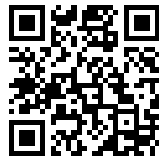

This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



3.

PRESENT STATE
OF THE
COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE,
BEING EXTRACTS OF RECENT LETTERS
FROM
HANNAH KILHAM.



PRESENT STATE

3,

OF THE

COLONY OF SIERRA LEONE,

BEING EXTRACTS OF RECENT LETTERS

FROM

HANNAH KILHAM.

K

SECOND EDITION,

WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

SOLD BY DARTON, HARVEY AND DARTON, GRACECHURCH STREET,
AND EDMUND FRY, HOUNDSDITCH, LONDON, 1832.



LINDFIELD :

Printed at the Schools of Industry, by C. Greene.

1832.



28

PRESENT STATE
OF THE
Colony of Sierra Leone.



We are favoured by a correspondent with the following account of the arrival of Hannah Kilham, in Sierra Leone, and her subsequent proceedings in her benevolent work.

Our friend Hannah Kilham left England for Sierra Leone, on the 17th of 10th month, (October,) 1830, and arrived on the 23rd of 12th month, (December,) her desire in visiting this colony, was to promote in any way, she could, the spiritual and temporal improvement of the Africans, by Christian instruction, preparing translations from various dialects, attention to their general behaviour, and by inculcating the first principles of christianity and morality, endeavouring to improve their degrading condition.

She had a severe attack of fever soon after her arrival, from which she very soon recovered, and has since opened a school, for the liberated African children, (who prove to be principally of the Kosso nation, in Charlotte, one of the mountain villages.)

Should life and health be granted, she purposes remaining, during the rainy season, which she hopes will allow of her carrying into effect, the objects which she has so long desired.

The following extracts from her letters will give some account of her various engagements, during the time she has resided in the colony.

SEVERE ATTACK OF FEVER.

Through the merciful kindness of our Heavenly Father, my sickness has been of very short continuance, and I am now nearly restored to my usual strength. On the forenoon of the 13th of 1st month, (January,) I had a sudden attack of fever, I had not then been out, or had any particular exertion, very soon my friends and myself concluded it would be best to call for medical help, and as Dr. Furguson had been with us that morning, he was sent for. In his second visit he brought with him Dr. Boyle. For the first few days, I felt at times very ill—as much so, as I ever remember, but on the fifth day, from the time of calling for medical help, the fever

appeared to break, and my recovery has, through the favour of Divine Goodness been very rapid, and I am now quite as well I think, as before my sickness, only for the want of a little more strength. I have been once out in a Sedan chair, but found it too close. My kind friends from Wellington have sent me their palanquin, but I have written to-day for bearers, to come from thence, on second day, to take me out, they will gladly do it, for the same charge I could hire persons here, and they are not accustomed to carry in that way. My friend Maria Mac. Foy, hearing of my sickness, came down to her husband's house, in Free town, and brought girls with her, and staid with me until first day.

ALLEN'S TOWN,—GREAT WANT OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

This village is much increased in number since I was last here, and in going through it, my heart yearned for the children who have no school nor teachers; nor have they religious instruction of any kind, though some understand a little English, and might profit by having the scriptures read to them.

NEGLECTED STATE OF THE CHILDREN OF THE LIBERATED AFRICANS.

Knowing that grievous neglect and abuses exist with regard to the apprenticing system, my heart was pained at the thought that the girls who should arrive, as well as those already here, might have no resource, but to be put out as apprentices, and seeing also no way in which I could proceed with my purpose, without taking on myself, in present circumstances, the charge of a school. I believed it best to inform the governor, a few days after my arrival, that I wished an opportunity of trying a system of instruction through the native languages, in a small school of about 20 children newly arrived from the slave ship. The governor approved the design and said, in an interview which I had with him, that as soon as I should fix on a village in which to reside, the children should be sent, but that the present vessel did not contain any, he had no doubt there would be others soon, and I might then select such as I wished to take, only that no additional expense to government should be incurred by this measure; to this proposal I assented, aware from what Colonel Findlay farther said on the subject, that that would not be approved, and I felt happy and thankful to God, for the prospect of thus pursuing what my heart so much desired, and that my dear friends at home, had put it in my power to meet the charges, which this work would involve.

ARRIVAL OF A SLAVE VESSEL.

In a very short time a slave vessel arrived with a cargo of more than five hundred human beings, many of them children. I did not

as on a former occasion propose to go on board, believing it would be an unwarrantable exposure to sickness, and conceiving also that nothing could be added to the evidence already given on this heart-sinking subject; thirty were removed early to the hospital at Kissy, on account of small pox, and some time was required for the allotment of the others to their different stations. I wrote to the superintendant of the liberated African department, from Wellington, to say that with the governor's approbation, I wished to take up my abode at Charlotte, a mountain village near to Bathurst, where there is a good dwelling house, and school houses, but no European resident of late, on account of it being so near Bathurst. A submanager of religious character, a Wesleyan Methodist, dwells in the lower part of the house with his wife, a kind hearted young woman. An answer was received, with the governor's consent to this arrangement, and I was informed that notice would be given at the time the children were ready for me to make my selection, I had heard of an eligible matron at Free town, and wished to go down to engage her.

ARRANGEMENT FOR OPENING THE SCHOOLS AT CHARLOTTE.

Since I have been better, we have been collecting a few requisite things for the house, the smaller bought in Freetown, and most of the larger lent for the few ensuing months by T. Mac, Foy. As all plans were laid previous to my sickness, it has not been laborious to proceed with them now, I feel sensibly that I have deep cause for humiliation and for thankfulness to everlasting goodness; I feel that I can do nothing, and depend on our Heavenly Father for life and breath, every hour as well as for every degree of feeling that is right and good, but the prospect of spending a few months in the quiet village of Charlotte, with my native assistant, and dear little liberated children, is truly pleasant and consoling. May help be given me to do this work truly and faithfully, and with Christian love, seeking for daily strength from the ever blessed, and compassionate Redeemer, to feed His Lambs. My matron is a serious woman, a Mulatto, of the Wesleyan Society. Her daughter who can read and write, will be with her, and there will be several girls from Maria Mac Foy as assistants, who will also have opportunities of improving themselves; not that six would be necessary, on account of twenty girls and myself, but I have since my recovery, written to the Governor to propose taking a few more children, when the next vessel arrives, and in reply says I may have any number, but recommends me not to exceed the present number, until I am stronger, and especially since these twenty, if well taught, may be helpers for others. I think the whole of these expenses independent of my own table

will not, if I have six in addition to the Liberated children, exceed four pounds a month, the Matron has in times past, been engaged in this office thirteen years, and I would hope that this may be made a permanent establishment, even though there be no European to superintend the school, although certainly much to be desired that there should be one, if one rightly qualified and disposed to take such a charge were appointed to the work; I must look for Heavenly help for the present day, and not be over anxious about the future. O, it is known and seen by the Searcher of hearts, that although I rejoice with trembling, knowing that our dearest hopes may soon be withdrawn, yet I do feel consoled greatly with the prospect of having near me dear little children, whom I may teach just in the way that seems right, seeking for help from Him.

OPENING OF THE SCHOOL IN CHARLOTTE.

I could not be satisfied to pass over this day, without acknowledging to thee in a very few lines, the deep sense I feel of the mercy and goodness of God, in bringing me to this place, and suffering me on this day to commence my work, with the dear little liberated African children. It is just a month this day since an attack of fever suspended all my prospects, and the future to myself seemed then entirely hidden, and now with renovated health, and a far more complete recovery than was attained during my stay in Africa, when last here, I am favoured to see the desire of my heart, in having the care of a few of these dear liberated children, nearly from their first extrication from their hard bondage in the slave ship. They are a favourable specimen as to health, having not been long on the water, and being all except one, of the same country, (Kossos,) the work will be the more easy: I expect soon to add to them seven Bassa children, when Maria Mac. Foy sets out for England, and two or three Jalof girls from the vicinity of Freetown. It was about noon the day before yesterday that I arrived at this place; my kind Matron met me at the gate, and soon introduced me to our little flock, who were arranged in the lower Piazza for the purpose: most seem finely in health, the Kossos are considered as remarkably healthy, and the shortness of their voyage here is much in their favour. Dr. Ferguson says the liberated African children generally are subject to some serious disorders, not fully accounted for unless it be the confinement of the Slave Ship, but it calls I think for serious enquiry. The day and half intervening before the first day of the week, was a time of very full occupation; but the cheering feeling of being in my right appointment, and a sense of Divine goodness near to help in the work before me, have been my support, and nothing needful has been lacking. Each of the two evenings, some

of the neighbours have come into our family meeting, and intend coming this evening also. I have had the girls to day with me, morning and afternoon in the Piazza as long as I thought they could well attend, and a Kosso girl from Wellington has helped a little in translation ; I have also found my printed translation in the specimen quite useful to day. The dear children give a name as applied to the Supreme Being, yet so far as we understand them, they have not been taught to look upon Him, as the Creator of all things : and with but little knowledge of a people's view on these sacred subjects, I could not adopt a name to be the Divine name from the fear that we should be receiving only the name of an Idol. They are fine children, and will I trust be apt to learn ; my Kosso assistant is practising voluntarily with them in the school room, and their voices sound pleasant and lively. How does my heart desire that they may be brought to the acknowledgment of God, and of Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent ; I long to see them humble, but not abject,—“lively, but not light,”—industrious, but not anxious, willing to give and receive kindnesses ; but not depending on others for what they should rather do for themselves. Our Matron takes kind and diligent care of them, and is very attentive and careful for the supply of my food &c.

My Stores &c. are now put in their places, and we proceed to morrow to regular school hours, but must at present employ a good part of the time in making frocks for the children, which are not yet begun ; this week we shall I hope, finish that work, and we may see our dear flock, looking a little more civilized and orderly. I must not have too sanguine expectations from my Kosso assistant, as she has been here, only six years, and remembers her language but partially, indeed from her appearance she could not *then* be more than six or eight years old. When by pictures or visible things, I have taught these newly arrived children a few English words, they are some of them anxious to tell me what those words mean in Kosso, and some of them I am persuaded, understand so quickly, the little that is taught them, that they will soon shew a good progress. I feel indeed that here peculiarly, there is a stamp of mutability in all that surrounds us, and that we must be very insensible if we cease to remember that, we “know not what shall be on the morrow.” Well : let the lamps be kept trimmed and the lights burning, that the will of our Lord, be our desire, and our choice, as to all the future, and grateful acknowledgment of His unfailing mercy and goodness, in all the past. (2nd mo. 18.) I have now been here a week, and have had much exercise and care, but see no cause to change my sentiment expressed in this letter. The children are doing nicely, one of the invalids well, and the

other greatly improved; they learn much to my satisfaction, and are attentive and docile; one I have selected as monitor, her name is Dunia, Mandingo Dunia, means *world*: this girl excels greatly, and promises much as to talent for imbibing instruction.

PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOL.

Thou wouldst be pleased to hear, the attention with which they listen to Dunia, and how they assent by their looks and tones, at the end of her sentences. We have one very little girl, I think not more than four years old, not a Kosso, but of the number who came from Maria Mac Foy. Her name is Susanna Findlays, named after the present Governor; she is as merry as a little bird, and hops, and jumps about, almost a play-thing among the rest. Dunia, understands as much, or more, than any, but she is variable, in her temper, and not always disposed to apply, whilst Ninga, is useful in school, and out, and was a very kind, attentive nurse to Ann Davies the Matron, when she was sick lately; she was never so ill, as to keep from school, but had great pain in the head and daily fever. She said it would be worse, if she did not keep about; whilst she was sick, Ninga used to sit near her bed, until she thought she was asleep, and help her daughter in attending on her. I was pleased with the general thoughtfulness of the children during her indisposition, and their care in being more quiet than usual. Little Susan amused, and pleased me, one day very much, when I had been advising them to be quiet, and not talk loud at play while she was ill, some in a short time spoke louder than Susan though right, and she frowned on them, lifting up, and spreading her little hands, in the way of repression and reproof, and calling out "*Hoh!*" Their general manner of silencing, as though they would say "*Hush,*" how can you talk so loud, when you know that you should not." I will give the names of my Kosso girls, 1 Kefi. 2 Maksure. 3 Ninga. 4 Kagi. 5 Mawa. 6 Maingia. 7 Duba. 8 Bore. 9 Kuro. 10 Hawa. 11 Dunia. 12 Nowa. 13 Beia. 14 Batanga. 15 Makbangba. 16 Tewoh. 17 Salu. 18 Fangai. 19 Manika. Little Manika is a lively child, and always looks as though she expected to be noticed: she wants to do all sorts of work, with the older girls, washing the Piazza, carrying water, &c. but though strong she looks thin, and not fit for hard service. The great girls are all tractable and willing to work, and there is a great advantage in example. Kefi the tallest, pleases particularly, she is not quick in learning, but very kind and desirous to serve and help what she can, and affectionate in countenance and manners. They sweep the yard, wash the school-house, their own frocks &c. and cook in turns. The three oldest of them appear to be almost 14 years of age, and then, a very reg-

ular gradation down to Manika, who seems about eight or nine. The six from Maria Mac Foy's, are all younger. I learned last week that out of 161 children which they lately had at Bathurst school of liberated African Girls, there are now 150, (some having been apprenticed,) about 130 of them from the Aku, and Kosso Nations, so that if we could teach these two tribes, English, through their native languages, nearly all the schools would be thus taught, and would learn, much sooner to understand their lessons. I am much pleased with the hope that the predominancy of these two languages, if found also in other schools, will, or may give great felicity to instruction.

PROVISIONS FOR THE CHILDREN—NATIVE PRODUCTS.

We have a store of Rice, Palm oil, and salt, but most days the children have other food than rice, and fresh, each day, Cassada is 6d. a bushel, and Cocoa a kind of Potatoe, 8d. a bushel, the Cassada when ground, is hardly distinguishable from Arrow Root, and of nutritious quality; this can be had at all seasons of the year fresh, and is a valuable vegetable; the Cocoa leaves, are a very pleasant greens like spinach, but without the earthy taste, and are simple in taste, and very mucilagenous, and supporting. The African rice is also very good, but at present, is 5s. per bushel, in the rough state, and loses considerably in cleaning, it grows in marshy places, and not near this district which is altogether mountainous.

EASY METHOD OF OBTAINING NATIVE LANGUAGES.

My native teachers are improving and have good talents for receiving instructions, and having done in the first few days, more than I could continue to do in the school, I must now be satisfied to be with the children at large in the school, only a little time, and to give more attention to the actual instruction of my Teachers, and a few monitors, also, to the translation of the Picture Lessons, which we have commenced, and can get through with half a lesson at once, pretty readily, yet leaving out in some, such parts as are the least tangible and too difficult for them to understand, or translate at present; they are learning to write on slates, and to read elementary lessons, in writing not farther, as yet, than the first combination of letters, but they spell easy Kosso words very readily, in the way they have struck out for themselves, that is, placing the vowel e, before each consonant, and giving the sounds of A, ah, E, ai, I, ai, o, o, u, oo. This gives a simplicity in spelling, which I have not till now observed.

Although I have acknowledged, the work before me, to be one of difficulty, and feel that it must be so, not physically, but to the

mind, without great watchfulness, I feel also, that all things are possible, where Divine help is sought for required duties, be they greater or less, and it is a truth, that we need Heavenly help, as much in the minor concerns, that engage our attention from day to day, as in greater things; that whether we eat, or drink, or whatsoever we do, all may be done in consistency, with Christian character, and under right feeling.

To simplify the work, for these mixed schools, and where native teachers, of little attainments must be employed, I would propose that a certain time each day, should be employed in teaching, for example; a large class of Kossos, all that the school contains of that nation, and let them be introduced to the knowledge of English words, and sentences, read to them in Kosso, with English translations, and let them practise orally, in this way, and acquire a stock of English words, and sentences, which they understand by hearing them, in their own native language along with the English. For those whose only object was to learn English well, and to settle in this Colony, this plan would be very easy, and might serve the purpose. But some of the most intelligent, should also learn to read, and write, in their own native languages. The Aku children being taught in the manner proposed for the Kossos, the children of these two tribes, would soon convey to the others more knowledge of what they at present know, as the different tribes, who can converse, or in some way communicate with each other, have considerable facility in catching up, as much as each other's languages as serves their purpose. The circumstance of these two languages being very prevalent, has given a fresh spring to my hopes of seeing the English better understood, and at the same time, the practice, upon which I have entered, of teaching the English orally, though the Kosso appears to be very simple, and I think likely to help them much in learning English, yet I do not intend to confine myself to that alone, with those who can make use of farther opportunities, as learning to read Kosso in Manuscript, and English in Manuscript with it.

USE OF THE JALOF LESSONS TO THE NATIVES.

I greatly desire to bring the Jalof lessons into use, in Jalof town, near Free town, an intelligent Jalof woman, called at my request last 5th day, at the house of my kind friend the Wesleyan Missionary, and we had a very animated conversation on the picture lessons which were translated into this language in 1829, and have been recently printed, I read the Jalof to my visitor, and she translated into English as fast as they were read. She said she knew some nice girls of the Nation that could speak both Jalof and English, and thought

they would be glad to learn to read, I told her I wished to take two to Charlotte to stay with me a short time.

SCHOOLS AT BATHURST, GLOUCESTER AND FOURAH BAY.

On my way hither I called to see J. and S. Warburton, they have a great charge there, 170 village children as day scholars, and about 125 of the liberated African girls; at Gloucester I was informed that the governor thinks of giving up that place, on account of many people having left the village, and the house Schools and Church being much out of repair: it is therefore best for J. Graham and his wife to remove before the next rains, to Charlotte, I hope whoever may come here, that this place will be made an additional station for liberated African girls, as one is greatly needed; J. Graham was appointed to take a part in the study of the native languages, but his medical engagements, his office as director, at least in the village day school at Gloucester, and his office also as a religious instructor so much absorb his time, that there is little, if any left for the proposed study; I trust Divine guidance will be with him on his way. I have paid a visit lately to F. Haensall at Fourah Bay, he now takes some younger boys, than at first, and has selected six of these from the different schools; I was much interested in witnessing their attainments in grammar, and in Scripture Knowledge; he kindly invites me to spend a few days, to see their whole course of instruction, wishing not to exhibit only that, which might give a favourable impression, and keep back other points in which they might be more deficient. I have offered some large type lessons for their schools, which they approve for the purpose, and thirteen sets are about to be sent.

VISIT TO THE SCHOOLS IN PORTUGUESE AND KONGO TOWNS.

I visited the two schools in Portuguese Town, and Kongo Town, much to my satisfaction, the numbers are considerably increased in both, Kongo Town, 71 on the list, and Portuguese Town, 79 or 89, I do not recollect which number, but we had 69 present; they are a lively people in that place, and many seeking to increase in the knowledge and love of God. I have given little elementary lessons, to the children of these schools, or to most of them, recommending, that they should if their parents wished it, try to teach them to read, or any others who wished to learn; J. Keightley has the monitor of Portuguese Town School once a week, and one had before this was suggested begun to teach his Father.

APPEAL FOR MORE LABOURERS IN AFRICA.

I cannot even yet withhold the desire that when Divine Wisdom, and goodness, shall put it into the hearts of any of the sincere disciples of our Lord, to come to Africa, to the help of the people,

whether for a longer or a shorter time, that attraction may not be repressed either by themselves, or by others. The Spirit of Him who "seeing the multitudes, had compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd." That spirit is greatly needed in this land, let it not be quenched by any cold and worldly considerations; what is life—what is climate—when compared with service claimed towards immortal beings?

REMARK ON DECISION TO REMAIN IN AFRICA.

I have not heard any thing of the purpose of Friends, as to the pursuance of the work of African instruction in England, and knowing of no bond in that respect, to prevent my remaining here, I have concluded that it is in the ordering of Providence for me to continue at present, and should life and health be given, to remain until the spring of next year. I have desired earnestly to know my right path, and trust that the decision to which my mind is brought, is the right one, I have felt the weight of having the sole responsibility, and yet the time did not allow of any thing depending on correspondence from thence, and feeling obliged now, so near the time of rains, to make my arrangements for either transferring my important charge, or concluding upon remaining with them, my way has appeared most clear, in looking to remaining, yet still subject to the judgment of my friends, should I hear from them a decided sentiment against my remaining, or what would be in effect the same thing, a decided judgment on their part that the cause in which I have engaged, would be more availingly promoted in some other way. I do not in any degree, I think, desire that the risk of life or health, should be taken into view in forming conclusions on the best means of promoting the improvement of the Africans in this colony, whether children or others. I trust that I am perfectly willing to meet every difficulty that it shall be my allotment to encounter in the prosecution of this cause, and my desire is, to be divested of any choice of my own, as to returning to England at any earlier or later season, or if I were to return, to be also resigned, as to the future, and not say in my heart, "Let me visit this place no more." And here, I must leave this subject, satisfied, that it is right for me to act at present as with the prospect of remaining, and trusting that if notwithstanding present feelings, it should subsequently appear to be in the ordering of Providence, whether from sickness, or other cause, that I should leave my present station, and return to England, the way may be made so plain, that I should not be in danger of mistake. In each former visit, I have believed that my returning at, or near the time, in which I did return, was right, and

I would much rather now, have any difficulty to encounter, that may await me here, than find myself in England, and wish that I were still in Africa. I know that there are dangers as to physical health, and feel that in this, as in all things else, I am bound to remember, that we are not our own, either to chuse or to refuse where we would be. To day I have had little of physical exertion, and am quite finely, I have seldom any indisposition but from over fatigue, and hope I am now making arrangements that may in a good degree prevent that, but we cannot command circumstances, nor engage that we will *always* avoid over exertion. And no one should think of coming to Africa who cannot be willing to suffer occasionally in this way, so that I do not profess to say to any, that a life of outward ease, may be expected here, and I would not deceive any one, by such a profession, still much may be done in both domestic arrangements, and school concerns to divide the labour and prevent the pressure being so heavy, as in many instances it has been.

The weather has brightened lately, and the dry season is a little prolonged, but we have had rain in the two last nights, and just now high winds; I look forward without discouragement to the rainy season, and hope to do what we can to guard against the damp in the house.

A SCHOOL-HOUSE AND PLACE OF WORSHIP BUILT IN ALLEN'S TOWN.

The people here, have built themselves a school-house very promptly, desiring it might also be used as a place for religious assemblies, Moses Brown who is a Wesleyan, is their gratuitous instructor on first days, and has twenty-five shillings a month for teaching the children on the week days.

GREAT ABUSE OF THE APPRENTICING SYSTEM.

Great abuses of the apprenticing system exist, so great that Thomas Mac Foy will not, in his village, allow an apprentice to be buried without an inquest, nor admit the report of the death of an apprentice, without its being accounted for, otherwise they sometimes say, "he went away and died in the bush," or something to that purpose. I should rejoice greatly, if there were more Europeans or other qualified agents here, to take the children on their arrival more generally into the schools, or if this were not done, to see that the apprentices have education in some way, and are kept under notice. The poor people ignorantly imagine they have purchased the child, in paying for his or her indentures.

SLAVE DEALING IN THE COLONY.

The quarter sessions after entering into full investigation, res-

pecting the alledged cases of Slave dealing in this colony, have not found one European implicated in it, neither any respectable settler, the persons chiefly implicated, I am informed, are the liberated Africans themselves in this colony, and the Mandingoes who came here to tempt them, in this wicked work; there is yet a case to be tried of what has passed on the water.

BOOK STALL IN BATHURST.

There is a little book stall opened in Bathurst, in which we have picture sheet lessons, Gilbert's Infant school hymns, Easy reading, Tables of easy words on sheets, First principles of the christian religion, and some other little things sold, the receipts from which though small, will be placed to the African account; I want to see these sales of small books extended, at least to Regent town, where as well as in Bathurst, there must be many who can read. I am wishing to see some of the best adapted tracts, narratives &c. sold at a very easy rate, 12 pages for "one copper" or a half-penny. Circulating libraries are rather beyond the state of the people in the villages, yet some would like to buy Tracts, and not have to depend on occasional gifts, where also, they would not have the option as to what it should be, and this they might in degree, if a little variety were exhibited in a book stall. When my children are a little farther on their way, I hope to attend to this, and the money received for Tracts, might be returned to the Religious Tract Society, as they have kindly furnished me with a stock as a gift, some would I have no doubt be best disposed of in this way. The people at Bathurst were quite pleased with the opportunity of buying little books, all except the "First principles" are sold for less than the retailed price, and this is I believe best at present and may long be the best plan here, for the very elementary things we offer, it is not, as a matter of business, that must be made to answer its expenses, but only an easy way of throwing out before the people, an offer of instruction for themselves, and their children, in which they can use their own choice and make a little, but not a hard sacrifice to obtain it.

SUPERSTITION OF THE NATIVES.

The children have imbibed superstitions at home, that will not be very easily eradicated; several times we have been awaked in the night by a general alarm among them, from the apprehension that two or three of their company are endued by the power of medicine, with the faculty of drawing away the breath of their companions in the night, and causing them to become faint almost to death, and one even of my native teachers, appeared, and I fear still is very dubious as to the ground of the apprehension: we

had a thorough investigation through the medium of Dunia, the Kosso girl, I have had from Wellington, and proved some of their notions as to the manner in which they had received alarm and injury to be quite unfounded.

**ARRIVAL OF A FRENCH SLAVE VESSEL, THE CAPTAIN AND CREW
MURDERED!**

A recent instance of awful retribution in a slave vessel, such as, I believe is quite unexampled, has occurred. A slave vessel brought in under the direction of the slaves themselves after they had killed the Captain, and some others, putting out one at a time to steer the vessel. They are Kossos: the Governor has received them though the case may be one for trial, as without precedent, being a French vessel. It is awful in any circumstances to send human beings unprepared into Eternity, and this visitation of sin and wickedness on the heads of the oppressors, cannot but excite sensations of horror, mingled however they may be with the remembrance of the many sufferings to the oppressed.

**ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER WESLEYAN MISSIONARY, THEIR GREAT
USEFULNESS.**

A second missionary from the Wesleyan Society, arrived here a few days since, to the great joy of his colleague, who has been alone, more than twelve months, one also with his wife came out, at the same time, to the Gambia to take the place of the late estimable Missionary, Richard Marshall. I am truly glad that a companion has arrived for the Missionary Keightly, here, he was nearly overpowered with labour, and is now well, and cheerful, and rejoicing in the comfort of having Society at home, and feeling much united to his fellow labourer. The Wesleyan Missionaries here, whom I have seen, have had the strength and consolation of unity and affection, with one another, and have displayed before the people, an example of humility and christian devotedness, that has spoken in strong language to the hearts of observers, even among those who walked not with them. They are about to commence a school in their chapel in Free town, on first day afternoons, and have applied to me for lessons, the boards they give themselves, from their own individual resources, there is no other Sabbath school in Free town, and they hope thus to provide for the instruction of the apprentices as well as others of various ages, who have not other opportunity for instruction: their predecessors had a first day school, but when only one was here, it could not be continued; they rejoice now in the thought of resuming it. The Wesleyans have six chapels in the Colony, three stone, and three grass houses.

PREPARATION FOR CLEARING THE LAND FOR FARMING, "BURNING BUSH."

The mountain scenery just now is made very brilliant at night by the "*Burning Bush*," to clear the ground for planting, and it is said more ground is prepared this year than at any previous time. The scene is very interesting, and especially as being the ground for the poor peoples farms. How glad should I be to hear of a resource of this kind for the poor in England. The Matrons here say that no man ought to have a wife allowed to him, who has not got a farm from which to support her. A few days ago I went to Free town, to make a few purchases against the rain, on returning we had to pass along a narrow path, where the bush close by was on fire, and a large flaming tree, emitting a stream of sparks, across the road, my bearers stopped a few moments, and then one who took turn in carrying came, and walked close by to shield me from the sparks, they moved quickly past, and we were not hurt, but only rather choked with smoke, and one of the bearers very emphatically breathed out as we had just got by "*Tank God*." I wished that in all things we may feel gratefully, and acknowledge the many mercies we receive. I cannot but feel when looking at the night fires now they are "burning bush," to prepare farms against the rainy season, and when I see what an extreme height they are preparing these farms, on which it would be convenient to dwell, I feel satisfied, the people are desirous to improve such resources as they have, or are driven to this hard labour by not having any thing better in their power.

SECOND
SERIES OF EXTRACTS

FROM

HANNAH KILHAM'S

LETTERS.

The following second series of extracts from H. Kilham's letters have been received since the foregoing, and were written between the dates of 7th month, 1831, and 1st month, 1832.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL IN CHARLOTTE, AND PROGRESS OF THE CHILDREN.

The School house is detached from our dwelling, and on the opposite side of the yard, but near enough for me to speak to the children at the door from our Piazza, and as they have no clock, or watch, I have to give the signal of a bell, when they should sit down to write, or work, when they should rise to read, and when break up the School.

My time is very fully occupied, and I wish to give attention to the Teachers and Monitors by having them here apart, in two classes to instruct, one of Teachers and one of Monitors; I try to do a little when I can, and feel great interest in it.

I have felt very little difficulty with regard to the training of my dear flock of liberated African children, yet had I the constant care of them out of School, the difficulty would I doubt not have been felt.

The girls first received are very interesting subjects for instruction, a few in particular whom I have selected as Monitors, and teach them a little in my own room or in the Piazza apart from the rest. It is deeply interesting to find that they now receive many things which I tell them in easy English from Scripture history, and some important truths in Scripture sentences which they repeat with me to keep up their attention. I have had since writing last, very comforting evidence of the advancement of my children in their School instruction, and I am anxious to complete for them as soon as I can, all that I have had in prospect in undertaking this charge. Our first or highest Scholars read very nicely several of the Scripture card lessons, both from the very large and smaller type, they can read I think the whole of the

large, and several of the smaller, and can write their lessons on slates, either from the printed sheets or from dictation. The children do not get into the way of uttering words in succession, without knowing them apart, since, although they are daily practised in repeating and spelling words from "the steps to reading," yet they are also practised in reading wherever pointed to. They can answer many simple questions very nicely, but talk very broken English, and I think, need much farther instruction in English, through their native language.

QUICKNESS OF THE CHILDREN IN LEARNING TO READ—DESCRIPTION OF THE FAMILY AT CHARLOTTE.

Great indeed is the cause for thankfulness to God, in my having been permitted thus to remain here, and in having had health and strength given for the pursuance of my work, and only the interruption of a single day, since writing my last letter. And more than this additional opportunities have presented and are yet presenting for the carrying on of the work of native instruction so near to my heart. I have received four Aku girls from a newly arrived slave ship, and we are teaching them first in their own language *only*, until they shall have learned the sheet lesson, "12 page tract" which I have prepared in that language and which is printed with the specimens. They have been taught eight days, and, now know the letters, direct and crossed, and are learning very readily to spell the pictures and numbers, by repeating them after a native teacher. Diana is my house maid, who has time to do what I want, and attend also in the school. My Kosso teacher is also my cook, and both act as laundresses once a fortnight. Little Jenny a younger maid is general helper for any thing in which she is wanted. Sarah Mason has the principal charge of the school concerns, and takes some care about the stores. We have two other teachers, one the matron's daughter, who helps her mother in the care of the girls out of School. I find it best to give pretty full employment to all the Teachers, in the early part of the day, after their own dinner, (which is not till 5 o'Clock,) they are at liberty, most of them spend a part of the evening in my parlour, reading little books of their own selection, from those which are placed for them upon my Bookcase. My bookcase is native made, as also the Table and Sofa, and several seats in the parlour.

The children repeat every morning before school commences, the simple yet expressive lines of A. Gilbert's hymns, "Lord I would own thy tender care," (the whole hymn) in one voice, this they do quite well, and have nearly learned several others in the way of repeating after a monitor, until they can repeat it alone. We have some children with very fine countenances, at least so they

appear to me, affectionate, intelligent, and susceptible of improvement.

Every day they hear some simple, and impressive passages of Scripture read, and sometimes they answer a few questions upon what they have heard, I am very glad to have had the opportunity which this school gives me, to try a simple and practical plan of instruction in teaching to read, and write, and think; I should much like to see the same plan acted upon, in a school in England or Ireland, where the language of the lessons, is the native language of the pupils. I am now prepared to give to these children some farther opportunities than they have yet had, for learning to know the meaning of what they read, through their own native words.

They *repeat* very nicely in concert, and I like to hear their voices in that way distinct yet in consonance.

MANNER IN WHICH THE CHILDREN PASS THE SABBATH DAY.

On the sabbath day morning, I go into the school house, but, as there are a few present, besides the Liberated African children, who claim other instruction, I read to them from the Holy Scriptures, and also some other book, containing narratives of good children &c. yet, I break off occasionally, and let the children stand up and repeat with me a few verses of a hymn, or a sentence from the Bible. In reading, I of course do not confine myself to that alone, but I sometimes make occasional remarks by the way, and in reading any other book but the Bible, I think it best often to change the words for some more easy. The beautiful sublimity of the Holy Scriptures, is so combined with that point, and force, which gives a strength and meaning, to almost every word in the sentence, and happily renders the language of the sacred writings more easy of comprehension, than almost any other that can be met with. In the meetings in the morning, we have frequent cessations and times of quiet, the dear children I think have some sense of the object to be desired in such intervals, and I feel satisfied it is much better thus to break off, and to be still for a little time, and that repeatedly even if we remain together only an hour, than it would be to go on reading, or repeating, or speaking, in any way without intermission. There is time thus to *think* of what has been heard, and there is time also for that most important of all engagements, the endeavouring to wait in the presence of our Lord for help, and strength from Him. About half an hour after-our morning meeting the children have each a book lent to them, either a hymn book, or some easy reading according to their stages of instruction, and it is pleasant to find how much more quiet and steady their behaviour on the Sabbath day now is, than when they first came, and had no resource when out

of school or meeting to employ themselves for improvement. In the evening I have them alone with me, in my room, and we repeat altogether, a few impressive sentences as, "There is one God and Father of all," "Great above all," "Good above all," and other sentences, then a verse of a hymn perhaps repeated first by all, in one voice, and then they sing. Sometimes a pause for a little time follows, when they are recommended to think of God, that their *heart* may pray to Him to make them good; a few sentences are sometimes repeated, on our Saviour's mission, and on His power to raise the dead, and do good in every way, feeding, teaching, and helping and healing the people. The countenances of these dear children are many of them at times so sweetly expressive of interest and attention, that it is a delight to be with them, yet I feel it as a weighty charge before they come in, or before I go to them.

WANT OF VILLAGE SCHOOLS IN THE COLONY, AND DESIRE OF THE NATIVES TO OBTAIN BOOKS.

We are desiring to see more village schools in this colony, they might be conducted by native teachers at an expense not exceeding fifteen or twenty pounds a year each, and if occasionally visited, and inspected, and account taken of the progress of the children, there would be a constant stimulus kept up, and lessons and school apparatus, which in schools but seldom visited are often miserably deficient, might be regularly and adequately supplied. Among the most interesting of my engagements at present, are the visits of groups of little boys and girls in mostly separate companies from Bathurst, Charlotte, and often from Regent wishing to obtain little books, and to read to me, and to talk a little with me and give some intimation that they would like to have a school to come to occasionally at Charlotte these places are too far off for a weekly meeting but Bathurst and Charlotte are so near together, that the children can come at five o'clock, and be home again before dark.

To day two clever looking men came from Regent to ask for a country book as they call the little lessons in the native language, I believe they were among the number, who helped me in the outlines of Translation when here in 1828.

BAD EFFECTS OF THE APPRENTICING SYSTEM, AND GREAT NEED OF MORE AGENTS IN AFRICA.

The second company of 15 girls which we received from a slave ship early in the sixth month, were a great proportion of them in such a state of extreme debility, and partial disease, that I could not but think the best or healthiest and most intelligent subjects were first chosen out by the persons who wanted apprentices, and only

those who cannot get places as apprentices, are sent to the Schools. Wishing for the clearest information on this deeply interesting subject, the disposal of the children on their arrival from the slave ships, I enquired of the governor, whether the apprentices were first selected, and only those whom the people would not take, sent to schools, and he informed me, that this was the system of disposal, the apprentices are selected, first by those who wish to have them, and those for whom there are not people found to take them are sent to the schools.

Now this system, difficult as it may appear to provide a remedy, is certainly not giving to education, a fair chance in the colony, unless there can be some provision, not merely proposed but *required*, and insisted upon for educating the apprenticed children. Far indeed would I be from proposing that the poor children brought in from the Slave Ships who are sometimes too weak for work, and need indeed much care in nursing, and yet not so sick as to be made hospital patients, should be slighted or not received as boarders into the Liberated African schools, most gladly would I rather see all who are of a suitable age for instruction received directly from the Slave Ships for a short time at least into the school, and put out from there apprentices and still their instruction continued either as day or evening, or Sabbath day scholars. This would in degree help to maintain that oversight of these poor children which their orphan like situation so greatly needs, but O when we see the state of these poor children, and the lack of agents for their education, how can one but earnestly desire that more christian Labourers, both male and female, may be sent into this harvest, for truly "it is great and the labourers very few." I cannot think that I do wrong in desiring an increase of labourers. I cannot say I will just fulfil what appears to be my own duty, and leave others without attempting to disturb their rest in more inviting scenes. I do not point out the duty of individuals, but yet see and deeply feel that more labourers are wanted here, and I long greatly to hear that many are willing to go wherever divine wisdom be pleased to lead them, without regarding whether the path be rough or smooth, hazardous or easy, painful to nature, or inviting as to pleasurable feelings—Christ is all in all, strength to the weak, riches to the poor, and the soul's delighting consolation and rest, even to the solitary. Still I believe that to follow our beneficent Redeemer's example in sending out labourers from among His disciples two and two, would be generally better than for one to stand alone in a state of so much variety of change and engagement as a missionary station, "pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth more labourers into His harvest," and my heart is still bound to the belief that our hea-

venly Father would not have incited so much desire for the good of this land if there were not a harvest to His eternal praise finally to be reaped here.

Greatly do I long to see some means of more general help for the poor apprentices. A child has been imprisoned in the yard, and neglected as to food, and being a child of violent temper he told my messenger who went to enquire why he cried so much, that he was left there shut up and hungry, and wanted to kill himself. Nothing but a more systematic oversight of apprentices can prevent this branch of the colonial government from being a perfect slave trade, and a scene of the same bad and turbulent feelings in both parties. Could it not be made a law that apprentices shall be instructed in schools either week day or sabbath, or evening schools, and could not some persons be appointed by the colonial government to see all apprentices brought together in the different districts, and notice taken of their appearance, and whether or not they are sent to school, the Magistrate of Hastings sees some sad neglect of these children there, by persons who take them to employ in working, and as carriers of burdens to other villages &c, and who do not give them enough food to support health, and as to clothing the neglect of apprentices in many, many cases is a disgrace to the colony, so many of this neglected class of boys and girls are seen wherever we can go. There are however some persons who conscientiously take kind care of their apprentices, but certainly the system here leaves these poor children woefully in the power of persons who *imagine*, that power to be almost without limit or control.

May my heart be directed to God in the humble trust that He may be pleased to carry on by such agents as His providence shall appoint to the work of Christian instruction in the native languages of Africa, whatever may be in His own will and permission, as to the feeble and unworthy instrument, now attempting the very lowest rudiments of the work in this little African family, for *little* indeed even a family of fifty, may seem in comparison of the very wide sphere through which this cause may be promoted; and should my life not be much prolonged, and the desire of my heart, not be permitted, during that little remaining span, I will yet hope that in other hands this sacred cause of Christian instruction through the native languages of Africa, may one day be encouraged and carried forward in England without omitting or contravening any good design to which duty may lead individuals to enter upon on the coast of Africa.

SUFFERINGS OF THE POOR CHILDREN ON BOARD THE SLAVE-SHIPS.

Our dear Kosso children now they can talk a little English, give affecting details of the state of anxiety and alarm in which they

dwelt, in their own country, and the outcry which they sometimes made in the night, soon after their arrival here, was they said, the kind of alarm, that they used to give when the Slave-takers came upon them in the night, and which when uttered by a few, was joined by others, who rose to flee away, in a body, to the nearest village, where instead of finding protection they would perhaps, the next night be alarmed again in their sleep, by these frightful persons. A great number of men, women, and children, have been brought lately into this colony from Mandingo; Canoes going about the coast to procure Slaves from the colony.

An Englishman, who has been the chief agent in these detections, and captures, told me when at Charlotte, a few days since, that when on board a Canoe, one of his men jumped upon a box, and they immediately heard a groan, which he thought came from within. He pulled open the box, but soon found the sounds were from *below*, and that these barbarous people, had thrust under the boxes and mats, into the bottom of the canoe, little children whom they thus hoped to have hidden, when they saw themselves pursued.

Some of the natives considered themselves greatly offended, by being thus arrested in their wicked designs; and there has been some interruption in bringing cattle and rice into the colony from the neighbouring districts.

It generally takes some time to bring many of the children round to a pretty firm state of health. One of the children, described the cause of her sickly state as arising from being closely packed in the Slave ship like clothes in a box, and that a very heavy person was placed next to her, who pressed so hard upon her breast that she could "hardly blow;" she has never been well since, and is now in the hospital, if she is yet living.

A VESSEL WRECKED AND THE CAPTAIN AND FOUR MEN MURDERED.

I have heard that a vessel from London, the *Wovel*, or *Norval*, was wrecked lately within a few miles of the Gambia, and the captain and four men who went on shore were murdered, a dreadful state of things, when even the distressed can find no pity or protection. O how I long that the vicinity of this colony, especially the *Bul-loms*, *Timmanees*, *Sussus*, and the cruel *Mandingoes*, who dwell among them may, ere long be brought under the precious influence of christian principle, and no longer display that dark insignia, which those in power among them so often do "hateful and hating one another." It is Africans as well as Europeans that are enlisted in this wretched cause under the prince of darkness, and O, that an heart searching appeal would be made to them.

NATURAL PRODUCTS, AND HOW USED.

Vegetation is greatly refreshed already and some of the new vegetables are come in, such as Indian corn, Cocoa leaf, and Okro ; but the latter is still scarce. I am told that the leaf is good to use in soups, as we use celery ; the Africans like to season the simplest of their food with what they call palaver sauce, the most common ingredients are a little dried fish, pepper, salt, palm oil, and cocoa leaf, or other greens, or sometimes meat soup, with greens mixed. I think it is probably more favourable to health, to have things made palatable by some addition of this kind of sauce to their vegetables every day. The children eat in the African style twice a day, and seem not to want any meat at noon, they appear so well, that I cannot think their diet is insufficient, and yet the cost of it does not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ per day each, this also includes some other little expenses, besides food, as lamp oil, soap &c. -

We have not any cause to complain here of want of needful food, as they may seem to have in some distant stations, I do not remember one day in Charlotte without having in the house bread or biscuit, sugar, butter, rice and meat, and what is more than all these my hope and trust in Him, whose is the earth and the fullness thereof, has been such as to give quiet rest to the mind, in time, when to outward appearance I seemed to be lodging in the *out posts* and much unshielded, not only without any European in the village, but for some weeks past, this large family of children and young people with several female prisoners in their place of confinement in the yard, and the whole of the dwelling house is on such a construction that a strong man might burst open several of the doors, were left in the night without a single keeper of any kind, or a man upon the premises, but I may say with A. Weeks, "I have *no* fear of injury from these people," any person who wishes to help and do them good may be well assured of an affectionate welcome among them, and need fear no injury.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY, AND TEMPERATURE.

It is now evening and raining after a fine bright day, I have come out into the Piazza to catch the last gleams of day light which leave us some time before seven o'clock, and do not reach seven, in the longest days. Our Piazza is so deep, we can sit here often when the rain is falling very fast, and are the more invited to do so, at times, as the sitting room is dark when we cannot have all the doors open, it reminds me together, with the high surrounding mountains, of some of the descriptions of French monasteries. The rains have been thus far very light, perhaps no one day clear of rain in this

or the last month, but excepting the week before last, we have had some bright weather during a part of almost every day. The changes are great beyond description, and sometimes very sudden, from bright fine sky one hour, and the next general fog and cloudiness, and peeling rain, still there are intimations of coming showers, so that if needful we may prepare against them. Some of our English friends if they could be brought suddenly from London to Charlotte would not at all imagine themselves in the dissolving Country they had heard described, but surrounded by a cool air, and more the appearance of a wild common associated with ideas of solitude and cold, than with what the mind had pictured of bright, and luxuriant vegetation, for with all its powers of production if well directed this country has a look of great barrenness and wildness when compared with England.

There is a great lack of foresight, also intelligence in the cultivation of the land, so that a person with one or two farms as they are called, will yet be at one season of the year, destitute of any food from them, although with care they might have produce every month.

6th Month, 17th, 1831. I am now thro' divine favour quite restored to health, and though we have rain every day more or less, I do not suffer from the state of the weather, indeed a great part of the day is sometimes fair, and the mornings especially not unfrequently beautifully fine for a few hours, at other times the morning dawn is accompanied by so heavy a fog that the mountains are completely covered, at other times fog does not come on till nine or ten o'clock, and then after remaining some time, disperses. We consider the Tornado season as now over, and have had very little high wind this month, but to day since noon, the wind has risen so much, that I have shut all the doors in the house but one, and if that was shut, I should want a lamp or candle by which to write. This is really a Tornado, though accompanied with but little thunder, but the wind is very strong, and the rain falls fast. In the middle of the rainy season we had not any heat, that, to me felt more than pleasant, nor any of that relaxing effect which is often experienced from the heat of the dry season, so that here as in England, there are some things to enjoy as well as some to suffer in every season.

27th, of 1st Month, 1832, The Harmatan winds have only ceased about two days, and lately I have felt these in degree like the winds of the Tornadoes season, only not so strong. We have now a prospect of calm settled weather for about three months, and as to heat, I suffer very little from it in the mountains, nothing worth mentioning.

ANNOYANCE FROM TRAVELLING ANTS.

On one night we were awake a great deal, and I lost indeed almost

the whole of the night's rest, by the unexpected visit of a multitude of travelling ants. They have had them once or twice in the School house since we came here, but this was their first travel through the house, and their sting is so sharp and troublesome, that we were anxious for their departure. The next night they came again, or rather others of the same tribe, and kept us from retiring to rest till after midnight.

EARNEST DESIRE FOR AN AFRICAN SCHOOL IN AFRICA.

My mind turns with desire to the concern I have so long felt for the institution of an African school in England, and I think that girls would be to me the most easy charge, though I should be glad to see others take the charge of boys.

The languages in the immediate vicinity of Sierra Leone, together with Aku and Kosso, for the schools of Liberated African children in the colony, are what I am most solicitous about at present. If I had two or three Akus, Kossos, Bulloms, Sussus, and Timmanees for the simplest works of elementary translations, and instruction; and others in a general institution did all they could in the Howsee, Foula, or any other leading and important languages, and in those near this district also, if they have agency for all, and then we have keys to unlock the stores of christian knowledge for the poor despised and afflicted Africans, that may, through Heavenly blessing be permitted to raise them to their just rank, in the state of human society. They ought not to be crushed down and judged for not displaying advantages that have never been put in their power. There is much in them that may through divine grace become bright and beautiful, but their passions in their present untutored state are often frightfully strong and uncontrolled.

