

Much caution would require to be exercised by the English commander. England appears, however, to have great confidence in Sir Garnet, and expects victory to crown the plans which he may adopt. But little reliance can be placed in the Fantees—the allies of Britain on this occasion. Their mode of warfare is to shout fiercely, fire their muskets in the air, and run away as fast as their legs will carry them. It is thought that the conquest of the Ashantees will be far more difficult than that of the Abyssinians. Negotiations for peace are talked of; but to prepare the way a display of force will be first needed. But what if that should only render the enemy more determined on resistance? This savage war may be more difficult to finish than was at first thought—perhaps the conquest of the whole country may be the result.

THE following view of the situation is given in correspondence to the *News of the World*:—

#### THE KING OF COOMASSIE'S WEALTH AND TREASURE.

From all that can be heard, his wealth and possessions have not been exaggerated. The natives give out that King Koffee is fabulously rich. Traders say, who have seen what they describe, that at every Yam custom one hundred basins full of nuggets of gold are set before the King as presents. All lumps of gold above a certain size are, by virtue of the Constitution, Royal property, and not to be appropriated under dreadful penalties.

#### MAKING THE ROAD TO COOMASSIE.

Twenty miles of the road to the capital have been made under the auspices of the Armed Police. This piece is merely an enlargement of the bush-path which used to exist. Our black friends have widened the single-file way into a good broad lane by the labour of three hundred hands, and the new road is a good specimen of what we require. But at this rate it would take, under the most favourable circumstances, about ten weeks to make Coomassie attainable, supposing our dingy foe will be good enough to allow our work to proceed under his nose, or perhaps to lend us a helping hand in carrying it forward. But these twenty miles have been cut chiefly as an experiment, to prove the feasibility of getting through the bush. Large trees have been felled and cleared away; gullies filled in, drains made, stubs rooted up, rocks blasted, and undergrowth lopped. In most places the labour is not so heavy as has been imagined; the bush is largely composed of tall, soft-stalked grasses and tough shining shrubs like laurestinus. Now and then only a moderately large boll of hard wood has to be removed, with more frequently a huge but soft-hearted silk-cotton tree. All is disposed of quite easily by native workmen, and the soil beneath is rich, loamy, manageable stuff, easily turned about with the spade; while the rocks encountered