he picks up one elephant's tooth, the value of which is about 2*s.* per pound, the weight frequently fifty pounds; but reckon it at one-half that weight, that will be £2 10*s.* more. The value of these two articles alone will be nearly double what his price brings you, if you sell him; and this he would bring you every year, allowing him all the other kinds of his labor for his own maintenance. Upon this simple calculation, the truth of which cannot be denied, what a loser you are by selling him. Besides, you get goods inferior, both in quality and quantity, to those you could procure by exchanging the produce of this man's labor with British merchants.' The chief acknowledged I was right; but said that, when I was gone, the slavers would come, and if he did not get slaves for them, they would burn his town, and perhaps take away himself and his family, in place of the slaves they expected him to collect for them; but that if this could be prevented, he would sell no more slaves. I then told him, if he promised this, I would come to his assistance, in case the slavers committed any violence against him, and put the miscreants in his power; that I should advise him to assemble his head men, and try and punish the delinquents by his own law, and I thought they would not trouble him again. I assured him, that he and his countrymen were considered by us as much better men than these slavers, and that we would protect them if they would trade fairly with us in other produce than slaves.

"This chief drove off the first slaver that came, as I directed him; he is now carrying on a thriving trade, and his people are more civil and kind to us than any I have yet seen. I feel convinced that I could influence all the chiefs along the coast in the same manner; but, to be able to effect this, it would be necessary to have the means of moving from one place to another, with a degree of celerity that a steam vessel alone could give us. This would be requisite, both to enable us to keep our promise of protecting the chiefs from the slavers, and also for the purpose of going up the rivers, which are at present unknown to us, with the least possible risk of health or loss of time.

"Steamboats would also be of incalculable use to commerce, by towing ships over bars and agitated currents, whilst, as a means of catching the slave ships, and protecting the coast from the depredations of their crews, three steamers would effect more than the expensive squadron now maintained there. These three vessels should carry four heavy guns each, be of as light a draught of water as possible, and be manned with fifty white* and fifty black men each; they would not cost one-half as much as one large frigate, one corvette, and two gun brigs, whilst they would be an infinitely more efficient means of attaining the end proposed by the use of them. I pledge myself to put an end to the whole of our expense, and totally to suppress the slave trade in two years. But if this plan be not adopted, we may go on paying over and over again for the liberated Africans, to the end of time, without performing any thing beneficial in their behalf."

Mr. Rendell, who was governor of the Gambia, (where he died,) it appears, contemplated, some years ago, a plan for the suppression of the slave trade, and had made some progress in a letter intended to be addressed to the Duke of Wellington. I extract a few passages from it, which will serve to show that experience conducted him to the same conclusion as that which has been arrived at by the authorities I have already cited. In the introduction he says: "Of all the measures calculated to ensure the prosperity of Africa, none promises so well as the encouragement of its legitimate commerce and agriculture." He recommends the immediate clearance and cultivation of a district, "which would at once embrace two of the most important objects, viz: the improvement in salubrity, and the production of such articles of export as would render the colony valuable to the mother country." "Give," he says, "an impulse to industry, by establishing model plantations; let moral and religious education go hand in hand; and thus most firmly do I believe that the great and benevolent objects of the real friends of Africa will be most securely attained." "Government," he adds, "must begin, by showing to the natives the practicability and profit of cultivation." But he is convinced that the outlay thus required would be speedily and abundantly repaid. He speaks of cotton, coffee, indigo, and ginger, as being the produce that would thrive the best.

* Col. Nicolls now thinks that a much smaller number of white sailors would be sufficient.

I now insert some extracts, bearing on the same points, which I find in Mr. McQueen's "View of Northern Central Africa:"

"There is no effecient way to arrest the progress of this deep-rooted evil, but to teach the negroes useful knowledge and the arts of civilized life. Left to themselves, the negroes will never effectually accomplish this. It must be done by a mighty power, who will take them under its protection—a power sufficiently bold, enlightened, and just, to burst asunder the chains of that grovelling superstition which enthrals and debases their minds, and that, with the voice of authority, can unite the present jarring elements which exist in Africa, and direct them to honorable and useful pursuits. Till the native princes are taught that they may be rich without selling men, and till Africa is shown that it is in the labor and industry of her population, and in the cultivation of her soil, that true wealth consists, and till that population see a power which can protect them from such degrading bondage, there can be no security for liberty or property in Africa; and, consequently, no wish or hope for improvement amongst her population.

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"It is in Africa that this evil must be rooted out—by African hands and African exertions chiefly that it can be destroyed. It is a waste of time and a waste of means, an aggravation of the disorder, to keep lopping off the smaller branches of a malignant, a vigorous, and reproductive plant, while the root and stem remain uninjured, carefully supplied with nourishment, and beyond our reach. Half the sums we have expended in this manner would have rooted up slavery forever. Only teach them and show them that we will give them more for their produce than for the hand that rears it, and the work is done. All other methods and means will prove ineffectual.

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"The change contemplated in Africa could not be wrought in a day. But were we once firmly established in a commanding attitude on the Niger, and an end put to the two great scourges of Africa, superstition and an

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XIV. Books

2. Report of Mr. Kennedy, of Maryland
H.R. report no.283, 27th Congress
3rd session, Washington, D.C. 1843