West African Mails.—Liverpool, Wednesday, March 13.—The R. M. S. Cleopatra arrived this afternoon with dates from Fernando Po to January 29, Cameroons 31st, Old Calabar February 2d, Bonny 7th, Braso 7th, Benin 8th, Lagos 10th, Accra 12th, Cape Coast 14th, Cape Palmas 16th, Sierra Leone 21st, Bathurst 25th, Teneriffe March 3d, Maderia 3d.

She brings 2180 ounces gold dust, \$3869 in specie, and 40 passengers. At Malimba H. M. S. Ganges had arrived for the protection of British trading interests from native incursions. A cannibal festival had taken place at Bonny. The victims heads were cut off and exhibited in front of the public places of worship. Trade on Gold Coast good. The loss of the ship Roderick Dhu, reported off Cape Palmas on Feb. 8—officers and crew saved. Wreck plundered by the natives.

A war had broken out between the British and Mandingoes on the Bathurst river, and the town Saba had been attacked. The Mandingoes were defeated with great loss, British loss slight.

Within the last few months, more than twenty vessels have been seized by the United States authorities at this port, and held on the suspicion that they were about to engage in the slave-trade.

RETURN OF THE REV. ROBERT MOFFATT FROM THE INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA.

In our last number, a letter was inserted from our venerable friend, dated Nyati, May 8th, in which he gave an encouraging statement of the commencement of missionary labor among the Metebele, under the auspices of the chief, Moselekatse. It will be seen from the following letter, after an absence of about a year, Mr. Moffatt has returned to the Kuruman, where he has for so long zealously labored in the service of his Divine Master. The state of his health, and the declining strength of Mrs. Moffatt, render this step necessary; but he will be ready, on every occasion, to render the new missions his valuable assistance, either by his experienced counsels, or, if need be, by personal visitation. We are still waiting with anxious hope for tidings from Mr. Helmore and his associates; but the extreme difficulty of transmitting information to the colony from the distant interior, reasonably accounts for the delay:

KURUMAN, September 4th, 1860.

To the Rev. Dr. Tidman, Foreign Secretary:

My DEAR BROTHER:—Once more I address you from my Kuruman home, which of late years has been more like the lodge of a wayfaring man, than a permanent abode. I left Nyati on the 18th of June, and after a journey distinguished by nothing very unusual, only by goodness and mercy, I arrived here on the 21st of August, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, and found all well.

Thus I parted with Moselekatse, apparently unabated in his attachment to me, fickle and fastidious as savages, and especially despots, generally are. Before parting, he pleaded how that I should receive a present of ivory; but whilst giving full expression to the gratitude I felt, I begged he would excuse me receiving any thing of that kind, whilst I had no objection to receive a few oxen to supply the loss of oxen that I had sustained from fatigue, accident and long sickness. I added that the accomplishment of my wishes was immensely more gratifying to my heart, through his kindness, than the gift of all his riches would be. The servants of God had come to live with him and teach his people, and the

road was now open, so that merchants and traders would gladly supply his wants for his ivory.

On reaching the most southerly outpost, where my own remaining cattle were, I received an ample supply of draught oxen by order of the King, so that I was enabled to travel the remainder of the journey with comparative comfort. I lacked no good thing, though passing through a lion country, we were not disturbed. On reaching the Bamanguato, I had the happiness of meeting Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, just ready for starting on their journey to the Makololo. We spent Saturday and the Sabbath together in sweet communion, conversing on the interior missions, and the wide, and we hope, effectual doors to the interminable regions of heathen darkness in Central Africa. Sekhomi, who has been reinstated, treated us kindly, and to him I delivered Moselekatse's message—i. e., he might sleep, as Moselekatse had no intention to go to war with any one, having resolved to keep his promise made to me, on my visit in 1854, viz., that he would in future avoid every thing like aggressive war, being convinced that it was to his interest as well as his happiness to do so.

To return to Nyati. I am thankful in being able to say that I left Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, and Mr. and Mrs. John Moffatt and little ones all well. Mr. Thomas had already occupied one room in his new house, and John would soon be able to enjoy the comfort of his. Neither had they obtained suitable servants; those supplied were rather too young for the purpose required; but as the King promised that their wants should be supplied, I have no doubt but that every inconvenience in that respect has been long since removed. The Kuruman people having all left, no objection was raised to people assisting during the day, while they seemed perfectly willing to put their hands to any thing they were able to do. They are passionately fond of white or striped calico to bind about their heads, and especially their middles. Beads are the standing currency; and it is astonishing what plans they will devise, and what things they will bring—pulse, vegetables, various cereals, mats, tobacco, spears, waraxes, etc., to obtain a few beads or strips of calico.

I was with my late brother Hamilton years among the natives of this country, before, with one exception, we could get an individual to put a spade into the ground, or to hew a bit of firewood. Among the Metebele every thing is new to both parties, and I have only been surprised to see the warlike spirits of the Metebele stoop to do things to which they have never been accustomed. But it should always be kept in mind, that the pulse of public feeling must but be in unison with the sometimes rather eccentric emotions of the sovereign.

It was gratifying to witness, up to the time that I left, that there was no flagging in the King's desire to have the word of God preached in the town, and even on one occasion within the extensive premises, sacred only to his wives and domestics. He is always present himself, and when an interpreter (yet new) happens to exhibit any difficulty in expressing himself in the Metebele—which is not very often—he promptly helps him out.

Most willingly would I have prolonged my stay, had my presence at the station been deemed any longer of use. I had been under the necessity of doing a great deal of wood and iron work to repair my two wagons, which I was obliged to take, besides the one for the King, in order to convey some of the mission goods, as well as a part of those I had purchased for Moselekatse. These two wagons were old to commence the journey, and with accidents and breakages on the road, they with no little difficulty reached the Metebele country. I had also to repair the tilts of two of the King's wagons, and a few guns, which, how-

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