

## TO KUMASSI WITH SCOTT - CHAPTER III

Ashanti • Kumassi Dynasty • Previous Quarrels  
Sir Garnet Wolseley's Expedition • Osai Mensah • Adansi  
The Last Trouble with the Ashantis • Sir Francis Scott's Force

IT WILL BE WELL NOW TO SAY A LITTLE on the cause of this Expedition to Kumassi, and for this purpose a short resume of Ashanti history and our previous quarrels with them will not be out of place.

Africans have no written records, so to trace the past history of a savage nation and get reliable accounts of the various states of society, manners and customs of the people is impossible. Hereditary families hold the throne for centuries, and although in Ashanti primogeniture is by no means strictly adhered to, and usurpers have at different times seized and held the stool, the dependent chiefs have never given their real support to an outsider, beyond that exacted by fear, and sooner or later he has been put away by some secret method as poison, or by open deposition, and a descendant of the old stock reinstated. There are a few traditions handed down from generation to generation, but they are of the vaguest description and mere fables that cannot be classed with the records of the Arab tribes in the North, whose ancestry, and every detail of past history, is handed down regularly by word of mouth from father to son. The actual power of these kings is much exaggerated, though perhaps, with the exception of, the absolute monarchy of a Dahomeyan Sovereign, the Kings of Ashanti have enjoyed greater despotic power than any other known African Potentate. By law the King could do no wrong, and had to marry into every family of note in his kingdom to keep the time-honoured standard of Ashanti ethics, and that fact gave rise to the rumour of King Prempeh having exactly 3,333 wives by law. This marrying into as many families as possible is not peculiar to Ashanti, and is a common thing among most African races. Khama, Chief of the Bamangwato, who visited England last autumn on a mission to the Colonial Office, caused the utmost consternation in Bechuanaland by breaking this long and invariable precedent, only marrying one wife and steadfastly refusing to further profit by his matrimonial privileges. So scandalised were the Bechuanas that they gave vent to their outraged feelings of decency, by making war on Khama, and for a time he was driven out of his country with the few faithful ones that chose to remain with him.

Little is known about the Ashantis till the beginning of the seventeenth century, when a great king and warrior, Sy Tutu, after conquering many of the sub-tribes and villages in the district, formed an extensive kingdom over which he ruled. Sy Tutu was afterwards slain when invading the territory of the King of Akim, situated on the south side of the Prah river. The memory of this great battle of Coromantee is still cherished by the Ashantis, who offer slaves yearly as sacrifices to the departed chief. After Sy Tutu's death his son Apukoo ascended the stool and conquered the Akims,

adding their country to that of Ashanti. His son succeeded him and he tried to annex the neighbouring country of Dahomey, but obtained no success in fighting against so powerful a race. Kumassi flourished through the reign of several kings, and in 1823 we started a most disastrous campaign under Sir Charles M'Carthy, the then English Governor of the Gold Coast. The decisive battle was fought at Assamacow and raged fiercely for several hours, but through faulty arrangements, the reserve ammunition had not been brought to the front and this mistake proved fatal to the British forces. Our allies were cut up and Sir Charles M'Carthy and most of his staff were captured, beheaded, and eaten by the Ashantis; the white men's skulls being cleaned, set in gold and used as royal drinking cups in Kumassi. Assamacow was immediately followed by an Ashanti invasion of Cape Coast Castle. The small garrison in the castle was powerless to aid the miserable Fantees, and terrific slaughter ensued during which over 25,000 natives were slain in our so called Protectorate, and Ashanti power now extended right down to the narrow strip of coast line defended by our forts on the immediate seaboard. In 1826 a British force was collected at Accra to operate against the Ashantis, and a sanguinary conflict ensued which completely turned the tables. The Ashanti army was routed and fled, while many war-chiefs, rather than meet the disgrace and terrible death by returning defeated to their king, committed suicide on the field.

In 1840 another king, called Kwaweda, caused trouble and again invaded the Protectorate, waging war on our allies, the Fantees, but beyond supplying them with arms and ammunition to fight with, the English did not have to interfere. In 1841 much interest was aroused in England by the departure of a Wesleyan missionary, the Rev. T. B. Freeman, for Kumassi, as a pioneer of missionary enterprise in Ashanti, Her Majesty and the late Prince Consort taking much interest in this dangerous mission. Mr. Freeman took with him a carriage and a plough as a present to the reigning monarch. The difficulties in taking vehicles through the dense forest and swamp would now seem insurmountable, but no doubt there was then a wide path of some description cut through the bush for the easy advance of the invading army to the coast. In any case the task must have been a stupendous one to undertake, but he reached his destination with his presents, and completely won over the king, who even gave a plot of ground for the erection of a mission house. In 1849 the English missionaries were forced to withdraw owing to the frequent outbreak of hostilities, leaving some converted natives in charge, but the mission had to be finally abandoned in 1854.

On June 12th, 1869, some German missionaries of the Basle mission, while pursuing their religious duties, were captured by an Ashanti general, Adu Bofu, who took them as prisoners to Kumassi. The captives were Messrs. Kuehne and Ramsayer, the latter, unfortunately, taken with his wife, who was visiting him at the time. A French trader, M. Bonat, was also a captive, and these white people would have been sacrificed had they not assured the king that a large ransom would be given for them if their lives were spared. Governor Hennessey made a demand for their release, and though they were not British subjects, offered to ransom the

captives. The Ashanti general demanded 1,800 ounces of gold; that is nearly £7,000. In 1872 the king sent a message to say that £1,000 would effect the release of the white men, the amount to be paid half in gold dust, and half in goods. In June a son of Adu Bofu was made prisoner, but was released by Governor Hennessey hoping in that way to obtain a reciprocal release by the Ashanti general, but without success. In October, 1872, the Ashanti King Koffee Kalkali despatched a message to Governor Hennessey saying he was shortly sending down envoys to arrange with the English, but the message was only made to temporize, and the following February the whole district was alarmed by hearing the Ashantis were preparing to invade the British Protectorate.

Colonel Hardy was at that time Administrator at Cape Coast Castle. The cause of the invasion was chiefly through the Dutch cession of Elmina Castle to the English. Koffee declared that he ought to have the place as a port to trade with and he meant to take it. Another cause that probably brought matters to a head so quickly was that an Ashanti chief called Atjeimpon, and uncle to Koffee, was held a prisoner in Cape Coast Castle. He was released in December, but by the time he reached Ashanti all arrangements were made for the invasion and three large divisions of King Koffee's army invaded the Protectorate together, each simultaneously attacking at different points.

The Ashanti warriors numbered about 40,000, and when Sir Garnet Wolseley arrived at Cape Coast Castle, he heard that this immense force were in the neighbourhood of Abracampa and were evidently preparing to advance on Elmina, to seize the castle. Sir Garnet immediately advanced and suddenly came on the enemy, hiding in the dense bush, impenetrable to the European, but through which the Ashantis crept on all fours. So effectually did the dense jungle conceal them that no one in the English force suspected the presence of the dusky foe till volleys of slugs showered from the leafy tangle on each side of the path. There was no confusion, however, though many officers and men were seriously wounded, and the Ashanti fire was effectually silenced after two hours' hard fighting, and they retired. The Ashantis were at this juncture almost starving, and after the thrashing they got in this brilliant little affair, known as the Expedition from Elmina, they withdrew, many falling by the way and dying of starvation. Our coloured levies had come in slowly, but as fast as the companies were formed, they were dispatched under their own chiefs to Fort Napoleon, and soon a sprinkling of Mumfords, Kossoes, Winnebabs, and Houssas were extended along the road between Mansu, Dunkwa and Abracampa, and also from Elmina to Fort Napoleon, while Captain Gordon took command of a gang of labourers to cut a road through the bush toward the Prah. Meantime the Ashanti General, Ammonquanta, swore a terrible vow of vengeance against Sir Garnet, though our forces still worked on the roads unmolested. On October 27th, news came that the warriors were again on the move, having evacuated their camp, but the main body were retiring, as the General had been recalled by the King, while a smaller force of about 10,000 men were moving westward. An expedition was speedily arranged, and a party of natives started with

casks of water and the tents in hand-carts. Major Baker Russell went in front with 250 native levies, chiefly Winnebahs and Sierra Leone men, and about 200 bluejackets and marines with Captain Allnut completed the little force under Sir Garnet Wolseley. A halt was made near Assaibo for a rest, and before daylight the troops filled their water bottles and started on ahead through the bush. The heat was intense, and many of the bluejackets dropped by the wayside thoroughly overcome, but after a toilsome march, their destination was reached only to find the Ashantis had fled. Sir Garnet rested at Abracrampa, and leaving Major Russell's native corps, fifty marines and eighty Houssas to protect the King of Abra, he returned to Cape Coast.

While he had been on this expedition, a most brilliant affair had taken place at Dunkwa by Colonel Festing, the commandant there. Hearing the Ashantis were in the neighbourhood, Festing made a reconnaissance toward their lines. After an hour's march, he captured an Ashanti cutting wood in the bush, and they forced him to act as guide to the enemy's camp. They came upon the Ashantis quietly sitting at breakfast, and rushing in on them, forced them to retreat en masse, capturing a large quantity of stores and ammunition which were destroyed. The Ashantis afterwards rallied, and suddenly a fierce fire was opened from a hidden foe concealed in the bush round the abandoned camp. The West India regiment behaved with great gallantry, but the native levies began to lose ground, though Captain Rait got a gun and rocket tube into play. Had the enemy charged, it is probable that the levies would have broken at once and a terrible loss been inflicted on the English. Lieutenant Eardley Wilmot, of the Royal Artillery, was badly wounded in the arm, but afraid of disconcerting his force of Annamaboos, he stood his ground, and was then shot through the heart. Many other officers had been severely wounded, and when poor Wilmot fell, the cowardly natives under his command drew back, forcing the English officers to retire. Next day the enemy attacked Abracrampa, but the small force under Major Baker Russell held the place successfully, and before Sir Garnet arrived with reinforcements the little garrison had driven the enemy away. The Ashanti camp was afterwards attacked by Sir Garnet, the enemy suffering a signal defeat, when General Ammonquanta narrowly escaped capture. The whole Ashanti force then began to retire by the road leading from Elmina to the Prah. A large force of levies were formed, and having been reinforced by three regiments from England, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Rifle Brigade, and Black Watch, Sir Garnet started his famous march to Kumassi. Among many officers that took part in this expedition beside Sir Garnet were Lieut-Colonel Evelyn Wood, Surgeon-Major Mackinnon, P.M.O., Major Baker Russell, Captain Buller, Lieutenant Maurice, and others whose names are now almost household words.

The forces marched through the bush unopposed and crossed the Prah, but the King of Ashanti, hearing of the approach of the English, set free first the missionary Kuhne, and afterwards the trader Bonat, Mr. and Mrs. Ramseyer, and their two children who were born in captivity in Kumassi, and they met the troops on the way up. Sir Garnet had sent an ultimatum to Kumassi, demanding hostages to be sent to

him with an indemnity, but though envoys came from the King asking for peace, no other steps were taken, and nothing remained but to march on to Kumassi and enforce the terms there. The army crossed the Adansi Hills, meeting with no opposition till they reached Borborassi, which was strongly occupied by the enemy. Here Colonel McLeod, commanding the advance forces, met a spirited resistance, in which Captain Nicol was killed while leading the Annamaboes, who, this time, behaved splendidly throughout the engagement, and deeply avenged his death. The enemy were forced to withdraw with heavy loss, but on January 31st they again assembled in great force near Ejinassie and occupied strong positions at Amoaful. The fighting was commenced by several brisk skirmishes between the advanced posts at eight a.m., and a heavy fire was kept up continuously on both sides for more than four hours, during which the Black Watch suffered severely. Amoaful was captured, but long after the town was taken the Ashantis kept up a heavy fire from the bush till they were dislodged by the Naval Brigade. The enemy even now were not done, and hardly had the fire been silenced in front when reinforcements arrived and commenced an attack in the rear. The baggage column was fired at, and though it was accompanied by a large escort, the cowardly carriers dropped their loads and scampered in all directions. A part of the Naval Brigade was sent back, and brisk fighting ensued far into the night, when the Ashantis were repulsed and forced to retire to Bekwai. On February 1st, at mid-day, the English made an advance on this town, but the enemy rushed from the place into the bush on the first approach of the troops, where they recovered from their surprise and resisted vigorously. The advance column consisted of the Naval Brigade, Russell's Native Regiment, Lord Gifford's Scouts, and a small detachment of Engineers. A gun and rocket tube of Rait's Artillery were also pushed forward, and as volley after volley was poured into the Ashantis they again retreated; the town being captured and burned to the ground.

As the troops advanced through the different villages they found human sacrifices of both sexes in each place, the mutilated bodies lying with head severed in the centre of the path, but it is difficult to say what significance the Ashantis put on these ghastly exhibitions. Each village of any size was found to be occupied by the enemy, but in every case, after a hot fight with the advance guard, the Ashantis were forced to retire. On February 4th the last gallant advance was made by our troops, fighting every step of the way through the deadly swamp surrounding Kumassi, and at six o'clock Sir Garnet and his staff were in the dreaded capital. King Koffee and a large portion of his army had escaped, taking their treasure and arms with them, and though constant messages were sent by the General, Koffee remained obdurate and would not agree to the terms of peace. The rains had started, rivers were rising, and nothing remained for Sir Garnet but to prepare at once for the return march to the coast, if he wanted to save his army. On February 6th Kumassi was burned to the ground; the troops at once setting out on their homeward march and encamping the same night at Egimum, fourteen miles from the capital. They returned by quick stages to the coast, the roads becoming more impassable every

day by reason of the rains, but happily a serious disaster was narrowly averted. A few extracts from Sir Garnet's letters to the Colonial Secretary will explain his reasons for destroying the capital and his subsequent action. Speaking of the occupation of Kumassi, he says:

*"I immediately issued stringent orders for the protection of the inhabitants and the safety of the town, but in the darkness it was impossible to prevent some of the numerous camp followers from pillaging, and the result was the outbreak of many fires. Captain Baker, Inspector of Police, and several officers were engaged nearly all night in the suppression of pillaging and putting out fires. One policeman taken in the act was hung. I endeavoured immediately on my arrival to communicate with the King through Mr. Dawson, and through every channel that appeared to offer an opportunity. A chief having come into Kumassi, who was said to be sent by the King, I saw him myself and impressed on him my wish to spare the town, and my desire to impose on the King no severer conditions than those he had already accepted. Moreover, I told this man, now I had shown the power of England, if the King would make peace at once, I was ready to accept a small part of the indemnity, and not to exact half I had previously required to be paid down. All was, however, of no avail. The men whom I endeavoured to employ as messengers, and who came avowedly as envoys of the King, were found treacherously removing powder and gold dust from the houses. The whole scheme of Ashanti politics is so based upon treachery that the King does not either understand any other form of negotiation or believe it possible that others can have honest intentions. Under these circumstances it became clear that a treaty would be as valueless as difficult to obtain. Nothing remained but to leave such a mark of our power to punish, as should deter from future aggression a nation whom treaties do not bind. I had done all I could to avoid the necessity, but it was forced upon me. I gave orders for the destruction of the palace and the burning of the city. I had at one time contemplated the destruction of the Bantama where the sacred ashes of former kings are entombed, but this would have involved a delay of some hours. Very heavy rains had fallen, and I feared that the streams might have risen in my rear sufficiently to seriously delay my march. I considered it better, therefore, not to risk further the health of the troops, the wet inclement weather having already threatened seriously to affect it. The demolition of the palace was complete. From all that I can gather I believe that the result will be such a diminution to the prestige and military power of the Ashanti monarch as may result in the break-up of the kingdom altogether. This I had been anxious to avoid, because it seems impossible to foresee what power can take this nation's place among the feeble races of this coast. I certainly believe that your Lordship may be well convinced that no more utterly atrocious Government than that which has thus, perhaps, fallen, ever existed on the face of the earth. Their capital was a charnel house; their religion, a combination of cruelty and treachery; their policy, the natural outcome of their religion. I cannot think that, whatever may be the final fate of the people of this country, the absolute annihilation of such a rule, should it occur, would be a subject*

*for unmixed regret. In any case, my Lord, I believe that the main object of my expedition has been perfectly secured. The territories of the Gold Coast will not again be troubled by the warlike ambition of this restless power. I may add that the flag of England from this moment will be received throughout Western Africa with respectful awe a treatment which has been of late years by no means its invariable fate among the savage tribes of this region. The troops are now on the march homeward, and will embark for England immediately on reaching Cape Coast."*

After the war, the Adansi King wished to be taken under the protection of Great Britain by joining our allies the Wassaws, and after a little hesitation, Sir Garnet allowed his request in a modified form. At Detchiasu, on February the 9th, fresh envoys reached Sir Garnet, assuring him that Koffee was most anxious to accede to the General's terms and make peace. They declared that the King could only send 1,000 ozs. of gold, instead of the 50,000 ozs. demanded, but that he would pay the rest in quarterly instalments. Refusing to accept those terms would not have improved matters, so Sir Garnet drew up a treaty which was signed by the envoys and himself. The treaty is too long to give in full, but the chief clauses were as follows :

- I. The King of Ashanti to pay 50,000 ounces of gold dust as indemnity for the expenses of the late war, and undertakes to pay 1,000 ounces forthwith and the remainder by instalments.*
- II. The King on the part of himself and heirs to renounce for ever all pretensions of supremacy over Elmina or any tribes formerly connected with the Dutch.*
- III. The Kings of Ashanti will for ever renounce all right or title to any tribute or homage from the Kings of Denkera, Assin, Akim and Adansi, and other allies of Her Majesty, formerly subject to the Kingdom of Ashanti.*
- IV. There shall be freedom of trade between Ashanti and Her Majesty's forts on the coast; all persons being at liberty to carry merchandise from the coast to Kumassi, or from that place to the coast.*
- V. The King guarantees that the roads from Kumassi to the Prah be kept open and free from bush to a width of fifteen feet.*
- VI. As Her Majesty's subjects and the Ashanti people are henceforth to be friends for ever, the King, in order to prove his sincerity and his friendship to Queen Victoria, promises to put an end to human sacrifices, as the practice is repugnant to the feelings of all Christian nations."*

By the end of February, the troops had all arrived at Cape Coast and were being embarked for England. Thus ended the famous war of 1873-4, but the Ashantis, though taught a severe and bitter lesson, were not yet crushed. A town built of clay and wood, with the materials close at hand, is soon rebuilt. The Kumassi of 1895 was soon standing on the old foundations of the Kumassi (or Coomassie) of 1874. Shortly after the sack of the capital, a bloodless revolution took place. Koffee Kalkalli was removed, and his brother Osai Mensah reigned in his stead. An officer

was sent from the Gold Coast to collect the first instalment of the war indemnity when it fell due, and it was paid without demur. The Ashantis, however, have short memories, and when the second instalment was demanded, the King said it was not ready, and the officer had to leave without it. He paraded his Houssa escort, and marched out amid derisive hoots and cries of the Ashantis; but, afterwards, wiser counsels prevailed, and the King becoming frightened at the probable consequences of his act, sent runners with the gold. After that date it was not considered safe to send for any further instalments without a large force, and as that would be too expensive a mode of collection, a message was sent to Kumassi to say the remainder must be paid at Cape Coast Castle.

The Ashanti power having been tamed, one of their most powerful feudatory chiefs seceded shortly after and formed the independent Kingdom of Juabin. The Ashantis, enraged at the establishment on their border of a rival power recently subject to them, immediately threatened war on the Juabins, though it was only a few months after their own defeat by the English. An officer was sent from the Gold Coast to Kumassi to preserve order, and he met with a good reception, exacting a promise from Mensah and the Juabin king, Hsafu, to keep the peace.

For the next few months the Ashantis kept steadily at work repairing their shattered fortunes, reforming their army, and collecting ammunition, which had been nearly all expended. In 1875 fresh friction took place between the two rivals, and in October the Ashantis invaded Hsafu's territory and attacked Juabin. The conflict raged for a few days when the Juabins were worsted and put to flight. Seeing that the invasion was a breach of good faith, and also gave back to Ashanti much of her old power, the Colonial Authorities ought to have sent a force at once to occupy Juabin and take the country out of Ashanti yoke. Not only was this neglected, but no steps were taken in assisting the Juabins to retake their own possessions. Arms and ammunition were obtained by the Ashantis from the French traders at Assinee, while the importation was forbidden on the Gold Coast, which was the only market for the Juabins to get the much needed munitions of war.

The Ashanti kingdom thus again flourished in less than two years after Kumassi was burnt, and Mensah at once repudiated the war indemnity, reinstating the old power that Sir Garnet Wolseley thought he had broken for ever. When it was too late to repair the injustice to the Juabins the Gold Coast authorities removed the embargo on the importation of arms, finding it simply reduced the revenue and gave the trade into French hands. The Ashantis were thus encouraged to purchase breech loaders at Cape Coast itself, so they thoroughly re-armed their fighting men with modern weapons right under the eyes of the British Government, and if internal dissensions had not convulsed Ashanti, owing to the deposed King Koffee intriguing against Mensah, war would have been made on some of the border tribes. Mensah had an efficient body-guard and was able to hold his own against the revolutionists, and as a further proof of his power, he indulged in human sacrifices to a much greater extent than his predecessor. The Ashanti war party was very anxious to remove the stain caused by the '74 defeat, and, at any rate, force the king of Adansi

again under their rule. Adansi had thrown off the Ashanti yoke after the war, and become an independent state and ally to England. When things had quieted down a palaver was held in Kumassi where the Bekwai chief publicly swore to the King that he would force Adansi to again become subject to Ashanti. This would be an open breach of the article of the treaty dealing with the Adansis and other allies who were not to be interfered with by the Ashantis, but unfortunately England herself seemed only too ready to repudiate the claim the Adansi people certainly had on us. If we were not actually bound to protect these people, we had a signed treaty forbidding the Ashantis to attack them, and any breach of that was surely an open defiance to England, and one she ought to have taken the strongest measures to nip in the bud. The Colonial Office, however, seemed determined to a policy of non-intervention, and Adansi was certainly at that time proverbially between two stools.

At this juncture, however, having allowed the Ashantis to re-arm themselves, the Gold Coast authorities became seriously alarmed by fresh friction with Mensah early in 1881. An Ashanti prince named Awoosoo having incurred the displeasure of the King, sought safety in flight, and, on arrival at Cape Coast, claimed protection which was accorded him. On January 19th envoys arrived from Kumassi bearing the golden axe, supposed to signify it was a matter of peace or war, and demanded an interview with the Governor. After the usual compliments had passed, the chief envoy Amanquah demanded in the name of King Mensah that Awoosoo should be given up. The Governor replied that Awoosoo, being in British Protectorate and not having committed any crime, was free to go or stay where he pleased, and would never be given up to them, whereupon the envoys said that if Awoosoo were not forthcoming, the King would invade Assin. This message probably did not really come from Mensah, but was a surmise on the envoy's part, and beyond that threat, and also the fact of the embassy bearing the golden axe, no actual cause for alarm was given. A panic, however, took place on the Gold Coast, and an Ashanti invasion was considered imminent. All the available forces were massed on the coast to defend the forts there, leaving the whole country open to the ravages of the dreaded foe had he been seriously considering such a step. Alarming reports arrived constantly at the coast as to the rapid Ashanti advance, but all these rumours constantly turned out to be false, though definite news was received that the King had an efficient army fully organized, among which were 1,000 men armed with Sniders.

Reinforcements were ordered from Sierra Leone, and 200 of the West India Regiment were dispatched to Cape Coast. Fresh envoys arrived at the castle, saying the King did not want to fight, and they appeared greatly surprised at the Governor's warlike preparations. Prince Ansah was at this time employed on the coast, and he also was astounded to find the steps that were being taken to defend the place, and though it had been previously proved that no reliance could be placed on the word of an Ashanti monarch, there seems this time to have been little need for such excitement and dismay when the King was quietly resting in his capital. A large majority of Ashanti chiefs were ready, burning for revenge when the envoys

returned to Kumassi without the prisoner, and some advised war at once, but Mensah strongly advocated a delay till he had received an answer from the second ambassadors. These arrived in due course with a decisive refusal from the Governor to deliver up Awoosoo, and that, coupled with the report that the English Government were arming their old and despised enemy, the Fantee, and was going to invade Ashanti, threw Kumassi into an uproar. The war drums were beaten and slaves sacrificed amid signs of excitement, but next day a messenger arrived from Prince Ansah saying that reinforcements had arrived from Sierra Leone, and that thousands of white soldiers were on their way from England. This report, though false, considerably damped the recently kindled war-feelings, and King Mensah decided to take no further action, but to keep his troops ready for emergency in Kumassi if war were forced on him. The second West India Regiment had also by this time arrived at Cape Coast from the West Indies, and when this fact was duly notified and exaggerated in Kumassi, Mensah thought war was inevitable, and he called out his full army to oppose the English if they crossed the Ashanti border.

An expedition was now determined on by the authorities at Cape Coast, and a force about 1,000 strong marched up country to Prah with the Governor. On April 16th, Ashanti messengers arrived at the Prah, a palaver was held, and the troops returned to the coast having had a useless and needless journey. Here the envoys paid over to Government an indemnity of 1,000 bendas of gold-dust and the matter was ended, clearly showing that Mensah desired peace. Further trouble from this matter was prevented on July 16th, when Awoosoo committed suicide by leaping from the wall of Elmina Castle, and thus dramatically ending any anxiety the Ashantis felt about him and his supposed intrigues.

Following the example of the Juabins in 1878, the movement of disintegration continued, and many of the provincial kings and chiefs of the principal southern states migrated, taking their people into the British Protectorate, and Kumassi found itself surrounded with deserted or disaffected provinces. In 1888 an attempt was made to restore the Ashanti kingdom by the selection of King Prempeh, or Kwaku Dua, as the rightful heir to the stool. Some of the states rallied for a time, but the ambition of the young king and his mother to re-establish Kumassi supremacy over the whole of the revolted kingdoms led to a series of inter-tribal wars which lasted for several years, and threw Ashanti into the utmost confusion. In 1891 it was proposed to take the whole territory under the British flag, but no friendly arrangement could be arrived at with Kumassi. Negotiations were again entered into in February, 1894, but Prempeh became enraged and alarmed at the surrounding states becoming friendly with the British. Many complaints were received from various sources, and in 1893-4 Houssas had to be dispatched to protect our borders on the north of Ashanti and to prevent the raids from Kumassi.

Sir Brandford Griffith dispatched two ultimatums to Prempeh, but he continued his policy of prevarication and double dealing, and the mission returned to the coast with nothing done; the Houssas being fired at and one killed on the return journey. Prempeh was told to send his reply to the Governor of the Gold

Coast, but he sent envoys direct to England, though, no doubt, these princes and chiefs were only too eager for a little jaunt at the expense of their country, and used every means in their power to induce the King to dispatch them direct to the Queen.



SIR FRANCIS SCOTT, K.C.M.G.

Governor Griffiths was succeeded by Governor Maxwell, who was on his way out from England when the envoys started. They were warned at the coast that they would not be received in London, and told if they waited a few days they could see the Governor who was deputed to receive them, but that meant no England, and no fun. They must go at all risks, and go they did in face of warnings. A last ultimatum was afterwards taken to Prempeh by Captain Donald Stewart, the Special Commissioner, who left on September 26th, 1895, escorted by a force of Houssas under Captains Cramer and Irvine. Kumassi was reached on October 7th, and Captain Stewart read the letter which was translated by the interpreter, Mr. Vroom. The letter described the various offences of the King, his violation of the Fomona treaty, his vicious practices, and the constant molesting of tribes friendly to the English. It demanded that the King should receive a British resident, who would see the reforms carried out, but not interfere with the details of Prempeh's government. He was told that the ambassadors he had sent to England would not be received there, and that his answer must be sent to the Governor at Accra. Prempeh, who was surrounded by his chiefs and 5,000 of his people, took the letter and said he thanked his "good friend the Governor" for sending it to him. He would see his chiefs to talk over the matter, and then reply to it. Presents were exchanged, and the little force returned to the coast. The Ashantis took no further notice, and as the day of grace expired without a sign from the King, nothing remained but to enforce our demands. A military expedition was decided on, consisting of a special corps of picked troops from different regiments at home, also the Second West Yorkshire

Regiment, 700 Houssa troops, 400 of the West India Regiment, and a levy of friendly natives to act as scouts. The officers of the Expeditionary Force were:

*In Command.*

Sir Francis Cunninghame Scott, K.C. M.G., C.B.

*Staff.*

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Kempster. D.S.O., Munster Fusiliers, Second in Command

Lieutenant-Colonel Ward, Army Service Corps, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Major Belfield, Munster Fusiliers, Chief Staff Officer.

Major Ferguson, Royal Horse Guards, Camp Commandant.

Colonel H. R. H. Prince Henry Maurice of Battenberg, K.G., Military Secretary.

Major C. B. Piggott, D.S.O., 21st Hussars, Aide-de-Camp.

Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, G.C.B., Aide-de-Camp.

Captain H. D. Larrymore, Gold Coast Constabulary, Aide-de-Camp.

Mr. Haddon Smith, Private Secretary.

Mr. Reginald P. Knollys, Interpreter to the Force.

*Other Officers on Special Service.*

Surgeon-Colonel Taylor, M. D., Principal Medical Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Leggett, Senior Ordnance Store Officer.

Major Wolfe Murray, R.A... Commanding Lines of Communication.

Major Baden Powell, 13th Hussars, Commanding Native Levy.

Major Sinclair. Royal Engineers.

Major Gordon, 15th Hussars.

Captain Graham, 5th Lancers.

Captain E. W. Blunt, Royal Horse Artillery.

Captain Montanaro (Local Major), Royal Artillery. Base Commandant.

Captain Williams, South Staffordshire Regiment.

Captain Benson, Royal Horse Artillery.

Captain Phillips, Royal Engineers.

*Special Service Corps.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Stopford, Commanding.

Major Hamilton, East Yorkshire Regiment.

Lieutenant Hon. G. A. Hood, Grenadier Guards.

Captain Drummond, Scots Guards.

Captain W. H. Sitwell, Northumberland Fusiliers.

Lieutenant E. Fitzgerald Wood, Devonshire Regiment.

Major Barter, Yorkshire Light Infantry.

Captain Reade, Shropshire Light Infantry.

Captain Kays, 3rd King's Royal Rifles.

Major J. W. A. Marshall, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Major Northcott, Leinster Regiment.

Captain Fuller-Acland Hood, Rifle Brigade.

*The 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment.*

Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Price, Commanding.

Major A. W. St. George.

Captains H. Walker, G. W. Swaine, W. de S. Cayley, F. W. Towsey, F. B. Pearce, J. O'B. Minogue, T. P. Barrington, T. H. Berney.

Lieutenants G. F. Gardiner, E. P. Purchas, C. Mansel-Jones, W. M. Hall, L. H. Spry, J. B. Paget, P. E. H. Lowe.

2nd Lieutenants B. A. Thompson, C. J. Deverell II, L. Mourilyan.

*Royal Engineers Field Telegraph Detachment.*

Captain R. S. Curtis, Lieutenant MacInnes, Lieutenant Faber.

*Army Service Corps.*

Colonel Ward, Major F. Clayton.

Captains C. H. Donovan, E. Bernard, E. E. D. Thornton, E. C. Thring, D. K. E. Hall.

Lieutenants Wilson, Armstrong, Atkins, Attorney.

Quartermasters Edwards and Challoner.

*Army Medical Staff.*

Surgeon-Colonel W. Taylor, M.D., Principal Medical Officer.

Surgeon-Lieutenant Colonels Townsend, Blennerhassett.

Surgeon-Majors Hughes, Wolseley, Dodd, Porter, Wilson, Beatty, Bartlett, Hickman.

Surgeon-Captains Wilson, Beevor, Maher, Josling, Burke, Eckersley, O'Callaghan, Cummins, Corcoran, Hilliard.

Surgeon-Lieutenants Spencer. Arbeiter, Lines.

*Ordnance Store Department.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Leggett.

Captains Sherwood and Mathew.

Hon. Lieutenant Cox.

*Army Pay Department.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Compigne', Major Dolby, Captain Westmorland.

*2nd West India Regiment (Sierra Leone) Gold Coast and Ashanti Right Wing.*

Colonel Caulfeild, Commanding.

Major Bailey, Commanding Right Wing.

Majors Egerton and Lowry.

Captains Jackson, Stansfeld, Henstock, Wilson, Baines, Climo, Liston, Davies.

Lieutenants Barchard, Falcon, Alone, Hardyman, Woodman, Litchford, Drury, Fulton, Thome, Blossie, Bliss, Davies. Poole, Davis, Martin, Peacock, Beamish, Magan, Chill, Murison, Prideaux, Hewett, Swabey, and Robertson.

*Officers holding Appointments in the Gold Coast Constabulary (Houssas).*

Captains Aplin, Cramer, Buchanan-Boyd, Irvine, Matthews, Annesley, Houston, Grant, Hawtrey, Pamplin-Green, Captain Reeve-Tucker (Lagos Houssas)

Lieutenants O'Donnell, Middemist, and Parmeter.

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