

Records Relating to the Gold Coast Settlements

From 1750 to 1874

J. J. Crooks



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THE GOLD COAST SETTLEMENTS

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BY
J. J. CROOKS

 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published 1973 by
FRANK CASS AND COMPANY LIMITED

This edition published 2012 by Routledge
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

First edition	1923
New impression	1973

ISBN 0 7146 1647 8

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RECORDS

RELATING TO THE

Gold Coast Settlements

From 1750 to 1874

BY
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AUTHOR OF
"A History of Sierra Leone"
"History of the Royal Irish Artillery"



The African Company's Arms 1750

DUBLIN
BROWNE AND NOLAN, LIMITED
Branches : Belfast, Cork, and Waterford
1923

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FOREWORD

ALTHOUGH various books have been written giving a description of the Gold Coast, there is room, I think, for this volume, which is intended to cover the period from the formation of the last African Company of Merchants in 1750 until the conclusion of the third Ashantee War in 1874.

The British Settlements on the Gold Coast had a very chequered career; now they were under the Government jurisdiction, and again they were abandoned to the Merchants.

For the information comprised in this book relating to the Company of Merchants (1750-1820) I am indebted to the valuable Records of the English African Companies, deposited at the Public Records Office, London, where I received ready and useful help from the authorities. It is hoped that the events of most note reproduced here from these records* will give the reader an idea of the form of government on the Gold Coast in the days when the Forts were under the management and direction of a mercantile company.

Upon the historical matters relating to the government of the Settlements by the Crown, I have availed myself of the information contained in such State Papers† as are open to public inspection at the Records Office, London, the Reports issued by the Colonial Office, and the House of Commons Papers.

Notwithstanding that the African Company's jurisdiction extended only over their Officers and Slaves, still at times we come upon instances where the guns of the Fort were

* Minute Books of London Committee, 1750-1762 and 1781-1817, and Minutes of Council at Cape Coast Castle, 1770-1818.

† The War Office Papers of the last seventy years, and the Colonial Office Papers of the last sixty years, are not yet open to the public.

fired upon the town, causing loss of life and the destruction of many of the native houses. And it may be added that the Company also exacted deference from Ashantee visitors on their passing the gate of the Fort as the following will show. Extract from a Letter * from Governor Smith to T. E. Bowdich, Esq., dated Cape Coast Castle, 17 August, 1817 :—

“The day before yesterday an Ashantee man was guilty of a most daring insult to the Fort. On passing the gate, he was desired by the sentinel to take his cloth off his shoulders, but instead of complying, he turned round and struck him. The offender was instantly secured, and I ordered him to be put in irons. Last night, about nine o’clock, the captain of the guard came to me to say that the sentry on duty had reported the Ashantee to have hung himself. The place in which he was, with others, confined was immediately opened, and he was found in a room adjoining to that in which the prisoners sleep, with his under-cloth attached to a beam not more than three feet high, and very tightly drawn round his throat, part of his body was lying on the ground, and it must have been by the most determined resolution that he succeeded in strangling himself.”

The year 1782 saw English troops stationed on the Gold Coast for the first time. Early in February two Independent Companies disembarked at Cape Coast for the defence of the Settlements and the reduction of the Dutch Forts in the neighbourhood. On February 17th of that year an attack was made upon Elmina by a combined land and sea force, and continued till the 21st, when the British were repulsed with loss. The literature on the subject of the attack is scanty, due possibly to the dispatches sent to England in the sloop “Alligator” being thrown overboard when that vessel was captured by a French frigate and brought to Brest. Fortunately, duplicates of the Naval Commander’s dispatches were sent by the cartel “Mackarel.” In March, 1782, Captain Shirley, in the “Leander,” ran down the coast, and without

* See Bowdich’s *Mission from Cape Coast to Ashantee*.

the assistance of the Independent Companies succeeded in taking five of the Dutch Forts.

The records of the European troops on the Gold Coast in these days do not make cheerful reading. The casualties amongst the Independents during their short-lived existence of less than three years were considerable. The total strength of the Companies on landing had been 200. In six months the force was reduced to 60. Besides the deaths that had occurred 39 men deserted to the Dutch, and 28 had been put on board a captured vessel. The two Companies were disbanded in 1783.

The following extraordinary cases of the infliction of Capital and Corporal Punishments make one shudder to think what the soldiers' lot on Afric's West Coast must have been in the seventeen-eighties :—

In 1782, at Mouree Fort, near Cape Coast, a Private of the Independent Companies was, by his Captain's order, blown from the muzzle of one of the guns.*

In this year also, at the Island of Goree, the Commandant ordered a Serjeant of the African Corps, who was charged with Mutiny, to receive 800 lashes. The serjeant died shortly afterwards. The Commandant was tried for the murder and was hanged.†

In 1821 an Act of Parliament was passed for abolishing the African Company of Merchants, and for transferring to the Crown all the Company's Forts and Possessions on the Gold Coast, which were to be placed under the government of Sierra Leone.

In March, 1822, Sir Charles Macarthy, Governor of Sierra Leone, arrived at Cape Coast Castle, and to provide for the defence of the Forts he formed the native troops in the service of the late African Company into a Colonial Corps, composed of three Companies, under the name and denomination of the Royal African Colonial Light Infantry. On the outbreak

* See particulars in later pages.

† See *Annual Register* for 1802, and *The Manual of Military Law*.

of the first Ashantee War in 1823, two European Companies of the late Royal African Corps were sent to Cape Coast to join the newly-formed Light Infantry, and in 1824 and 1825 the garrison of Cape Coast was further increased by reinforcements from England and the Cape of Good Hope. Owing to the frightful mortality among the European troops, the Government decided in January, 1826, that the Royal African Corps should in future be recruited either from the natives or the liberated Africans; and the custom of transferring to the Corps Deserters and Culprits from other Regiments was ordered to be discontinued. In the end of 1826 the few white troops who survived were withdrawn, and their place supplied by natives.

In 1828 His Majesty's Government transferred the charge and management of the Forts to a Committee of Merchants of London, under whom five of the local merchants should form a Council of Magistrates for the purpose of regulating the internal affairs of the Forts. The authority of the Magistrates was not to extend beyond the limits of the Forts.

In 1843 this arrangement was abandoned, and the Forts were again placed under the control of the Governor of Sierra Leone. In January, 1844, a Company of the 1st West India Regiment arrived at Cape Coast for garrison duty.

In 1850 the Danish Forts at Accra and Quittah were purchased from the Government of Denmark.

In 1851 a local corps composed of three companies, termed the Gold Coast Corps, was formed to garrison the Forts, and the services of the Imperial troops dispensed with. This native artillery force was disbanded in 1863 for mutiny, and West India troops were again stationed on the Gold Coast.

In 1867 a partition of the Coast was effected by a Convention, the Dutch taking the country west of the Sweet River, the British that lying to the east. This exchange of territory appears to have been effected without any consultation whatsoever with the tribes concerned therewith.

In 1872 the Government of Holland transferred to Great Britain all its Forts and rights on the Coast.

In 1874 the Settlements on the Gold Coast and Lagos were separated from the Government of the West Africa Settlements, and erected into a Colony under the style of the Gold Coast Colony.

The following pages can claim no other title than to be considered as a collection of official documents concerning events which took place in the Gold Coast Settlements from 1750 to 1874 chronologically arranged. The documents are left to speak for themselves. Some of them being too long for reproduction, only the principal passages are quoted. The dispatches relating to our little wars with Ashantee are given in their entirety, not all of them having hitherto been published. In matters of importance and such as are not generally known to the readers of history, the sources of my information are cited.

J. J. CROOKS.

DUBLIN,

May, 1923.

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Records Relating to the Gold Coast Settlements

From 1750 to 1874

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS—THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND—THE COMPANY'S SLAVES AND ORDNANCE—DISTANCES FROM APOLLONIA TO ACCRA—DESCRIPTION OF CAPE COAST CASTLE.

It is not necessary for our present purpose to enter into the early history of the Gold Coast, the name given to that portion of the Guinea Coast (West Africa), which extends from the French Settlement of Assinee on the west to the River Volta on the east. Along this seaboard of roughly 250 miles, the flags of Portugal, England, Holland, Denmark, and Brandenburg once waved.

THE EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS.

The following Memoranda give the Official account of the European Settlements on the West Coast of Africa, up to the time when the Royal African Company of England was incorporated *:—

In 1443 the Portuguese established themselves on the Coast of Africa, and in the course of a few years they built several Forts for their protection against the Natives. No Europeans had before traded thither, and for many years they seized and confiscated the ships of all other nations.

* From Vol. 16, Africa 1785 to 1737, in Public Record Office.

In 1482 some London Merchants fitted out Vessels and opened a Trade with the Natives on the Coast. Some of these Vessels were seized by the Portuguese and confiscated.

In 1588 Queen Elizabeth granted an exclusive Charter for ten years to a Company of Merchants, to trade in Africa, from the northernmost of Senegal to the southernmost part of Gambia, including those Rivers.

In 1618 sundry Merchants were encouraged by Public Authority to trade to Africa. Soon after they built a Fort in the River Gambia and Cormantine on the Gold Coast.

In 1621 the Dutch, observing the attention of the English to the African Trade, established a Company, to whom they promised all the Lands they could conquer between the Tropic of Cancer and Cape of Good Hope. This Company soon after took possession of the Island of Goree, and built a Fort.

In 1637 the Dutch captured St. George de la Mina, and in the course of three years all the rest of the Portuguese Forts upon the Gold Coast.

In 1641 these Forts were secured to the Dutch by Treaty, in consequence of their giving up the conquests they had made in the Brazils to the Portuguese. Upon their paying to the Dutch a duty of ten per cent. on the Profits of the Trade they were permitted to "carry on" to the Gold Coast and Whydah for one hundred years. In consequence of these concessions the Dutch claimed the sole Property of Africa from Cape Palmas to Cape Lopez, and upon that ground captured several British traders.

In 1663 the Dutch had taken near twenty vessels, when Charles II. granted Letters Patent, with the exclusive Right of Trade to Africa, to Queen Catherine, Mary his Mother, the Duke of York, and several others, as the Company of Royal Adventurers, and sent Captain Holmes in a ship of War to Africa, who took Goree from the Dutch, as well as Cape Corse Castle, on the Gold Coast.

In 1664 Admiral de Ruyter retook Goree; he also took Cormantine and Taccarada (two English forts upon the Gold Coast).

In 1664-65, the Dutch refusing to make restitution, War was declared. The English still kept a footing in Africa, and by the 3rd Article of the Treaty of Breda, 1667, it was mutually agreed "that each party should keep and enjoy such Lands, Islands, Towns, Fortresses, Places, and Colonies,

as during that War, or before it, had by force of arms or otherwise, been taken from the other." In consequence thereof, the Dutch kept Cormantine and Taccarada, and the English Cape Corse.

The English African Company were so reduced by the War, and otherwise so unsuccessful in their commerce, that they surrendered their Charter to the Crown and, in consideration of £34,000, gave up their effects to a new Company.

In 1673 a new Company was erected under the Title of "The Royal African Company of England," to whom all the country was granted, from the Coast of Salle to the Cape of Good Hope, for one thousand years, and all other persons were excluded from trading within those limits. The new Company, in which the King and the Duke of York were included, subscribed £111,000, out of which the late Company were allowed £34,000 for their three forts, Cape Coast, Sierra Leone, and James Fort, in the Gambia.

The Dutch had then upon the Gold Coast seven Forts, the Danes two, the Brandenburgers three, and the English one (Cape Coast).

THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY OF ENGLAND.

We turn now to the affairs of the new Company. This Company applied themselves to place their Establishments in a position to cope with the Dutch, and they succeeded in building Forts, commencing from the west, at Dixcove, Secondee, Commendah, Annamaboe, Tantumquerry, Winnebah and Accra on the Gold Coast; and at Whydah on the Slave Coast. The Castle at Cape Coast was at the same time enlarged. The Forts and Factories were built on soil which belonged to natives, and a ground rent paid to the Chiefs of the several towns adjacent to the said Forts. The authority of the Merchants was not to extend outside their Forts.

Interspersed amongst the British Settlements, however, there were a number of Forts and Factories belonging to the Danes and Dutch. At Accra, the latter had each their Fort, as it were, next door to James's Fort (British). At Commendah the English and Dutch had each their fortified Factory.

THE COMPANY'S SLAVES AND ORDNANCE.

The following account of the Castle Slaves and Ordnance

GOLD COAST RECORDS

belonging to the Royal African Company at their several Forts on the Gold Coast in the year 1749 is taken from the First Schedule of the Act of 1752 (25 Geo. II., cap. 40).

At Cape Coast.

Castle Slaves.

Carpenters . . . 10	Blacksmiths . . . 7	Armourers . . . 3
Brickmakers . . . 3	Bricklayers . . . 9	Gunner . . . 1
Goldsmiths . . . 3	Slave Cooks . . . 2	Chief Cooks . . . 3
Doctor's Servants . . . 2	Coopers . . . 3	Chapel Servants . . . 7
Gold Takers . . . 2	Men . . . 137	Canoe Men . . . 20
Women . . . 79	Children . . . 76	Grand Total . . . 367

At Cape Coast.

Ordnance.

On the Platform	29 guns, iron
On the S.E. Bastion	6 guns, iron
On the S.W. Round Bastion.	6 guns, iron
On the N.W. Bastion	5 guns, iron
On the N.E. Bastion	6 guns, iron
On Greenhill Point	8 guns, iron
On the Parade	1 gun, brass
In the Spur	4 guns, iron, unserviceable
On the Lieutenant's Room	1 gun, brass
At Fort Royal	8 guns, iron, dismantled and nailed up
At Phipp's Tower	1 gun, iron

75 Total

Commendah.

Slaves :—Bomb boy 1, sawyers 10, women 6, children 5.

Ordnance.

S.W. Bastion	9 guns, iron
S.E. Bastion	8 guns, iron
—	6 guns, iron

GOLD COAST RECORDS

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Secondee.

Slaves :—Men 5, women 2, children 3.

Ordnance.

N. Bastion	6 guns, iron
W. Bastion	4 guns, iron
S. Bastion	6 guns, iron
E. Bastion	9 guns, iron
N.E. Curtain	5 guns, iron

Dick's Cove.

Slaves :—Sawyers 4, carpenters 4, smiths 4, masons 2, for all uses 43, sick 5.

Ordnance.

S. Platform	9 guns, iron
N.E. Bastion	5 guns, iron
S.W. Bastion	5 guns, iron
S.E. Bastion	2 guns, iron
S.W. Platform	1 gun, iron
N.W. Bastion	3 guns, iron

Tantumquerry.

Slaves :—Men 6, women 4.

Ordnance.

S.E. Bastion	4 guns, iron
S.W. Bastion	3 guns, iron
N.E. Bastion	4 guns, iron
N.W. Bastion	4 guns, iron
In the Tower	3 guns, iron, unserviceable

N.B.—All hardly fit for use.

Winnebah.

Slaves :—Men 8, women 5.

Ordnance.

S.E. Bastion	4 guns, iron
S.W. Bastion	3 guns, iron
N.E. Bastion	3 guns, iron
N.W. Bastion	3 guns, iron
Platform	2 guns, iron
Over the gate	2 guns, iron

Accra.

Slaves :—Men 7, women 15, children 4, canoe men 6.

Ordnance.

N.W. Bastion	6 guns, iron
N.E. Bastion	5 guns, iron
S.W. Bastion	4 guns, iron
S.E. Bastion	4 guns, iron
Platform	14 guns, iron

Whydah.

Slaves :—Men 33, women 46, children 27, canoe men 12.

Ordnance.

S.W. Bastion	9 guns, iron
S.E. Bastion	8 guns, iron
N.E. Bastion	6 guns, iron
N.W. Bastion	11 guns, iron
Parade	1 gun, iron

DISTANCES FROM APOLLONIA TO ACCRA.*

Time of travelling from Apollonia to Cape Coast Castle by Hammock, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour.

	Hrs.	Mins.	Hrs.	Mins.
From Apollonia to Axim	8	0	—	—
Axim to Dixcove	7	35	—	—
Dixcove to Boutrie	1	15	—	—
Boutrie to Taccorary	4	30	—	—
Taccorary to Secondee	1	10	—	—
Secondee to Chama	2	30	—	—
Chama to Commendah	3	0	—	—
Commendah to Elmina	2	25	—	—
Elmina to Cape Coast Castle	2	0	—	—

From Apollonia to Cape Coast Castle 32 25

From Accra to Cape Coast Castle at the same rate of travelling :—

	Hrs.	Mins.		
Accra to Lacom River	2	0	—	—
Fettah	5	20	—	—
Berracoo	6	30	—	—
Winnebah	9	10	9	10

* See Parliamentary Paper of 1842, entitled "Instructions to Commissioner of Inquiry."

GOLD COAST RECORDS

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	Hrs.	Mins.
Winnebah to Manguadie	1	20
Assam	2	15
Mumford	3	7
Lagos	4	12
Tantum	4	40

Tantum to Anaguah	3	0
Annamaboe	6	0
Cape Coast Castle	9	15

Distance from Accra to Cape Coast Castle	23	5
Apollonia to Cape Coast Castle	32	25

Apollonia to Accra	55	30

CAPE COAST CASTLE.

Here it will be convenient to say something about Cape Coast Castle, the head settlement of the African Company, and the official residence of the chief agent and President of the Council. We get the earliest and best account of the European Forts and Stations along the Gold Coast at the beginning of the eighteenth century from Bosman's *Description of Guinea*.*

The following particulars relating to Cape Coast are taken from this interesting work. He writes:—

At the town of Oegwa, or according to others, Cabocors, which is a cape bearing out at sea, is the English chief fort, which next to that of St. George d'Elmina, is the largest and most beautiful on the whole coast. Within it is well furnished with fine and well built dwelling places, before it they have also built a high turret to secure the lives of the people of the town, in case of an invasion of hostile negroes. The Fort is strengthened with four very large batteries,

* *A New and Accurate Description of the Coast of Guinea*, written originally in Dutch by William Bosman, Chief Factor for the Dutch at the Castle of St. George d'Elmina. (English translation, London, 1705.)

Bosman had resided for fourteen years at various stations on the Coast, in the days of the Royal African Company.

besides a fifth, on which are planted thirteen pieces of heavy cannon, and these being pointed at the water passage can easily prevent any ships of their enemies anchoring in that road; besides which a great rock lies just before the fort, so that it is impossible to shoot at it from the sea.

The worst of all is that here is generally but a very weak garrison, one part of which (I mean the soldiers) consists of such miserable poor wretches that the very sight of them excites pity. They look as awkward and as wrisled as an old company of Spaniards; the reason of which is, partly, that they greedily entertain those who quit or desert our service, which they will never deliver over to us out of a mistaken mercy, thereby freeing from their deserved punishment. And though by firm promises and mutual agreement we have frequently and interchangeably obliged ourselves not to countenance or entertain any deserters from each other, but, on the contrary, to send them home in irons, yet they have once more broken the articles; and notwithstanding that those who have run away are chiefly sottish wretches, yet they are very welcome to them, the English never being better pleased than when the soldier spends his money in drink, especially in punch, a liquor made of brandy, water, lime juice, and sugar, which make together an unwholesome mixture. . . . It is incredible how many are consumed by this damnable liquor (pardon the expression), which is not only confined to the soldiery, but some of the principal people are so bigotted to it that I really believe for all the time I was on the Coast that at least one of their agents, and factors innumerable, died yearly.

Under the English fort is the before-mentioned town, which was formerly well peopled, but it has suffered very much in the Commanian war.

Behind the town of Cape Coast the English have a round tower, upon which are planted six pieces of cannon, and garrisoned, I believe, with about as many men. This doth, or should serve, as they say, to keep the negroes of the town in awe, as well as defend them from all other negroes their enemies, that come from the inland country, but in my opinion, it is a perfect unnecessary charge, their Castle being so high that it will easily perform that office alone.

Upon the Danish mount (so called because the Danes possessed it before the English) is situate another fort, of which

the English boast so much as we do of ours at St. Jago, but without the least reason, for it lay four years more like a desolate country cottage than a fortress, its shattered walls being mended with clay, and its house within covered with reeds as those of the negroes. But at last, it seems, some well meaning officer has informed the gentlemen of the African Company in England of the wretched state of this fortress; for since the year 1699, they have been rebuilding of it, having entirely pulled down the old one.

CHAPTER II.

1750-1760.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY—THE AFRICAN COMPANY OF MERCHANTS INCORPORATED—APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS—INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNOR MELVIL—COMPENSATION TO ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY—ANNAMABOE FORT—CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION—NATIVE YOUTHS SENT TO ENGLAND—THE FRENCH ATTACK CAPE COAST CASTLE—ENGLISH AND DUTCH FORTS AT COMMENDAH.

DISSOLUTION OF THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY—THE AFRICAN COMPANY OF MERCHANTS INCORPORATED.

In 1750, at which date we have now arrived, the Royal African Company of England surrendered their Charter to the Crown. In that year an Act of Parliament (23 Geo. II., cap. 31) for extending and improving the Trade to Africa was passed, and the African Company of Merchants was formed.

The preamble of the Act recited, "Whereas the Trade to and from Africa is very advantageous to Great Britain, and necessary for supplying the Plantations and Colonies thereunto belonging with a sufficient number of negroes, at reasonable Rates; and for that purpose the said Trade ought to be free and open to all His Majesty's Subjects."

Clause II. enacted that "all His Majesty's Subjects trading to or from any of the Ports and Places of Africa, between Cape Blanco and the Cape of Good Hope, shall for ever hereafter be a body Corporate and Politick, in Name and in Deed, by the Name of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa."

Clause XXXIV. enacted that "the Royal African Company, their Directors, Officers and Servants and every of them, shall, for the space of one Year, to be computed from the 17th March, 1749, be and they are hereby restrained and disabled from assigning, transferring or disposing of all or any of their Military Stores, Ammunition, Slaves, Canoes, Vessels and Things necessary for the Use or Defence of their Forts and Settlements."

FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE.

On August 6, 1750, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, held in London

Present,

Mr. Richard Boddicott	Mr. Joseph Champion
Mr. Robert Scott	Mr. Charles Pole
Mr. Samuel Turner	Mr. Richard Gildart, Junr.
Mr. Samuel Dicker	Mr. Nathaniel Bassnett
Mr. Vincent Biscoe	

Mr. Charles Pole was elected Chairman by Lot.

Resolved, that ten by the Clock in the forenoon by the Royal Exchange Clock be the determined time for electing a Chairman at all future meetings.

That one hundred pounds per annum be deemed a sufficient salary for the person who shall be chosen secretary and accountant to this Committee.

That the person who shall be chosen secretary and accountant to this committee do give five hundred pounds security for the faithful discharge of this office.

That a Secretary and Accountant be now chosen . . . and Mr. William Hollier was unanimously chosen Secretary and Accountant to this Committee.

SEAL OF THE COMPANY OF MERCHANTS.

On December 11, 1750, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Resolved, That Mr. George Copeland be employed to engrave a Seal (as directed by Act of Parliament) in the following Manner upon Steel, viz. :—

A Ship in full Sail, Chief a Cornucopia and a Beehive environed with Bees, on the Dexter Side the Figure of America, on the Sinister Africa for Supporters. The Crest an armed Elephant with a Tower and Castle proper and St. George's Flag displayed. The following Legend to be engraved round, "Free Trade to Africa, by Act of Parliament, 1750," and to furnish a Press for the same, also to engrave the Crest above mentioned on a small Steel Seal set in an Ivory handle, all at the Price of £22 : 11 : 6, to be delivered in two Months.

CONFERENCE BETWEEN AFRICAN COMPANY AND COMPANY
OF MERCHANTS.

LONDON, 5th February, 1751,
GARRAWAY'S COFFEE HOUSE.

At a Conference between the Court of Assistants of the Royal African Company of England and the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa,

Present,

The Hon. John Vaughan, Esq., <i>Sub-Governor.</i>	Mr. Charles Pole. Mr. Vincent Biscoe.
Solomon Ashley, Esq., <i>Deputy Governor.</i>	Mr. Rd. Gildart, Junr. Mr. Joseph Champion.
Saville.	Mr. Nathaniel Bassnett.
Goddard.	Mr. Samuel Turner.
Vaughan.	Mr. Robert Scott.
Lake.	Mr. Samuel Bibby.
Spilman.	
Price.	
Maiden.	
Ashley.	

It was mutually agreed: That Thomas Melvil, Esq., be invested by the Royal African Company with the same Commission, Title and Powers that Mr. Roberts now has, and That Mr. Ebenezer Young do in the case of Mr. Melvil's Decease succeed him in the same, he giving such Security as the said Company shall require of Mr. Melvil.

That Copies of the Proceedings with Mr. Lascelles, and the Instructions to Mr. Roberts when he was sent out to Cape Coast, be sent to the Committee.

(Signed) R. SPENCE,
Secretary to the Royal African Company.
(Signed) W. HOLLIER.
Secretary to the Committee.

HIRE OF A SHIP TO CAPE COAST CASTLE.

On February 6, 1751, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, held in London, Several Proposals having been made by Owners of Ships, etc., for the Hire of a Ship to Cape Coast Castle, and the

Proposal of Captain Bonell (for Messieurs Buchanan and Hamilton) for the "Flying Flambro" appearing to be the lowest,

Resolved, That the following Agreement be made with Captain Bonell,

Agreed to let the whole Ship "Flying Flambro," myself Master, Burthen about 370 tons, reserving to myself the Gun Room and Round House, to be navigated by 30 Men and to carry and victual 60 Passengers for Six Hundred and fifty Pounds.

The Committee to pay £3 per Day Demurrage after 42 days lying in the Thames from this Day.

If there should be less than 60 Passengers the Captain to abate £5 per head, if more the Committee to pay the same. The Primage to be fixed at 10 Guineas.

(Signed) JOHN DOD BONELL.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.

On April 3, 1751, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London.

Messrs. Scott, Biscoe, Champion, Gildart, and Bassnett having reported to the Committee their Attendance upon a Committee of the House of Commons on Monday and yesterday and their having entered into Agreements with the Royal African Company of England with regard to the Appointments of Officers, etc., and the Covenants to be executed by the said Officers which were approved of by the Committee of th House of Commons.

Resolved, That the forementioned Agreements be confirmed and that the Agreement containing the Appointment of Officers be entered in the Minutes of this Day and that no Alteration be made therein unless occasioned by Death or Resignation.

Whereas in and by an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 23rd year of the Reign of his present Majesty intituled an Act for extending and improving the Trade to Africa A new Company was established by the Name of The Company of Merchants trading to Africa . . .

The said Royal African Company has agreed that the said New Company shall be at Liberty to nominate the Officers and Persons to whom the said £10,000, or the Goods and Stores in which the same is or shall be invested shall be

consigned, And in pursuance of such Agreement and Consent of the said Royal African Company, The said New Company have nominated and the said Royal African Company have confirmed and do by these Presents agree to grant proper Commissions to the several Persons named in the following List in the several Stations and Capacities and at the several Salaries set against their respective Names upon proper Securities—viz.,

FOR CAPE COAST CASTLE.

	PER ANNUM.
Thomas Melvil, Esq.	President of the Council, Chief Agent, Treasurer and Warehouse Keeper £400
William Husbands	Chief Agent 200
Thomas Boteler	Chief Agent and Accountant 200
Ebenezer Young	Assistant to Mr. Melvil, and Successor to all his Titles, etc., in Case of his Death and Member of the Council upon his Arrival 100
Matthew Mackaile	Physician and Surgeon 100
William Tymewell	Factor 80
Joseph Harmer	Factor 80
John Emerton	Factor 80
John Russell	Factor 80
James Wickliffe	Factor 80
Charles Bonville	Writer 60
Andrew Farquhar	Writer 60
Joseph Sayer	Writer 60
John Andrews	Writer 60
James Perrott	Surgeon's Mate 60
Richard Westgate	Surgeon's Mate 60
John Slater	Engineer and Surveyor —
10 Tradesmen	as shall be hereafter agreed —
30 Soldiers 27

INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNOR MELVIL.

On April 17, 1751, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Ordered, That the following Instructions be delivered to Thomas Melvil, Esq.:

Instructions from the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa to Thomas Melvil, Esq., nominated by the said Committee and confirmed by the Royal African Company of England Chief Agent President of the Council Treasurer and Warehousekeeper at Cape Coast Castle upon the Gold Coast of Africa.

Whereas by an Act passed in the 23rd Year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Second intituled an Act for extending and improving the Trade to Africa it is among other Things enacted that all his Majesty's Subjects who shall trade to or from any of the Ports or Places in Africa between Cape Blanco and the Cape of Good Hope shall for ever hereafter be deemed a body corporate and politick by the Name of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa And Whereas the Committee of the said Company for the Time being legally chosen are by the said Act vested with Power to direct the Affairs of the said Company And Whereas the Right Honble. the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have issued to this Committee the sum of £10,000 granted by Parliament for the Use Support Maintenance and Preservation of the Forts and Settlements upon the Coast of Africa now in the possession of the Royal African Company of England which sum of £10,000 or the greatest Part thereof is now invested by the said Committee in Stores Goods etc. for the Purpose aforesaid And whereas from the good Opinion the said Committee have of the Diligence Capacity and Integrity of Mr. Thomas Melvil now going to Cape Coast Castle upon the Coast of Africa and in Regard to the Security given by him to the said Committee they have consigned to him a Supply of Men Goods Stores and Provisions amounting to £ as per Invoices shipped on board the " Flying Flambro " John Dod Bonell Master as per Bill of Lading enclosed. Now upon the arrival of you Thomas Melvil, Esq., you are to proceed immediately and with all possible Despatch to unload and take on Shore all the above Supplies and when received to endorse the Bill of Lading and transmit the same to the Committee by the first Opportunity and as soon as the Goods are safely landed you are to give to Captain Bonell what Assistance and Despatch is in your Power to supply him with Wood, Water and Ballast And you are to apply and dispose of the Goods for the Use of the said Company's Forts and Settlements upon the Gold Coast

according to the Wants and Necessities they shall respectively be in and to sell barter exchange or otherwise dispose of the same agreeable to the Course and Nature of Trade usually carried on in those Parts in the best Manner and to the best Advantage you can and apply and dispose of the Profits and Produce of the same for and towards the Preservation and Support of the said Settlements and Trade to Africa in such Manner as shall best answer those Purposes And to the end that you may discharge the Trust reposed in you by the Committee aforesaid to the Satisfaction of the Publick you are to make fair Entries in a Book or Books for that Purpose of the Application Disposal and Expenditure of the Goods Stores and Provisions consigned you as aforesaid with the most proper and authentic Vouchers for each Article that can be procured And you are to transmit them the said Accounts and Vouchers by as frequent Opportunities as the Nature of the Business will admit and you are to make up and balance your Books every Six Months and transmit fair Copies thereof to the Committee by two different Conveyances.

And whereas there may be many arrears due and owing to the Royal African Company to their Servants residing at the Forts and Settlements upon the Gold Coast of Africa on the Arrival of you Thomas Melvil Esqre. you are not to pay the same or any part of them from these Supplies but to apply the same and the Produce of them only to and for the Support of the said Forts and Settlements and the Payment of Salaries which last are to commence either from the Expiration of one year from the Time the Goods sent out by Mr. Lascelles arrived upon the Coast or the final Expenditure of the said Goods as shall appear to be most expedient.

And you are to charge the Allowances for Salaries and Subsistence to yourself and those under your Direction according to an Establishment agreed on by the Committee a Copy of which is herewith delivered to you and all other necessary Expenses in which We recommend to you the utmost Frugality and Good Management And whereas the Committee are to account with the Public for this Money you are required to take special Care that the Goods etc consigned to you be kept distinct and separate from any other Moneys, Goods, Stores, etc. which may be in the Possession of the Agents now residing at the Forts or at the Time of your Arrival there by which Means the Accounts you are

to send home will be kept clear and free from every Thing that does not relate to the Trust reposed in the Committee. So soon as you conveniently can after your arrival the Committee recommend you to send them a true State of the Condition of the Forts with an Inventory of every Thing in each of them and the Number of People you think necessary for the Support and Protection of them and also an Account of whatever is wanting from hence for Repairs and an Estimate of what Repairs will amount to as near as you can judge. If any Settlements or Encroachments should be made or attempted by any Foreign Power or Person whomsoever you are to oppose and prevent the same as much as in you lies and to give the Committee advice thereof by every Opportunity and of your Conduct therein. You are to transmit to the Committee every two months an exact Muster Roll of all the Officers Factors Writers Servants Soldiers and Slaves who are living at the Time at Cape Coast Castle and all the other Forts and Settlements upon the Gold Coast with a Clause inserted therein acknowledging that they and each of them have received their Pay to the Date of each Muster Roll which must be signed by every Person named therein or their marks set thereto and you are also to send an Account of every Person who dies there the Times when they died and in what Station and the Death of every Person who dies there must be certified by the Surgeon or his Assistant with the Cause thereof and the Places which becomes vacant by such Deaths must be supplied in what relates to the Forts by the Council and such as relate to the Goods by yourself until such Time as you can have the Direction of the Committee therein. You are to take a particular Account of every Vessel that comes upon the Coast what Part they come from the Time of their Arrival and Departure what number of Slaves they have on board and to what Place they are bound and transmit the same to the Committee by every convenient Opportunity And as it is the first and principal Care and Design in the Act by which we are constituted that every British Subject should have a free Trade to Africa you are most essentially required to give every British Vessel Agent or Factor all reasonable Aid and Assistance and to allow them free Intercourse with the Natives who trade under the Command of your Forts or within the Extent of your Influence without Partiality or

Preference. And in order to render the Forts of the most extensive Use to the general Trade of Great Britain upon the Coast of Africa you are strictly enjoined not to trade on your own Account with any Foreigner nor suffer any other Person to do it on any Pretence whatever so far as it is in your Power to prevent it with this Exception that as Gold and Brazil Tobacco brought on that Coast by the Portuguese are necessary for the Payment of the Negroes and other Commodities as well as Salaries and other Necessaries your Judgment is to direct you how far a trade may be carried on with the Portuguese for these two Articles in which you may indulge yourself and others as opportunity shall offer or Convenience require. These Exclusions are not designed to prevent your giving Assistance to any foreign Vessel in real Distress, there your Humanity will Direct you to do what the Law of Nations requires from People who are in Amity with each other but this is not to be extended farther than Relief from their immediate Distress.

If any Circumstances should arise which are not seen or provided for in these Instructions you are to conduct yourself therein according to the best of your Skill Power and Judgment having always in your view the Preservation of the British Property and Trade and for your better Government We herewith deliver you for the Use of yourself and the Council the Act of Parliament passed last Sessions for our Establishment.

In Case of your Decease which God forbid We do appoint Mr. Ebenezer Young to succeed you in the Management and Disposal of the Goods and Supplies sent out by the Committee and hereby direct him to observe the foregoing and such other Instructions as shall from Time to Time be transmitted by the Committee.

I do acknowledge to have received a Copy of the foregoing Instructions and do hereby promise to observe the same.

London, 17th April, 1751.

(Signed) THOMAS MELVIL.

LETTER TO GOVERNOR MELVIL LAID BEFORE THE BOARD
OF TRADE.

On January 29, 1752, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Ordered, That the following Letter to Thomas Melvil Esq. be laid before the Board of Trade :—

SIR,—The Account of your Arrival at Cape Coast Castle on the 20th June, which we received by your Letter of the 11th July, was very agreeable to us and we heartily wish you the continuance of that Health you then enjoyed.

Your Behaviour in Captain — Palaver is very much to our Satisfaction and we doubt not but you will accommodate yourself to the Natives so as to engage them in the general Interest of the English even though they might differ with an Individual, upon which Occasion you will endeavour to place the Expenses as you have done in this Instance upon those who ought to pay it

We hope you have put a Stop to the Dutch Dispute at Dixcove by a proper Explanation with General Van Voorst, but as your Letters by Captain Bonell are not yet come to hand (though he is arrived at Jamaica), we are still unacquainted with the Cause and Nature of that Quarrel, if they should continue their Endeavours to prejudice the English with the Natives we expect you will furnish us with an Account of Facts, so attested as to induce the Ministry to remonstrate with Holland against such Measures ; as we have laid your Letter before the Lords of the Admiralty, we doubt not but they have given proper Instructions to the Captains of the Men of War upon that Head.

We are afraid you will have had a second visit from the French with a Power more than equal to any Thing you can oppose to it unless by prudent Conduct you had so secured the good will of the Natives as to keep them at Bay till the arrival of a superior naval Power which is sailed from hence with Orders we apprehend to preserve the British property and Interest upon the Gold Coast against any Power who shall attempt the Disturbance of either.

We have sent you a broad Sword for John Corraantee and make no Doubt from his late gallant Behaviour that he will be always ready to use it in the service of the British Nation ; when you present it to him you will give him our Thanks for his Attachment to this Company.

We are pleased to hear that his son William is so well considered by the Coast ; the use you make of him at Annamaboe is a very satisfactory Mark to us of your Prudence in

endeavouring to secure the Interest of the Natives, a Thing that we can never enough recommend to your Attention.

The Arguments you make Use of against the Necessity of building a fort at Annamaboe seem to us to operate strongly to the contrary. Surely a Fort there will furnish you with more certain means of securing the Government of Corrantee's Family or of putting it into such hands as upon a future Election shall be found most proper to preserve the British Interest, and will it not likewise be the most effectual means to prevent the French from giving us any further trouble upon that Coast?—however the affair is under the Consideration of the Government and till we have their Opinion we shall say no more upon the Subject.

We are glad the Cargo sent last year proves so advantageous, your Directions are followed very closely in every Thing relating to that now sent you and except the advanced Price upon the East India Goods and such as could not be had we think you will find every Thing in this equal to the former.

Your Indulgence to the Factors and Writers in admitting them to the Table during the great scarcity of Provisions is very commendable; we hope it is only a temporary Thing and that by this Time they are returned to their usual Custom, but till we have from you the Estimate which is required by your Instructions it is impossible for us to judge of a proper Allowance for the Diet of the Officers etc.

We think you was (*sic*) right in retaining a sum sufficient in your Hands to subsist the People you carried out and those you found in the Service and before you pay that large Demand of Arrears we hope you will examine it very carefully to see that none of it arises upon Account of the old Company or before the 2nd February last; as the Parliament have voted £10,000 you may depend upon a regular Supply.

In Regard to your Trade with the French we refer you to your former Instructions, which we expect you to comply with minutely till we shall think proper to make any Alterations.

You will supply the Ship with Wood, Water and Ballast and dispatch her with all Expedition agreeable to your Instructions.

COMPENSATION TO THE ROYAL AFRICAN COMPANY

In 1752 an Act of Parliament (25 Geo. II., cap. 40) was

passed, which provided for "making Compensation and Satisfaction to the Royal African Company of England for their Charter, Lands, Forts, Castles, Slaves, Military Stores, and all other their Effects whatsoever, and to vest the Lands, Forts, Castles, Slaves, and Military Stores. and all other their Effects, in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa."

The preamble of the Act recited "That the Royal African Company of England, from and after the tenth Day of April one thousand seven hundred and fifty-two, shall be, and they are hereby absolutely divested of and from their said Charter, Lands, Forts, Castles, and Military Stores, Canoe Men, Castle Slaves, and all other their Estate, Property and Effects whatsoever."

Clause III. recited that "Whereas it appears that a certain Island situate in the River Sierra Leone, on the said Coast of Africa, called Bance Island, with a Fort and Buildings thereon, having been formerly in the Possession of the said Royal African Company, was in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight deserted by the said Company and their Agents; and the said Fort for some Time past has been, and is now in the Possession of Alexander Grant, John Sargent, and Richard Oswald of London, Merchants, who have disbursed a considerable Sum in the Preservation and Improvement of the said Island and Fort; and for which it is just and reasonable they should receive a Recompense;" Be it therefore enacted: That they the said Alexander Grant, John Sargent, and Richard Oswald, shall be at Liberty, notwithstanding this present Act, to continue in the quiet Possession of the said Island, Fort and Buildings thereon, and that the same shall henceforth continue, and be absolutely vested in them, the said Alexander Grant, John Sargent, and Richard Oswald, their Heirs and Assigns, to and for their own Use and Benefit; any Thing herein, or in any former Act or Acts of Parliament contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Clause IV. Provided "That it shall not be lawful for them, the said Alexander Grant, John Sargent, and Richard Oswald, or any of them, or their Heirs or Assigns, to demise, grant or alienate their Right and Interest therein, to any Person or Persons whatsoever, being Foreigners."

Clause IX. enacted that "for making a full Compensation and Satisfaction to the Royal African Company of England

for their said Charter . . . that there may and shall be applied and paid the Sum of one hundred and twelve thousand one hundred and forty two Pounds three Shillings and three Pence, without Account, to such Persons and in such Proportions, and in such Manner, as is hereinafter particularly directed and appointed.”

ANNAMABOE FORT BUILT BY ENGLISH.

In November, 1751, the Committee of the African Company of Merchants in London presented a Memorial to the King, in which they represented the great importance and necessity of erecting a new Fort at Annamaboe in the place where the old one stood, as a means to prevent the French from depriving His Majesty's subjects of the valuable Trade to Africa.

In May, 1752, this Proposal was approved by the Government, and the Memorialists were recommended to lose no Time in carrying on the said Work.

At a Meeting held on June 10, 1752, the Committee submitted the following :—

That the old Fort was nearly an equilateral Triangle, and the length of the Walls between 70 and 80 feet.

That the Foundation of the old Fort might serve for the inner Wall of the new but that it would be necessary to add a Bastion to each Angle and a Redoubt of six 9 Pounders between Annamaboe and Aggah, about half Gun Shot from the Shore.

That the Walls should be filled up with Sand or Shingle not with Earth or Clay.

That twelve 12 Pounders be mounted on the Face and Angles of the Bastion to the Sea.

That four 6 Pounders be mounted on each Curtain and 4 Pounders on each Bastion Inland.

That Guns be sent immediately and a Fascine Battery raised.

That Slaves be sent from Gambia to clear the Tank and assist in other work.

That there is no Necessity to send Stone from hence for the Angles of the Bastions.

That Bricks, Lime, Tarras, Fir Timber, Boards, Nails and Smith's work must be sent from hence and that the Lime should go in Rice Cask or Tierces to hold 6 or 700.

In January, 1753, a further Memorial upon the erection of a Fort at Annamaboe was presented, in which the Committee submitted the following :—

“ Your Memorialists immediately applied themselves to the Execution of the said Work and having (by the Advice of the Surveyor General of the Ordnance) contracted with an Engineer and agreed to the Plan of a Fort proposed by him, they directly procured such Stores and Materials as were necessary to be sent from hence amounting to £6,116 : 3 : 9 (as appears by an Account of the Particulars hereunto annexed) and dispatched the same by sundry Ships in the month of October last.

“ That your Memorialists from a conviction of the Necessity of expediting the Work applied the said sum of £6,116 : 3 : 9 out of the £10,000 granted by Parliament and issued by your Lordships for the Support of the Forts and Trade to Africa for the Year 1752 upon a Dependance that the same would be replaced this Session of Parliament, rather choosing to put the Officers and Servants upon the Coast to the Inconvenience of waiting a few Months for the Supply than that so necessary a Work should be in the least retarded,

“ Your Memorialists therefore humbly hope that it will appear to your Lordships absolutely necessary to provide the sum of £6,116 : 3 : 9 more than the annual Sum heretofore granted.”

The following extracts from the reports of the Engineer Superintendent at Annamaboe to the Honourable Board of Ordnance, relating to the New Fort, may not be without interest :—

ANNAMABOE,
9th March, 1753.

I beg leave to acquaint your Honours that I arrived at Annamaboe the 4th of January and the next Day began to unload the Store Ships, and by the Assistance of the Company's Slaves, and the Inhabitants of the Town, we have this day finished the Unloading and Ballasting all the Store Ships.

The 25th of January I attempted to lay down the Plan of the New Fort, on the Ground where the Old one stood ; but as the Old Fort did not take up above One Fifth of the Ground the New one will require, the Cabboccers (or Chief

Magistrates of the Town) object to it, for reason they were used very ill by the Chiefs of the Old Fort, tho' small, and they were afraid of the Consequence of letting the English build a large Fort, as it stands in the Middle between the two Towns (for this Place is distinguished by the Cabboceer and Fishing Towns), but by the Mediation of John Currantee (who is Captain of those Towns under the King of Fanteen) and a few others that are Cabboceers of the Place, I have hopes of prevailing on the rest of the Town, to give me what Ground I shall want, by shortening the Faces of the Bastion from 55 to 50 Feet in length, being bound by the Beach (where the Inhabitants must have a Road to carry their Dead past the Fort to their Burying Ground) on one side, and the Houses on the other three Sides.

As is the Custom of the Country to bury the Chiefs of their Families in their Houses, no Reward will prevail on them to take down the least Part for our convenience.

The Length of both Towns from East to west is one Mile and $\frac{1}{4}$ and built along the Beach, the Breadth from North to South half a Mile. The Old Fort stands in the Middle between both Towns, on a Rock eight Feet above High Water Mark, and sixty Yards distant. There is a steep Beach opposite the Fort, but a tolerable Good Landing Place for Canoes (what they are obliged to make Use of along the Coast) on a flat sandy part of the Beach between the Rocks opposite the Gate of the Fort. I shall be obliged to blow up about six Feet perpendicular of Rock under the greatest part of the New Fort for the conveniency of getting Stone for building; the Quantity of Bricks, sent out, will only raise the Parapet and Houses the Inside of the Fort, and levelling the Ground the Inside.

I can muster no more than Twelve Bricklayers, White and Black, on the Coast, including the Five I brought out with me, three of which are hardly worth the Name; by the Number of Bricklayers I have at present, I am afraid I cannot answer the Committee's expectation in having the Fort built in Two Years. They told me there was about Thirty Bricklayers I was to have on the Coast, but I can find no more than Seven, however shall contribute all that lies in my Power towards having it finished as soon as possible

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN APPERLEY.

ANNAMABOE,

22nd April, 1753.

The People here think we only intend to impose upon them in saying we will build a Fort, for they hardly believe we intend it, by having so few Artificers; we have surviving but Three White Bricklayers and six Black. I've bound Twelve new Slaves as Bricklayers; and have by this Ship applied to the Committee that they should send to Gambia (where the best Slaves for their Use are) for Forty Men Slaves, to make Artificers of them, for they have none at present on the Coast, and their Forts are one half tumbling down for Want of Repairs, and the others are not worth the Name in comparison to the Dutch Forts upon the Coast; as the Dutch Forts along the Coast are built within half a Mile and some less of our Forts, they lye open to the Insults of the Dutch Governors, which often happens, as they are not in a Condition to make any Resistance, few of them having more than Three White Men in them. The Governor of Cape Coast has represented to me, that there is but few Guns in any of the Forts upon the Coast, but what they are in Danger of their Lives in firing them, being all Honeycombed. Most of the Guns at Cape Coast Castle, I know, are in that Condition, that in case of an Attack from any Enemy few of them would stand Firing four times.

I have nothing further to add at present, but that I have buried one Factor and three Artificers since I arrived; all the rest of the White Men, I brought out with me, now lye dangerously ill.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN APPERLEY.

ANNAMABOE,

11th October, 1753.

I beg leave to acquaint you that I laid the Foundation of Part of the New Fort at this Place 18th August last (after being interrupted by the Inhabitants three different times without giving me any Reason for so doing) with the Consent and in Presence of all the Magistrates and People of Annamaboe, and have hitherto gone on (unmolested by the Inhabitants) with as much Success as many be expected

from so small a Number of People, having but 8 Masons and 18 Labourers at present, and not so many when I laid the Foundation.

The South East Bastion is 10 Feet high above the Foundation. I intend to raise it to 17 Feet (to the Cordon) before I lay any fresh Foundations, having so few Hands, can carry on but a small Space at one time.

The Inhabitants expect the French here this Month, with Men of War and Storeships with Materials to build their New Fort which has occasioned their being (the Inhabitants) very insolent to us for some time past, and more so at present as they soon expect the French with Forty Thousand Pound they had promised them Two Years ago for Ground to build their (the French) Fort at one End of the Town.

We have had no English Men of War upon the Coast since May last. The French Trading Ships along the Coast Anchor and Trade in our Roads without Interruption, for Want of Men of War here to keep them off the English Trade, and the Design of building a Fort here is very much hurt by them.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JOHN APPERLEY.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION AT CAPE COAST.

In 1752 the first attempt was made to introduce Christianity among the people. The following is an extract from the "Missionary Hand Book of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel":—

"The Society's entrance into the African field was due to the zeal of one of its early missionaries in America, the Rev. Thomas Thompson. Having resigned a Fellowship at Christ's College, Cambridge, in order to become a missionary in the cause of Christ, and having done great service for over five years (1745-50) by his labours in New Jersey, Mr. Thompson devoted himself to the work at Cape Coast Castle on the Gold Coast from 1752 till 1756 when, broken in health, he returned to England.

"In the meantime (1754) he had sent to England three negro boys, to be trained at the Society's expense as missionaries to their countrymen. Two died, but the survivor, Philip Quaque, became the first of any non-European race (at least since the Reformation) to receive ordination in the

Anglican Communion, returning to the Gold Coast in 1765, and labouring there until his death in 1816. The Mission was discontinued in 1824.”

SERVANTS OF COMPANY TRADING IN SLAVES.

On May 10, 1753, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Read a Letter from the Committee of the African Company in Liverpool complaining of the consequences of the Governor and the other Officers upon the Coast being permitted to trade in Slaves and desiring that they may be restrained therefrom.

The Committee proceeded to the Consideration of the Complaints of the Merchants of Bristol of great Injury done to their Trade upon the Gold Coast of Africa by the Liberty allowed the Servants of the Company to trade in Slaves, and to which Cause they impute the high Prices which have been lately given for same; and having gone through the Examination of the Evidence brought by Messrs. Wansey and Harris and taken it into Consideration together with their Letters containing their Observations upon the said Evidence and Proposals for remedying the Inconveniences complained of, and also the Letter from a Committee of the African Merchants in Liverpool with the like Proposals.

Resolved, That the following Instructions be sent to the Governor and other Officers upon the Gold Coast.

That for the future no joint Trade shall be carried on by the Servants of the Company residing at different Forts upon any Pretence whatever.

That no Servant of the Company do presume to send out any Servant or Slave up the Country or Paths to intercept or prevent the Slave Trade from coming freely down to the Shipping.

That none of the Warehouses, Vessels, Canoes, or other Craft belonging to the Company shall be made Use of for the Lodgement or Conveyance of any Goods except such as are sent out by the Committee for the Payment of Salaries and the Support of the Forts and Settlements, but in such Cases as the Act of Parliament directs.

That no Servants of the Company be permitted to lodge any Slaves in any of the Castles or to export any Slaves purchased upon their own Accounts from any Part of the Coast.

That the Chief of every out Fort as well as the Governor of Cape Coast Castle be directed not only to prevent every Obstruction to the free Exercise of the Trade of Settlers in their neighbouring Towns but to encourage and protect them as much as possible.

That the like Instructions be given them to assist to the utmost the Commanders and Companies of every British Ship in the Prosecution of their Trade and in wooding and watering their Ships.

NATIVE YOUTHS SENT TO ENGLAND.

Two native youths who were sent to England by the Governor and Council at Cape Coast Castle in 1753 returned to Africa in the year 1755. The reports of the African Committee in London give the following particulars:—

21st November, 1753, Extract from Letter to Governor at Cape Coast :

As to the Fantee Law and Treaty we think your conduct very commendable and recommend it strongly to you to endeavour to avail us of the Advantages of this Treaty by your Interest among the Natives upon the Coast, we hope the Benefits they receive in general from our Commerce, the Presents which you are enabled to make the Principal People and a proper Behaviour to all will produce the End you propose and prevent the French from gaining a Settlement upon that Coast till the Expense of their fruitless Endeavours shall deter them from any future Attempts.

The Hostage brought over by Captain Cockburn and Anima's Son who came here with that Gentleman, we shall educate properly, and if possible by our Behaviour, secure them warmly in our Interest.

25th September, 1754,—Read a letter from Captain George Cockburn, dated Wombwell Hall, 18th September, 1754, enclosing an Account for Two Black Boys, to July 22nd, 1754, amounting to £79 : 4 : 1. Ordered that the said £79 : 4 : 1 be paid to Captain Cockburn.

23rd October, 1754,—Ordered, That a Letter be wrote (*sic*) to the Lords of the Admiralty to procure an Order for the Two Black Boys, now come from Rochester ; to be taken on board the " Gosport," Captain Edwards, to be carried to Africa.

Ordered, That the Two Black Boys, Aqua and Sackee, be supplied with the following Apparel, viz. :—

12 Ruffled Shirts.

1 Blue Coat and Breeches for each lined with White, laced with Silver, and Silver Buttons.

1 Scarlet Cloth Waistcoat for each trimmed with Silver.

2 Frocks and Breeches.

2 Scarlet worsted Waistcoats.

2 Silver laced Hats.

2 Bay Wiggs.

8 pairs of white Stockings.

4 „ of worsted ditto.

8 „ of Pumps.

2 „ of Strong Shoes.

2 „ of Silver Buckles.

And that Mr. Peregrine Cust be desired to provide the same.

Agreed with Mr. Waters for the Board and Lodging of the Two Black Boys, at One Guinea per week for each; washing and other expenses, attending and shewing them the Town, to be allowed him.

1st November, 1754.—The Secretary reported, that he had waited upon my Lord Halifax with the Two Black Boys, who expressed himself well pleased with seeing them; desired that he might see them again; and several times repeated his Desire, that they might stay a longer Time in England, which the Black Boys also earnestly requested.

26th February, 1755.—Mr. Peregrine Cust delivered to the Committee several Bills on Account of the Two Black Gentlemen, John Aqua and George Sackee, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
The Rev. Mr. John Moore's Bill, for Board, Schooling and necessaries	40	8	6
Mr. Richard Watters, for Board, Nursing, etc.	17	11	0
Mr. Thomas Thornley, Apothecary, for Physick for Mr. Sackee in the Small Pox	2	4	2
Mr. Thomas Thornley's Bill for Doctor's Fees and Physick for Mr. Aqua in the Small Pox	18	5	8
Mr. Peregrine Cust's for Two Suits of Clothes for the Two Gentlemen	14	10	0
	<hr/>		
	£92	19	4

Ordered, That £92 : 19 : 4 be paid to Mr. Peregrine Cust to pay the above Bill.

28th May, 1755.—Paid the Rev. Mr. John Moore £42 : 6 : 2 for a Quarter's Education and Maintenance of the Two Black Gentlemen John Acqua and George Sackee.

Also William and Edward Loxham £4 : 15 : 6 for a Sword for Mr. George Sackee in the Room of the one which he lost.

Ordered, That a letter be wrote (*sic*) to John Cleveland Esq. to procure an Order from the Lords of the Admiralty for the Two Black Gentlemen to be taken on board the "Humber" Man of War, Captain Scott, to be carried to Africa.

9th July, 1755.—The Committee in order to entertain the Two Black Gentlemen before their departure for Africa have agreed to give them a Dinner at the King's Arms, Cornhill, on Wednesday next, the 16th Instant.

CONDITION OF THE FORTS AND SETTLEMENTS.

On September 24, 1755, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Read Letter from John Pownall Esq. to the Committee, Whitehall, September 16th, 1755, -desiring their Attendance on the Board of Trade, as on Thursday last.

The Committee attended accordingly, and being asked their Opinion as to the present State and Condition of the British Forts and Settlements upon the Coast of Africa, and what might be further done for their Security; also which of them they thought was most exposed to Danger.

They presented to the Board, a particular Survey of all the British Forts and Settlements on the Coast, taken by Captain Edwards of H.M. Ship "Gosport" in 1755: they also represented that the Forts having never been in a Condition to hold out a Siege against an European Force; but built for the Protection of the Natives, and as Marks of the British Rights on the Coast; Men of War were the only Means of preserving them.

That James Fort in the River Gambia, from its situation and Vicinity to Goree and Senegal, Two strong French Settlements, was in the greatest Danger of an Attack.

In which Sentiments their Lordships seemed to agree.

ALLOWANCE FOR PROCURING SOLDIERS.

On January 5, 1757, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London.

Mr. John Blackwood, the Crimp, who procures Soldiers, having attended the Committee, represented that the East India Company allowed him £1 : 11 : 6, for each Soldier he procured for them ; on account of the great Difficulty and Charge, with which the procuring them is at present attended ; and desiring the same Allowance from the Committee for those he is now to provide for them.

Resolved, That Mr. John Blackwood be allowed £1 : 11 : 6 for each of the Ten Soldiers, he procures for the Committee to be sent to Cape Coast Castle, by the "Unity."

THE FRENCH ATTACK ON CAPE COAST CASTLE.

The Seven Years War began in 1756. In 1757 Cape Coast Castle was attacked by a small French squadron.

The following account of this short and fruitless attack is taken from Smollett's "History of England" (chap. vii., Book III.) :—

ATTEMPT OF M. DE KERSIN ON CAPE COAST CASTLE.

The French King not only exerted himself against the English in America, but even extended his operations to their settlements in Africa, which he sent one of his naval commanders, with a small squadron, to reduce. This gentleman, whose name was Kersin, had scoured the coast of Guinea, and made prize of several English trading ships : but his chief aim was to reduce the Castle at Cape Coast, of which had he gained possession, the other subordinate forts would have submitted without opposition. When Mr. Bell, the Governor of this Castle, received intelligence that M. de Kersin was a few leagues to windward, and certainly intended to attack Cape Coast, his whole garrison did not exceed thirty white men, exclusive of a few Mulatto soldiers : his stock of ammunition was reduced to half a barrel of gun powder ; and his fortifications were so crazy and inconsiderable, that, in the opinion of the best engineers, they could not have sustained for twenty minutes the fire of one great ship, had it been properly directed and maintained. In these circumstances, few people would have dreamed of making any preparation for defence ; but Mr. Bell entertained other

sentiments, and acquitted himself with equal courage and discretion. He forthwith procured a supply of gunpowder, and a reinforcement of about fifty men, from certain trading vessels that happened to be upon that part of the coast. He mounted some spare cannon upon an occasional battery, and assembled a body of twelve hundred negroes, well armed, under the command of their chief, on whose attachment he could depend, and ordered them to take post at the place where he apprehended the enemy would attempt a landing. These precautions were hardly taken when the French squadron, consisting of two ships of the line and a large frigate, appeared, and in a little time their attack began, but they met with such a warm reception that in less than two hours they desisted, leaving the Castle very little damaged and immediately made sail for the West Indies, very much to the disappointment and mortification of the Dutch officers belonging to the fort of Elmina, in the same neighbourhood, who made no scruple of expressing their wishes publicly in favour of the French Commodore and at a distance viewed the engagement with the most partial eagerness and impatience. M. de Kersin was generally blamed for his want of conduct and resolution in this attempt: but he is said to have been deceived in his opinion of the real state of Cape Coast Castle, by the vigorous and resolute exertions of the Governor, and was apprehensive of losing a mast in the engagement; a loss which he could not have repaired on the whole coast of Africa. Had the fort of Cape Coast been reduced on this occasion, in all probability every petty republick of the negroes, settled under the protection of the forts on the Gold Coast, would have revolted from the British interest: for while the French squadron, in their progress along shore, hovered in the offing at Annamaboe, an English settlement a few leagues to leeward of Cape Coast, John Corrantee, the caboceiro, chief magistrate and general of the blacks on that part of the coast, whose adopted son had a few years before been caressed, and even treated as a Prince in England, taking it for granted that this enterprise of the French would be attended with success, actually sent some of his dependants, with a present of refreshments for their Commodore; the delivery of which, however, was prevented by Mr. Brew, the English chief of the fort, who shattered in pieces the canoe before it could be launched, and threatened

with his cannon to level the black town with the dust. The caboceiro, though thus anticipated in his design, resolved to be among the first who should compliment M. de Kersin on his victory at Cape Coast; and, with this view, prepared an embassy or deputation to go there by land; but, understanding that the French had failed in their attempt, he shifted his design, without the least hesitation, and dispatched the same embassy to Mr. Bell, whom he congratulated on his victory, assuring him he had kept his men ready armed to march at the first summons to his assistance.

THE RIGHT TO WORK THE GOLD MINES.

On January 4, 1758, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Read a Letter from John Pownall, Esq., Whitehall, December 21, 1757, acquainting the Committee, that the Lords of Trade desire their Opinion whether the Right of the Gold Mines upon the Coast of Africa, which was granted to the late Royal African Company of England, under certain Limitations; are or are not vested in the present Company of Merchants trading to Africa, by the Act of the 23rd of his present Majesty, for extending, and improving the Trade to Africa.

Ordered, That the Secretary do write to Mr. Pownall, desiring him to acquaint the Lords of Trade, that as the Acts of the 23rd and 25th of his present Majesty vest in the present Company, all the Property granted by Charter to the late Royal African Company, The Committee are of Opinion, the present Company have the same Right to all Mines upon the Coast of Africa, under such Limitations as they were granted to the Old Company, and that in Consequence thereof, Mr. Thynne, or any other Freeman of the Company may seek out, and work such Mines.

ENGLISH AND DUTCH FORTS AT COMMENDAH.

On June 27, 1759, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Ordered, That the following Memorial be presented to the Lords of the Admiralty.

That by an Extract of a Letter from Nassau Senior, Eso,

Governor of Cape Coast Castle, dated February 3rd, 1759, and delivered to John Cleveland, Esq., on the 22nd of this Instant June, it appears that the Governors of the Dutch Forts upon the Gold Coast are endeavouring to dispossess the English of the common Right of the Landing Place at Commendah; which if carried into execution will render that Fort useless to the British Nation, and will oblige all the Negroes living under the British Protection there, to desert.

That as some Hostilities have been committed between the two Forts at Commendah, we apprehend the Interposition of his Majesty's Ships as they go down the Coast, may be the best Means of adjusting these Disputes, and prevent their proceeding to a dangerous Extent.

Your Memorialists therefore humbly recommend this Affair to your Lordships' serious Consideration and pray, that such Directions may be given, as the Necessity of the Case requires, and to your Lordships shall seem meet.

By Order of the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, June 27th, 1759.

(Signed) SAMUEL POIRIER,
Secretary.

PROCLAIMING KING GEORGE THE THIRD.

On November 12, 1760, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Read a Letter from John Pownall, Esq., Whitehall, October 29th, 1760; acquainting the Committee, the Board of Trade are of Opinion; that the Committee should give Directions for proclaiming His Majesty, King George the Third, as soon as possible, and in the most solemn Manner, in all Places on the Coast of Africa, within their jurisdiction.

Ordered, That Letters be immediately wrote (*sic*) to the Governors and Councils of Cape Coast Castle and James Fort, Gambia; to go by the first Ship from London, Bristol, and Liverpool; with Copies of the Proclamation and Instructions to our Chiefs abroad; to have it publicly read at every Fort on the Gold Coast of Africa and Whydah, and James Fort, Gambia, and the Territories depending thereon, with proper ceremony; and to invite every principal Merchant and Trader, at the several Forts, to join in the Declaration; and to sign the Proclamation at each Place in the Books belonging to the Committee.

CHAPTER III.

1761-1780.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANT—MURDER OF CABBOCEER AT COMMENDAH—
ASHANTEE INVASION EXPECTED—SECONDEE FORT ATTACKED BY THE
FRENCH—ALLOWANCE TO AGGERY OF CAPE COAST, AND ADOE OF
APOLLONIA—PRESENTS TO KING OF ANNAMABOE—DISPUTE BETWEEN
UPPER AND LOWER TOWN'S PEOPLE, CAPE COAST.

PETITION FOR ADDITION TO PARLIAMENTARY GRANT.

On February 4, 1761, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London.

The Secretary reported, That on January 28th last the following Petition was presented to the House of Commons for an Additional Annual Supply.

Sheweth :

.
Your Petitioners think it their Duty to represent, that several of the Forts are in a very ruinous Condition.

That the Right Honourable the Board of Ordnance have given Notice to your Petitioners, that the Fort of Annamaboe is near completed ; desiring to know into whose Charge they would have it delivered.

And that your Petitioners are apprehensive the Settlements now under their Care, with the said Fort of Annamaboe added to them, cannot be properly protected, and secured, unless a larger Sum be granted for their Maintenance and Support for the ensuing Year than what has been hitherto usually appropriated for that Purpose.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray this Honourable House, to take this Matter into their Consideration, and to make such Provision therein, as this Honourable House shall think proper.

By Order of the Committee of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa.

(Signed) SAMUEL POIRIER,
Secretary.

NATIVE YOUTHS SENT TO ENGLAND.

On February 3, 1762, at a Meeting of the Committee of the Company of Merchants, held in London,

Read a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Thomas Thompson, To the Secretary, Eltham, January 23rd, 1762, desiring him to acquaint the Committee; that one of the Boys which he brought from the Coast died four years ago; that the other Two were well in November last, and were under the care of the Rev. Mr. Moore of Charter House Square, to complete their Education, as directed by the Honble. Society for Propagating the Gospel; and to whom he refers the Committee.

A GAP IN THE RECORDS.

[As noted in the Foreword, the Minutes of the London Committee for the Years 1763 to 1779 are missing.]

MURDER OF CABBOCEER AT COMMENDAH.

November 21, 1770.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle, Twelve Slaves belonging to John Cabbess, principal Cabboceer at Commendah, having some time ago barbarously murdered him, and Eight of the Ringleaders having been delivered into this Castle that they might be secured till all the family belonging to the aforementioned Cabbess should assemble and try them for this atrocious murder; Cudjoe Cabboceer, Linguist here, the Linguist at Elmina, the Kings of Abramboe and Aquafoe all belonging to the aforesaid family, and many other Cabboceers and Head Men from Fantee, and the other parts of this Country being assembled and having tried the Murderers by the Laws of this Country are unanimous in opinion that the whole eight Persons brought into this Castle should suffer Death for their unparalleled audacity and villainous behaviour: They however with much difficulty and persuasion agreed that as the number of these Murderers were very great and being willing to pay a compliment to the Governor and Council here to reprieve and pardon half the number on condition that the others are sent to the British plantations in America; We to preserve peace and tranquillity among the Blacks belonging to this Family as also to deter other Slaves from behaving in this cruel and atrocious manner to their Masters find it necessary to deliver up to them four of the Murderers.

SOLDIERS UNFIT FOR SERVICE.

January 3, 1772.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle. It appearing from the Surgeon's report that eight soldiers now in the Hospital afflicted with Ulcers never can recover in this Country, and as they are only a burthen on the Establishment.

Resolved, That they be sent off the Coast by any Vessel who will carry them, and that Five pounds a head be paid the Master for their Passage.

ASHANTEES COMING DOWN UPON FANTEES.

August 11, 1772.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle.

Whereas there is the greatest reason to believe that the Ashantees intend to come down upon the Fantees and other inhabitants of the water side in a hostile manner and Deputies from the Heads of the Fantees having been sent here to know what part we propose to take in case they are attacked by their enemies and to request our assistance in supplying them with Gunpowder and Guns.

Resolved, That as most of our Forts are situated in the Fantee country, and that Nation having always lived in friendship with us, we will grant them every assistance in our power consistent with reason, should their Adversaries the Ashantees attack them; this Council being clearly of opinion that the Fantees (a people long used to the manners of the Europeans and pretty much civilized) are as neighbours far preferable to the Ashantees, who are a rude unpolished set of Men, governed by a despotic tyrannical Prince, with whom we might find it very hard (if practicable) to live on any terms, we do not at the same time pretend to interfere in the general war, only to grant assistance to those situated under our Forts, in case they are obliged to retreat under our walls for shelter, which is an act of humanity they have a right to expect from a Nation which they have always preferred to that of any other European who are now or have attempted to settle on this Coast.

Resolved, That whatever may be the event, orders shall be sent to the Chiefs of all our Forts to lay in a stock of Corn and Wood sufficient to maintain themselves for six Months, and to get their Guns and Military Stores properly arranged, and act with vigilance and circumspection.

TOWN'S SOLDIERS AND COMPANY'S SLAVES.

August 16, 1772.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle. Whereas there have frequent disturbances happened betwixt the Town's Soldiers and Company's Slaves, at the time they made their annual Custom, and upon the 16th July last a scuffle ensued betwixt Cudjoe's people and the Company's Slaves, in which, upon a hearing it evidently appeared that the Company's Slaves were the aggressors, they having in particular abused and insulted one of Cudjoe's women, and destroyed a quantity of Fetish Gold and Aggerly Beads which she wore.

Resolved, That in future the Company's Slaves be prevented from incorporating with the Town's Soldiers, or making Custom along with them; and as the said Cudjoe Cabboceer behaved remarkably well on the occasion, having been a considerable sufferer.

Resolved, That the sum of Thirty Pounds in Goods be paid as a recompense for his loss, and that the Company's Slaves be severely reprimanded for their behaviour and informed, that the first Ringleader in disputes of the kind again be sent off the Coast.

REPAIRS TO CAPE COAST CASTLE.

November 28, 1773.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle. The Company's Letter, and Orders of May 28th being read and duly considered. The Surveyors according to order having drawn a Plan of the Castle and delivered in the same, This Council are unanimously of Opinion that said Plan is Exact, and as it appears thereby that every Part of this Castle (except that on which the new Works are now erecting) is in good repair, most of it being new; that no further Expense will be incurred in repairs except finishing the Work now in hand, an Estimate of the Expense of which, as exact as it can possibly be made out, is now sent the Committee.

It is further the opinion of this Council that these Works should be carried on with as much Expedition as possible in order to close the Castle which is now entirely open on the N. East side, and as the Company's Slaves and White Artificers must be paid whether employed on that work or not, further than the building materials and pay of the free Labourers, no expense will be incurred on that account.

This Council are further of opinion that the above Works can never be carried on with the Allowance mentioned by the Committee being £500 per annum. It is also this Council's Opinion that it will require fully three years yet to come to finish entirely the rebuilding of this Castle; after which the Company's Slaves and Artificers may be sent to repair the other Out Forts.

It also plainly appears to this Council that the foundation of the new building which is very deep in many places has expended an immense quantity of Stone and Lime, of the last in particular; and as the Company have at present no Craft of any kind to transport Shells. It is resolved to purchase a Long Boat for that Service, Craft being found by experience to be much cheaper than Canoes for that business.

That it does not appear Mr. Petrie in his Estimate when he mentions the sum of £6,000 being sufficient to rebuild that part of the Castle which was to be pulled down, as he had not drawn a Plan of the building or done more than guess at the expense, nor indeed was it a business that could be easily judged of, till the old Works were cleared away, Mr. Mill's letter to the Committee of November 20th, 1770, clearly points out the nature of the building now carrying on which is the most extensive Work ever undertaken since the present Establishment as the Plan will show.

As strict attention shall be paid to the orders of the Committee relative to the Expenses attending the repairing the Forts as the nature of the case will admit of; This Council cannot however suppose it to be the intention of the Committee that every necessary repair, such as the falling of a Bastion, a Curtain Wall or a roof, or other such material Work should be postponed until they are made acquainted with, and approve of it. For should a Fort under such circumstances be attacked either by the Natives or others, it will then be too late to put it in a posture of Defence.

The Council are therefore unanimously of opinion that the Committee only object to the carrying into Execution any new Plan or additional Work at this Castle or any of the Out Forts without their approbation.

Resolved therefore that Mr. Trinder be directed to continue such repairs as are absolutely necessary at James Fort, Accra, which he has represented to be in a very ruinous Condition and almost totally defenceless. And also that Mr. Miles

do with the utmost Expedition rebuild the North East Bastion of Tantumquerry Fort, which at present lays the Fort entirely open to the Natives. And that except in such emergencies as these mentioned where the honour of the Nation and even the safety of our own lives are concerned, there shall be no deviation from the Orders of the Committee.

MUMFORD AND LAGOE PALAVER.

September 25, 1774.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle.

Mr. Miles's Letter to the Governor of the 15th Instant was read, acquainting him of the Mumford and Lagoe Palaver being finally settled, and that he had for himself and rest of the Council advanced Goods to the amount of forty-six Men Slaves, in part of which he received 32 Pawns.

Resolved, That these Pawns be immediately set to Work on the new Buildings here, agreeable to our former resolutions of 1st August last; and that Mr. Miles on returning to his Fort do his utmost endeavours in getting the remainder, in order to make up a number equivalent to the sum advanced; which Pawns when received are also to be employed as Labourers.

Mr. Miles's public Accounts were also examined, and the sundry charges therein, though great, appeared to be indispensably necessary in such cases, the sum expended for the preservation of these two Towns being considerably less than what was expended in protecting the Town of Winnebah from the same Enemy.

The Council are further unanimously of opinion that should these Pawns not be accepted as Slaves for the Public Service, the consequence will be attended with the total loss of the Town in question, for being mostly free born, should they be sold off the Coast, their families will consider themselves no longer under the protection of the English, but apply to the Dutch who have made overtures to assist them on so many occasions, but which have proved hitherto ineffectual.

REPAIRS TO CAPE COAST CASTLE.

February 17, 1777.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle.

The Surveyor reported the following as absolutely necessary to be done at this Castle.

1st. A small parapet to be run round the out Work before the lower Gate, to prevent people from tumbling down, and the whole to be plaistered to preserve it from the Sea and heavy Rains.

2nd. To finish Mr. Grosse's Bastion and mount five Guns on it.

3rd. To point and Terras in several places where it is wanting the three Platforms of this Castle.

4th. To make new Water Spouts; fix a Pump in the lower Tank, and make Skids on one side of the outwork of the lower Gate, for rolling up Casks, in order to preserve the Steps.

DANISH AND DUTCH DISPUTES AT ACCRA.

February 18, 1777.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle.

A Letter of the 2nd Instant from the Governor and Council at Christiansborg having been read.

Resolved Unanimously, to inform them by Letter that as our endeavours to adjust their differences have been frustrated by the duplicity of the Dutch, and as we have already laid the whole of that Correspondence before our Constituents, we cannot now take any further Steps in this affair unless an application be first made to us by the Dutch; in which case, we shall be happy to afford them every assistance as Mediators, or in any other Way, so as to avoid being Principals in the Dispute.

ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN SECONDEE FORT AND FRENCH FRIGATE.

July 7, 1779.—At a Council held at Cape Coast Castle.

This Council having thought proper to summon Mr. — before them, and to inquire into his conduct relative to the Engagement between Secondee Fort and the French Frigate of 40 Guns called "La Resolu."

Mr. — on being interrogated as to the steps himself and Enemy took, it appeared that the Ship anchored in the Dutch Road about Mid-day of the 23rd of May; that about two in the Afternoon, an Armed Boat left the Ship, when he took no further measures than ordering his people to prevent her landing. . . .

Next day (24th) a number of Armed Men were landed who