

to this effect, "God did not kill him, he killed himself; God did not want him." The effect of this climate on the health appears to me, if I may so express myself, like a snake preparing a victim for being swallowed, it quietly slavers him with poisonous saliva, and finally gulps him, unless the unhappy one has previously contrived to get leave of absence, and had the good fortune to get "home." But as I said last year, I repeat this,—it is to be remembered, that be the treachery or poison of this climate what it may, it is unlike many tropical countries, where at any time an epidemic may come down like "a wolf on the fold," and where these

GOLD COAST.

"Like leaves of the forest when autumn has blown,
A host on the morrow lies withered and strown."

20. In conclusion, it may be expected from me to be able from my experience to point out in a few words, what appear to me to be the leading salient means for improving this country, morally and commercially; I should in reply state that the most prominent, as well as the simplest, means appear to me to be the distribution generally of elementary education, and the introduction into use of some kind of beast of burden. These latter would necessitate and secure the maintenance of roads, and I need not urge what the effect of this would be in increasing the intercourse of civilized travellers with the interior, and in facilitating the carriage, either to any river or to the sea side directly, of the products of the country, the multiplying of which would be helped by the interior being opened to the travellers I have referred to. It is hard to imagine that camels, mules, donkeys, and horses are all incapable of life here, but, I believe I may say, that the whole of the Fantee country with which the British Government is connected, does not at present possess a single one. Some persons will, no doubt, be more than astonished at my not referring to christianizing the population; but Christianity is itself civilization; and if I may so express myself, elementary Christianity, as far as teaching goes, is with me implied in elementary education.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY CONNOR,
Acting Governor.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.

No. 32.

ST. HELENA.

No. 32.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT
of ST. HELENA to the Right Honourable the SECRETARY OF STATE.

(No. 16.)

St. Helena, April 4, 1856.

SIR,

(Received June 23, 1856.)

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book for 1855, which has been delayed for the preparation of the returns of shipping, &c. from the Customs, called for by Sir George Grey's Circular Despatch, dated 22d September last.

2. In compliance with the instructions contained in that Despatch, I have also caused the various returns to be carefully prepared, and so far as the means of information have been available, the accuracy of the returns may be depended on.

3. It will, however, be seen, that in some respects the information afforded is not so full as desired, arising from the want of proper statistical returns.

4. The colonial revenue for the year 1855 amounts to 16,447. 4s. 6d., exclusive of receipts on account of the Widows and Orphans' Fund, and shows but a very trifling difference when compared with the receipts for 1854, viz., 16,145l. 2s. 2½d., or, with the amount estimated for 1855, 16,319l.

5. The expenditure amounts to 16,007l. 2s. 9½d., exclusive of payments on account of the Widows' Fund, and of disbursements on the colonial account

ST. HELENA

end of the year not having yet arrived, the total expenditure cannot be accurately given. It will, however, be somewhat in excess of the estimate, in consequence to a considerable outlay for waterworks undertaken, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, to increase the supply of water to the shipping, and which were not calculated in the preparation of the annual estimates.

6. These works were undertaken upon the recommendation of Governor Browne; they must prove of great benefit, and were, indeed, almost unavoidably necessary to the accommodation and quick despatch of the large number of ships which call at this port on their passage to Europe.

7. The returns of population are obtained from a census taken in 1851, showing a total of 6,108. In connexion with this return, it is to be observed that the number of births during the year cannot be correctly given. The births registered amount only to eighty-seven in number, but as the registration is not compulsory, it is estimated that the number not registered amounts to at least as many more.

8. In the returns of imports and exports, I regret that it has not been practicable to comply with Sir George Grey's desire, that the articles should be stated according to weight and measure, and not by the packages in which they are contained.

9. In the returns of agriculture, also, the information given is, I regret to say, very limited. On the whole the year has been more favourable to the farmers than the year preceding, yet the blight and potato disease have continued to prove very destructive and discouraging to any agricultural enterprise.

10. On my recommendation, Sir William Molesworth was pleased to authorize the purchase of a flour mill, which has recently arrived, and will, I hope, prove of great benefit to the farmers.

11. Every attempt at the growth of wheat on a small scale as an experiment has proved satisfactory; and now that the ready means will be afforded of converting the wheat so grown into flour, efforts are being made to grow a larger quantity this year, and ultimately the cultivation of wheat may be generally adopted in lieu of uncertain potato crops, which, though most profitable in successful seasons, by their frequent failures in late years have so often caused great disappointment to the farmers as to reduce the larger number of them to comparative poverty.

12. The annual report on the state of the Government House, which is directed to be forwarded with the Blue Book, forms the subject of another Despatch of this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. N. VIGORS,
Colonel, and Acting Governor.

Right Hon. the Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

No. 33.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

No. 33.

Copy of DESPATCH from Governor Sir George Grey to the
Right Hon. H. LABOUCHERE, M.P.

(No. 71.)

Cape Town, August 15, 1856.

Sir,

(Received 3 November 1856).

13 August 1856.

I have the honour herewith to transmit the Blue Book for the year 1854, together with a letter from the Colonial Secretary explanatory of the reasons which prevented him from effecting its completion at an earlier date.

As the enclosed Paper Book, such as it is, and of date antecedent to my administration of the office of the colony, and regarding which my predecessor has transmitted ample reports, it appears unnecessary for me to transmit an annual report of the colony during the year 1854 on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. GREY.

The Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.