

The passage is about four hundred yards in length, and of a zigzag form, with obtuse corners. At high water are carried through this strait, masts and other timber with incredible swiftness, and sometimes with safety; but when water is too low, the masts, timber, and trees strike one side or the other, and, though of the largest size, are rent in one moment into shivers, and splintered like a broom, to the amazement of spectators. The meadows for several miles below are covered with immense quantities of wood thus torn in pieces, which compel the hardiest traveller to reflect how feeble is man, and how great the Almighty who formed the lightnings, and the irresistible power and strength of the waters!

No living creature was ever known to pass through this chasm, except an Indian woman, who, in a canoe, attempted to cross the river above it, but carelessly suffered herself to fall within the power of the current. Perceiving her danger, she took a bottle of rum she had with her and drank the whole of it; then lay down in the canoe to meet her destiny. Most wonderful to tell, she went safely through, and was taken out of the canoe some miles below very much intoxicated. Being asked how she could have been so daringly imprudent as to drink such a quantity of rum with prospect of instant death before her, replied, "Yes, yes, white man, it was too much for once, to be sure, but I was not willing to lose one drop of it; so I drank it, and you see I have saved all."—*N. Y. Sun.*

## RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE

### KINGDOM OF ASHANTI.

We need offer no apology for occupying so much of our present number with the following interesting account of this extraordinary people, and the labours of the Wesleyan Missionaries in that distant part of the great Missionary field.

**JOURNAL OF THE REV. T. B. FREEMAN,**  
*On a second visit from Cape Coast Castle to Ashanti; undertaken for the purpose of commencing a Mission at Kumasi, the capital of Ashanti.*

*Preparations for entering Kumasi, the capital.*

April 13th.—We started from Karsi at 5 A.M. and reached Kumasi about 7 A.M. At the entrance of the town we stopped, and had the carriage cleaned and put in order for presentation. We afterward took breakfast, and waited for a messenger from the king. About half-past eight A.M. my old friend Apoko arrived with a countenance beaming with satisfaction and delight at seeing me again. He was accompanied by a large train of messengers with gold-handled swords, and canes richly ornamented with gold. There were also several of the king's linguists in his train. They gave us all a hearty welcome, and told us the king would soon be ready to receive us. The carriage excited intense interest among a large crowd of the natives, who collected around while the men were cleaning it.

Apoko left us for a time, and a servant from the king's household came to take charge of our luggage, and see it safely lodged in our quarters.

*Favourable Reception from the King.*

About two P.M. Apoko came to conduct us to the king. We found him seated in the same place where he sat to receive me on my first visit to Kumasi. We paid our respects to him in the same manner as I had done before, and passed on, through the immense concourse of people, to take our seats at a distance, and wait to receive a return of the compliment from the king and his numerous chiefs. The king then sent us some palm wine; and, after we had refreshed ourselves with a draught of it, the mass was put in motion, and the king and the chiefs came round, according to the usual custom. The king stopped opposite us for some little time, and surveyed the princes, Quantamissah and Ansha, (as they stood in their English military dresses, one on my right hand and the other on my left,) from head to foot, under the influence of considerable emotion. He appeared affected; it was indeed

a noble scene. Yes; the king of Ashanti is capable of feeling some of those sensations which delight the heart, on a happy and auspicious meeting after a long separation. If this be felt by the king of Asanti, surrounded as he is by ignorance and gloom, O what must be the feeling of those happy spirits who meet to part no more in the regions of glory! But whither am I wandering? I am still in the vale of tears!

I intended that the carriage should follow us in the procession, as we went round to pay our respects; but the crowd was so dense, that it was impossible, and I consequently sent it round to the place where we expected to take our seats. When the king came round, the carriage stood opposite to us, at a distance of six or eight yards; so that in walking round, the king came between us and the carriage. After he had stopped opposite us, as already mentioned, he turned toward the carriage, and looked at it for some time with much apparent satisfaction; after which he passed on, followed by many of his captains. There was the same extraordinary display of barbaric gold, blood-stained stools, &c., as I witnessed on my former visit, with the exception of the horrible death-drum: this, I am glad to say, was not in the procession.

The gaudy pageant exhibited a hundred and twenty-five large kabosirs' umbrellas, of various colours, some of which were very handsome. This was a larger number than I saw on my first visit. On my first visit I saw no female in the procession, properly speaking; but on this occasion an elderly sister of the king, who seemed to occupy the position of queen-mother, and several of the king's wives, came round and shook us heartily by the hand.

Between the king's sister and his wives appeared about twenty-four girls, from eight to twelve years of age: their skin was marked with stripes of red ochre, pipe-clay, and charcoal, and each carried in one hand a small stick covered with gold, about a foot long, one end of which they placed in their mouths.

*Delivery of the Carriage and other Presents.*

14th.—At two P.M. we went to visit the king. He was seated under his large umbrellas in front of his residence. I then formally introduced the princes to him, and also Mr. Smith, (who accompanied us from Cape Coast,) and Mr. Brooking; and presented the carriage in the name of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

On presenting the carriage, I told him it was sent by the society as a token of their good feeling toward himself and his people, and that they hoped he would use it, and that it would lead him to improve his country, by making good roads; which was one of the greatest means of promoting civilization, and one indication of national advancement. He accepted the present, received the message in a very gracious manner, and begged me to present his thanks to the Wesleyan Missionary Society.

He also expressed his satisfaction at the return of the princes, and his thanks to Her Majesty the Queen of England, and to Governor Maclean, for the kindness and attention which has been shown to his nephews.

We took our seats at a short distance, and the king, and many of his chiefs, &c., came round to return thanks, according to the custom of the country. The carriage was then taken into one of the palace yards, and the king met us there to receive all the necessary information respecting the carriage, harness, &c. On my telling him that Her Majesty the Queen of England had seen it, he seemed very much pleased, and said, "The Queen of England is queen of queens of the white people, and I am king of kings of the black people: and now we have carriages alike; this is very good." After all the necessary explanations were gone through, and the present delivered up to the king, I felt thankful that so great a task, as that of getting it up for nearly two hundred miles through the forests of Guinea, where we had often been obliged to cut our way through the thick jungle, and to have recourse to various means, in order to transport it across the rivers and deep ravines, had been so fully accomplished; and that so great a triumph of civilization over barbarism had been achieved. I felt it an ample reward for a hundred and fifty miles' journey on foot, and all the care and anxiety which I had felt during that journey. When we took our seats in the street where I introduced the princes, &c., the king sent us some re-

freshment: consisting of Madeira wine, brandy, sherry, brandy, and liquors, with a supply of delicious water, all neatly served up in decanters on a tray, with tumblers and wine-glasses. The interview was altogether very interesting.

15.—At half past two P.M. we again went to the royal residence to deliver the presents which had been sent from Her Majesty the Queen of England, and the other small presents from the Wesleyan Missionary Society. We took our own carpenters to open the packages. The first was a fine portrait of Her Majesty, with which the king was very much pleased, and said he should place it in his stone house, and often look at it, because it was very handsome, and because Her Majesty was his friend. The next box contained a view of Windsor castle; and he appeared very much pleased with this view of that noble residence.

After Her Majesty's presents followed several more from our society, viz.; cutlery from friends in Sheffield; a pair of boots, highly finished, from Macclesfield; a tin box, from Mr. Chubb, (Japaned); some beautiful glass ware, from Mr. Naylor, of London; and some handsome ladies' dresses from friends at Keighley. All the presents were very graciously received, and the king seemed pleased with every thing.

The king's sister (queen-mother) was seated near the king, and seemed much interested about the dresses. The king requested my interpreter to put on one of the ladies' cloaks, sent from Keighley, and very much admired it. There were also some figured coloured muslin caps, from the same friends, with which the king was very much pleased, and said his captains should wear them.

The beautiful chandelier, from Mr. Edge, of Westminster, brought out by Mr. Brooking, I am sorry to say we could not present on this occasion; as the man who carried the glasses had, we presume, fallen down with the box during the journey from the coast, for we found three of the shades broken. We have informed the king of it, and will try to make it complete, and present it as early as we can.

After the presents were all delivered, the king returned his thanks to Her Majesty, and also to the Wesleyan Missionary Society; and placed before us refreshments of nearly the same description as that of yesterday.

*Human Sacrifices in Kumasi.*

In the afternoon I heard that a chief had died, and that three human sacrifices had been made in the town, and the mangled victims left in the public streets, as usual. O God have mercy upon this benighted people! I saw a lad near my quarters who is one of the king's executioners. He had decapitated a poor victim in the morning. He appeared to be from sixteen to eighteen years of age. I asked him how many persons he had decapitated: he answered, "Eighty." O awful fact! eighty immortal spirits hurried into the eternal world, by the hands of a boy under eighteen years of age, and he only one of a large number engaged in the same dreadful employment! Surely British Christians will not relax in their exertions to send among the Ashantis the harmonizing gospel!

18th.—I am quiet at home. The heat is very intense.

*Ashantis attend Public Worship.*

Sunday, 19th.—At half-past nine A.M. I conducted Divine service under a large shed, previously erected for the purpose. I read prayers, and preached from Isaiah xlv. 22, 23. Many of the Ashantis were present, paying serious attention to the word of life. The discourse was conversational; and many interesting and vital questions were answered by the people. They said at the close, that it was a "good palaver," and that if all men would obey God, and keep his commandments, we should have a happy world. We then sung part of the beautiful hymn,—

"Come, thou Conqueror of the nations,  
Now on thy white horse appear."

The singing seemed to fill them with delight. We closed the interesting service with prayer. At four P.M., Mr. Brooking conducted Divine service, and preached from Isaiah iii. 10. The congregation was even larger than in the morning. Many of the servants of the king's household were present, and one of the king's sons. The sermon was conversational, as in the morn-