

THE LIBERIAN WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I am greatly astonished and regret to hear that there is a report in circulation charging me with the brutal murder of Mr. Selim Aga; a British subject, then residing at Cape Palmas. I therefore feel myself obliged upon to apologise in the following statement:—

The whole of the Liberian army attacked my big town on the morning of the 10th. of October last, at 6 o'clock a.m. My people and myself were awakened by the tremendous noise of their rifles and cannons; and after having seriously engaged with them in battle they were routed by my soldiers. Mr. Selim Aga, while retreating with and in the midst of the Liberian army, was accidentally shot and killed. His dead body was not found and recognized until a few hours afterwards, being armed with a sword. This is a genuine, true, and only circumstantial account of the event. Any statement or statements beyond or below this is a result of mere prejudice, intention, and calumny, and not of my serious inquiry.

A word or two in conclusion.

Although I am a heathen, yet I am neither such a savage nor criminal as all. I have never heard that any of my predecessors or myself have ever killed, massacred, or brutally murdered any black or white foreigner or foreigners. We have heretofore for our allies in the midst of the Liberian settlement within our reach representing different civilized nations by their respective flags—viz., of the German nation, Messrs. Lehmann and Wourmes; of French, Al. Verdier; of English, Messrs. Allen, Burton, and Hensley, of Sierra Leone; of America or U.S., Messrs. Mr. Davis and Fair. These persons we have never troubled in the present war. How could we single out and brutally murder Mr. Selim Aga, and leave the others as above mentioned unmolested? How could I venture to raise my gun against the British Government as to persecute, for the first time, such a black and damned British subject in defiance of the British power, as I do when I am at war with the American-Liberians? I deeply regret that my people have thus accidentally killed Mr. Selim Aga; in the midst and issue of the battle which could not possibly be avoided. I therefore do earnestly deprecate and crave the pardon and mercy of the British Government on the occasion of the casualty in question.

I still do humbly implore the sympathy of the Christian world in the present war with the Liberians, which they have unjustly declared against me.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,  
KING WEAH, OF THE GREBO REUNITED KINGDOM.

Cape Palmas, Liberia, Jan. 24.