

FOLKLORE.

THE WOLF AND THE TURKEY
BUZZARD.

The Wolf, as it is generally known, is a carnivorous quadruped and the diabolical one too; while the Buzzard is a bird of prey of the Fulcon family, and dirty also in habits; both having the same nature.

The King of the tribe of the wolves was bereaved by the death of his mother for whose funeral obsequy preparations of the greatest style commensurate with his rank as the monarch of the tribe were made. The day on which the remains of the august lady were to be taken to their last resting place, his wolfish majesty passed an edict to the effect that during the period of eight days neither himself nor any of his subjects was to take any thing to eat but all must fast during that space of time.

An edict so severe, and passed by a monarch equally as severe and fearful as the Wolf could not but command obedience.

Grand was the day in which the dead body was interred. Every one was sad, but the one who seemed to grieve the most was his majesty who showed such an intensity of grief and sorrow that his subjects pitied him in spite of the wicked edict he passed.

Abstinence from food commenced to tell severely upon the people, but none of them dared to break his fast for fear of him who passed it, especially when he himself to all appearance did not break his. In the meantime his majesty was preying upon the very thing on account of which he passed the edict—he was feasting on the remains of his dead mother himself. His frequent visits to the grave of his mother were for no other purpose but that of devouring her remains, visits which were thought by his subjects as spotted by grief. At last nature commenced to assert itself and the poor fellow began to murmur, yet were they afraid to carry their murmurings to acts of disobedience. They appealed to the tender mercy of the Turk Buzzard to intercede with his majesty for them for a respite if not for the entire revocation of that inhuman law. The Buzzard who, from the day in which the burial of the august lady took place to the time when he was appealed to, had been an eye-witness to the wicked action of their master, readily promised to assist them. She was the more confident of success for the simple reason of her having the same nature, and that she could without the least difficulty denounce his selfish and wicked conduct to his people. The bird of prey accordingly had an interview with the Wolf, told him of the desire of his subjects, and ended by informing him that she had seen every thing that took place at the grave since his mother's death. "For your own sake," continued the Buzzard, "repel the law, for they are many and you are but one; there is a power stronger than yours which they are by nature bound to obey, and that is—hunger."

"You are very wise," replied the Wolf, having felt the potency of the advice gratuitously tendered, and regretting the loss of the remainder of the remains of his mother upon which he had been having so dainty a repast. "You are wise in having watched my movements and succeeded in bringing the matter so plainly home to me. But where did you secret yourself since I did not see you?"

"I was among the trees," replied the Buzzard, "and I saw you all the while you were at the grave."

This fable has given birth to one of the numerous parables with which the Fantee language is richly blessed. "The Wolf understands the language of the Turkey Buzzard, for they are of the same nature, habits, and disposition." (Fantee) "Pete quarki kasa kire bonu kirifu oia, osande won suban ku."

CORRESPONDENCE.

There's none ever fear'd,
That the truth should be heard;
But they whom the truth would inflame—

BURNS.

A WORD ON THE PAST TEN YEARS.

To the Editor "Western Echo."

Cape Coast, Oct. 17.

Dear Sir,—Evidently there have been many great changes in this Colony of ours in the past ten years. In the year 1877, the Temperance Standard was hoisted on our shores; and since then that noble Institution has been productive of much good towards the amelioration of our race in matters pertaining to the overthrow of the Great King, Alcohol. Many a young man has now become sober and a total abstainer. Many a drunkard has found shelter within the fraternal circle of the noble Order. And who can tell, judging from the influence which Temperance exerts on the morals of the masses, but that King Alcohol and all his accomplices will be banished to the limbo of oblivion in the immediate and near future. May the professors of that Order go on as they have begun, and God the Almighty will crown their labours efforts with unqualified success.

During these ten years we have had the privilege of witnessing a phenomenon of an "universal nature in the annals of the Gold Coast." And that is the stretch of the Telegraphic Wire over this our Coast. It is also much gratifying to find that the Submarine Telegraph extends from England to our Coast. Thanks be unto God, who has connected us with the Civilized World by rendering verbal communication almost instantaneous.

The streets in two or three of the towns in the colony have been lighted. This also is worth mentioning. May the Governor see that all the towns in the Colony are supplied with sufficient lamps—lamps which will not make the dark places darker.

Among the various periodicals which have risen in our native land, is the "Western Echo"—the exposé of secrets and the disliked of the powers. It is a sad thing for one to reflect on the demise of the different papers which once spoke out boldly and fearlessly for our interests.

The sudden disappearance of the "Gold Coast Monitor" from the field of journalism is also a blow to some of us who have the interests of Methodism on the Coast at heart.

But thank God that this our one periodical, the "Western Echo," is not yet numbered with the past Journals. May the Paper live long! And may the questions which it ably discusses have consideration from the right quarters.

The Rev. Thomas Penny when speaking in the Temperance Meeting which was held on the 6th instant, in the Jubilee Memorial Chapel, made allusion to the "Western Echo." He said: "The Gold Coast has given birth to the 'Western Echo'—the invincible periodical. What the 'Western Echo' is doing for the Colony is beyond measure and is beyond calculation. And in Cape Coast, or rather when one is here, he does not see the good that the 'Echo' has done and is doing. It acts as a damper on our would-be district Commissioners, &c., &c., who would be acting in the words of the poem 'I am Monarch of all I survey; My right there's none to dispute.' These officials are now somewhat circumspect in their ways."

What then shall we do in return, as the recipients of the benefits which the 'Echo' confers? Doth it not become us as natives of the Gold Coast to put our hands into our pockets and support it?

A word more, Sir, to the readers of this paper. Follow citizens, patriots, and natives of the Gold Coast! Let us do all we can to maintain the noblest and truest existence of this in our midst. Let us be true to God and to our country. Let us be able to say to the world, 'We are a people who are not to be despised.'

subsequently dealt with by Colonel Stanley, it was therein stated as to the management of our Courts, "that the lack of legal knowledge on the part of the Commissioner who sits in the Lower Court gives cause for frequent complaints; that a person versed in the law is as necessary to preside over the Lower as the Higher Court; this was any a reasonable proposition, however the response to this particular portion of the paragraph of the memorial resulted in the appointment of Mr. Edward Harrison Richards, the notorious Solicitor of the Gold Coast."

This gentleman subsequently arrived in Lagos, assumed his new office, and pretended to be discharging the functions that appertain to it, coupling, same with confusion in the Court by the introduction of strange and useless rules and forms which are not provided for nor visible in the Supreme Court Ordinance. The trial of Prosecutors instead of Prisoners by superfluous and mean ingless questions, the taking of the evidence of a single witness for a whole day, rude and impolite attendance to applicants in Court, the entailment of unnecessary costs invariably granted against poor native litigants, the accumulation of cases on the Court Rolls from mere needless cross-examination quite irrelevant to the cases at issue, with the unnecessary loss of time frequently sustained by suitors, indicate Mr. Richards' appointment as District Commissioner of Lagos an ineffable blunder committed by Governor Griffith.

Multiplicity of questions and references to numberless Law Books to decide simple cases, coupled with an immense waste of time, do not suit our present requirements.

We could not attach any blame to the Colonial Office authorities for this error, other wise we might say that they would take any man however unfit, if he is only represented by the Governor to be competent, to fill any office.

We regret to say that our Colony so far as regards the Police Magistracy is still in the same category as gave rise to a portion of the prayer in the third paragraph of the aforementioned Memorial in some particulars.

We have no personal ill feelings against this gentleman in the office he holds, nor do we speak of him from prejudicial motives, but where truth is needed to be spoken we cannot hold our tongue.

A certificate constituting a man a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Judicature does not necessarily create him a person competent if he is required to fill any special post; and such an one is not such as we sought for in the portion of the third paragraph of our memorial referred to.

We now must call for the speedy rectification of the blunder of Governor Griffith.

We do not ask for a Magistrate of any particular shape or form, on the bench; nor will the saying "Any thing will do for Africa" suit the present exigency of affairs. The Lagos Police Court is apparently imperfect; this is an incontrovertible fact.

We require a respectable and experienced legal gentleman, not a clown, not one who makes the Court a farce.

It is a gross waste of the Public Revenue to pay £500 per annum to a man whose fitness for such a post is questionable, but who is hasty to make long reports against officials and is thought to be teaching every head of a Department his duties.

Mr. Richards sometime before the death of the late Governor Young sent an application for a Government berth but was refused on the ground of incompetency; if so, we would very much like to know what led Governor Griffith to give him the appointment at Lagos.

We do not hesitate to say that the predecessors of Mr. Richards, viz.—E. Peel, Edward Mattei, Joseph Worral, Rouse D. Douglas, M. P. Grissell, Cookman, and Arrowsmith, Constabulary Officers (with the exception of a few among them) though not possessed of legal ideas severally discharged with distinction and with much satisfaction to our community during their several appointments, the duties of District Commissioner.

Journals on the West Coast of Africa respectively testified to Mr. Richards' unfitness for a judicial post—eye-witnesses in our Courts substantiate this allegation as if so suffered through his non-qualification.

We cannot be made to tolerate nor forced to swallow what is poisonous to our constitution; imprudent therefore it is on our part to suppress the fact of a man's inefficiency in such an important post, who thinks he is rightly entitled to £500 per annum when he does not so deserve it.

Downing Street Authorities, to this matter of vital importance, and for a timely rectification of a disgraceful blunder. Should the y mean to close their ears to grievances so undidly placed in public journals of a suffering community for an early observation and remedy, a serious outbreak of complaints will be in the Lagos Police Court will be a matter of a few months.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Lagos, October 1887.

NOTICE.

Persons wishing to address communications to the Government can apply at the "Western Echo" Office, where all the necessary requisites are obtainable.

MARITA.

OR
THE FOLLY OF LOVE,
A NOVEL
BY A NATIVE.
CHAPTER XII.

"Certainly, Mr. Cranbrook; and also the uselessly time, and the reprehensible and really unfitting places in which it is held."

"May we not assume," continued the Minister, "that the promoters of whom we are talking would not contrary to your fears and conjectures, knowing as well as they ought the sacredness of the work they have in hand?"

"It is decidedly impossible for them to do otherwise, Mr. Cranbrook," replied Mr. Quibba. "Were the weakness on our side, say on the part of the men, the women being strong in morals, would not as a wholesome restraint or check upon the men. But in this case the weakness is on both sides. How could it be otherwise when both of them were brought up together in loose habits as I have already described to you?"

"The condition of the people being at present unfit," replied the Minister; "it would not do then to form auxiliary bodies. Am I to understand that to be your meaning?"

"Oh no!" replied he; "that is not my meaning. In England where civilization has taken centuries to bring it to its present high standard, where the practice of pure morality is the aim and rule amongst all classes of society, where natural depravity has in a great measure received its cure, a mortal wound, although not yet dead; even there the women have formed their own associations apart from the men. And why is that? Because if the two sexes were to meet together indiscriminately in one place, even if in public buildings, the purity of its aim would soon be questioned. If in England where the women are in a position to hold their own against evil influences it has been found necessary to found Ladies' Associations and other societies separate from the gentlemen's, how much more here when our condition is as I have described to you? Is it not placing the murderous weapon, say the revolver, in the hands of the inexperienced youth?"

"I must acknowledge that your arguments are strong and weighty, Mr. Quibba," replied Mr. Cranbrook. "I am entirely in accord with you, and I will seek the first opportunity to au-