

THE CAPITAL OF ASHANTEE.

(From the London Daily Telegraph.) Coomassie was reached on February 4th by General Sir Garnet Wolseley, after five days hard fighting and a loss of about 300 killed and wounded. Captains Budle and Nicol and Lieut. Eyre were the only officers killed.

Coomassie, or Kumassi, though the capital of the Kingdom is not the largest city of Ashantee. Originally Duabin was considered a more significant place and Salgo was said to be three times as large. But from its commanding position it being the seat of Ashantee royalty, the headquarters of the army, and the scene of the ghastly religious ceremonies of the population, it has gradually eclipsed all rival towns.

Coomassie is built on the side of a large hill of ironstone. This hill is among the last of the series of acclivities which commence with the Adaei and terminate a little to the north of Coomassie. They are all densely wooded and present precipitous sides to the south, sloping more gradually northward. The country between the successive elevations is at times marshy, and always covered by thick brushwood.

The city stands near a stream called the Soubin, which flows nearly all round it, and in the rainy season fills it with a pestilential fog. It is girt also with the dense forest, which stretches all the way from the coast for at least 150 miles. Three or four days' marching however, northward brings the traveller out of the bush, and there the miserable paths are exchanged for comparatively good and broad roads, leading to the large towns in the interior.

The streets of Coomassie are broad and clean. They are ornamented with beautiful banyan trees that form a grateful shade from the sun. Its greatest peculiarity, however, is that every house has one large public room which opens directly upon the street, and gives it an extremely agreeable appearance. They are, moreover, artistic. The walls are of wattlework, but there roughness is carefully hidden under a plastering of mud, and this is washed over with white clay. The floors which are mostly raised above the ground are generally covered with rude carvings, and always kept clean and nicely polished.

These public rooms average 20 to 24 feet in length, 12 to 15 in breadth, 7 to 9 in height. Their palm leaf eaves extend far over the walls, so as to keep out sun and rain. Each of these larger rooms has behind it a number of smaller ones, where the private life of the people is passed and these apartments Bowdich credits with sanitary arrangements superior to those of many European towns.

Coomassie's principal buildings are the King's palaces. The chief royal residence is the Bantammah, on the north side of the town, and this alone covers five acres of ground. It is however at one and the same time the royal abode, harem, mansoleum and magazine of military munitions.

There are seldom more than six of the 3,333—the mystical number of the King's wives—resident in the palace. The remainder mostly reside in his crown, or country residence, at Barramang. It is built of quarried stone, is two stories high and contains large and lofty rooms. The charge of this high building is always entrusted to one of the greatest of the Ashantee nobles. Amanquattish—who has been in command of the troops led against the English, and is believed to be one of the slain—last held the office. King Koffee has a summer palace called the minihiah, about two miles north-east of the town.

As to the population, there seem to be no accurate data. It has been put at 20,000 and 200,000. According to most accounts it certainly does not exceed the smaller number at the present day. The horrible rites, bloody sacrifices and wanton destruction of human life—especially the lives of the slaves—are believed to be reducing the number of residents in spite of the constant acquisitions of fresh captives. Bloody scenes are of almost daily occurrence in the streets of Coomassie, where the executioner strikes down the unsuspecting victim, running the knife through his cheeks, and dragging him off to some sacrifice and to exercise some spirit.

Rich gold deposits are found in the whole country between Coomassie and the sea. The gold dust of all deceased and disgraced subjects according to Bowdich falls to the Sovereign. Besides which he levies a tax of gold on all slaves purchased from the coast. The traders passing through his country are mulcted heavily in gold duties, while the elephant hunters are similarly taxed. In addition to the resources of revenue the King has daily returns of gold yielded in the washings at the Soko pits and on the hills—the former it is said supplying as much as 2,000 ounces a month.

GENERAL WOLSELEY.

Special General Order by Major-General Sir Garnet Wolseley, D. B., K. C. M. G., commanding Her Majesty's Forces in Western Africa:

COOMASSIE, Dec 5, 1874. Soldiers, Seamen, and Marines of this expeditionary force!—After five days, very hard fighting, under trying conditions, your courage and devotion have been rewarded with complete success. I thank you, in Her Majesty's name, for your gallantry and good conduct throughout these operations. In the first phase of this war the Ashantee army was driven back from the fantees country into its own territory. Since then you have penetrated far through a dense forest, defended at many points with the greatest obstinacy. You have repeatedly defeated a very numerous and most courageous enemy, fighting on his own ground in well-selected positions. British pluck and the discipline common to Her Ma-

jesty's land and sea forces have enabled you thus to overcome all difficulties, and to seize upon the enemy's capital, which now lies at our mercy. All the people, both European and native, unjustly held captive by the King of the Ashantee, are now at liberty, and you have proved to this cruel and barbarous people that England is able to punish her enemies no matter what their strength in numbers or position. Maintain, on your return march to the coast, the same admirable conduct that you have hitherto evinced, and England may be as justly proud of having such Soldiers, Sailors and Marines as I am of having the honor of commanding you throughout the campaign.

Signed G. J. WOLSELEY, Major-General.

THE STAR.

Harbor Grace, April 22, 1874

The first boat of the Allan Line (under the summer arrangement) may be expected at St. John's about the 29th inst.

The English and American mails, per S. S. "Newfoundland" are expected to arrive at St. John's, on or about tomorrow, (Thursday).

We have to apologise to our numerous patrons for the non-appearance of the "Star" at the usual time last week. The delay was caused by the illness of the staff.

Prof. DANIELLE's next Assembly will take place next Tuesday night, at half past eight o'clock, in the Masonic Hall. The Professor hopes the young folks will turn out and have a jolly time.

ALL persons having business to do before "My Lord the Queen's Judge" will please take notice, that the spring term of the Northern Circuit Court will be held here from May 6th to May 15th.

The Brigantine "Ticino," which left here for Sydney on Monday, 13th inst., ran on shore at Spaniards Bay, under suspicious circumstances. The case is being investigated.

THE MEASLES.—This malady has spread throughout our town, scarcely a house but has been visited, in some cases seven and eight are suffering in one family at the same time, happily so far, few fatal cases are reported.

CORONER'S INQUESTS.

An Inquest was held on Thursday last, before T. R. Bennett, Esq., Coroner, on view of the body of John Stephenson, of this town. It appears that the deceased called at the house of Mr. Henry Newhook, about noon on Wednesday last, and having complained a few moments of a pain in his breast immediately expired. The jury returned a verdict "Death by the visitation of God."

Also at Bay Roberts, on the 11th inst., before T. R. Bennett, Esq., Coroner, on view of the bodies of Isaac Kerley, John Rorke, James Snow, John Snow, Edward Snow, James Bartlett, Henry Holmes, James Walsh, Elijah Mercer, John Barratt, John Jones, George Butler, Michael McCabe, William Batten, James Builk, Samuel Booth, Patrick Pettigrew, John Houlihan, William Hurley, William Reynolds, and Garland Courage, whose deaths were caused by the explosion of the boiler of the S. S. "Tigris," at the ice on the 2nd inst. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the same.

WHERE'S COODY.

The Halifax Reporter says:—About six weeks ago, one of the city papers contained an advertisement from a lawyer in Dublin, asking for information regarding the whereabouts of the male and female members of a family named Coody who were supposed to have settled in some part of the British American Provinces. As it so happened, one of the family resides in this city, and is the wife of a mechanic, living at the north end of the city. Feeling assured that she was one of the persons enquired after, she placed herself in communication with the Dublin lawyer and by the last English mail received a letter from home containing the welcome intelligence that, by the decease of a brother in Ireland, she was put heir to £50,000 sterling. There are only three direct heirs to this vast fortune—the woman in question, a brother who resides in Newfoundland and a married sister who is also supposed to be living in some part of Newfoundland. The other members of the family are dead. The matter has been placed in the hands of a solicitor of this city, and such steps are taken as to ensure the fortunate heir in question obtaining possession of her share of the fortune, which will be something like \$80,000.

In Boston lectures begin at 7:30 P. M Asiatic cholera at Buenos Ayres is carry-off about 50 persons daily. The University of Melbourne has offered its degree to women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Ray Roberts, April 17, 1874.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE H. G. STAR.

DEAR SIR— Please allow me space, to express my satisfaction with, and thanks, for the manner in which Head Constable Fallon, and the Police from Harbor Grace, and Bay Roberts, under his orders, at my request, conducted the search for the articles taken from the wreck of the "Ticino," at Spaniards Bay, and in recovering so much property as they did, from the houses of certain persons in that settlement, or hid about their premises.

On Mr. Fallon's arrival at the place of wreck, he immediately sent for me, as I met his messenger near by, Your obt. servant, G. W. R. HIERLIHY, Comr. Wrecked Property, Conception Bay.

FOR THE H. G. STAR.

Mail communication with the Northern ports being uncertain and difficult during winter, the approach of spring is naturally hailed with pleasure, opening up, as it does, opportunities for intercourse with the outside world; opportunities, which, however short-lived, go a wonderful way in appeasing the insatiable thirst for "news," ever attendant on comparative isolation.

Winter is now, considered "gone." Of its severity we have not had cause to complain, albeit atmospheric changes were at times fitful and trying. The lowest observed temperature was 15 deg. below zero. Of snow, less fell than was looked for, and wood-hauling was consequently at an end much earlier than usual, no one, however, suffering any great loss thereby.

A great many substantial houses, stores, &c., are in course of erection here, which greatly enhance the already trim appearance of the settlement.

Very few seals have been taken here this season with nets, and none have been hauled, owing to the absence of ice; in fact, we have not seen any of what is termed "Northern Jam" the winter, although abundance of what might be called "local jelly" has occasionally taken free possession of our harbor.

On Saturday night the 4th inst., a heavy gale set in from the Southward, continuing till dawn of next day, when it lulled for a short time, only to rise again with increased violence from the North, from which point it blew severely throughout the day—No harm done.

There is no information here as to Sealers, other than is already with you. It is much to be deplored that so many of the fleet are likely to return poorly fitted. Harbor Grace, I trust will have a fair share of the take, and am glad to notice that several good trips have been carried there.

We are busy here in the full sense of the word. Some are mending nets, some adjusting fences, others hauling kelp for manure, while the stores are issuing liberally the wherewithal to sustain. Let us hope that the coming shore fishery may prove remunerative to all concerned.

Bonavista April 10th, 1874.

Latest Despatches.

LONDON, 14. To-day Reichstag voted in favor of compromise amendment to army bill. During the debate Moltke said, in consequence of the shouts of revenge it is necessary to keep hand on sword; disarmament would mean war.

SOUTHAMPTON, 15. Livingstone's remains disembarked to-day. Guns fired, bells tolled, and scenery impressive.

NEW YORK, 15. Gold 114.

LONDON, 15. Colliery explosion at Dunkensfield, 53 killed. Bill for the suppression of betting houses in Scotland passed second reading in Commons.

Trial of Archbishop Leduchowski at Berlin for violation of ecclesiastical law resulted in conviction; sentenced to dismissal from his See.

OTTAWA, 17. Riel expelled from House by vote 124 yeas to 68 nays. Sir John A. and the Premier voted for his expulsion.

LONDON, 16. In Commons this evening Sir Stafford Northcote, Chancellor of the Exchequer, submitted annual budget total gross revenue of the United Kingdom for the year ending March 31, 1874 77,355,000 pounds exceeding Lowe's estimate by £3,574,000. Total gross expenditure for same year £76,456,000 including the Geneva award but not the expenses of the Ashantee expedition; excess of expenditure over estimate £1,156,000.

LONDON, 17. A terrific gale raged in the English Channel for the past three days, many ships, names unknown wrecked, all on board perished.

Rowing match for championship of the Thames and £200 between Sadler and Bagnell; won by Sadler three lengths, NEW YORK, 17.

Gold 113 3/4. Governor Washburn elected senator from Massachusetts in place of the late Mr. Sumner.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST RUM.

In Ohio, liquor flows in the gutters that Dio Lewis may put money in his purse. D. L., dating from Boston, writes to Col. Barnes, of Cadwell:—I desire to inaugurate my woman's temperance reform in Noble county, and, knowing your influence, would thank you to secure me \$50 and expenses, and advise me, and I will come right on. To whom the Colonel replied:—I thought all the world knew that Noble county has not a single dram shop, and that there is no occasion for you here. Perhaps Dio had better detail Van Pelt to start a small grocery in Noble county, for the better advancement of both their fortunes. Van might be converted and bought off, while Dio would secure his fees for bringing about his conversion.

DARING OUTRAIR IN A TRAIN.

Miss Appleby, of Bilston, who had been to Dudley collecting subscriptions towards a bazaar fund was returning home a few days ago, and entered a compartment of a first-class carriage by a train leaving Dudley at 7 p.m. While the train was moving, out of the station, a man, at present unknown, entered the compartment from the wrong side by means of a carriage key, and took his seat opposite the young lady. As soon as the train had moved out of the station he demanded her money, and, presenting a pistol at her, threatened her life. The frightened young lady in her terror gave up her purse, containing £5 17s in money, which the ruffian abstracted and then threw the purse on the floor of the carriage. Next, expressing himself dissatisfied with the amount of money, he demanded her watch and chain, which together were worth £24, and having obtained them made his escape at Prince's-end, where he got out. Unfortunately the young lady was too terror-stricken to give any alarm.

The Charlottetown, P. E. I. "Evening News," says: On Sunday evening, while Mr. John C. Lane, a farmer on East River, with his wife and child, were on their way down the ice on the Hillsboro' River, they came upon an air-hole on their place in the ice. The horse and sleigh broke through, and was submerged, together with all three of the persons. Mr. Lane extricated himself, caught his child, and placed the little thing upon a cake of ice while he would rescue his wife, who was struggling in the water. While he was assisting her the child rolled off the ice, and was seen no more. His efforts to save the mother were also unavailing, and she was drowned also. Her body was recovered, but that of the child has not been found up to this time. Mr. Lane has only been married one year. His child was but six weeks old.

A few evenings since a soldier named Quirk, belonging to the 87th Regiment, at Halifax, who was one of the look-out party stationed at Windsor, wandered away from the barracks, and did not return. In the morning his comrades turned out to look for him, and he was found by the sergeant in charge of the squad, lying in a snow drift, with all of his limbs badly frozen. He was taken to his quarters, and a surgeon called, who, after examination, expressed his opinion that the man had drunk some drugged liquor. Quirk was brought to town on Saturday evening and sent to the Military Hospital. It is believed that both legs and both arms will have to be amputated to save his life.

The Charlottetown "Examiner" publishes a statement of the trade of Prince Edward Island for the six months ended Dec. 31st 1873. The imports were \$925,822, while the exports were only \$556,429. This apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that a large proportion of the imports was composed of materials required for the construction of the Island railway, and a large proportion of the exports were to the neighboring provinces.

Prince Edward Island journals are advocating the abolition of the Legislative Council in that Province. They contend that there is no longer any necessity for a second chamber, the assembly being held sufficiently in check by the Minister of Justice on the one side and people on the other. The abolition of the Upper House, would effect a saving of over \$3,500 a year.

An American barque reports having been forcibly boarded and searched by Spanish soldiers off Havana.

THE COURT OF VICE ADMIRALTY

Met recently for the purpose of adjudicating upon two cases within its jurisdiction. The first was a claim for life salvage made by rescuers of the "Atlantic" passengers. By a Dominion Statute the English custom relating to life salvage prevails in this Dominion; and the Court ruled that the applicants entitled to salvage as follows:— To Edmund Ryan, who has received a gold watch worth \$120, from the Dominion Government..... \$100 To James Coolen, whose boat was used and who was particularly active..... 150 Alex. Brophy..... 30 William Coolen..... 60 John Purcell..... 60 John Blackburn, Wm Blackburn, Saml. Blackburn, jr, Patk' Dol-lard, William Lacey, James O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Francis Ryan, Stephen Ryan, Denis Ryan and Thomas S Twobig, each..... \$100 In all \$1500. The Court observed that a peculiarity of the case was that several who had first applied had withdrawn their claim, and who were most prominent in the work of rescue had not made any. With that, however, the Court had nothing to do, as the law warranted the demand of those to whom an award was now made. I. G. Power, Esp., appeared for the salvors.

The second case was that of the "Alfred Walen" against the scho, "Margaret," which vessel it towed into this port on the 22nd ult. when met with dismasted, Capt. Baxter, of the "Margaret" had offered \$1000 to be taken into port; but the other vessel, with probably some experience of such matters, (having the previous year towed another derelict vessel into port and received heavy salvage) refused to accept the offer and sailed away, wanting the Captain of the "Margaret" to leave his ship and declare her derelict, when she would be richer prize. This the captain declined, but his crew were in fear, and insisted that he should recall the "Alfred Walen" so that they could be taken off. Having thus alternative, the Captain consented, Chief Justice Young, in delivering his decision, spoke of the claims of humanity, and could not believe that the "Alfred Walen" intended to desert the wreck. Supposing that she was not worth salvage even, the Dominion laws now provided for recompense from the Treasury for saving of life at sea under such circumstances. In view of the fact, the Court could not look at the "Margaret" as a derelict vessel, and would therefore award only \$500 to the ship and \$200 each to the captain and crew (12 in all) of the "Alfred Walen" making \$2900; the captain and men having signed a paper to share equally, Mr. Jas. MacDonald, who appeared for the salvors, explaining that in American fishing craft, officers and men went shares on the voyage. The award was less than half the claim.

It is a peculiarity of Ashantee warfare, that no fighting ever takes place at night. Another peculiarity is that, out of the 365 days in the year, no fewer than 205 or 210 are deemed unlucky. On these no councils are held, and no movements, which can possibly be avoided ever take place. The most unlucky day of all is Saturday, because on that day of the week one of their most celebrated kings, with all the troops that formed his escort was surprised and slain. The usual method of fighting is the following: Each division of the army secretly and noiselessly cuts paths straight to the front, through the bush which covers the whole country. When the enemy is approached, these paths are joined by a broad road running parallel and close to the front of the enemy's line. The advanced parties are then re-inforced, and each man, posting himself under cover, opens fire, pushing on till the assailants are within a few yards of the foe. Every now and then a warrior dashes to the front, and seizing an opponent, the two strive who shall first inflict a mortal wound with the knife. Whoever is successful, cuts off his adversary's head, and carries it off as a trophy. Very crafty and wary are the Ashantees. They make abundant use of stratagems and ambushes, and their principal, when engaged with a powerful force of Europeans, is to avoid all direct attacks, but to exhaust the troops with constant marching. When, however, Ashantees possessing a large numerical superiority, they do not hesitate to engage in a pitched battle in which case they generally combine flank with direct attacks. The courage of the Ashantee is notorious to those at all acquainted with their history, and it is a great mistake to imagine that they are easily daunted by the superior arms of European troops. At the battle of Assamacow, in which Sir Charles MacCarthy lost his life, they were played upon by the artillery; but though the fire from the latter cut regular lanes through their ranks, their advance was not checked. On another occasion, they resolutely attacked Annamboe, in spite of an incessant discharge of artillery, and poured such a constant and well directed fire on the embrasures, that the guns could not be worked.

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