

treatment of diseases incidental to the climate of Africa. Dr. Fergusson was not, as the other medical officers on the Staff, removed with the respective regiments to the West Indies and other depots, to which the African corps are periodically sent, but became a continued resident through all the changes, no doubt from the consideration of his great and long experience and usefulness to the Colony generally. Though a military surgeon, he by no means confined himself to that profession, but attended the civil officers, merchants, and the gentlemen, who chose to require his services; readily giving his advice to the Africans, generally, without fee or reward, at all hours and seasons, and he thereby became a deserved and esteemed favourite amongst them. Had he thus rested content, and not soared to possess the ambition and cares of office, or allowed himself to be goaded on to the attainment of civil rank and elevation in the Government for which nature never destined him, he might have descended to the tomb an honoured and an unsullied man, and a lustre to his profession; but from the moment he solicited or accepted office, from that moment his star became on the wane, his usefulness vanished, and the Colonial saying become verified, "We have indeed lost a good doctor, and got a bad and inefficient Governor." The most prominent of his public acts which merited the severest censure, was the seizure of Mr. Wm. Gabbidon, a coloured British subject, at the Island of Matacong,* in the Soosoo territory, by an armed force, under Lieutenant Mowbray, third West India Regiment, at the dead hour of night, on a charge of piracy; who was dragged to town, and after being imprisoned in Free-town gaol six weeks, was instantly acquitted on the sitting of the

* This beautiful island I have already described. The nature of this unfortunate proceeding was as follows, the particulars I learned from the accused person when on a two months' visit to his house there; and having been one of the grand jurors before whom the charge was preferred, and hearing the evidence for the prosecution, gave me a more clear insight into the case than many others:—The accusing person was one Macaulay, a liberated African of the Aker nation, who, in his own canoe, had been on a trading voyage to the Bagge and Soosoo countries, north-west of the island of Matacong, and on his return to the Colony, called there, it being a sort of a halfway-place, to replenish and recruit. It appeared that, according to native custom, this trader waited upon the proprietors of the island, as a mark of respect, at his house, and on displaying some gold rings, he stated that one or more was lost or taken from him, and, by some means or other, part of the canoe's cargo was placed in the stores of the proprietor, under lock and key. Macaulay, on his arrival at Free-town, went to the police office, and, along with his canoeman, swore that his goods were plundered by the order of William Gabbidon, and obtained a warrant for the apprehension of this young man. The evidence of his witnesses before the grand jury was of so contradictory a nature, and there being a total absence of any cause or incentive to impel him to commit a robbery, the bill was at once ignored, almost unanimously, and the individual liberated. It has, however, frequently occurred to me that it must be somewhat strange, or the accused was wanting in duty to himself in not demanding some reparation for the atrocious attempt to brand his name with infamy by so odious a charge. Had it been my case I should not have been so passive and silent, but probably this course was pursued from a consciousness of the hopelessness of obtaining justice in Sierra Leone during the executive of Governor Fergusson, and especially for an act in which his Excellency was so conspicuous.