

Colonial Charter, fell into the hands of the Queen's Advocate, Mr. John Carr, a coloured gentleman and a native of Trinidad; he acted a few months, and was superseded by Staff Surgeon Fergusson in the acting capacity; then came the arrival of Colonel George Macdonald (one of those few remaining heroes of the famed Waterloo). This excellent Governor administered the functions of office with the high-mindedness and unswerving justice becoming a gallant officer and a gentleman, and has just restored the Colony from a chaos of difficulties and to a healthy progression towards improvement. The Executive had once more become respected, when, after two years' residence, he returned to England and accepted the government of Dominica, one of the West India islands. Staff Surgeon Fergusson now became Lieutenant-Governor, and soon after was confirmed to the full appointment by the then Colonial Secretary, Lord Stanley. Here, then, was during the writer's residence the departure of two Governors to England, the death of one, the change and acting of two, making a total of five Executives in six years; and lastly, the return and death of Governor Fergusson on his passage to England off the island of Madeira, 19th February, 1846. On the departure of Governor Fergusson, the reins of office devolved upon the Colonial Secretary, Norman William Macdonald, who held a commission as Lieutenant on the confirmation of Fergusson (a wise promotion in such an uncertain Colony like Sierra Leone); but as the author had left a short time previous to his assumption, he cannot pretend to speak of his administration, more than judging, from his long acquaintance with the minutæ of affairs and his business habits as Colonial Secretary, that the Colony would not lack an efficient Governor, or one who would not neglect its welfare and interest.

Of the administration of the late Governor Fergusson, I would fain omit to speak, or, at most, speak in sparing terms, did I not think I should be wanting in duty in exposing acts of mal-administration in his public capacity, and that my silence would have an adverse effect upon the interests of the Colony; yet more, injuries were inflicted upon myself, by him as governor, when I had a claim for justice at least. In speaking here of this, I cannot be accused of taking an unfeeling advantage now that he is no more, because I reported them through *himself*, whilst in office, to the Home Colonial Secretary, in the years 1844 and 1845, and copies of the correspondence are no doubt now to be found in the archives of the Home Office, and the report thereon by His Excellency, at the command of the noble Minister. I will not assume the province of dealing with his private character; his public acts as Governor, and a professional man, alone being the right that I assume. Dr. Fergusson was, I believe, sent out in early life by the African Colonisation Society, in the medical profession, originally a coloured native of one of the West India Islands—I think Jamaica—a young man, possessing, by education in England, no mean qualification for the profession; he harboured a just and laudable ambition to rise in rank, and through a long and active course of years, succeeded, through the various grades of appointments, till he became a first class surgeon on the Colonial Staff, in which situation he displayed the most eminent success and skill in the