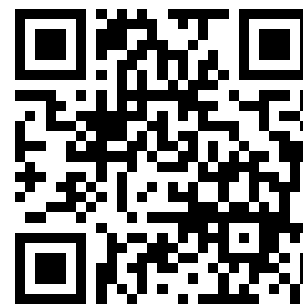

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SUBSTANCE
OF THE
REPORT
OF THE
COURT OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
SIERRA LEONE COMPANY
TO THE
GENERAL COURT,
HELD AT LONDON

On Wednesday the 19th of October, 1791.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JAMES PHILLIPS,
GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET.

M.DCC.XCI.



*In pursuance of the Act of Parliament
incorporating the SIERRA LEONE COM-
PANY, the following thirteen Gentlemen
have been chosen Directors for the present
Year.*

HENRY THORNTON, Esq. M. P.
Chairman.

PHILIP SANSOM, Esq. Dep. Chairman.

Sir CHARLES MIDDLETON, Bart.

Sir GEORGE YOUNG, Knt.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq. M. P.

Rev. THOMAS CLARKSON.

JOSEPH HARDCASTLE, Esq.

JOHN KINGSTON, Esq.

SAMUEL PARKER, Esq.

GRANVILLE SHARP, Esq.

WILLIAM SANDFORD, Esq.

VICKERIS TAYLOR, Esq.

GEORGE WOLFF, Esq.

*At a Court of Directors of the SIERRA LEONE COM-
PANY, held on Wednesday the 26th October, 1791.*

Copies of the Report read to the General Court of
Proprietors on the 19th inst. having been requested by
several Subscribers,

RESOLVED,

That the substance of the said Report shall be
printed, and one copy sent to each Proprietor.

H. THORNTON, Chairman.



SUBSTANCE
OF THE
REPORT
FROM THE
COURT of DIRECTORS
TO THE
GENERAL COURT
OF THE
SIERRA LEONE COMPANY.

THE most advantageous season for settling at Sierra Leone now nearly approaching, and the intelligence that was expected having been received from Mr. Falconbridge, Agent to the Company, who is lately arrived from thence, the Directors have thought proper to call the
A present



present Court, for the purpose of laying some general information before the Proprietors, and of submitting also to their determination the proposition for raising a capital, which will be stated at the end of this Report.

In order to give a connected view of the subject, they will first briefly relate the history of the little settlement at Sierra Leone that has been already attempted, and they will then proceed to state under short and distinct heads, some observations which they are now enabled more particularly to make concerning the climate of Sierra Leone, the population and government, religion and morals, cultivation and trade, and also concerning the present state of the slave trade in that part.

ABOUT

ABOUT five years since, the streets of London swarming with a number of Blacks in the most distressed situation, who had no prospect of subsisting in this country but by depredations on the public, or by common charity, the humanity of some respectable Gentlemen was excited towards these unhappy objects. They were accordingly collected to the number of above 400, and together with 60 Whites, chiefly women of the lowest sort, in ill health, and of bad character, they were sent out at the charge of government to Sierra Leone. It was hoped that the necessity of their situation might bring them into some tolerable habits of industry and good order; and a grant of land to his Majesty from King Tom, the then neighbouring chief, was obtained for their use by Captain

A 2 Thompson

Thompson of his Majesty's Navy, who conducted them; and afterwards a similar grant from King Naimbanna, the king of the country. This land being about 20 miles square, is the same which his Majesty was enabled by the late act of parliament to grant to the Company; and it has been lately confirmed by a direct grant to themselves from King Naimbanna, which is now brought over by Mr. Falconbridge.

During a long detention of these poor people in the Channel, and during their passage to Sierra Leone, as well as after their arrival there, they were extremely unhealthy, chiefly from disorders brought on board with them, which appear to have been aggravated by excessive drinking and other debaucheries; they were landed in the wet season; there was no order or regularity established amongst them; and from these causes a very great proportion

proportion of them being exposed to the weather, died very soon.*

It does not appear, however, that after the first year was passed, there was any extraordinary mortality; it is even said by Green, one of the settlers now in England, who lived always with them, that during the two succeeding years he does not believe above five or six died out of near 200, who were then living in the same town. By giving a very slight degree of cultivation to their lands, and by a vast increase of their poultry, these settlers, though so far from being industrious in their habits, supplied themselves with a sufficiency of food, and were in possession of a small and increasing property when the following unfortunate circumstance arose, and occasioned their entire dispersion.

* About 50 died before they left Plymouth, and 34 on the passage; 15 ran away, and 86 died on the coast in the first four months after their arrival.

Two boats belonging to King Jammy (successor to King Tom) the neighbouring chief, seized within sight of the town of these free settlers, the crew of an American boat (in retaliation, as King Jammy says, for an injury he had received before from some other Americans who had kidnapped four of his people.) Three out of four of these Americans were killed; the fourth escaped out of their hands by swimming, and carried information of the violence to the English Slave Factory at Bance Island. The particulars of an unhappy dispute which followed, the Directors forbear to detail; feeling it however their duty to observe, that little or no blame appears to be imputable to the settlers. But King Jammy's town having been burnt by some other persons, and a few of the settlers having involved themselves by acting as guides, their town was some time after by a judicial sentence ordered to be destroyed, and three days notice of this was sent to them. About
180 or

180 or 200 settlers, leaving their plantations, and a great quantity of poultry behind them, were then dispersed. The Agent of the Slave Factory gave them protection for the first five or six weeks at Bob's Island in the neighbourhood, but they were sent away afterwards to Par Boson's Town, 12 miles up the country,

Mr. Falconbridge arriving about twelve months after their dispersion, found forty-eight of these settlers residing at this town of Par Boson; some were living in the parts around; some had gone to the West Indies, some to England, and there was a general fear of their being all made slaves. Mr. Falconbridge brought down these forty-eight settlers to form a new settlement at Fora Bay, which is about a mile and a half further from King Jammy's ground than their former town, where he took possession of some deserted houses that were standing. Sixteen settlers had joined them from other
A 4 parts

parts before he came away, and more were expected to come in. The charge of them was left to Theodore Kallingee, a Greek, sent out from this country, whose conduct is mentioned by Mr. Falconbridge in the most favourable terms. A sufficient quantity of muskets and ammunition was given them, as well as £. 30 worth of cutlery, which they might barter for necessaries.

About four acres of land were already cleared round the town, and planted with yams and cassada, and sown with English seed; and upon the whole, it appeared to Mr. Falconbridge, when he left the country, that they would with very little labour, support themselves in the same manner as before their dispersion.

Of the sixty-four settlers left at Fora Bay, thirty-nine were black men, nineteen black women, and six white women. The men appeared to be determined to defend

defend themselves: they are warmly attached to the Society that sent them out; but having been long disused to the restraint of regular government, they seemed in general turbulent and disorderly.

C L I M A T E.

THE climate may be reckoned to be much the same in point of heat, as that of the West Indies; but there is a very cool sea breeze on the higher grounds; and on the mountainous parts it is believed that a very temperate air may be found.

The Directors will give the most particular instructions, that in chusing the
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scite of the new town, the healthiness and temperature of the spot shall be considered as the primary objects. The situation of the present free settlers town in Fora Bay is less healthy than that of their former settlement; but it may be questioned whether a spot more favourable than either of these places to the health and comfort of Europeans may not be pitched upon.

The mortality among the settlers who went out has been already accounted for; and that in other cases may chiefly be traced to want of care and accommodations; and in particular, to exposure during the evening damps, and to excess in drinking, and other vices. — The ship's carpenter, having exposed himself often in the rains, slept in wet clothes, and been generally careless of his health, caught a fever, and died on his passage home. The brother of Mr. Falconbridge, sent out by the Company, immediately on his

his arrival deserted their service, and went to Bance Island, where he also is reported to have died; but no particulars are mentioned. Mr. and Mrs. Falconbridge, and the rest of the crew, though exposed to much inconvenience from the smallness of their vessel, and the want of accommodation on shore, during their residence, were in general in good health.

The Directors on the whole have been led to judge, from every information they have received, that the climate of Sierra Leone is extremely favourable to the natives themselves, and no otherwise unfavourable to the Europeans than other climates of the same latitude. They trust that the progress in clearing the woods, the cultivation of land, and the erection of houses, which may be effected before the commencement of the first rainy season, may preserve the first settlers from this country from any extraordinary sickness.

The

The information of their own agent confirms the opinion of Lieutenant Matthews, in his book lately written, entitled, "A Voyage to Sierra Leone," in which he says, "That he believes Sierra Leone, if properly cleared and cultivated, would be equal in salubrity, and superior in cultivation to any of the islands in the West Indies." The accounts afforded in geographical books very much correspond. — "The country about Sierra Leone" being observed to be "one of the best in Africa, and the soil very fertile.*"

* The latitude of Cape Sierra Leone, is 8 degrees 12 M. north, the longitude about 12 deg. W. It is usually about one month's sail from Great Britain, though Mr Falconbridge went in seventeen days. The passage is longer in returning, from the interruption of the trade winds.

POPULATION

POPULATION and GOVERNMENT.

THE population towards the sea-coast appears to be inconsiderable, and is chiefly on the river side; along the banks of which there are several towns, consisting of scarcely more than fifty houses each. There is generally some chief who is a principal Slave Trader, presiding in the towns, who is subordinate to King Naimbanna. The King lives at the small island of Robanna, which is situated between the English slave factory at Bance Island, and the French slave factory at Gambia island. The inhabitants of Robanna, about fifty in number, are fed by King Naimbanna's bounty, and are entirely dependent on him. The present King is of a peaceable

a peaceable disposition, and is generally respected and obeyed: his territory is said to reach three days journey up the country, being much more populous in the more interior parts; but neither the boundaries of his country, nor the nature and extent of his jurisdiction appear to be at all clearly ascertained. When he dies the title is considered as elective; but his eldest son, now in England, would be likely to succeed; as the chiefs who chuse the king generally pay regard to hereditary succession.

RELIGION

RELIGION and MORALS.

IN point of religion and morals, the natives appear to be totally uninstructed. Perpetual feuds and hostilities seem to prevail between families and the descendants of families that have once injured one another, and to carry each other off for slaves is a common mode of retaliation. They are generally pagans; have no priests, no public or private worship, no religious ceremonies. They take as many wives as they please; but their marriage is not considered as indissoluble, and they give no kind of education to their children. They have some superstitions, chiefly on the subject of witchcraft; but in general are without religious prejudice, and appear extremely desirous of all kind of European knowledge and improvement. One of the Sierra Leone Chiefs
sent

sent his son to a Portuguese settlement, at Biziagos, three hundred miles off, that he might learn to write and read : for it is only in the Portuguese settlements that any opportunity of schooling is afforded. The secretary of King Naimbanna, of the name of Elliot, learned to write and read in England, through the kindness of Mr. Granville Sharp, and has excited a great desire of obtaining education among the king's children. The king sent one son to France for instruction ; another is educating under a Mandingo teacher, who is a Mahometan. The eldest, John Frederick, had determined to make his way to England, just before Mr. Falconbridge went out, and had agreed to give three slaves to the captain of a Liverpool slave ship, for his passage to Jamaica, with a view of getting from thence to England, in order to gain useful knowledge in this country. But the King's confidence in Mr. Falconbridge induced him, notwithstanding the strongest remonstrances on the

the danger of trusting him in the Company's ship, to send his son straight to London, by Mr. Falconbridge, with a letter to Mr. Granville Sharp, asking him to direct his education.

Both the king's son, and the king himself, appear to have the strongest desire to rescue their country from its present state of ignorance and wretchedness ; and also to put an end to the Slave trade ; the mischiefs of which they see and deplore.

The following is an extract from King Naimbanna's Letter to Mr. Sharp :

" It has been told that these people (the
 " free settlers from England) would in
 " time drive me by force of arms back
 " in the country, and take my Ports
 " from me. I have received several ac-
 " counts from factories and captains of
 " ships against the settlement, which I
 " took no notice of, as I conceived it was
 B " in

" in my opinion spite or envy that they
 " had against their living in the coun-
 " try ; but have served them in any little
 " request they asked of me, and have en-
 " deavoured to keep peace between them
 " and my people, and also among them-
 " selves by settling a great many disputes
 " between them. It was pleasure to do it
 " as I thought they would become useful
 " to us all in this country, by teaching us
 " things we know not ; and common
 " reason must tell, that the most ignorant
 " people in the world would be glad to
 " see their country made good if they
 " had idea how it might be done. And
 " again I must let you know, that if
 " there were no other reason for my
 " wishing for the welfare of the settle-
 " ment, I should do it that there might
 " be stop put to the horrid depredations
 " that are so often committed in this
 " country by all countries that come
 " here to trade." He then speaks of
 the carrying off some of his own rela-
 tions

tions for slaves, which we shall mention
 in another part of this Report. He adds,
 " As to the settlers, I could only wish
 " that you will send me over one worthy
 " of taking the care and command of
 " the place, then you need not be afraid
 " of their prospering in this country.
 " Mr. Falconbridge during his time out
 " here I approved much. I ever was
 " partial to the people of Great Britain,
 " for which cause I have put up with a
 " great deal of insults from them, more
 " than I should from any other coun-
 " try.

" My son I hope you will take care
 " of him, and let him have his own ways
 " in nothing but what you think right
 " yourself."

The General Court will no doubt ap-
 prove of a resolution come to by the Di-
 rectors, that in consideration of the friend-
 ship subsisting between King Naimbanna

and the Sierra Leone Company, the Company will take upon themselves the charge of his son's education so long as he may remain in England.

Measures are already taken for placing King Naimbanna's son, who is 24 years old, in a situation where he will have every attention and advantage in his education, and the Directors feel great satisfaction in reflecting, that if it should please God to prolong his life, he appears likely both from his abilities and disposition, to lend the most important aid in introducing the light of knowledge, and comforts of civilization into Africa, and in cementing and perpetuating the most confidential union between the European colony and the natives of that country.

CULTIVATION

(21)

CULTIVATION and TRADE.

The following GENERAL ACCOUNT of the FERTILITY of SIERRA LEONE, taken from Licut. MATTHEW'S Book before alluded to, it is thought proper to submit to the GENERAL COURT.

" NO country produces more variety
" of excellent and beautiful timber fit for
" every purpose; but few, if any, bear the
" least affinity to the woods of Europe.
" The camwood tree is so very plentiful
" in the interior country, that I am in-
" formed the natives frequently burn it for
" firewood. And the trees which produce
" the gum copal, grow in great abun-
" dance upon the heights of Sierra Leone.

B 3

" The

“ The palm trees which furnish the natives
 “ with both wine and oil, flourish here in
 “ great plenty and perfection. Wild geese
 “ and ducks of various kinds, Guinea hens,
 “ pheasants, quails, curlews, plovers, snipes,
 “ doves, and pigeons, are found in the
 “ woods and on the banks of rivers. Their
 “ domestic animals are cattle, sheep, goats,
 “ and small poultry. Turkeys, geese, and
 “ Muscovy and common ducks, would
 “ thrive here extremely well, and soon
 “ stock the country, would the natives be
 “ at the trouble to rear them. And it is
 “ not a little surprising that the Guinea
 “ fowls, which are real natives of the
 “ country, and are soon domesticated,
 “ should be neglected by them.——

“ The seas, rivers, and creeks, abound in
 “ great variety of most excellent fish. In
 “ the interior country, south of Sierra
 “ Leone, they have a white iron, of which
 “ they make knives and sabres.

“ The

“ The best indigo in the world, if we
 “ may judge from the deep indelible blues
 “ the natives give their cloths, grows wild
 “ in every part of the country ; and the
 “ Portuguese, when settled here, had large
 “ indigo works in several places, the ruins
 “ of which are still remaining.

“ Cotton is cultivated by the natives,
 “ but in no greater quantity than they can
 “ manufacture themselves ; but as it is an
 “ article that requires little trouble in the
 “ cultivation, I have endeavoured by en-
 “ couragement, to induce them to propa-
 “ gate it to such an extent as to become an
 “ article of European traffic. There are
 “ several kinds of it which materially differ,
 “ not only in quality but colour ; particu-
 “ larly three kinds—one perfectly white,
 “ one of a tawny or nankeen colour, and
 “ one of a pale red, or pink colour.

“ Sugar canes are a native plant, and
 “ grow wild to a size beyond any I ever

B 4

“ saw

" saw in the West Indies : they also have
 " some tobacco, which is not esteemed, ow-
 " ing perhaps to their want of knowledge
 " in the cultivation. Rice is the chief and
 " staple produce of the country, and con-
 " stitutes their principal and almost only
 " food ; and when pains are taken with
 " it, it is equally as white as Carolina rice,
 " and every way preferable as an article of
 " food.——

" To the northward they have three rice
 " harvests in the year. Rice is the prin-
 " cipal food of the natives, although they
 " have cassada, yams, eddies, sweet pota-
 " toes, and great variety of other roots
 " and vegetables unknown in Europe.

" Indian corn and millet both thrive ex-
 " tremely well, but are little cultivated.

" The malaguetto pepper, or grain of pa-
 " radise, is found in the woods, but it is
 " not so pungent as that which is pur-
 " chased

" chased from the natives of Bassa and the
 " places adjacent.

" The bird and pod pepper is cultivated
 " in great plenty and perfection, and there
 " are several kinds of aromatic fruit, which
 " are excellent substitutes in culinary uses
 " for the spices of the East.——

" Most of the tropical fruits known in
 " the West Indies, abound here, in the
 " greatest perfection, particularly pine-
 " apples, oranges, and limes ; which are
 " in season, but not in the same degree
 " of plenty, all the year round.

" Tamarinds, cashews, &c. have been
 " planted by Europeans, and thrive amaz-
 " ingly : and nothing can exceed the lux-
 " uriancy of the wild vines, which bear
 " amazing quantities of grapes, but are of
 " an acrid taste. If cultivated, however,
 " they would, no doubt, be equal to those
 " of Europe. Several kinds of plumbs and
 " other

“ other fruits, cooling and grateful, are
 “ found in the woods, which are unknown
 “ in Europe and the West Indies. Castor
 “ nuts, and many others which produce
 “ oil, grow spontaneously almost every
 “ where.

“ In short, Nature appears to have been
 “ extremely liberal, and to have poured
 “ forth her treasures with an unsparing
 “ hand ; but in most cases, the indolence
 “ of the natives prevents their reaping
 “ those advantages, of which an indus-
 “ trious nation would possess themselves.”

The information received by the Com-
 pany, from their own agents, and from
 various other quarters, exceedingly con-
 firms the above account of Lieutenant
 Matthews ; and Mr. Falconbridge has col-
 lected several specimens of native pro-
 duce, particularly of woods, iron ore,
 gum copal, pepper, rice, cotton, and su-
 gar-cane, which afford the most favoura-
 ble hopes to the Company.

The

The Directors do not however enter
 into any further detail of particulars, but
 they have to observe in general, that
 all the most valuable productions of the
 tropical climates seem to grow sponta-
 neously at Sierra Leone ; and that no-
 thing but attention and cultivation appear
 wanting, in order to produce them of
 every kind, and in sufficient quantities
 to become articles of trade, and even of
 great national concern.

Besides the prospect of trading to
 Sierra Leone for the immediate produc-
 tions of that country, it appears also, that
 a coast and river trade, and, through the
 rivers, an important inland trade, may
 easily be established by means of small
 vessels calculated for that purpose : These
 might deposit at Sierra Leone productions
 of Africa, brought from other parts.
 The coast of Africa, neighbouring to
 Sierra Leone, is more intersected with
 rivers navigable for small craft, than any
 other

other portion of it whatsoever: by which circumstance an extensive commerce might be greatly facilitated.

S T A T E

OF THE

S L A V E - T R A D E .

THE present state of the Slave Trade at Sierra Leone being such that it will be found a material consideration in deciding on the plan to be pursued by the Company, the Directors think themselves bound to state unreservedly the information they have upon this head.

It

It appears in general, that the Slave Trade is decreasing very much at Sierra Leone, the price of slaves having risen to about £.25, or £.30 each; and it is supposed that not more than 1000 slaves are now exported annually from this river. They are chiefly brought down through a chain of factories, and a great many are children. They do not cross the Company's ground. The kings, chiefs, and others, having any property, deal in slaves; but the chief traders are the English and French factories. It is customary to give the factors and agents, who either travel into the country themselves, or deal with other factors still further up the river, a quantity of European goods on credit (a great part of them gunpowder and spirits) and if the man in possession of the goods wastes or consumes them, so as not to fulfil his obligation of bringing the stipulated slave or slaves in return, he is taken for a slave himself: or if he does not return in a certain time, any

any one of his family is taken. This wild and indiscriminate way of taking, in some cases, any of the family; in others, any of the same town with the offending person, and selling him for a slave, unless redeemed by some other slave, appears from the information of King Naimbanna's son, to be a very prevailing custom. A sudden vindictive temper seems also to be common with the natives, and to be instrumental in promoting the Slave Trade. If, to use one of their own expressions, a domestic slave is saucy, he is sold: the children of these slaves are occasionally sold also; though with the rich traders this is not common: for these domestic slaves are considered as distinct from those for trade, doing little work, and having very much of their own way. King Naimbanna has 120 of these, who take half the produce of their labour for themselves, and they are much attached to him. This little vindictive temper seems to be joined with another evil principle.

It

It is a point of honour not to forgive an injury, and to perpetuate private feuds between one family and another, so that they will even take each other for slaves, as they can get opportunity, for many generations*. The practice of each man's revenging his own quarrel in this way,

* The spirit of retaliation which now subsists in Africa, appears to be much the same with that which has prevailed in all other countries, before Christianity was introduced, or civilization had taken place. Doctor Robertson observes, that formerly, in Scotland, "quarrels were transmitted from father to son, and, under the name of *deadly feuds*, subsisted for many generations, with unmitigated rancour." (Hist. of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 40. edit. 1781.) Though the Africans are vindictive to their enemies, Lieut. Matthews observes, that, "to their friends they are hospitable and kind," and that "he received such treatment from them, in the time of the utmost distress, as he could have expected only from his best and nearest friends." (Voy. p. 96.) Mr. and Mrs. Fakonbridge, in like manner, speak of having experienced the greatest hospitality and kindness from the natives. The latter says, that the women were most uncommonly attentive and obliging to her, and seemed to vie with each other in their endeavours to render her situation comfortable.

by

by selling his enemy for a slave, thought partly occasioned by the vindictive spirit of the people, may be chiefly ascribed however to the want of any efficient government. The offences, real or imputed, which are punished by selling the parties for slaves, are chiefly adultery and witchcraft.

The account given by king Naimbanna's son of the terror, anguish, and despair shewn by the slaves when they come down to the coast, is extremely dreadful. It is not safe to go near them, unless their arms are securely chained, lest they should strike or stab the person approaching them with some concealed weapon. It is a common thing for them to cut their own throats, or to contrive some way of destroying themselves in their rage and desperation. He is persuaded that he has known himself above an hundred who have cut their throats, shot, or stabbed themselves, or some way put an end to their

their own lives, before they could be got into the ships.

That the practice of kidnapping prevails at Sierra Leone, the Directors have received very plain and undeniable accounts; and even if they had it not in actual proof, there are a variety of circumstances which imply that it must be no very uncommon custom. The inhabitants all go armed; they carry both guns and a number of large knives, for defence against each other; even the women carry knives also. King Naimbanna's son says, they have all now learned to go armed a great way up the country.

When he himself has gone on an expedition up the country to Scassus, he has not dared to take his usual rest till he reached a place of security, lest he should be surprised in his sleep. The
C people

people living in the little towns along the river leave the wood growing close up to the houses, for the sake (as several of them told Mr. Falconbridge) of having shelter to run into in case of an attack.

A number of towns are now standing without inhabitants on the sea coast, two of which Mr. Falconbridge has seen: they have been all broken up by Cleveland, a very great mulatto slave trader, who was educated at Liverpool.

The following FACTS the DIRECTORS think it proper to specify :

Mr. Falconbridge, being in the free settlers' town one afternoon between four and five o'clock, heard a great shout, and immediately afterwards the report of a gun. He instantly armed forty of the settlers,

settlers, fearing an attack was going to be made on the settlement, and hastened with them to the place from whence the sound came. He found three Mandingo men, with two other persons, all armed, in the act of tying the hands of a man: the poor wretch was shrieking bitterly: he had been caught by these men as he was crossing over from one of the interior towns, and the shout and report of the gun were found to have been expressions of joy on his being taken. Mr. Falconbridge adds, that from motives of prudence he restrained himself from obeying on this occasion the impulse of his feelings, which strongly prompted him to effect the poor creature's rescue. He told them however, that if the person kidnapped had happened to be one of his own men, he should certainly have put them all to the bayonet. Green, who is now in England, was one of the forty who was with Mr. Falconbridge in this scene.

A young lad, of about sixteen, belonging to the free settlers' town, straggling one day to a little distance from it, was seized by King Jammy, who lives two miles below, and sold for a slave. One of the other settlers happening to pass by and see him in chains, brought word of this to the town, and the settlers seized one of Jammy's people in return. A dispute ensued, in which one man was killed; but it was terminated by the good offices of King Naimbanna, each side giving up his prisoner. The pretext for this outrage was a charge of adultery against one of the other settlers.

A young woman, was sold by Signor Domingo, Chief of the nearest town on the contrary side to King Jammy's, without the imputation of any crime whatsoever. She was one of his wives, and was all on a sudden sold to a Frenchman. She had often been with Mrs. Falconbridge, and had called in upon her quite

quite unsuspecting, and at her liberty, the day before.

It has been already mentioned, that King Jammy accuses some American ship of carrying off four of his people for slaves; and that the consequence of this was the retaliation on the American boat, and burning of the settlers' town. King Jammy persists in talking of retaliation on any Americans that come.

Three of King Naimbanna's relations about two or three years since were decoyed into a Danish ship, on the pretence of buying some fish of them, and they were all three carried off as slaves. King Naimbanna writes thus to Mr. Granville Sharp, concerning them. After mentioning as before stated, "the horrid depredations committed there by all countries that come there to trade," he says, "There are three distant relations of mine now in the West Indies, carried away by
C 3 " one

“ one Captain Cox, captain of a Danish ship,” their names as follows:—
 “ Corpro, Banna, and Morbour. These
 “ were taken out of my river Sierra
 “ Leone. I know not how to get them
 “ back. I never hurt or deprived any
 “ person of their right or property, or
 “ withheld from them what is their due :
 “ so I only let you know of these lads,
 “ that there will be an account taken of
 “ them one day or another.”

King Naimbanna's son also mentions that another relation, a cousin of King Naimbanna's, who had been named Jack Rodney, was asked to go on board a slave ship at Bance Island, in order to pilot her down the river. He begged to be put on shore again at Robanna town, but the Captain refused, saying, he would land him lower down at the extreme mouth of the river; when they got to the mouth he again refused to let him land, and carried him to Jamaica.

On

On his arrival there, speaking good English, he obtained several interviews with the Governor, and owing to this delay, he was recovered by a ship which brought a letter concerning him from Sierra Leone.

Another connection of King Naimbanna's, named Barbier Borro, who married the King's aunt, was seized two years ago by an infamous trader, named Harry, and sold to Cleveland the great Mulatto trader educated at Liverpool before mentioned.

King Naimbanna's son relates, that the same Harry sold his own father for a slave to Cleveland. The father's name was Nankedabar; the old man, who was then rich, redeemed himself by selling twenty-two of his domestic slaves as the price of his redemption. The terror occasioned amongst the rest of his domestic slaves by his selling so great a part of their number was such, that

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they all ran away from him, and have since been living among the mountains of Sierra Leone.

The same Harry who sold his father fell some time after into debt, and has been sold for a slave himself, his father being either unable or unwilling to redeem him.

THE Directors having now stated the very great and uncommon natural advantages of Sierra Leone on the one hand, and its present forlorn and miserable situation on the other, are led to observe, that it is evidently not merely a commercial factory that they have to establish, but that in order to introduce either a safe trade, or any considerable degree of civilization and cultivation, it must be an especial object of the Company

pany to provide effectually for the protection of property, and for the personal security of the settlers on their district.

The Directors have therefore felt themselves bound to take care, that together with their first adventure, a sufficient strength shall be sent out for security against external violence, and maintaining domestic tranquility.

They have resolved, that three or four vessels shall sail at once with a considerable number of persons who will thus be an effectual protection and accommodation to each other. The ships will sail in a few weeks, and will carry a sufficient quantity of articles, both for opening a store in the way of commerce, and for the use of the colony itself.

It seems obvious both from general reasoning on the subject, and from past experience, that a small and feeble attempt

tempt to set up a colony, or to begin a new trade at Sierra Leone, under all the circumstances of that place, is in no respect so likely to prosper, as an attempt made upon a larger scale, carrying out a stronger body of persons from hence, and supported by the weight of so large a capital as may imply a determination to persist.

In forming a new colony, there are a variety of inconveniences and difficulties to be expected, against which a respectable establishment is the best security.

And besides the advantages of general security to the settlement, and personal convenience to the settlers, from the formation of a respectable establishment at once, the Directors are of opinion also, that a much more profitable trade is eventually to be expected by conducting it on a large scale, than by

by confining it to a narrow mercantile speculation.

The expence of protection to a factory, and of demurrage to the ships waiting or trading about for the scattered produce of Africa, has hitherto been so great, that the usual advantage in the barter which is extremely great, has perhaps been no more than what was necessary to indemnify the trader for his high charges, and leave over and above these the ordinary profit of trade. The advantage therefore of introducing a great degree of cultivation on one spot, of collecting a great body of consumers of British articles on the side of one river, of storing a large quantity of goods in their factory rather than a small one (for the factory and superintendence must in either case be nearly an equal standing expence;) the advantage also of thus providing the means of a more prompt sale, and quicker returns in the African trade

trade than have yet been effected, must be very obvious.

To the attainment of these objects in any degree worth mentioning, a considerable capital appears indispensably necessary, and upon the whole, the Directors have thought proper to name the sum of not less One Hundred Thousand Pounds, in the proportion that will be stated at the end of this Report.

It is obvious, moreover, from what has been said in the course of the above reasoning, that an abundant capital must tend in many ways, to accelerate the general cultivation of the district; and it is to the profits that will ultimately accrue to them from an extensive and spirited cultivation, that the Company must in a good measure look for its reimbursement.

Having

Having thus laid before the Court the substance of their information from Sierra Leone, and also the general grounds on which they have thought it advisable to propose a capital of £.100,000, the Directors wish to give some account of their proceedings since the last General Court,—of the plan they propose at present to adopt at Sierra Leone,—and then to state the probable sources of profit to which they may look forward, in order both to indemnify their first expences, and to furnish a dividend to the Proprietors.

Besides their ship Amy of 190 tons measurement, and the Lapwing of 35 tons, the Directors have lately purchased the Harpy of 380 tons measurement, and 560 tons burthen, she being a vessel well calculated

culated to carry out a considerable number of passengers.

She will be armed with about 20 guns, many of which may be afterwards mounted on the fort that is to be built, and she will remain some time in the river for the security and accommodation of the settlement. Another small vessel is intended to be purchased. The whole value of the ships and cargoes (including articles both for the colony, and for a small early cargo in return) will probably amount to about £.15,000.

The persons going out are of three descriptions.—The servants of the Company, under a regular and permanent salary, of whom the chief persons will form a small council, and in them will be vested the management and superintendence.

Secondly.

Secondly. Artificers and others, to whom for a limited time, a certain support will be promised.

Thirdly. Settlers on their own account, to whom grants of land will be promised on the following general principles, viz.—Every settler going out from hence furnished with a proper certificate, shall receive 20 acres of land for himself, 10 for his wife, and 5 for each child.—The settlers going by the first ships shall also have the advantage of a free passage out, and of full rations of provisions for three months after their arrival, and half rations for the three succeeding months.—Settlers having property shall be permitted to have additional lots, on paying into the Company's hands in England certain sums proportionate to the lots they desire, which sums shall be returned them in stores and implements of husbandry, according to the progress they make in cultivation.

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The fixed servants of the Company whom it is now thought proper to send out, as far as they can be at present accurately stated, are—the Superintendent or Chief, and his Secretary; a Commercial Agent, a Surveyor, a Store-keeper, a Medical person, a Surgeon and assistant Surgeon, a Book-keeper and Clerk, a Clergyman, a School-master and School-mistress;* the salaries of these may be reckoned at about £.2000 per annum†. What may be the future extension of the expences of the establishment at Sierra

* Several of the officers take their wives, and some of them their children by the first ships. Many of the first settlers also propose to take their wives and children with them.

† Besides the expence of salaries above mentioned, there will be, in the first year, the charge of conveyance to Sierra Leone, of the officers, artificers, and settlers; that of their maintenance for three months, at full rations, and for three months thereafter, at half rations; that of defence and of cloathing for the militia; besides the charge of building a small fort, houses for the Company's servants, and other public buildings.

Leone,

Leone, the Directors are not able to say with any accuracy; but it appears to them that many charges which must fall upon the Company in the first instance, to whom the protection and superintendence must in the outset entirely belong, may with great propriety afterwards be either partially or entirely borne by the settlers themselves, for whose benefit and comfort they are afforded.

A considerable detail of instructions will be given to the governor and council, with a view of promoting order and œconomy, and of giving the utmost encouragement that can be safely furnished by the Company, both to cultivation and commerce; and every measure will be taken for laying a foundation of happiness to the natives, by the promotion of industry, the discouragement of polygamy, the setting up of schools, and the gradual introduction of religious and moral instruction among them, which

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it is hoped will be rendered the more easy as they are most of them somewhat acquainted with the English tongue. The most wide and general diffusion of European light, knowledge, and improvement, the Directors hope, through the medium of this Company, may thus be introduced into the continent of Africa; and it will be a particular instruction to their servants abroad to apply their attention to this great object.

The strongest injunctions will also be laid upon them, to abstain from every offensive measure, and to cultivate the general friendship of the natives, among whom they trust they shall find labourers on reasonable terms.

For the sake of acquainting the Princes and Chiefs, as well as the natives in general, with the real views of the Company, and for the sake also of counteracting any misrepresentations that might be made

made concerning them, they propose to send over the following printed Declaration:—

“ The Sierra Leone Company established by the British Parliament do hereby declare, that they will send out goods from England and take all kinds of African produce in exchange; that they will not deal in slaves themselves, nor allow of any slave trade on their ground.

“ They will always have a large store of European goods for sale, and a force sufficient to defend it.

“ They wish always to keep peace, and will make no war, unless they are first attacked; but they will suffer no one to be ill treated on their ground, nor to be seized and carried off into slavery; but will themselves punish their own people for any crimes fairly proved.

“ proved to have been committed by
“ them.

“ Black and white settlers will all
“ be equally governed, and will have their
“ persons and property secured, according
“ to the laws of Great Britain.

“ Schools for reading, writing, and
“ accounts, will be set up by the Com-
“ pany, who will be ready to receive
“ and instruct the children of such na-
“ tives as shall be willing to put them
“ under their care.”

IN stating the sources of profit to the Company, having already gone so much into detail, the Directors will only recapitulate the several heads from which there is a reasonable expectation of their arising. They appear to be these three :

First.

First. The profits, which though in-considerable in the outset, may hereafter be reasonably expected to be very important, arising out of a land revenue, derived partly from quit-rents, and partly from a gradually increasing tax upon the produce of their district.

Secondly. The profits from certain portions of land reserved in the Company's own hands, to be either cultivated on their own account, or to be let or distributed hereafter, as may seem most advantageous.

Thirdly. The profits on an extended trade, both with Sierra Leone itself, and its neighbourhood, and also with the interior parts of Africa, in the carrying on of all which, the Company by good conduct, will have many advantages.

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It must appear from the general account already given, that the Directors are endeavouring in the outset rather to lay the foundation of happiness to Africa, and of future prosperity to the Company, than to grasp at any premature advantages. They trust, however, that they are not indulging too sanguine a prospect in looking forward to considerable and growing profits, directly resulting from and intimately connected with the general and increasing prosperity of the country, subject to their jurisdiction.

The Court of Directors beg leave now to submit the following Proposition respecting the Capital :

“ That the Capital of the Company
“ be not less than £.100,000.”

At

*At a GENERAL COURT of the
SIERRA LEONE COMPANY,
held at the King's Head Tavern in
the Poultry, LONDON, on Wednesday
the 19th Day of October, 1791,*

HENRY THORNTON, Esq. *in the Chair,*

The Minutes of the last General Court were read and confirmed.

Read a Report from the Court of Directors, proposing that the Capital of the Company be not less than £.100,000.

“ RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

“ That the Capital of the Company be
“ not less than £.100,000.”

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At

*At a GENERAL COURT, held at the KING's
HEAD TAVERN in the POULTRY,
LONDON, on Wednesday the 30th Day
of November, 1791,*

READ a REPORT from the COURT of
DIRECTORS, proposing that in consideration
of the increasing magnitude of the Com-
pany's affairs, and the wish expressed by
many Proprietors to propose more new
Proprietors than a Capital of *One Hundred
Thousand Pounds* would allow of, a sum
of not less than *Fifty Thousand Pounds*
should be added to the Capital of the said
Company.

“ RESOLVED,

“ THAT a Capital of not less than *Fifty
Thousand Pounds* be added to the Capital
“ of

“ of *One Hundred Thousand Pounds* re-
 “ solved upon at the last Court.

“ THAT the whole of every Subscrip-
 “ tion be paid in at one Payment, within
 “ one month after the date of a circular
 “ letter from the Court of Directors calling
 “ for the same.

“ THAT every Proprietor of a Share
 “ be at liberty to recommend, either in
 “ person at the present Meeting, or by
 “ letter to the Secretary, on or before
 “ *Tuesday December* the 13th, Proprietors
 “ for his proportion of the new Shares;
 “ every new Proprietor being declared by
 “ the person recommending him to be
 “ well affected to the objects of the Com-
 “ pany, and to intend holding his Share
 “ or Shares on his own account.

[N. B. Every Proprietor of a Share
 may recommend for *Nineteen*
 new Shares in the whole.]

“ THAT

“ THAT all the said persons recom-
 “ mended as new Proprietors shall be
 “ balloted for on *Tuesday* the 20th of
 “ *December*, at a ballot to be kept open
 “ from twelve to five o'clock; and that
 “ in compliance with a Resolution of the
 “ last General Court, *one-third* of the
 “ persons balloting shall exclude.

“ THAT the right of recommending
 “ new Proprietors for the deficiency that
 “ shall remain after the recommendations
 “ up to the 13th of *December* shall have
 “ been given in, shall be divided equally
 “ among all the present Proprietors, who
 “ shall be informed, by letter, of the
 “ further share of recommendations due
 “ to them.

“ THAT every Proprietor shall be re-
 “ quested to fill up his share of the said
 “ deficiency of recommendations by a
 “ letter to the Secretary, to be sent in, on
 “ or before the *First* of *February*; and
 “ that

“ that a further ballot of new Proprietors
 “ shall be taken on the *Eighth* day of
 “ *February*.

“ That such portion of the said *One*
 “ *Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds* as
 “ shall not be filled up on the said *First*
 “ day of *February*, may be filled up by
 “ the existing Proprietors, either by their
 “ taking an additional number of shares
 “ on their own account, or by their re-
 “ commendation of new Proprietors, until
 “ the whole deficiency shall be supplied.

“ THAT in case of any future increase
 “ of Capital, beyond the sum of *One*
 “ *Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds*,
 “ the right of taking the additional shares
 “ shall be distributed as equally as possible
 “ among all the then existing Proprietors,
 “ in proportion to the shares they hold ;
 “ and, in case any of them shall decline
 “ to take the shares due to them, the right
 “ of

“ of recommending new Proprietors shall
 “ be distributed among them on the same
 “ principle of equality.

“ THAT the letter [A] hereunto an-
 “ nexed, be the future form of recom-
 “ mending new Members.

“ THAT the thanks of this Court be
 “ given to the Chairman, Deputy-Chair-
 “ man, and Court of Directors, for their
 “ Report now made, and for their con-
 “ tinued attention to the interests of this
 “ Company.

“ THAT this Court do now adjourn
 “ to *Tuesday* the *20th* day of *December*
 “ next, at *Twelve* o'clock at noon pre-
 “ cisely, at this place,”

LETTER



