



Roberts Vaux.

CONTINUATION

OF THE

Appendix to the Second Report

OF THE

COMMITTEE

ON

AFRICAN INSTRUCTION.



London:

PRINTED BY HARVEY, DARTON, AND CO.

55, GRACECHURCH-STREET.



1824.

7586.57

no. 3

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CONTINUATION, &c.

SINCE the Second Report of the Committee on African Instruction was printed off, letters have been received, by members of the Committee, from our friends Hannah Kilham and John Thompson, dated the 21st of 2nd Mo. and the 8—11th of 3rd Mo. 1824; from which the following are extracts. It appears that the two friends arrived at *Sierra Leone*, from the *Gambia*, after a week's passage, the 15th of 2nd Mo. and that, after visiting most of the different negro settlements attached to that colony, they were preparing, at the date of their last letters, to return to the *Gambia*.

FROM H. KILHAM TO WILLIAM ALLEN.

Gloucester, Sierra Leone, 8th of 3rd Mo. 1824.

“ DEAR FRIEND,

“ ON the subjects of enquiry, respecting the productions of this country, and the yet more important concern of the state of the people, their manners, habits, and

dispositions, and apparent ability for improvement, I would gladly convey to thee all the information we have been able to obtain; yet attempt it with fear, feeling that, deeply interesting as the subject is, it calls for more ability than I possess, to select and compress such points of information as we have received, so as best to convey an idea of the subjects required. But if my heart might speak from what my eye has seen, I would say, I am fully convinced that it is not any inferiority in the African mind, or natural capacity, that has kept them in so depressed a state in the scale of society; but the lack of those advantages which are, in the usual order of Providence, made use of as instruments for the advancement and improvement of human beings. Those disadvantages, which they, in common with other uncivilized nations, have suffered, have with them been cruelly increased, by that oppression, which, wherever exercised, has a natural tendency to fetter, to depress, and to blunt the powers of the mind; and it is very unfair, and a great aggravation of the cruelty, to reflect on the victims of it, as *lacking ability* for any other station than that which they have been suffered to fill. I do not think that even here, Africans have had a fair trial of what they might be, had they the same advantages in education, and circumstances connected with education, which Europeans have been favoured with; yet their intelligent countenances, and the ability they show when rightly instructed, evince, certainly, no lack in the natural powers of the mind; yet they come here, as to a foreign land, the language of which is quite strange and unknown to them; they are taught in this strange language, (those of them who have school-instruction,) from lists of detached words, spelling-lessons, many of which they never hear but in those lessons; and their meaning, therefore, remains unknown. Their teachers having no way for the explanation of their lessons, not understanding the languages of their pupils, a broken English is substituted as a medium of conversation, which consists of a very limited number of words; and this broken English is so

widely different from the written language they see in their books, that their lessons are still as in a foreign tongue, and much of them unintelligible. They have little communication with their teachers, or any Europeans, excepting just to receive directions for work, and the usual routine of school lessons; and what they hear in their religious meetings, for religious instruction and worship.

“The interrogative system is very little practised in these schools; and, for want of it, the attention of the children is not so fixed upon the subject of their lessons as is desirable; and there would be a considerable difficulty in calling forth the observation of the children, to the subjects they read of, as in some of the public schools in England; because, from the want of a better opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the English language, and of the meaning of words, it is impossible that they should understand what they read, as well as English children may. The teachers in the schools are fully aware of this, and much wish for some easier introductory books, which the children could better understand than those they have at present.

“Bear with my having said thus much on the subject, when, perhaps, other information ought to have preceded; but every thing I see here, or in the Gambia, as to school-instruction, confirms the sentiment, that the most facile means of instruction, in letters, to all, must, in the first instance, be the medium of their own native language. Ann Thompson is now teaching Jaloof and English in the Gambia; and although we are fully satisfied she is going on diligently and well, we know that the accounts of her success, which we receive from a merchant here, must be exaggerated. She is in much esteem among the people there; and those who have children under her care, will much regret when she leaves them. Sandanee has a great wish to have a Jaloof and English school in the Gambia; (at Bathurst;) and if we should conclude it best, for the present, to fix him there, it will be only conditionally, until we can hear from the Committee,

whose decision, respecting where he should be employed, he will, I have no doubt, willingly submit to.

“ It would have been pleasant to have met with the governor at Sierra Leone, but no account has been received from the Cape, (Cape Coast,) since he left for that station, four months ago. They are hoping for his early return hither; and he is also expected in the Gambia during the dry season, but we may possibly be disappointed. We were much recommended not to delay our visit here longer than this time, as the next packet may be near the rains before the time of its return. We have received kind attention from J. Reffles, from the missionaries, and others. The chief-justice called upon us, and kindly invited us to dinner; but we were engaged to go to Wellington on that day. At that place we saw much to interest us in the family we visited, which was that of T. and M. Macfoy. The first is a West Indian: his wife the daughter of an African, but well educated in America, where she was sent young for instruction. They are both intelligent and agreeable. T. M. is placed by the governor as superintendant of a village, and they have also a number of children under their care; but are not members of the Church Missionary Society. They have a fine garden, in good cultivation, though only planted one season. T. M. is likely, I think, to set a valuable example in this department. His amiable wife is skilful in domestic arrangements, and in the management of her school of fifty-two girls. We spent a day there, going in from Kissey before breakfast; and were received with that affectionate attention and kindness, which reminded us of the pleasure often experienced in arriving at our post in the morning of a Monthly-meeting day, and meeting the kind welcome from dear friends, which is so grateful on such occasions. M. Macfoy’s servants are, of course, Africans, as all are that we have seen in this colony. It was evident they had been well instructed; and, in the whole order of the domestic concerns, there was evident that kind of skilful machinery, which

can effect its object without noise or stir. Maria Macfoy spoke to her attendant, who takes the principal charge of the house business, with *respect*; and this is not every day seen, in speaking to African servants. I wish it were otherwise. The missionaries have succeeded better than most others that we have seen, in training young people to manage domestic business well; and their houses exhibit more of domestic order and comfort than we have generally met with. Indeed, very few, except the missionaries, are married men; and I doubt not, that it may be said here, as has been said in the Gambia, that many young men, when sick, are lost from want of proper care in nursing.

“ Much of the mortality here, and in the Gambia, which is attributed to climate, should, I believe, rather be attributed to circumstances not *necessarily* connected with the climate; but rather arising from these settlements being in a state of comparative infancy, in which those every-day accommodations that are requisite to a European who has been accustomed to them at home, cannot be commanded or obtained. The animal food, in general, is inferior to that of England; the cattle and poultry not so well managed, and, consequently, more thin and poor; the cooks inexperienced, and, in many families, left quite to themselves, and not furnished with any time-piece, whereby to regulate what they might have to do: so that, even in the boiling of an egg or a potatoe, there are mistakes, first on the one hand and then on the other; and very young practitioners in these arts, who have never received any *instructions*, receive, instead of these, abundance of reproaches. In the houses of the missionaries whom we have visited, we have seen a very different order of things. Their habitations, as to neatness and accommodation, are as pleasant, and as much like England, as could be desired, or at least expected, where the style of building does not admit of things being in every respect as commodious for a family, as an English house of the same size would be. So much room is taken up in piazzas, that houses are

often deficient, as to the number and size of lodging-rooms; and this, in a time of sickness, is no doubt a great disadvantage. The wives of the missionaries find no insurmountable difficulty in teaching the African girls to be clever cooks, house-maids, and laundresses. I had the gratification, last week, to see one of the poor girls who was rescued from the iron-hearted slave-dealer, who had confined his two remaining victims in a cask on board. One of the girls is now married: the other is a chief monitor in the Church Missionary School, at Leopold, which consists of from 80 to 90 boys and girls; and is conducted with much attention, by Phebe Davies, the wife of the superintendant of that village. Her husband is occupied in the care of the labourers, and general charge of the concerns of the place. The superintendants act as a kind of general parent, master, and magistrate, each for his own village; and in each village there is a court of requests, for the recovery of small debts; to assist in which courts, the superintendants of the villages meet, and act as commissioners.

“ In the school at Leopold was a little boy, who, in the course of six months, had learned to read in the Testament; and in the neighbouring town of Charlottee, was a very little girl, apparently not more than five or six years of age, who read to me the account of the sick of the palsy restored, very agreeably, and had only had about fifteen months' instruction. These are instances of memory; yet even as to memory, such instances are not frequent in these schools. The number of Bible and Testament readers is generally small, in proportion to the number of scholars; and this I do believe must be attributed to the children not well understanding the English language, for they really appear very lively and zealous in their application; and I long to see that application exercised to more effect, than it can be whilst they are learning mere lists of words, but few of which convey to their minds any definite sense or meaning.

“ There is one thing particularly pleasant in the schools :

the children generally look clean, and healthy, and cheerful; and there is an air of friendly confidence in the people, when we meet with them in the villages, and in their own cottages, which is pleasant to see. Some have built themselves firm stone houses, with piazzas to them, and gardens behind. They have them neatly furnished: tent-beds and sofas, and all kept in nice order. These are some of the superior mechanics. The great lack here is good agriculturists, and an improvement in the system of education, so as to make the instruction which is given more intelligible, and to unite habits of *industry* with other parts of education, which might be done without overfatiguing the children. I have seen a remark somewhere, that 'so long as *a stone is out of its place,*' there may be found occupation for the industry of the people; and, indeed, there is here a fine field for industry, and for improvement. How often have I felt the loss of poor Bowdich, in riding through these mountains, and looking on the fine, luxuriant vegetation which abounds here, and in such beautiful variety: it would well repay the hand of cultivation! But 'Africa is an unexplored country:' it will not, I trust, always be so. I cannot find that there is any hindrance to an healthful settlement being formed in any of the villages of Sierra Leone, which I have yet seen, unless it were Regent; which, although it is considered as healthy in itself, at present, appears too much surrounded by mountains, to admit well of an extended population. I never felt the atmosphere more pleasant, in any situation, than at Gloucester, Bathurst, Leopold, Charlottee, Kiskey, and Wellington. The last place, or its vicinity, is what I would prefer before any I have yet seen. There are some distant villages, Kent, York, and Hastings, which we do not expect to visit. Wilberforce is only a few miles from Freetown, and we hope to go there. There is not at present, in that place, any superintendant, and I think not any school. The charge will be taken, in part at least, very soon, I believe. The loss of missionaries, during the last year, has not been sup-

plied by new arrivals ; only one, with his wife, having been appointed to Freetown : should he remain long, he is expected to take the office of chaplain. I have no doubt, in my own mind, that many of the missionaries, both male and female, have lost their lives, from being so circumstanced as not to be able to transfer their cares and labours soon enough, when failing from sickness ; and it would be a great advantage, if, in every station, each could be training a young person, as a kind of right-hand helper, whether African or English ; and this might, I have no doubt, be done to good purpose, without either the missionaries, or the female school-teachers, improperly casting off their cares into the hands of junior agents.

“This is, indeed, it must be allowed, a climate in which life seems to hang by a more slender thread than we feel sensible of in some other places, if we are much exposed to the heat of the sun, or dwell in situations in which its rays are peculiarly concentrated ; and this is peculiarly the situation of Freetown. The heat seems to be collected there as in a focus ; and I cannot myself spend a day in that town, without greatly feeling its relaxing effects. In the villages I am perfectly well, and feel as much prepared for any exertion, mental or otherwise, as when in England. The Gambia has been very sickly. The Commandant, when we left, was too ill to prepare the usual dispatches for the packet, yet recovering.

“I heard, in the Gambia, a very sad account of the mortality among British seamen near Sierra Leone, from the hard exactions of their captains, in requiring them to bring up timber, often saturated with damp, putrid, vegetable matter. These poor men, employed in unremitting labour, in this way, through the heat of the day, often were attacked with fever, and, in many instances, were still compelled to work, when they should have been brought to the hospital ; and the hospital received them only to die and be buried. I have heard here, that whilst many British sailors have evidently been lost and destroyed by the neglect and the hard treat-

ment they have received from their captains, that there are other masters of vessels pursuing a different conduct toward their men, the result of which has been striking. Captain —, who is well known as a respectable and conscientious man, lost only one sailor in the course of thirty years.

“ It is now the 9th : we expect to leave on the 13th ; but each day after this will be fully occupied. We have much to acknowledge in having been favoured with such a degree of health, and having met an open reception here, as well as great kindness from all about us in the Gambia. Some of the natives told Sandanee they would be glad to come to our house on First-day, and hear the Jaloof Scriptures read. They heard with great attention and quietness, and I believe understood what was read ; and remained very still afterwards.

“ It seems very evident, from what we hear, that civilization is prevented, or has been prevented, along the coast, by the prevalence of the horrid traffic in men ; and the interior, north of the line, is much more civilized than near the coast. The interior of the south appears to be little known. I wish the sceptics as to African capacity could have seen a Foulah man, of striking and intelligent countenance, who was here the other day, and have heard his melodious reading of Arabic manuscripts. I am informed, both here and in the Gambia, that the Mahomedans of Western Africa are the most orderly and well-conducted part of the African population. Their zeal in the promotion of Arabic schools should stimulate Europeans of higher profession. The Mahomedans in the North are considered as proud and cruel ; yet some European travellers on a journey of research, whom a medical man here was speaking of a few days ago, met with friendly reception and safe guidance among them. If persons be suitably introduced, so as that their designs are fully known, I believe intercourse, where only good is intended, would, in most places, be made more easy than some are willing to believe it could be.

“ J. R. says, it is *impossible* for any but an eye witness to conceive the wretched state in which the poor victims of slavery are brought in from the captured vessels: and, indeed, in a school in this colony, which has been formed since the rest, chiefly from new importations of these poor little slaves, it makes one’s heart droop to see the state of impoverishment, from sickness, in which some of them still remain. When I pointed out the healthier-looking girls, and asked where they came from, they were all either found to be the children of soldiers, or born in the colony. The great girls in the schools have to carry these poor sick children about on their backs for a long time: many are six months before their strength can be restored, and many die. Dr. Ritchie told me, in the Gambia, that a person seeing them landed here from the slave-vessels, (he had himself resided here,) would pronounce at once, from their state, that half of them *could not live*. I am told, that the distressing sickness and weakness of the children who are thus brought in, is sometimes such that they do not want to live, but desire only to die.

“ I am grieved to hear that the slave-trade is still abounding in the Rio Pongas, and that south of Sierra Leone it is carried on in a most sanguine manner. The Portuguese vessels are miserably poor and incommodious, and extremely ill provided. They are so ill built often, or so worn, as only to be calculated for a voyage of three weeks’ sail before the wind; and have been known to be out three months, including the time of sailing up here, when re-captured. The people are, in these circumstances, distributed, I apprehend, generally, into the other vessels. It has been suggested that vessels *fitted out* for slaves should be liable to seizure, as it is well known what must be the design with such vessels; and that this might *prevent* suffering, which the present system of capture can only counteract after much has been already endured, and many lives lost.

“ I cannot but sincerely desire and hope that a Friends’ settlement may one day be formed in Sierra Leone. How

gladly would I return to it for a season, should the way appear as plain before me as it appeared to be previous to this visit; which, although it be a time rather for silent thought and feeling, than for the accomplishment of any thing that could serve either the dear children or the people, yet I am satisfied in having moved at the season that seemed best, so far as I could see; and I feel this place, for the present, quite like home to me: so much so, that even if I should ever return, my heart will be often here, as in a scene that cannot be forgotten. The accommodations, or the enjoyments, or the continuance of life, have never, I think, appeared, since I came to Africa, of so little value in comparison of the pursuit of the one great object, the humble endeavour, through Divine assistance, to follow the path that may be appointed to us by the Great Parent of the universe. And truly, when we look on the fields that call for labourers in the present critical state of things, and how very wide these fields really are, how shall we think otherwise, than that self should be lost sight of, excepting so far as the claims of duty and of kindred shall demand from us? And these obligations are doubtless as sacred, at least, as those which relate to more distant objects ever can be. But there is a Light that can surely guide in all places and in all circumstances."

FROM JOHN THOMPSON TO WILLIAM ALLEN.

Sierra Leone, 10th of 3d Mo. 1824.

" Esteemed Friend,

" Hannah Kilham has been at three villages in the mountains, to which I was prevented accompanying her, in consequence of going up the river with a merchant of the name of Mac Cormack, who very kindly offered to take me with him to Tombo, an island about twenty-five miles up the river, for which he pays the natives, who are of a nation called

Timmanees, an annual rent, and on which he has erected a very good dwelling-house, &c. after the African fashion. He is very extensively engaged in the timber trade, and the natives float it down the river a considerable way from his settlement. I very much enjoyed our sail up the river, and could not but admire the beautiful appearance of its banks, covered with timber to the water's edge, some of it growing to a great size. On our way we passed several islands, the river, in many places, being five or six miles wide; amongst others, Bance Island, a place, before the abolition, noted for the number of slaves annually shipped there for the West India islands. The remains of a fort and other extensive buildings, in which they kept the slaves, are still to be seen. The proprietor was a person of the name of Anderson; but at present it belongs to a merchant of the name of Williams, who is largely engaged in the timber trade. John Mac Cormack told me, since he began the timber trade, which I think he mentioned was within the last seven years, the natives up this river are very much changed for the better, and have quite given up the idea of selling each other for slaves. He thinks that, at present, there may be six or seven thousand natives employed in the cutting and floating down of timber to the different shipping-stations in this river. What a pleasant contrast to the time when slavery existed here, with all its attendant sufferings! From any thing I can learn, and I have made a good deal of enquiry on the subject of the Slave-trade, and from people of the best information in this colony, it does not appear that there is much of it carried on at present on this coast. The Portuguese are the principal people engaged in it. They have some settlements between here and the Gambia, and it is thought they frequently export slaves from the neighbouring rivers; but there has not any slave-vessel been brought in here this length of time. The land in general, up the river, is of a very superior quality, and, if cleared and cultivated, I have no doubt would produce very abundantly; but in the mountain villages about Sierra Leone the soil is quite of a

different kind, with the exception of one or two places; being for the most part of a red gravelly nature. In fact, the trees on the mountains plainly show the soil is much inferior to that up the river, being generally of a poorer and more stunted appearance; but they are, notwithstanding, covered to their very summits with evergreen trees and shrubs; and the scenery, in many places, is exceedingly picturesque and beautiful. But this gravelly soil answers well for the growth of coffee, and latterly the merchants are turning their attention to its cultivation. Arrow-root and ginger likewise thrive remarkably well, and require but little attention. I must say, I felt regret at seeing cultivation so much neglected; and where any thing of the kind is carried on, it is generally badly executed. One great cause of it is, in my opinion, the want of persons well acquainted with agriculture. But this is not the best season of the year to see the African mode of culture; the best time for that being in, and immediately after, the rains. The liberated Africans, in all the villages, grow cassada, cocoa, and rice; but the latter not to any great extent. But the natives up the river grow it in great quantities; boiled rice and palm-oil being almost their whole subsistence; and from the quantity they grow, they can supply the liberated Africans and others with it at a very moderate price.

“ On my return to the Gambia, I intend taking with me some cuttings of vines, coffee-plants, pine-apple plants, and several other seeds and plants, which are not to be met with there. On those parts of the coast of Africa that I have seen, but especially in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, there is a wide field for the botanist. I very much regret the not having it in my power to give thee some information on that subject. If I were to give an opinion respecting the abilities of the Africans, from the little I have seen of them, their manufactures, &c. it would be that if they, from their infancy, had the same care bestowed on their education, and brought up with the habits and resources of Europeans, they would be

equally clever; but we cannot expect to change the habits and manners of those Africans that are come to years of maturity: it is from the young and rising generation we may hope for improvement, in proportion to the labour bestowed.

“ P. S. Since my arrival here, Hannah Kilham received a letter from our friend Richard Smith, in which he mentioned that they were all well at the Gambia. I have my health full as well as when in Ireland, which I esteem a great favour.”

FROM H. KILHAM TO T. BEVANS.

“ *Gloucester, 10th of 3d Mo.*

“ I fear that we shall leave Sierra Leone with some feelings of regret; the field is so wide, and the time of our being here so short. I have no doubt that, as the stations here become more settled, the healthiness of the place will improve. The chief difficulty with respect to climate, I think, is in the situation of the chief town; and no doubt, after a time, those who take up their residence there, will, if they can, have country-houses, to return to in the evenings; as the merchants and others, many of them, have in the British metropolis. Against such an arrangement is the circumstance of persons who reside here, mostly looking forward to return to England, and two houses would be more than they would like to build, or to purchase; and, important as it is, that trade should be freely carried on here, for the good of the natives, it would be a great advantage, if a few country-houses, not far from Freetown, were built, and let for an annual rent.

“ There are now very few missionaries here; and those who are, are much engaged in superintending the work of the men, the buildings, roads, &c. and in settling their little ‘palavers,’ when there is any dispute among the people. But

the Africans are affectionate and tractable, and not difficult to manage here. They have great confidence in the governor, and in others who are placed over them.

“ Four of us took a walk from Regent to Leicester Mountain, one evening ; and having to return to Regent, to lodge, we set out whilst the sun was yet shining rather strongly : we rested on an old tree, on the side of a hill, as the ascent was long and steep. From a hut which was near, the people came out to speak to us, with very lively, pleasant countenances ; and brought two little wooden benches for us to sit down upon, and a very fine pine-apple for our refreshment : we thought it was the finest we had tasted in Africa, and, perhaps, it was not merely our weariness that led us to think so. Most pine-apples we have seen, grow wild ; and this, I think, was from their own little garden. They offered us a second, but the first was sufficient for us ; and after staying a little while there, we proceeded on our way. There were about seventy people in the hospital at Leicester Mountain, chiefly confined with ulcers, or with small-pox. They are sent from all the villages to this hospital, except such as are too distant.

“ The medical superintendent, Dr. Ferguson, having the *hospital*, his leading care, at hand, and his horse to take him to more distant duties, does not, perhaps, find all the disadvantages which might, by some others, be experienced in so remote and elevated a residence. He takes much pains to promote vaccination ; but many of the people are very careless on this point. Dr. F. accompanied us part of the way, on our return. I was much interested with his conversation, at that time, and each time that we have met since, and have had opportunity to converse on many subjects. He says his expectations are sanguine, with regard to our future success in the system of instruction, through the medium of the native languages : he expressed his interest on this subject the first time I saw him. Our walk, in returning to Regent,

after he left us, was nearly all the way in the dark, through a narrow path, which we were really glad to have illuminated by frequent flashes of lightning. The lightning here is not accounted dangerous; and, some evenings since we came, has been seen, almost without intermission, in the distant sky, very fine and beautiful. On this evening there was also distant thunder, and, before we got to our post, a shower of rain, from which, however, an umbrella was a sufficient shelter.

“ I mentioned to R. F. in a letter sent about three weeks since, that we had thought it best that a visit should be paid to the king of Combo, in whose territory our house at Birkow is situated, without deferring it until we could all collect there; and it seems very well, from an observation of the king's, at the time of the visit, that it was not delayed. I will copy R. S's. account, or most of it; only omitting some trifling particulars about the females being pleased with some fine workbags and pincushions.

“ The Alcaide of Birkow accompanied me to Yindum, on the 11th (of 2nd Mo.) We passed through *Savage*, a populous village, about four miles from hence. *Yindum* I judged to be about five miles further. We arrived there about nine in the morning, and staid an hour and a half at the house of the Alcaide's friend: in the interim a person was sent to inform the king of our arrival; and we then went to the king's house, accompanied by several head-men. Soon after we were seated, the king came. I will endeavour to state the substance of what passed, as Mahmadee afterwards gave it to me. The Alcaide informed the king, ‘ I come down with my white man (stranger) to visit you: he wants to settle in your land, and, before he settles, he comes to see you.’ The king expressed his love, and said, ‘ I am very glad of that.’ A head-man then informed the king, ‘ they bring you something to come to see you. I opened all the things in my house, to see what they bring you.’ The king answered, ‘ All is right;’ and said, ‘ what we come for to see him is

all very good: he is very pleased with the things.' He said further. 'If any body come to settle in a strange land, if he come to show himself to the master of the land, it is all right: something might happen; he, the master, can help him; but if they not come to see him first, if any injury happen, he cannot help them.' So, if he (the king) had only heard of us, as being in the land, if any injury happen, he cannot help us. The head-man then opened the present: he expressed himself well pleased with the present, (an umbrella, romals, blue and red children's picture-handkerchiefs, blue baft, and writing paper; with some work-bags and pin-cushions for the women,) and much obliged for our kindness, and the Alcaide did right to come with us. Our certificate was read, which Mahmadee interpreted. It was further explained by the Alcaide, which I judged took up an hour. The slave-trade was spoken about. The king said; 'The Mandingoes never went to war with another nation, to catch one another: the Jolas and Wolofs bring their slaves down to the Mandingoes, which they (the Mandingoes) buy and keep to work for them. S. and M's. instruction in England was explained by the Alcaide, which the king said was very kind of friends. On the subject of schools, the Alcaide said his children were taught the *Arabic*, and he had no desire for them to learn the English language. A proposal was made to the king, through the Alcaide, for taking a youth, in about two months. The king said he cannot tell yet, till he see how we settle first. When we are ready to receive the boy, we may let the Alcaide know, who will send word to the king: he is not yet settled in his mind whether he will send a boy. It was thought best, when we met in conference at Bathurst, to make an offer to the king, to receive an intelligent boy from Yindun, into our family, and train him as a teacher for a school. The Alcaide, although he does not wish his children to learn English, seemed so pleased with what he saw at Bathurst, of Mandingo lessons,

that I think it probable he will in time be disposed to encourage schools for their own language, although he does not value English.

“The Alcaide wished to distribute a few things himself, among his friends at Yindum, and R. S. supplied him with several articles for this purpose.”

FROM JOHN THOMPSON TO LUKE HOWARD.

“*Sierra Leone, 2d Mo. 21.*

“On Fourth-day (2 Mo. 18) we visited Wellington, where we spent a very pleasant day. The man who has the oversight at this village, and his wife, are both people of colour: they were extremely kind to us, and put me in mind of Friends. In my opinion this village, in point of situation, is preferable to Kiskey, and the streets more regular. I saw some beautiful land adjoining, planted with yams and Indian corn. I felt regret at seeing so much fine land uncultivated: however, the merchants are beginning to turn their attention to the cultivation of coffee, which grows in the mountains. Arrow-root and ginger grow remarkably well, if paid proper attention to, and might soon become valuable articles of export. I was equally surprised, the other morning, on taking a walk through the market of Freetown, to find it so well supplied with fruit and vegetables; such as pine-apples, oranges, plantains, bananas, limes, yams, cassada, sweet potatoes, and a great variety of other fruits and vegetables, the names of which I am not acquainted with. But all kinds of flesh-meat are extravagantly dear, and of very inferior quality.”

HANNAH KILHAM TO LUKE HOWARD.

“ Freetown, 2d Mo. 21.

“ On Second-day, the 15th, we went, in company with J. Reffles, and P. Shower and his wife, to Kiskey; and on the day following were accompanied by G. Nylander, and his sister-in-law Wentzel, to Wellington. We much enjoyed our visit to both these places. An account of many things that engaged our attention there I have minuted in my journal, and intended sending by this vessel; but have been indisposed for a day or two, and must, for the present, be satisfied with a short letter.

“ There is a very sensible difference in the atmosphere of the country-towns and this of Freetown. At Kiskey and at Wellington we enjoyed a fine refreshing breeze; and I was ready to conclude that, with good care, these situations would be found not only very pleasant, but healthy, even for Europeans. There are many circumstances, in addition to climate, which have caused Europeans to suffer in their health here.

“ On the morning on which your letters were received, and at the same moment, indeed, we were informed of the death of Captain Smith. This has felt very impressive to us all; and will not, I believe, be an impression soon to pass by.

“ We are here amidst scenes and mementos of mortality that must be felt; yet they are not, I think, felt depressingly, but remind us how desirable it is that the heart should be fixed on treasures and enjoyments that are not mutable. And, indeed, there is a field here that pleads for cultivation, even though the culture may seem difficult, and incur great sacrifices. Oh! how do the abominations of the Slave-trade strike the heart, when we see here poor little emaciated creatures, little more than human skeletons, who, although they have been three months in the colony, and carefully nursed,

have not recovered the effects of the inhuman bondage they have suffered in the slave-ships.

“I am wishing to make a trial of a short vocabulary of words, and a few sentences of Timmancee, Sussoo, and one or two other languages; and shall have, I think, a good opportunity to do so. G. Nylander kindly offers to furnish me with interpreters for the Timmancee and Sussoo, from his school; one a master and the other a scholar. He fully approves the principles of orthography I have adopted, and thinks the words are, in the African Lessons, made as plain as possible. I presented him with a set, and brought one also for J. Reffles. We have been received with much kindness here, at Kiskey, and at Wellington.

“They greatly want here some one who would pay an almost undivided attention to agricultural improvement. The residents here being much occupied in other concerns, this important business is greatly neglected; and some of the common comforts of European life, which might, by good management, be abundant here, are now very scarce and dear. Butter is generally had from England, and often very rancid: eggs, at Sierra Leone, half-a-crown a dozen: milk, 2d. or 3d. a wine-glass full: mutton, 1s. a pound.

“Ever here, abundant as are the powers of production, the industry of man is wanting to give to the country that freshness and beauty that enrich the scenery of an English prospect. The dead trees remain bare and cheerless among the living; and some of the beautiful plants that are found among the deep ravines, are never transferred to stations in which the eye could oftener partake of the enjoyment of their beauty, whilst the heart was reminded of the kind beneficence of Creative Power. It is, doubtless, an appointment intended for the good of mankind, that all vegetation should be improved by culture. This colony has many fine vegetables, which might much promote the health of the people, as articles of daily food; and particularly several of a nutritious quality, which in this climate would, to Europeans, be very valuable.”

HANNAH KILHAM TO ROBERT FORSTER.

Gloucester, 11th of 3rd Mo.

“ The Ocro, the kerring kerring, the paw paw, and some other native vegetables, have an excellent gelatinous quality, when used either in soups, or as a vegetable alone. The African sorrel has a considerable pulp in the blossom, from which either tarts, or a mess like green gooseberries, when mixed with sugar, may be made, and which, in this climate, is grateful and refreshing; yet milk is scarce in this colony, and seldom obtained but from the goats. Eggs I mentioned as being half-a-crown a dozen, and these not much larger than pigeons' eggs. There is a scarcity of suitable provision for the cattle here. A great many die; and I cannot but think, with regard to these, as well as to human beings, that attention to suitable provision, and care in some other respects, might be a great means of prolonging life. I cannot, my dear friend, conceive, that the continuance of life, in this world, is so much to be desired, as to authorize all the fears and apprehensions that have been urged, to prevent any persons from settling here, except from a very clear conviction that it was their duty to make such a sacrifice. We may be like the Israelites, looking for signs, when sufficient evidence had already been imparted. I am far from being disposed to put any individuals upon engagements that should rather result from their own feelings; but I do not think that the length, or shortness of life, is of so much consequence as to prevent our encountering even a dangerous climate, where good is to be done. Are not people exposed to dangers, in many occupations, in which there is less to be placed in the opposite scale, as inducements to engage in them, than there would be in forming schools and farms in the Gambia and Sierra Leone? Let it not be said: ‘ Ah, these are H. K.'s sentiments, with her prepossessions!’ but let it be fairly considered, whether the prospect of doing

good, should not be as powerful a stimulus to encountering danger or difficulty, as the merchants or official men have in the colonies, to induce a residence here on their own account. Do not say we are to judge and act for ourselves, and leave others to do the same. I am not pleading on this subject, as pointing out what any individual should do; but only in general terms, that our principle of action should rather be a conformity to the divine law of love to God and man, than any consideration how life may be *longest* preserved, or our own accommodations the best secured. It is not outward accommodations that can give the highest enjoyments. These may be partaken of in a ship, or in a barbarous land, as well as by our own winter's fire, or in our summer's garden. But I forget that it is information you are wanting, and have slidden, without intending it, into other, though not foreign subjects. Joseph Reffles informs me that the natives act well on juries: the Maroons, especially, who may be considered as descendants, rather than natives, give as good judgment as an English jury would do. J. R. considers the Africans as peaceable, orderly, and moral a population as can be met with, or as he has met with. I think these were his expressions; and, as superintendant of liberated Africans, no one here, I apprehend, can have a better opportunity of knowing them. The European colonists of Sierra Leone, have several times remarked, that people in England are under a great mistake, in supposing that a native youth, with very little instruction in the schools, would be sufficient to teach as a master, and as an instructor of the people in the neighbouring villages. They say, on the contrary, that very acute reasoners are found among the natives, and especially the Mahomedans, who would soon baffle an inexperienced youth in this way.

“ There is one additional disadvantage which Europeans suffer here, which I forgot to mention, in speaking of the climate not being the sole cause of unhealthiness here. The windows are mostly without glass, and many without any

blind, or defence against rain, except the shutters; so that, in the rainy seasons, to exclude the wet, the inhabitants have often had to sit all day, enclosed, without any light but that of lamps or candles; and in the course of residence of some now living here, it is remembered that there were very few houses which did not admit rain through the warped shingles in the roof; and not a dry spot to be found in the house, even for their bed. These and many other circumstances prove, that much of the sickness and mortality that has been known here, has resulted from circumstances connected with a *new settlement*, rather than that all should be attributed to insurmountable difficulties from the climate. Even from the little experience we have had in the Gambia, I have felt convinced that more is suffered by persons, who, engaged in other pursuits, cannot act as cooks and domestics for themselves, (from the lack of their wonted accommodations, and the services of intelligent and well-instructed domestics,) than what is suffered from the change of climate alone; yet, doubtless, the relaxing effects of a hot climate, make it more difficult to bear the want of customary accommodations, without suffering. Neither can as much labour be expected from Europeans here, as they might engage in in England; and if they are not so circumstanced as to be able to rest, when on the verge of exhaustion, health may soon be undermined, and life give way.

“ We had got over our first difficulties in the Gambia; and our habit of living was such as we prefer to any we have yet seen, as to our own choice: boiled rice and milk, for breakfast, with French chocolate and bread and butter for those who chose. I took eggs sometimes, but the rest did not. At dinner (about two) we had often soup and stewed meat; as the meat is not like that in England, but hard, and best cooked in this way. In the evening, at six, on coming from the king's boys' school, we found the table spread for tea and French chocolate; and often some of our neighbours came in

and partook with us; and we offered them, in addition, our English gingerbread, or bread with honey and caraway-seeds, or with butter, if they chose it. It has been a great advantage to us to have had always pleasant society in our own family; whilst in the greatest number of families, both here and in the Gambia, there has been but one single European, unless, perhaps, some junior helpers as clerks. But I must not now proceed further, either on large subjects or small—African instruction, or the manner of recruiting the weary by chocolate and bread, with honey and seeds. But really, people cannot get on well in Africa, unless they will attend to little things, as well as to those of a more weighty nature. We are told, that so diminutive creatures as the travelling ants, will devour a man, if they come upon him at a time when he is too weak to put them away.”

THE END.



