

houses, dress of the inhabitants, etc., are all quite characteristic of the Spaniards. The ladies on the street go without bonnets, but have a thin veil hung over their backs. I saw there, for the first time, the dromedary used as a beast of burden. You may see them occasionally kneeling on the street, for the purpose of being loaded. I was also much amused by a sign-board which I saw in Santa Cruz. It was a barber's, and on one side were painted a razor, pair of scissors, and comb. On the other, an arm, with a jet of blood flowing from it, a dish half-full of blood, and a hand holding a lancet; thus showing it to be a relic of an old custom once prevalent in England, where the barber officiated both in his own proper sphere and also as medical attendant.* As we sailed away from the island we saw the Peak of Teneriffe in the distance, partially covered with snow, and towering away up amongst the clouds.

On the morning of June 5th, we got to Goree, a little to the south of Cape Verd. and the first African town we had seen. I was very much struck with the appearance of the inhabitants. With the exception of a few French settlers, all the people were Africans. It seemed very strange to see the woolly-headed children playing about the streets, and all quite dark. They were very shy at first, but by the aid of some sweetmeats, which I happened to have in my pocket, I soon made friends with a number of them. I was very sorry I could not talk to them. The mothers seemed quite pleased with the attention which I paid to some of their little ones.

After touching at the Gambia, a British settlement, we arrived, on the 9th of June, at Sierra Leone, which seems to be the most important place we have yet seen on the coast of Africa. The scenery is very like that of Madeira. The mountains tower away up behind the town, and are covered with luxuriant vegetation to the very top. Palm trees, bananas, mangroves, cocoas, etc., are growing in great profusion all in and around the town. You may purchase large fine pine-apples at sixpence a dozen. A great number of plants which you see at home in hot-houses, as great rarities, are seen growing there in the greatest abundance. There is an English cathedral in the town, and a great number of Wesleyan, Baptist, and other places of worship. I visited one of the schools, at which there were present about 250 boys. The teachers were native, and seemed to do their duty most admirably. Everything was in capital order. The head teacher invited me to put any questions I chose. I was quite pleased with the intelligent answers I received, especially on religious subjects. I could not have expected more in Edinburgh. I spent a night in Sierra Leone, with Mr. McCormack, an old merchant. He is quite the patriarch of the place, having been in the country forty years. He seems to be truly a man of God, in every sense of the word. At worship I saw a number of coloured people, who met there for prayer. A number of them meet several times a week for reading and comparing different passages of Scripture. Mr. McCormack seems silently to be doing a great and a good work there. I came away very much pleased and refreshed by the intercourse I was privileged to hold with him. He has several young men in his house, sons of Chiefs in the interior, who have sent them to him. The one who waited on us at table was Edward Bey Kroo, son of Bey Kroo, King of Wa Bang, a fine young lad of about fourteen. Many of the Sierra Leone people speak with great respect of the father of Mr. W. C. Thomsom. He seems to have done a great deal of good there. Many kind inquiries were also made after Billy, as William is called by them. After spending two very pleasant, and, I trust, profitable days at Sierra Leone, we again set sail, and touched successively at Liberia, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Lagos—at most of which places there are churches. Indeed, all the way down the coast from the Gambia to the beginning of the mouths of the Niger, there seem to be missionary stations interspersed like so many green spots in the moral wilderness. I trust that from these spots there will soon arise and flourish many trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, which will in due time spread and cover the hitherto barren wastes of Africa.

The voyage all along I have enjoyed exceedingly. It has been more like a pleasure sail than anything else. I have experienced the greatest kindness from

* In the charter of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, they are designated "Barber-Chirurgeons." The usual Barbers' cognizance—the painted pole and emarginate bason—refers to the operation of phlebotomy.—Ed.