

mini). He handed me the letter and sent an Ashantee prisoner to accompany me, with instructions to give the letter to no one but the great General. He also gave us each ten shillings and a few biscuits for our subsistence. About twelve o'clock the same day, at about an hour's distance from the Ashantee camp, we met two of their men, who asked who we were, and demanded the letter. We refused, as we would only give it to the General himself. When we reached the camp the General rose up and asked me to read the letter; but as I could not, he sent for a native scholar of Aquassim near Accra, who had been made captive, to read and explain it. He said it was, 'The Queen of England greets you, and finds you to be the only powerful King on this coast. She sincerely wishes you a prosperous victory. The merchants of England greet you and require you to make out your expenses during this war, and they will pay it. I deem it advisable for you to go back to your country and make your abode behind the Prah, for the place you now occupy is under the Queen's protection, and you and your master are unable to resist her power. The Queen allows you two weeks to remove from this place, otherwise unpleasant steps will be taken against you.'

It is not unlikely that some such translation was given to Amanquattiah, and quite certain that the Governor of Elmina sent a very different message.

"While the interpreter explained all the people gave audience. The same evening other messengers (policemen) came in with a letter to the King of Ashantee; but the General said it must be opened, for he had power to do whatever was right. The letter was opened privately, but I heard the contents were the same as above. Before I was sent the General had made up his mind to remove farther into the bush, hearing that the white troops were preparing to come against him. But his Mahometan priests prophesied, and swore the great forbidden oath of the King of Ashantee, that he must not remove yet, for two separate messengers would be sent to him—one from the right and one from the left—and if these statements were not fulfilled in three days their (the priests') heads might be cut off. The said messengers were the policemen and myself. When we reached the camp the priests were chewing medicine, and praying with their heads bowed to the earth. The General finding that they were true men, presented them with sheep and money. Next day the General sent the policemen and three Ashantees to Cape Coast Castle. He presented them with gold. When I asked if I might go away also, he said 'No; for you Elminas are rogues. I will deliver you to the King of Ashantee as he will give you an answer.' I said it was not lawful to detain a messenger; and he replied—'Silence!' I had to swear the great oath that if I were caught running away my head might be cut off. Next day we marched from there, and I had to carry a package on my head. We had to pass the white troops at Fort Napoleon. We went on to Dunquah; it took us fifteen days. In the middle of the thick bush for those fifteen days we could get nothing (little) to eat, and I swore that over two hundred souls died of hunger. Then the white troops came and fired at them; they fought a little and then both sides retreated. Next day was; (Thursday) a lucky day for them in fighting; and the young men and the sons of lords said, 'Let us go and attack these foolish white men to-day. We are powerful, and we ought to occupy the main road

from Duquah to Prahsu.' The same moment they swore the big oath that by that road they would pass on; that it was impossible they should not fight on Thursday; that it was on a Thursday they had before fought at Dunquah and killed all the Royal families (of the Fantees), and so they must on this Thursday attack them, take the road, and go away, for there was too much hunger in the place. Amanquattiah was the first who swore the great oath. I saw, about an hour after the attack, when he put on his war-dresses and took something to eat out of his package, that he took something out and set his eyes on it. The thing showed him bad, and smote his breast and prayed to his gods. They did all they could to overcome the white troops and to get the road to Mansu, and to get ammunition and eatables from the white troops, but in vain. Princes and sons of lords and chiefs died; altogether the number that died and were wounded, and are not to be supposed to live in this world, was over 2,000. Even the General's bodyguard assisted to fight, but in vain. The General felt great sorrow that day, and next morning we heard three guns fired, inviting the Ashantees again to go and fight, and they sent to spy the bush. Shortly after we heard that the white troops were close upon us, and I assure you we ran 'as much fast as we could.' The General himself actually ran. Many of his things were taken by the white troops, though his best things were sent by his wives to Ashantee. But the Royal things he took from the Fantees, part of his own things, and the Royal death bones, all were taken from him that day. His senior General, Essamooaquanta, sent fresh troops to assist him. About a week after this the senior General was much vexed. He drew his sword and said, 'You Ashantee people swore before the King his great oath that you will fight to the last drop of blood to claim Elmina and Cape Coast Castle, for which the King supplied you all with ammunition and a great deal of gold dust. Now you Ashantee people disappoint him, and, instead of claiming any of these forts, you consume all the chiefs, princes, and sons of lords. O upon my star, I will not bear it.' So shortly after he and his troops went to the thick bush, and the black troops of the white men came and fired at us. The Ashantees did not fire, but lay down with their breasts to the earth, and then when the Fantees cried to their commanding officer for more powder, the Ashantees rose and caught them. Report was brought to Amanquattiah that sixty had been beheaded and seventy taken alive. I do not expect any more fighting, because the Ashantees have received word from prisoners that there are white troops at Dunquah, Mansu, Abrakrampa, Yankoomassie, and Prahdo; and as their powder remaining is only 300 kegs, 20 lbs each, they will take another way to go back to the Prah—through the thick bush."

The prisoner then narrates how he effected his own escape. It seemed that in the fight after the great battle he hid himself in the hollow of a tree. When found by the enemy he pretended that he belonged to "the big General's" troops, but was too ill to follow them. By this ruse he excited the compassion of the retreating Ashantees, who seemed sorry to leave a comrade thus helpless. There appears no reason to doubt that the object of the attack on Abrakrampa and Dunquah was to gain the main road, and if possible to capture our supplies, and that after the failure at Dunquah the enemy became so completely disheartened as to resolve to do their best to get through the

thick bush to the Prah, afraid, apparently if they attempted the main road they might again encounter white faces."

I learn from Sir Garnet Wolseley that the force which he will take to Coomassie, including the three battalions from England, the West Indians, Kossus, and Houssas, will be 9,000 strong. There will be no Fantees, except those employed as carriers. I may add that Elmina is naturally a far superior place to Cape Coast Castle. I see no reason why it should not be rendered as free of fever as a European town.—*London Telegraph*.

INSPECTION OF THE 8TH BATTALION, STADACONA RIFLES.—Yesterday evening this Battalion mustered in great force in the Drill Shed, St. Lewis Road, to undergo their annual inspection by Lieutenant-Colonel Casault, C. M. G. The battalion was formed into column of companies, five in number, and received the Inspecting Officer at half-past eight o'clock. After the inspection of the companies, the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Alleyn put the battalion through the manual and firing exercises. Then the Adjutant, Captain LeSueur, put them through the bayonet exercise. Several officers were called out in turn to put the battalion through different manoeuvres, all which were executed in very creditable style. At the conclusion the Inspecting Officer expressed himself very much pleased with the general appearance and proficiency of the battalion. There were about 250 spectators present many of whom were ladies. Lieutenant-Colonel Strange and the officers of the B. Battery, the Militia Staff, Colonel Knight, Lieutenant-Colonel Pope, Major Turnbull, and many of our prominent citizens were present to witness the review. After the inspection the officers of the battalion invited the Inspecting Officer and other officials to a sumptuous supper at the Stadacona Club.—*Quebec Mercury*.

TURKISH INDIFFERENCE.—Mr. Layard, the eastern explorer, once requested a Mohammedan official to give him some statistics of the city in which he lived. He received in reply a letter, of which the following is an extract:—"My Illustrious Friend and Joy of my Liver: The thing you ask of me is both difficult and useless. Although I have passed all my days in this place, I have neither counted the houses, nor have I inquired into the number of inhabitants; and as to what one person loads on his mule and the other stows away in the bottom of his ship, this is no business of mine. But above all, as to the previous history of this city, God only knows the amount of dirt and confusion that the infidels may have eaten before the coming of the sword of Islam. It were unprofitable for us to inquire into it. Oh, my soul! oh, my lamb! seek not after the things which concern thee not. Thou comest unto us and we welcome thee; go in peace."

The bridge to be constructed over the Frith of Forth will be by far the largest in the world. According to the London Builder, its heights will be one hundred and fifty feet, and the number of spans nearly one hundred. The smaller span will be one hundred and fifty feet wide, which is beyond the average width of the largest span in ordinary bridges; but the crowning marvel in the whole structure is the great span in the centre which is to be fifteen hundred feet, or nearly one third of a mile in width, an extent unparalleled in any existing structure of the kind. The entire cost of the bridge will be at least ten million of dollars.