriage. About twenty or thirty men, dressed in large cloth coats of a light colour, trimmed with yellow, and with long pikes in their hands, guarded and kept a clear space at the doorway. There were also three men, dressed in livery, with silver trumpets, and as soon as they caught a sight of the judge descending the steps, they began to play. The judge wore a black gown

faced with a broad band of scarlet cloth, and had a large powdered wig on his head. He hurried into the carriage, which then drove off to the entrance of the court at the end of the large hall, which is but a short distance from the hotel, where he gets out and walks along the large, wide lobby to his room. An officer, with a white stick or wand, goes before him, and the trumpeters play outside on the steps, and the music, soft and harmonious, can be distinctly heard in the court, which is now filled with people. The court is in the form of a half circle. The judge sits in a large chair on a platform. Immediately below him are the officers who have charge of and prepare all the business, calling out the names of the prisoners, and swearing in the jury, &c. Then next to them there are two rows of barristers, who wear black gowns and have wigs on their heads. Just behind them is the dock, or the place where the prisoners have to stand whilst their trial is going on, which is railed round and guarded by police officers. The prisoners are brought up into this dock from the cells below. The clerk then begins to call out a large number of names of jurymen who have been summoned. Each name is written on a small white card, and when the person hears his name called out he rises and says "Here." If any one does not answer his name, the card is put on one side and he is fined. When he has called out all the names, he then begins again and selects twelve men, and these go into seats prepared for them at the left-hand side of the judge. As soon as they are all in and have taken their seats, another man rises and tells them to take the bible in their hands, and they are sworn in;

and after that no one but the judge or the barristers dare speak to them, and that must be in the open court.

The folding doors are then thrown open, and the judge enters; and as he does so every person in the court rises and makes a bow to him, which he returns. And these ceremonies are repeated every morning as long as the Assizes last.

Besides the jury I have named who have to decide in open court on the cases argued before them, there is a Grand Jury composed of twenty-four merchants and gentlemen. These sit in a large room by themselves, with barristers to assist and advise them. After waiting about until noon, I was called in before these gentlemen, and I saw all our letters and documents on the table before them. I was called upon and sworn, and they asked me a few questions. Then they called for the person who should have built the steam launch, and then for the broker who sold our goods; and after they had spoken to each other for a little time, they returned a true bill against Hickson, and told me to appear in court next day at ten o'clock in the morning.

I was told that this grand jury was necessary to examine every case to see that the charges against the prisoners were proper and lawful, to make sure that the prosecutor and the witnesses were present, and that everything was right and in order before it came before the judge in open court. They thus save his time and prevent confusion and interruption.

On the following day I went down as directed; but the first case called upon was one for murder, and I was told it would take all day. So I was set free. Again, on the Satur-

day, I was at the court at its opening, and had to remain till noon, when I was told it would not come on that day, but would be tried on the Monday. On the Monday I was in attendance, and some of the officers said it would be certain to come on to-day, but others said it would not. However, a little after noon, we were told it would not, and that we might go, and that on the following day a great trial was coming on about two men who had attempted to blow up the Liverpool Town Hall, and very likely it would occupy the whole of the day. As I did not feel well, it was arranged that I should remain all day in my lodgings, and if I was wanted an officer would come up for me with a cab. But I was not wanted. On the Wednesday morning I went down at the opening of the court, and some of the officers were certain my case would be brought on that day, and so we had to wait about till past noon, when we were told it was postponed till the morning. On the Thursday, as soon as the court opened, the clerk called out for Robert William Hickson. He was not in the court, but a gentleman said "He is in the lobby" (for he was out on bail, and had his liberty), and a policeman went into the lobby and called for him, and he came into court, and the policeman opened the door of the dock to admit him as a prisoner; but just as he was entering, his wife, who was sitting quite near the door of the dock, rose and gave him a kiss.

During all the days we had been attending court, we had seen Hickson several times walking about and speaking with his barristers. Some of his friends at the first said they were sure he would get off free from punishment, for

there was no fraud in the transaction, it was only an ordinary failure in business, and that if he did get acquitted, then he would commence an action against us for false imprisonment, and we would have to suffer. It was said he had secured the services of the cleverest barrister in Liverpool, Mr. J. B. Aspinall, Recorder of the City, to plead for him. But in a day or two we found that Hickson's friends had changed their tone, for Mr. Aspinall, having looked into his case, told him plainly he could not be defended, and that the best thing he could do was to plead guilty, and claim the merciful sentence of the judge. Mr. Aspinall then spoke to our counsel, Mr. Carver, and told him what he had advised Hickson to do, and he pleaded hard for him. Mr. Carver told him it was a very serious thing for us and for all merchants; and that if such cases were allowed to go unpunished it would shake the confidence of all persons engaged in trade. But at the same time we did not wish to be vindictive or revengeful; our case was prepared and we must go on with it. Mr. Aspinall, on behalf of the prisoner, acknowledged all; still there were many extenuating circumstances that might excite the merciful consideration of the court. He would take the evidence as true and conclusive, and therefore we need not go through it in open court, and there he would simply make some observations in favour of a slight sentence to the prisoner. And this was agreed to, and the trial proceeded.



## THE TRIAL.

(Taken down in Shorthand by MR. JAMES, Reporter.)

THE QUEEN *versus* HICKSON.

This case came on for trial at the Liverpool Summer Assizes, held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool, on the 4th day of August, 1881, before Mr. Justice Lopes.

Mr. Carver appeared for the Crown, and Mr. Aspinall, Q.C., and Mr. Walton, instructed by Mr. C. R. Copeman, were for the prisoner,

The prisoner having surrendered to his bail, Mr. Shuttleworth, the clerk of Assize, read the indictments, which charged Robert William Hickson with having on the 8th day of July, 1880, falsely pretended to John Emanuel Ocansey (trading under the name of W. N. Ocansey and Sons, native merchants, carrying on business at Adahpoah and other places on the West Coast of Africa) that he had entered into a contract under which a steam launch was to be built for the firm, by means of which false pretences he afterwards, on the 8th August, obtained a bill of lading for sixty-three bags of kernels, shipped in the steamer "Ethiopia." To this the prisoner pleaded "not guilty."

Hickson was also indicted for having on the 28th of May, 1880, and subsequent other days, when entrusted by Messrs. Ocansey, as an agent, with securities for the payment of money,

amounting to £182 15s., the proceeds of the sale of twelve casks of palm oil), converted them to his own use and benefit in violation of good faith, and contrary to the terms of the directors, which he received in writing, to apply the proceeds. The prisoner pleaded "guilty" to this indictment.

His Lordship.—Guilty of converting securities to his own use?

Mr. Aspinall.—Yes, my Lord. I understand my learned friend will not proceed with the indictment to which the prisoner has pleaded "not guilty."

His Lordship.—Then the prosecution will offer no evidence on that indictment.

Mr. Carver.—I offer no evidence on the indictment for false pretences. At the request of Mr. Aspinall a verdict of acquittal may be taken on that indictment.

The Jury were then sworn in "the Queen against Robert William Hickson."

Mr. Carver.—I don't offer any evidence.

His Lordship addressing the Jury said, This is an indictment charging the prisoner with obtaining money by false pretences, but as the learned counsel for the prosecution offers no evidence, you have only one course to pursue, and that is to say that the prisoner is not guilty.

A formal verdict of "not guilty" was then taken.

Mr. Aspinall.—It now, my Lord, becomes my duty, and I desire to say something on behalf of the prisoner.

His Lordship.—I suppose you are going to speak in mitigation of punishment.

Mr. Aspinall.—Yes, my Lord. I desire to state the exact position, in my view of the case,

in which the prisoner stands. The prisoner was a merchant and factor carrying on business to a considerable extent. I don't put him down as having been a man of very large position, but he was a man of highly respectable position, and carried on business in connection with the African trade on his own behalf, having factories and places himself on the coast of Africa, and also acting, as he did in this case, to a very considerable extent, on behalf of other persons on the Coast, from whom he was in the habit of receiving consignments of goods. Amongst others he had what I may call a client or constituent—I am sure I don't know what they call them in those trades—a gentleman who was a member of a firm of native traders; most intelligent and respectable people, native Africans, who were carrying on business there themselves, and who were in the habit of consigning their goods to him. They were people for whom he had the greatest regard, and in whose connection and business he felt, on his own account, in reference to the profits he hoped to make out of them, very considerable interest, which would appear plainly if the correspondence had been gone into at length. I don't, however, think it necessary to do that, because my friend will agree with me that it was so, and naturally it would be so, because they were very valuable customers of his. For a long time business relations went on between Messrs. Ocansey in Africa, and the prisoner in England, in the ordinary way; that is to say, they consigned their goods to him in England, and he, on the other hand, bought goods suitable for the Coast trade and shipped them out to Africa.

The ordinary course of accounts was that he credited them with the proceeds of the goods he received from Africa, and debited them with the value of the consignments of goods he shipped to them, and accounts that were made from time to time showed the balance between the parties. At that time, as well as latterly, the produce that was sent from Africa to England was dealt with as produce ordinarily is under such circumstances, that is to say bills of lading were sent to the produce brokers who sold for the prisoner; and no doubt when it happened that the produce broker had a balance against the prisoner—that is to say when the prisoner was indebted to his broker—the bills of lading so sent to the broker became pledged for any balance which there happened to be against him on the part of the produce broker. So long as the prisoner was prosperous and his trade was carried on in that way, that would be the ordinary way in which merchants do carry on business, because it is not at all usual I fancy to clear-mark the goods belonging to particular customers; but the bills of lading do go to the broker who sells, and all left with him, and he does very frequently in that way acquire a lien; and everyone of course should take care that no one is defrauded by that course of business, which is the ordinary course of business. He went on until the position of things arose which I am about to describe to your Lordship. I think in May, 1880, or about that time, Messrs. Ocansey thought that they would like to have for their trade, which was an extending one, a steam launch sent out from England, and it was remarkable as indicating the development of intelligence and

position of these gentlemen, who were native traders, that they wanted a steam launch. I want to say everything that is reasonable and just of them. They wrote to the prisoner, informing him that they would order no more goods from England, but that the consignments which they had made to this country from time to time must be appropriated to the payment of this steam launch, which the prisoner was to procure for them. A good deal of correspondence took place about it, and the prisoner did act in the matter. In the first place he got estimates for the steam launch. And later on—a good deal later on—he put the steam launch in hand, but most unhappily he pursued with regard to the consignments arriving from Africa the same course which he had been in the habit of pursuing before, namely, the bills of lading went to the produce broker, and by degrees, owing to causes which I shall state presently, the prisoner's affairs became worse, and the result of that was that, in the first place, upon the accounts between him and his brokers a considerable balance was due to them, and in the second place, his affairs generally became worse, and he ultimately was obliged to stop payment, and at the time of his stopping payment there was very little indeed, in fact merely a nominal sum, in his own hands or in the hands of his bankers. The result was that there was no money to pay for the steam launch. I cannot conceal from myself that these goods having been sent to England with specific directions as to their application, that it was the duty of the prisoner not merely under the statute, but under what I may call his moral duty, no doubt to have clear-marked

those particular goods, and to have kept them apart from his other business for the purpose of applying them as he had been directed in payment of the steam launch, as the money for that purpose became due from time to time. It is obvious he did not do so, and therefore, after great consideration with my learned friend, Mr. Walton, we have come to the conclusion that the prisoner has not only technically brought himself within the terms of the statute, but that he has committed an infraction of moral duty for which he is liable to be dealt with in such a way as your Lordship shall think right. I want to make your Lordship see as far as I can how easily according to the ordinary course of business—it to some extent, I think, is an unfortunate course of business—the prisoner could get into this difficulty without any considerable amount of moral torpitude or intention being incurred. The ordinary mode in which persons in the position of the prisoner would deal with goods of this kind is to sell them through a broker. A most ordinary thing for the broker to make general advances to men in the position of the prisoner, and for those advances he holds all the goods that come to his hands; and I fancy if you analysed the accounts of some of the most respectable people in Liverpool you would find that goods of their customers and consignees get into the brokers' hands, and are liable for advances that the brokers have made on them. It naturally does not occur to people, so long as they are prosperous and there is no practical danger of the lien of the broker ever becoming effectual or required at all, that there is any wrong in such a course of procedure; it is only when they

suddenly find owing to other causes—as I shall show you there was in this case—they find their means failing them, and they can't pay the broker, that it becomes obvious immediately that everything in the broker's hands is liable for the balance due to him, and therefore the innocent people whose goods are there, having been consigned to such people as the prisoner, become the property of the brokers. Then arises the question of the liability and conduct of the prisoner. I don't defend conduct of that sort, but it may and does arise, and I venture to think arose in this case, that the prisoner never had any distinct persuasion that there was going to be any loss to Messrs. Ocansey. I am not going to contend that if there had not been this specific direction in writing, it was not wrong to put other people's goods to the danger of being pledged for other people's liabilities. It is so in this case, however, and may be in many cases that, without at least any distinct consciousness that there was any likelihood of bad results, and certainly without any deliberate intention of fraud, there were some circumstances which brought the prisoner's affairs—at least a portion of his trade life—to a very different position to that which he had reason to believe they would be in; and I am stating this in the presence of not only my learned friend and those who instruct him, but in the presence of those who are entrusted with the prisoner's estate, and therefore the prisoner would not instruct me wrongly about this. He had a very considerable business on the Coast of Africa, having two establishments there, and at these establishments, most unhappily for himself, there occurred somewhere about May

or June last year, two very considerable fires. I don't want to exaggerate anything, but if he was covered by insurance, still amongst other things these fires interfered very much with the course of his business, because they deprived him for the time (as he did not realise the insurance directly) of a considerable portion of his capital. Other unexpected things came upon him; and it is a fact that those goods of Messrs. Ocansey's—the proceeds of which ought to have gone to pay for the launch as the payments became due—the goods had in fact gone into the hands of the produce brokers, who had a considerable balance against the prisoner. The prisoner, therefore was unable to obtain the money from the brokers, because of course they held the goods which had been placed in their hands as security for their claim against the prisoner. When payment on behalf of Messrs. Ocansey became due, and there being no money forthcoming, Messrs. Ocansey, most unhappily, are the losers of something like £2,000—the launch was to have cost between £2,000 and £3,000—and my learned friend now tells me Messrs. Ocansey are the losers of £2,678 11s. 8d., and they have lost it under circumstances which, after very great consideration with my learned friend, Mr. Walton, I think brings the prisoner within this statute, but under circumstances which I venture to think are fairly capable of such palliation, though I do not say excusable, as I have ventured to submit to your Lordship.

His Lordship.—I take it in this way; you do not deny the offence, but you say that he drifted into it almost without knowing the way in which he was drifting, until at last adversity comes upon him.

Mr. Aspinall.—That is the exact position, my Lord.

His Lordship.—In point of fact you say that at the time there was no intention of fraud in any way, but that he pursued the course of business it was customary to pursue. His affairs then got into a bad state, and he pledged those goods of his customers to that extent that he had not the money as he ought to have had coming from these goods to pay for the steam launch.

Mr. Aspinall.—That is my exact position. If you have read the depositions, I will appeal to them to show, at least on the face of the depositions, that there is some reason for what I have stated. My friend, Mr. Walton, reminds me that it appears on the face of the depositions, or the documents referred to therein, another very serious loss which came upon him in consequence of an act almost of piracy by which he lost a ship in one of the African rivers.

Mr. Carver.—It seems to me I should give your Lordship the dates of these matters.

His Lordship.—I should like to hear what you say, Mr. Carver, and after I have heard you, I will bear in mind what Mr. Aspinall has said, and read over the depositions before passing sentence.

Mr. Carver.—The depositions are chiefly concerned in proving certain correspondence and accounts, and it is really on those facts we are here. I call your Lordship's attention to what appears on the face of the accounts that have been rendered by the brokers, Messrs. James Bowden & Co., by whom these goods were sold for the prisoner, to whom they had been entrusted by Messrs. Ocansey. The trans-

action, the ordering of this steam launch, was somewhat earlier than it has been put by my learned friend. The correspondence began in January, 1880, but I think that the specific direction as to what was to be done--what was to be the course of business in regard to the produce shipped by Messrs. Ocansey to Mr. Hickson, was not received by him until about May, 1880. At that time, if your Lordship refers to the letters, you will see that Messrs. Ocansey wrote saying that they would not, from the date of a certain letter, order any more goods, but would continue shipping against the launch; and again in other letters they repeated the same direct expression that no more trade of any kind was to go on, but from that time forward all shipments were to be in respect of the launch. And it also would appear, if your Lordship reads the letters written in reply, it appears clearly that the prisoner accepted those directions, and no doubt during all that year Messrs. Ocansey did continue shipping goods under the impression that the proceeds were being applied to the purposes of the launch. The launch, as my learned friend has told your Lordship, was not ordered until long after, in fact not until Messrs. Ocansey had shipped goods to the amount of something like £2,678 11s. 8d. The launch was not ordered at all until December, 1880, and then there was no part of the proceeds of the produce so shipped in existence, for it had been swallowed up by the claims of Messrs. James Bowden & Co., against the prisoner, Messrs. Bowden & Co., being the produce brokers. The figures, as they appear from the accounts I have referred to, show what was the state of the accounts

between the prisoner and Messrs. Bowden & Co. on the one hand, and Messrs. Ocansey & Co. on the other hand.

His Lordship.—As I understand the matter, the launch ought to have been ordered in May?

Mr. Carver.—That is so, my Lord.

His Lordship.—But as a matter of fact it was not ordered until December?

Mr. Carver.—Yes.

His Lordship.—Consignments had been made more than sufficient, and they were pledged into the hands of the produce broker by the prisoner.

Mr. Carver.—Yes. I was going to give your Lordship the figures as they appear from the accounts at the dates of the various pledgings. In these indictments we have only traced out four different bills of lading. These bills of lading were deposited with the brokers, two in May and two in August. About May 10th, it appears from the accounts that the first deposit was made. There was then a sum of £750 owing to Messrs. Ocansey, and there was a sum of £426 owing to Messrs. James Bowden & Co. That was the balance of the account against the prisoner. On May 28th the balance in favour of Messrs. Ocansey remained where it was, but the balance in favour of Messrs. James Bowden & Co. apparently had increased to £839. On August 7th the balance in favour of Messrs. James Bowden & Co. had apparently increased to £2,280, and in favour of Messrs. Ocansey to £1,334. On August 20th the balance in favour of Messrs. James Bowden & Co. had still further increased to £2,501, and in favour of Messrs. Ocansey still to £1,334. After that further goods were shipped, and finally the

account rendered shows a balance in favour of Messrs. Ocansey before the launch had been ordered, of £2,678 11s. 8d., and that, therefore, really is the amount they have lost in the transaction.

His Lordship.—In point of fact, according to you he pledged the money of the launch before he ordered it?

Mr. Carver.—That is so.

Mr. Aspinall.—I think my learned friend is, perhaps unconsciously, misleading your Lordship a little, because I am told that these accounts of the produce broker do not allow for produce unsold. I don't mean to say that the produce unsold would turn the balance the other way, but it would alter the amount of it very much.

His Lordship.—That only goes to amount?

Mr. Aspinall.—Yes.

His Lordship.—What strikes me as being the worst part of the transaction is that he had received specific instructions in May; he goes on pledging the money that was to go to pay for the launch, and does not order the launch until September.

Mr. Aspinall.—I would like to add just one word. What I want your Lordship to thoroughly apprehend is the process of pledging. You know the process of pledging really is selling the goods in the ordinary course of business.

His Lordship.—If there had been no specific instructions.

Mr. Aspinall.—Your Lordship sees the goods had to be sold, and therefore they had to go to the produce brokers. What I should suggest the prisoner ought to have done probably, when these specific instructions came, and they got a little out of the ordinary mercantile transaction

--if the prisoner had thought of it, or had foreseen that his account with the produce broker was going so wrong—it would have been a wiser thing and probably the right thing to have sent these goods to be sold by some broker to whom he did not owe any money. But I want your Lordship to understand my view whether you accept it or not. The course I suggest as one that would have been better for the prisoner to pursue in regard to these goods involves the exercise of a considerable amount of foresight. He had been going on a long time selling through Messrs. Bowden all goods that came to him. Ordinarily speaking no doubt he would have had to remit the money back if he had received no specific directions to buy the launch, or else have sent goods back to Messrs. Oceansey; but it made no difference really in his moral duty. He had been going on a long time with that course of business with Messrs. Bowden & Co., and nothing had happened to him; but no doubt when he got specific instructions to buy this launch, and did not carry them out, he came within the particular meaning of this statute.

His Lordship.—Why did he not order the launch?

Mr. Aspinall.—I must ask your Lordship to understand me, as that is the only thing in which I apprehend your Lordship might make a mistake as to our position. That was the ground really of the indictment of obtaining money by false pretences—

His Lordship.—It seems to me he might have drifted into this state of things almost unintentionally, and although it is perhaps within the Act of Parliament, it might be lessened by the

fact of his drifting into it almost without knowing. I understand that to be the way you put it, but I say again why did not he order the launch in May?

Mr. Aspinall.—Because there were considerable discussions going on between him and the builders as to the price, build, and character of the launch. Although there are, no doubt, some representations that are believed to have formed the ground of the other indictment—which my learned friend has come to the conclusion he ought not to proceed upon—some representations as to the launch being in a greater state of progress than it really was, I believe that we should have been thoroughly able to explain all that, not only to your Lordship, but to the Jury, if that indictment had been proceeded with. What we say is that, on the one hand, Messrs. Ocansey were very anxious to have this launch out by a particular season, and on the other hand, we were very anxious to satisfy them. At that time, long before we thought of any embarrassment on our part, we were anxious on the one hand to get the launch as soon as we could, and not get them into any “scrape” by hurrying the builder unduly, and so have to pay him an extra price. We thought we were doing the best thing we could between the parties, and we could show your Lordship there was nothing in the delay at all. I don’t possibly see how this can affect the question at all—our not ordering the launch—we did order it ultimately, your Lordship sees.

His Lordship.—You say you drifted into this position almost without knowing it. Then it appears that instructions came in May, and the launch is not ordered till September. Why is

that? I would ask you this for my information: Did he apprise Messrs. Ocansey that he had not ordered the launch?

Mr. Aspinall.—For one reason, in May, when the order was sent, the prisoner was then, as far as he thought, if not in a prosperous, in a safe, position. At that time he had only a balance in hand of Messrs. Ocansey's of £700, and if he had ordered the launch he would have made himself liable for more than £2,000; and it is perfectly conceivable that might have been one of his motives for not giving the order at the very beginning.

His Lordship.—Did he lead them to suppose he had ordered the launch?

Mr. Aspinall.—Yes, no doubt he did, but then—Really, my Lord—I want to ask your Lordship—I think I may venture to suggest that the course pursued in regard to these two indictments has been to disembrace this question with the other one. That was the ground for obtaining money by false pretences, and that indictment has gone off—my friend has consented to a verdict of “not guilty” on that.

His Lordship.—I want to find extenuating circumstances as far as I can in every case. You rather suggest to me that this man may have fallen into this almost without knowing it; and then the question occurs to me in regard to this launch, he gets instructions in May and the launch is not ordered until September or December; I want to see how far I can justify that with your statement that he has drifted into it almost unconsciously.

Mr. Aspinall.—There is that fact, no doubt; I can't attempt to conceal it, he told them an untruth as to the fact of his having ordered the

launch. His statement is—and considerable weight, you will probably think, ought to be given to that statement—and our contention is, and the prosecution must be taken as assenting to it to some extent at all events, that those statements had nothing whatever to do with what ultimately happened. The prisoner at that time was on the one hand anxious to keep well with Messrs. Ocansey, and on the other hand he did not desire to order the launch until he had something like sufficient funds in hand to enable him to do so. He was then in point of fact, if not absolutely, solvent; at all events a responsible man. He had no reason to apprehend he was coming to the end to which, unhappily, he has come now. He did make statements of that kind, but they had nothing really to do with the ultimate result. It was simply he had not the money, and he did not like to rely upon people on the coast of Africa, and involve himself in a heavy contract for the launch until he had something like funds enough in his possession. That would have been our answer to the other indictment, and I think your Lordship will give some weight to that. There were also some difficulties about the construction of this launch. Naturally, these people in Africa did not know much about launches, and they sent us some instructions and a sketch, which I will hand up to your lordship (handed up). That gave a great deal of trouble as to proportions and design; and though I do not mean to say it is not a clever sketch coming from the coast of Africa, still it is not exactly such as would assist an English shipbuilder very much. There are, my lord, abundant letters showing that all through—although we

were not as far progressed with the launch as might appear from our correspondence to Messrs. Ocansey—we were in *bona fide* negotiations with a respectable firm of shipbuilders about the thing; at all events it will not be disputed, it is not pretended, that there was any formal pledging of these goods in the sense of a man who knew he ought not to do it; it was not going and depositing other people's things as pledges, it was goods passing through the brokers' hands from time to time in course of business. I am told that so late as September the prisoner's affairs were in such a state, having regard to what he had in Africa, that to himself they appeared to be quite satisfactory. That is the balance-sheet up to September 30th.

His Lordship.—I will read over the depositions again, and call the prisoner up for sentence.

When the trial was over the judge ordered the prisoner to stand down, and the jailer took him to the cells below; but nothing was said when he would be brought up again to receive sentence. Some said that perhaps the judge would consider it over, and pass judgment after luncheon time, at two o'clock. I had, therefore, to wait about the court another day; for it was said perhaps he will want to ask you a few questions by way of explanation. However, it was not so; but immediately that the court assembled on the following morning the prisoner was brought up to receive judgment, and I noticed a great alteration in his deportment. Before and during the trial he was jaunty and consequential, putting himself in one imposing attitude, and then another; but to-day he was humble and subdued. The judge addressed

him in very solemn, stern tones, and every one in the court stretched out their heads to catch every word, and there was dead silence.



THE SENTENCE.  

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Mr. Justice Lopes, on taking his seat the following morning, ordered the prisoner to be placed in the dock to receive sentence. Addressing the prisoner, his Lordship said:—Robert William Hickson, you have pleaded guilty to having misappropriated a large sum of money which had been entrusted to you as an agent. You were also indicted for obtaining a very large sum of money by false pretences. No evidence was offered on that indictment, and you were acquitted. I desire to say that, if that indictment had been proceeded with, and you had been convicted, I should have felt it to be my duty to direct you to be placed in penal servitude for a considerable time, because the offence would be a most serious one. The offence to which you have now pleaded guilty is also a most serious one. Everything that could be said in your favour was urged by your counsel in palliation of the charge against you, and that charge is that you misappropriated something like £2,600. It has been said that you got into difficulties, and that you drifted into this act of dishonesty. It appears that in the month of May, 1880, you received special orders to purchase a steam launch for your employers in West Africa, and it also appears that you did not order it until December of that year. In the interval money enough had come

into your hands to pay for it, the whole of which you did not apply to the purpose you were directed to apply it, but devoted it instead to your own purposes. I am desirous, as far as I possibly can, to give effect to any extenuating circumstances which I can find in your favour; but I cannot help saying that I find great difficulty in discovering any in this case, and I can pass upon you no other sentence than that you be imprisoned with hard labour for fifteen calendar months.

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When the sentence was pronounced, and the prisoner taken away, and many of the people rose up to leave the court, I felt a deep sense of relief myself, and was glad that this miserable, wretched business was at an end. It had come over us like a dark, baleful cloud, and stopped our progress, and silenced our joyfulness. And now, I thought, the worst had come and had passed, and that it was our duty to look for brighter and happier days to come.

I thought of our people at home. When I left them they thought at least I might be able to save the whole or part of their money. They had no idea that Hickson's affairs were so bad. If I had found his affairs in anything like a fair condition when I arrived at Liverpool, I would have been glad to accept a composition of £800 or £1,000. But he had already made an assignment of all his goods for the benefit of his creditors whilst I was on my way, for he knew I was coming, and therefore I could not approach him; for if he had made such an offer, it would not have been legal, but would have been regarded as a fraudulent preference, and I would have had to restore it all again, and

would have deprived myself of any benefit arising from his estate, which it is expected to pay 2s. 6d. in the pound.

There were other causes of sadness, besides this unfortunate one, that depressed my spirits and interfered with my health and happiness. On going to my lodgings on the Monday afternoon, after being at the court, I found letters awaiting me from my friends in Africa; and one of them had a broad black border, indicating bereavement and death. I felt a strange flutter and trembling to seize my whole body, whilst I could scarce command the action of my fingers to break the seal. But I looked up to God to give me strength to bear it, whatever might be the sorrow, and to steady my mind, and give me calmness and peace to do and suffer His righteous will. On opening the letter I found that a dear old grandmother, aged 76, had gone home to her eternal rest. My mind dwelt very much on my home and friends that night. I looked out of the window, and I saw the streets crowded with people out on pleasure, for it was a holiday in England, and it was a clear, warm, beautiful evening. And then my mind wandered away to my own dear home, and I remembered all our people down on the beach, waving their handkerchiefs and bidding me adieu; and I prayed that the good Lord would preserve me in health and strength, that I might return safely and give them the pleasure of welcoming me back again amongst them.

And now I felt my business in England was done. I should have seen all its wonders with different eyes and sensations if it had not been for this agitating, disturbing business. But now I must dismiss it from my mind, and think of

*Heath of  
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names to  
Hoboyfooty  
Gauss  
Nard  
see*

all the kindnesses I have received from many friends in England, and cherish a feeling of gratitude to God my Heavenly Father for His great protection and goodness to me. And as I turned away to leave the court, I thought of those sweet words :—

- “ From every stormy wind that blows,  
 From every swelling tide of woes,  
 There is a calm, a sure retreat,  
 'Tis found beneath the Mercy seat.
- “ There is a place where Jesus sheds  
 The oil of gladness on our heads ;  
 A place than all besides more sweet—  
 It is the blood-stained Mercy seat.
- “ There is a scene where spirits blend,  
 Where friend holds fellowship with friend ;  
 Though sundered far, by faith we meet  
 Around one common Mercy seat.”

## TABLE OF DISTANCES.

(By Steamer.)

### Eastern District of the Gold Coast.

From Cape Coast Castle to Anamaboe is 10 miles.

„ Anamaboe	„ Saltpond	„ 5	„
„ Saltpond	„ Mumford	„ 22	„
„ Mumford	„ Appam	„ 4	„
„ Appam	„ Winnebah	„ 8	„
„ Winnebah	„ Accra	„ 32	„
„ Accra	„ Prampram	„ 25	„
„ Prampram	„ Addah	„ 35	„

TOTAL, 141 miles.

### Western District.

From Cape Coast Castle to Elmina is 8 miles.

„ Elmina	„ Chamah	„ 20	„
„ Chamah	„ Secondle	„ 8	„
„ Secondle	„ Adjuah	„ 9	„
„ Adjuah	„ Dixcove	„ 11	„
„ Dixcove	„ Axim	„ 25	„

TOTAL, 81 miles.

**TABLE OF DISTANCES**  
OF THE  
**MAIL STEAMERS' SERVICE.**

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From Addah	to Logos	is 147 miles.
„ Addah	„ Prampram	„ 35 „
„ Prampram	„ Accra	„ 25 „
„ Accra	„ Winnebah	„ 32 „
„ Winnebah	„ Appam	„ 8 „
„ Appam	„ Mumford	„ 4 „
„ Mumford	„ Saltpond	„ 22 „
„ Saltpond	„ Anamaboe	„ 5 „
„ Anamaboe	„ Cape Coast	„ 10 „
„ Cape Coast	„ Elmina	„ 8 „
„ Elmina	„ Chamah	„ 20 „
„ Chamah	„ Adjaah	„ 9 „
„ Adjaah	„ Dixcove	„ 11 „
„ Dixcove	„ Axim	„ 25 „

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From Cape Coast to Sierra Leone is 269 miles.

„ Sierra Leone	„ Madeira	„ 1,580 „
„ Madeira	„ Liverpool	„ 1,420 „

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