

engagement. On this occasion Congrever rockets were used by the English, it being the first time that these missiles had been used against the Ashantis. They were terrified at the screaming sound and the trail of fire streaming behind, and astonished at explosion and the frightful wounds they inflicted. They imagined that the English were fighting with actual thunder and lightning. They wavered, then broke and fled, and the day was won.

In 1827 the Ashantis negotiated for peace. In 1828 the Home Government decided to abandon the settlements. This decision was not acceptable to the merchants nor to the natives; the former would sustain great loss financially and the latter were terrified at being left without protection. In view of representations made to that effect the Government of the Gold Coast was transferred to merchants, who appointed a governor, with a council of local merchants, to assist in the administration. In 1831 the Government, after much trouble, concluded a treaty with the Ashantis.

The Crown resumed control of the affairs of the Gold Coast settlement in 1843.

Early in 1864 an Ashanti army crossed the Prah. On this occasion the invasion was due to the non-surrender of two criminals who had taken refuge in English territory. Through mismanagement the Ashantis had been allowed to win two battles and to remain over 80 days in one of the most fertile districts of the protectorate, burning, ravaging and slaying, at the termination of which they returned to their district, owing to the rainy season.

In August, 1863, the 4th West India Regiment, some 850 strong, arrived at the Gold Coast, and preparations for taking the field were commenced, the object being to invade the Ashanti territory and strike a blow at its power, and to put an end to the rule of an arbitrary and cruel monarch. Governor Pine wished to plant the British flag at Kumassi, and pointed out that an expedition could be successfully carried out with 2,000 disciplined troops, followed by upwards of 50,000 native forces. The soundness of his views was fully vindicated ten years later, but the Ministry would not consent to such an undertaking. When the troops were prepared for an advance movement a conditional sanction was given to carry out his proposed scheme. It was found to be impracticable, as the entire force of regular troops on the Gold Coast consisted of only 1,200 West Indian soldiers, which, after deducting for the sick, left an available force of but 1,000 men. This was too small a number to force their way to Kumassi. Reinforcements did not arrive in time nor in numbers to permit of the ad-

vance, and after a heavy loss of life the 2nd and 3rd West India Regiments embarked for the West Indies, leaving the 4th to garrison the forts. The campaign of 1864 terminated without the firing of a single shot, and resulted in the Ashantis losing all respect for British power, as they had gained a moral victory.

The natives, under British and Dutch rule, were constantly in trouble owing to the differences in the Customs duties levied by the two Governments. A convention was concluded between the two Governments by which the Dutch ceded to the British all their possessions to the east of the Sweet River, and received in return all the possessions of the latter to the west of that river.

This treaty came into effect on the 1st of January, 1868. Although the exchange of territories affected the tribes, they were not consulted. The result of this action was not a favorable one and a series of engagements took place between the natives subject to the change, involving therein the British and Dutch. At this time the Ashantis remained passive, owing to the death of their king, otherwise they would doubtless have taken advantage of the situation to wage war on the Coast tribes.

At the commencement of the year 1870, the condition of affairs on the Gold Coast was somewhat as follows: There had been no peace with Ashanti since 1863, who were awaiting a favorable opportunity to make a fresh invasion of the protectorate. The British Government concluded an agreement with the Dutch which was ratified on 17th of February, 1872, in which the Dutch ceded the whole of their possessions on the Gold Coast to the British, including Elmina, which the king of Ashanti declared to be part of his kingdom. The fort of that place had from time immemorial paid annual tribute to his ancestors to the present time by right of arms; by native law and custom the Elminas had become Ashanti subjects and Elmina a part of their kingdom; the Dutch had paid ground rent for 168 years. After a long period of preparation the Ashanti army marched from Kumassi on the 9th December, 1872, and crossed the Prah on the 22nd of January, 1873. The Government were totally unprepared and taken by surprise, believing the Ashantis to be on friendly terms. The condition of affairs at the Gold Coast was most deplorable. The rains had set in with unusual severity; the streets were crowded with fugitives who had no shelter; the natives dared not return in the bush for provisions and fuel, and famine raged in the town. Night alarms were frequent and the Ashantis were on several occasions reported to be rushing into the

town. The natives seem to have abandoned all hopes of defending themselves.

We now come to the period of the war of 1873-1874. Major-General Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived at Cape Coast on the 2nd of October with instructions to organize a native army and to drive the Ashantis out of the protectorate, and if found necessary to march to Kumassi. Sir Garnet Wolseley found he had at his disposal but the 2nd West India Regiment and a small body of native police, or less than 400 men. From the time of his arrival until the close of the year a number of engagements took place, in which the native soldiers frequently proved themselves of but little use, if not in many cases a hindrance. The Ashanti army decided to retreat and return to Kumassi. It was estimated that some 40,000 men had marched to the coast, of whom but 20,000 returned. This enormous loss was due to smallpox and dysentery, for their losses in action were comparatively small. It was found after their withdrawal that their camp was nearly a mile square, cleared and covered with huts. Their withdrawal closed the first part of the war.

At the request of Sir Garnet Wolseley the following troops were sent from England and reached Cape Coast on the 9th of December, 1873: The 2nd Batt. of the Rifle Brigade, the 23rd Fusiliers and the 42nd Highlanders. They arrived too late to take part in the operations south of the Prah and too early for those which were to be undertaken north of that river. Great difficulties were experienced in the transport of supplies and munitions of war; the carriers deserted by thousands. The plan of campaign was to invade Ashanti territory on the 15th of January, 1874, from as many points as possible. The main body, consisting of the three European battalions and Naval Brigade, were to march directly upon Kumassi from Prashu, while on the extreme right Capt. Glover's force was to move from the Volta; on the extreme left a native force was to create a diversion. During the advance the line of communications was to be guarded by the West India Regiments. The European regiments began to disembark on the 1st of January, 1874.

(To be Continued)

A CORRECTION.

In the advertisement of Messrs. Henry Graves & Co. Ltd., in last issue, the price of "Charge of the Light Brigade" quoted as \$5 for India Prints should be \$12, and hand colored prints \$18.

Deputy Surgeon-General Ryerson has returned to Toronto from Great Britain, where he has been for the past four months taking a course in military medical surgery.