

From the Missionary Register.

SLAVE COAST OF AFRICA.

EFFECT OF THE RUSSIAN WAR ON THE SLAVE TRADE.

—The preliminaries for our voyage to the Bight of Benin being arranged, we, Messrs. Freeman and Wharton, embarked with the two Dahomian girls, Grace and Charity, on Sunday morning, May 14, in a small schooner, from Sierra Leone, proceeding to Badagry, the captain of which vessel kindly engaged to land us at Whydah. Our vessel having arrived within a mile of the anchorage, a large and beautiful brig, built evidently for rapid sailing, dashed by us, and anchored directly opposite two canoes, and as close to the breakers as her safety warranted. Simultaneously with the movement of this suspicious-looking vessel, a line of hammocks, with awnings stretched over them, was seen issuing from the oil-sheds on the beach, and followed by swarms of men and women in perfect nudity. With the assistance of our telescopes, we saw distinctly the poor helpless wretches, with thongs fastened to their necks, driven along the beach to the place of shipment. Oh, how did our hearts ache as we gazed in silence on the touching spectacle before us! A little after mid-day the slaver had received her living freight, and before sunset she had disappeared in the distant horizon. Our first Sunday, May 21, at Whydah, was marked by the shipment of another cargo of slaves. The paths to the beach were all stopped by the Portuguese very early in the morning, and by ten, A. M., four hundred and fifty human beings were riven from their homes, and embarked on the mighty deep for a far distant land, where a grinding bondage awaits the majority of them. Oh! when will this accursed traffic come to an end? I learnt that the brig which we saw shipping slaves on the morning of our arrival took away 650. Four of the wretched beings were drowned on their way to the vessel, having leaped from the canoe into the sea, declaring by their act that they preferred death to slavery in a strange land. A poor female, who had given birth to a child a day or two before, was inhumanly torn from her infant, notwithstanding her entreaties, and sent on board the slave-ship. These are some of the horrors associated with the African slave-trade, as it is at the present day.

We returned to Whydah on Wednesday evening, June 14. During our absence, two additional cargoes of slaves,—one thousand odd,—were shipped by the Portuguese, making altogether, since our arrival, upward of two thousand souls. That the traffic in slaves, in Whydah and its vicinity, has of late received a fresh impetus is painfully true. Within the last fortnight or three weeks, I am credibly informed, another brig sailed with six hundred.

The revival of the slave trade is owing chiefly, I presume, to so many of Her Majesty's cruisers having been removed from this coast on account of the war with Russia; and, oh! will not the cries of these poor sufferers ascend into the ears of the Supreme Governor of the universe, against that potentate who has distracted the attention of England from her great work of mercy on the coast of Africa?—*Extract Letters of Rev. Messrs. Wharton and Freeman.*

DANGERS OF A HIGH PILLOW.

It is often a question amongst people who are unacquainted with the anatomy and physiology of man whether lying with the head exalted, or even with the body, was the more wholesome. Most consulting their own ease on this point, argue in favour of that which they prefer. Now, although many de-

light in bolstering up their heads at night, and sleep soundly, without injury, yet we declare it to be a dangerous habit. The vessels through which the blood passes from the heart to the head are always lessened in their cavities when the head is resting in bed higher than the body; therefore, in all diseases attended with fever, the head should be pretty nearly on a level with the body; and people ought to accustom themselves to sleep thus, to avoid danger.—*Medical Journal.*

THE LONDON TIMES.—The Times was established January 1, 1775, on the eve of great events of which the French Revolution of 1789 was the earliest.

The principal writers in the Times, at present, (under Mr. Delane,) are the Rev. Thomas Mozley, who supplies the most important leading articles; Sampson, who succeeded Alsager as writer of the city article, and sometimes gives a commercial leader; Robert Lowe, M. P. for Kidderminster, who has charge of Colonial subjects; Thornton, who "does" the Parliamentary summary, (once done by Horace Twiss, author of the Life of Lord Eldon); Tyas, "much renowned for Greek," who wrote the critiques on Lord Brougham's Demosthenes, and showed his Lordship to have gone out of his depth; Macdonald, historian of the Crystal Palace; Ward, a Quarterly Reviewer, who discusses sanitary matters; John Oxenford, the dramatic critic; J. W. Davison, the musical critique writer, son of Mrs. Davison, the once famous actress; and Dr. Richardson, who is supposed to do something for the paper, but rarely does more than visit the office once a week, to draw his salary. There may be others, but these are now the principal.

The manager of the Times, now and for several years past, and really more of the editor than Mr. Delane himself, is Mr. Mowbray Morris, a native of the West Indies, a barrister, and beyond doubt, a remarkably clear-headed man. That he is the last is proved, were other proof required, by the acute evidence which he gave in May, 1854, before the House of Commons' Select Committee on newspaper stamps.—*Tribune.*

WHAT RUSSIA HAS BEEN DOING.—Russia seems to be wide awake to her great interests, even with a disastrous war on her hands. According to recent accounts, she has taken advantage of the Chinese rebellion to obtain from the imperial government a treaty yielding to her the navigation of the Amoor, and she has already converted that permission into absolute possession of the whole course of the river, and an enormous tract of country, about 1000 miles in length, and in some parts as much as 500 in breadth; which gives her access to the Pacific Ocean in a temperet climate. Cannon and stores are already carried down the Amoor by steamboats, and sent from its mouth to the Russian possessions in America; and it may, at no distant day, be one of the great channels of European and Asiatic commerce, for the water communication between the Baltic and the Caspian has long been complete, and according to Cottrell, only 400 versts, or 500 miles, of additional canal will be required to connect the Pacific with the Caspian.

The progress of a far reaching and enterprising nation like this is not to be easily stopped. It gives evidence of watchful vigor, which will accomplish its destiny no matter what opposition it encounters.

KNOWLEDGE will not be acquired without pains and application. It is troublesome and deep digging for pure waters; but when once you come to the spring, they rise up and meet you.—*Fellon.*