Coast, no trade in slaves whatever. In fact, the trade, with the exceptions just made, is now confined to what is called the Congo country, in which there are not more than eight or ten points where slaves are collected, and from which they are shipped*. If we add to these the three above mentioned, we have on the whole coast not more than twelve or fourteen; whereas there were, even within the knowledge of the writer, nearly four times this number. We scarcely know how such results have been overlooked, and yet these are facts that cannot be denied. More than 2000 miles of sea-coast, and that forming the frontier of the best and fairest portions of the African continent, has been relieved from this unparalleled scourge; and perhaps more than 20,000,000 of human beings, interiorwards, have been restored to comparative peace and happiness by the operations of the squadron along the coast. And how has all this been achieved? We reply, by a process in itself perfectly natural, and in exact accordance with the expectations of those who originated this enterprise. Take, as an illustration, the history of the Slave Trade in the Bight of Biafra. All who have investigated the subject know that the Rivers Benin, Bonny, Brass, Calabar, and Cameroons, were once the chief seats of this trade. It is through these rivers that the Niger discharges itself into the ocean; and as the factories near the mouths of these different branches had great facility of access to the heart of Africa, it is probable that the Slave Trade was carried on more vigorously here than anywhere else on the coast. But at present there is none of it. This part of the coast having been subjected for several successive years to a virtual blockade, not only did the Spaniards and Portuguese find themselves under the necessity of relinquishing it, but, at the same time, the natives saw that they could derive a larger and more certain profit from lawful commerce, and consequently turned their attention to the manufacture of palm-oil. The number of vessels now engaged in carrying on a lawful trade in these rivers is between forty and fifty; and so decided are the advantages reaped by the natives from this change in their commercial affairs, it is not believed that they would ever revert to it again, even if all outward restraints were taken away.

Now while we do not expect the truth of these statements to be called into question, we anticipate that some exceptions will be taken as to the amount of real good that has been effected, as well as to the share of credit which we have assigned to the British squadron, in connection with the above-mentioned results. It will be said, perhaps, that in forcing the Slave Trade out of so many of its strongholds, important aid has been derived from the English colonies and the Liberian settlements; and that in relation to other parts of the coast, where no such aid has been available, although the Slave Trade has been shut up to fewer points, the only consequence is, that it is carried on more vigorously at these points, and that the number of slaves still exported is as great as it ever was.

In relation to the first of these objections we would remark, that while it is unquestionably true that important aid has been derived from these settlements in breaking up slave-factories in their immediate vicinity, it is equally true that they could have rendered no such aid had it not been for the countenance and support which they received from the English and other men-of-war on the coast, and for the simple reason that none of these settlements, nor all of them together, have sufficient naval force to contend with a single armed slaver. If they have it in their power to destroy any barracoons that may be established in their immediate neighbourhood, by marching a land force against them, their enemies, if not intimidated by the presence of so many men-of-war, could at any time take ample revenge by destroying what little commerce they have, if they did not put in imminent peril the most promising settlements on the coast.

In relation to the other objection, that there has been no material diminution of the number of slaves exported from the coast, we have more than our doubts. The time has been when tolerably accurate statistics might be collected on this subject, but we do not see how this can be done at present. There is no one on the coast of Africa who can furnish anything like accurate information, and as most of the slaves which reach Brazil are smuggled into places where there is the least likelihood of their being detected, we doubt whether there is any one there that can furnish information upon which more reliance can be placed. It is the policy of those engaged in this traffic to make an exaggerated impression,

* It is possible that there is a little of this trade near the Rio Pongos and Bissaos, to the north of Sierra Leone; but if any at all, it is very insignificant.

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

13. May 1855--October 1857

1856