

On the 5th June, 1885, a Notification was published in the "London Gazette" of the establishment of the British Protectorate of the "Niger Districts," but no allusion was made to the "Oil Rivers," but on the 1st January, 1891, Major (now Sir Claude Maxwell) Macdonald, who, in June, 1889, was sent on a Special Mission to the Niger Districts, and in the following year to Berlin, with reference to the delimitation of the boundary between the Oil Rivers Protectorate and the German Colony of Cameroons, was Gazetted as Her Majesty's Commissioner and Consul-General in the Oil Rivers Protectorate and adjoining native territories, &c. The term "Oil Rivers Protectorate" was also employed in the Instructions issued by the Secretary of State on the 22nd February, 1890, under the Order in Council of 15th October, 1889, and in the Agreement between Great Britain and Germany of 14th April, 1893.

The Oil Rivers are the Benin, Escarvos, Warri, Forcados, Brass, St. Nicholas, St. Barbara, St. Bartholomew, Sombrero, New Calabar, Bonny, Andorio (St. Antonio), Opobo, Quo Ibo, Akpayafi, Qua, Cross, and Old Calabar.

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cancellation of Royal Niger Coy's
Charter

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I've seen
it before

THE ROYAL NIGER COMPANY, CHARTERED AND LIMITED.

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Cause	Killing nine Igaras, and piracy on the river.
Casualties	1 native ally killed.
Loss of enemy ...	...	4 killed, 3 wounded, 4 prisoners.
Number engaged...	...	3 Constabulary officers, 64 privates, 12 allies; assisted by Executive officials.
Length of engagement ...	...	One day.
Result ...	...	Return of the heads of the murdered men to the Igaras, and plunder. Peace since action.
Vessel employed...	...	"Vigilant."

(Signed) JOSEPH FLINT,
Agent-General of the Niger Territories.

Okó Anara, May 8, 1889.

Cause ...	...	Piracy, and refusing to pay fine inflicted by Executive.
Casualties ...	...	None.
Loss of enemy ...	...	None.
Number engaged...	...	4 Constabulary officers, 50 privates, 12 allies; assisted by Executive officials.
Length of engagement ...	...	One day.
Result ...	...	Town burned; sixty bullocks destroyed; fine paid.
Vessels employed	...	"Vigilant."

(Signed) JOSEPH FLINT,
Agent-General of the Niger Territories.

CHAPTER X.

NIGER COMPANY'S STATIONS.

Akassa.—Depôt Station.

FOR purposes of convenience the buildings at this station are divided into two Returns, those belonging to the commercial and administrative, and those belonging to the engineering department. The former are to be found in Return (A), and the latter in Return (B).

This station was inspected by me on the 24th and 25th July, 1889. I found everything as laid down in Detail Return, correct and in very good order. The wharf (No. 35 in above Return) had been somewhat damaged by collision, but was perfectly serviceable, and the steam-ship "Roquelle" (1,305 register tons), which brought us out, came alongside and discharged and took in cargo.

Depth of water, $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms.

Akassa is the depôt station for the whole of the Niger Territories.

The various buildings cover an area of 35 acres.

In the Detail Return for Akassa District (A), dwelling-houses 1 and 2, the office and Customs No. 3, beach office No. 4, billiard-room No. 20, are all substantial buildings, the wood and iron work having been sent out from England; the foundations are good and solid, and the buildings could hardly be improved upon, being quite fit for European habitation without being luxurious.

The iron stores Nos. 5, 9, and 11 are those known as Moreton's iron stores, and the above have all roofs and walls of corrugated iron, with iron framework. When inspected they were all in first-rate order.

Stores Nos. 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 are similar to the above, but have wooden framework. There are three other stores, Nos. 16, 17, and 18, which form the basement of the dwelling-houses Nos. 1 and 2, and of the Customs office.

The average price, taking the river throughout, of a Moreton store 60 feet by 30 feet, including freight and labour, is about 140*l.*; of such stores, as will be seen in the detailed Report (A), there are eleven at Akassa. Five of the above are of a larger

kind, being over 80 feet in length. It will, however, be found that 60 feet by 30 feet is the average size throughout the river.

The next in importance after the buildings mentioned are the coal-shed No. 14, the boat-shed No. 15, the dwelling-house for carpenters and coopers, of whom there are one European superintendent and nine carpenters and two coopers constantly employed; then come the steward's house, various kitchens, bath-rooms, and two houses for Krooboys.

There were at Akassa a force of thirteen civil police: in other words, Krooboys in uniform.

From an administrative point of view, leaving out the fact that any of the Company's servants may be employed on administrative work, the value of buildings which might come under the heading of strictly administrative, such as barracks, stores for arms, and materials, is *nil*.

Detail Return (B), engineers' department and station. Inspected by me on the 25th July. Everything correct and in very good order.

Dwelling-houses Nos. 1, 2, and 3, of wood and iron, not equal in solidity and comfort to the ones in Return (A), but habitable by Europeans, and in good order.

No. 4. Engineers' workshop. A large building 93 feet by 44 feet, containing steam saw-mill, brass melting furnace, a "cupola" for melting old iron to make fire bars, plate-bending machinery, steam lathes, steam plate-cutter, and all necessary machinery for engineering work and repair of ships.

Four Europeans are employed here, a superintendent engineer, two engineers, and a boilermaker, at salaries ranging from 350*l.* to 160*l.* per annum.

The remaining buildings, except No. 8, which is an ordinary native hut, are made of corrugated iron, with either wood or iron walls.

No. 11. A wharf, 128 feet by 24 feet, is in very good order; can take ships of 1,000 tons alongside; depth of water, $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms.

Ekow.

Proceeding up the river, the next station arrived at is Ekow, in the district of the same name. Inspected by me on the 26th July.

Dwelling-house No. 1 is after a pattern which will be frequently met in the river and one which is usually used by the native agents. The walls are either "adobé" (mud and wattle) or else of wood and posts, the roofs in all cases being of thick thatch. These houses are by no means uncomfortable, being cool in summer, and they keep out the wet in the rainy season; a room is generally set apart for the District Agent to occupy when on his periodical visits.

The house usually consists of a centre room used as dining and sitting room, and two bedrooms, one on either side, and a little balcony in front, facing the river.

No. 2. Dwelling-house and shop.

These shops are similar buildings to the above. They are not, however, as a rule used as dwellings. One end is divided off and forms the shop, which consists of a counter about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, made out of the split fronds of palm, called here bamboo palm; the rest of the house is used as a sort of "expense store;" at the back of the counter are several shelves on which are displayed various pieces of Manchester goods.

The cost of these houses varies according to the size, the larger ones, with iron roofs, such as at Idah, cost 150*l.*, the smaller, with mat roofs, about 30*l.*

The above was in course of being built when inspected by me; it is now finished.

No. 6 is laid down in the Detail Return as a semicircular fort; this is, however, only a species of embrasure in which a toy gun was placed; it was made by the constabulary detachment in their leisure moments, and is doubtless useful in impressing the mind of the simple savage.

No. 3. A mat shed, 30 feet by 20 feet, quarters of the constabulary detachment, is a native hut, value about 2*l.* or 3*l.*; this is the only building in this district station which may be put down as strictly administrative. Ekow is the only station in the Ekow district.

This place may be taken as typical of the smaller or third class station in the Niger Territories; the value of the buildings, including one Moreton's iron store, about 400*l.*

WARI DISTRICT.

We now arrive at the Wari district, which contains the following stations: Agber (depôt), Assay, in the Assay Creek or river flowing into the Wari branch of the Niger; Sabogreia, and Ekole. The last named is the first to be arrived at, and was inspected by me at 6 A.M. on the 27th July.

It consists simply of a dwelling-house and shed; this is one of the smallest or third class stations; a new Moreton store 60 feet by 30 feet has been recently sent down; including the cost of the store, clearing and fence, the value of entire station would be about 200l.

Sabogreia.

This station was inspected by me at 9.30 A.M. on the same day. This is again a small station, somewhat larger than Ekow, in that it contains two Moreton's stores, *vide* Detail Return, but only one dwelling-house, which in this instance is used as a shop; the whole station is inclosed in a 6-ft. fence some 60 yards square; a guard of nine Kroomen were present. No administrative buildings.

Assay.

This station, as I have said, is on the Assay River, some 35 miles from the main Niger. As I was engaged interviewing native Chiefs and inspecting other European factories, this station was inspected by Captain Ferryman on the 28th October, who found everything in very good order. As will be seen by the Detail Return, there are here three iron stores all above the average size. A very good trade is done, being in the centre of a large oil-producing district. Assay is the largest station in the district, though not the depôt. Administrative buildings, none; it belongs to the second class.

Agberi.

At 5 P.M. 27th July landed and inspected the depôt station of Agberi; consists of the usual dwelling-house already described, and shop and store, with two of the regulation iron stores; everything in good order and thoroughly serviceable. Administrative buildings, *nil*.

ABOH DISTRICT.

At Apatani, some few miles above the confluence of the main Niger and the Wari branch, the Aboh district commences. In this district, one of considerable importance, are the stations of Aboh, Opai, Munakor, and Utshi on the main Niger, and Oguta and Gregani on the Orashi River, which river flows parallel to the main Niger, and is joined to it by the Ndoni branch.

Aboh.

The first station arrived at is Aboh, on the right bank; it owes its importance as being situated 3 miles from the town of Aboh, the residence of the King, who at one time was a very important personage, though now no longer so.

It is a station of the second order, consisting of the usual dwelling-house, in this instance with wooden walls and mat roof. The dwelling-house was very neat and well kept; two stores, one the regulation 68 feet by 30 feet, and the second with iron walls and mat roof.

The whole inclosed in a substantial wooden fencing, some 7 feet high, inclosing altogether some acre and a half of ground. The station stands by itself, and, as I have said, is some 3 miles from the town; all buildings in good order. Administrative buildings, *nil*. Six local police received us. As I have before remarked, these men are Krooboys or local labourers who have donned uniform for the time.

Opai.

At 12.30 28th July landed and inspected Opai, a small station consisting of a dwelling-house and store, and two sheds; everything clean and in good order.

Utshi.

At 4 P.M. arrived at Utshi; this is the depôt or head-quarter station of the Aboh district, and is the largest and best kept since leaving Akassa. Mr. F. J. Spink is the District Agent, and he has a staff of five Europeans under him, distributed throughout the district.

As will be seen on reference to the Detail Return, there are two distinct sets of buildings, one being the Utshi station, and the other the Utshi depôt, the former being for the trade of the immediate district, and the depôt station for supplying the whole district with Manchester goods, salt, spirits, &c.

It will be seen that in the two stations there are altogether three dwelling-houses

and five iron stores, the latter having both roof and walls of corrugated iron, and twelve other smaller buildings, kitchens, mat stores, bath-rooms, &c.

Everything was well kept and in first class order. Successful attempts at market gardening, such as beds of onions, tomatoes, &c., were to be seen in the station inclosure.

Two European firms, Messrs. T. Harrison and Co. and Hatton and Cookson and Co., have also factories here.

Munakor.

Shortly before leaving the Aboh district the small station of Munakor was reached; this is one of the smaller stations (third class) of the Company, and is in charge of a native agent; it consists of a dwelling-house and shop combined, one small store, and the usual sheds and kitchens, in this case five in number. This concludes the stations of the Aboh district on the main Niger. There remain the two stations of Oguta on the lake of that name, and Gregani on the Orashi River; they were both inspected by myself and Captain Ferryman on the 26th and 27th October.

Oguta.

This is a large and important station; it is under the charge of a native agent, and was in excellent order.

The dwelling-house is larger than the usual kind, being 60 feet by 30 feet; it has a little verandah in front, and the rooms are clean, airy, and comfortable; there are five stores here, three having iron walls and roof, and the other two iron walls and a mat roof; there are the usual sheds, kitchens, bath-rooms, and poultry-houses; the sheds here, as elsewhere, are used as cooper's workshop, barter sheds, at which the produce is bought and sold, and also as stores for oil casks. No administrative buildings. There is a force of twelve civil police.

Gregani.

Gregani station, inspected on the 27th October, is one of the second class stations, consisting of a store and dwelling-house in one, one Moreton's regulation store 60 feet by 30 feet, and two smaller with bamboo sides and mat roofs. No administrative buildings.

IGARA DISTRICT.

This is the most important district, comprising as it does the important stations of Atani, Abutshi, and, from an administrative point of view, the most important station of Asaba, head-quarters of the Niger Constabulary. The total number of stations are as follows, taken in the order of arrival proceeding up river: Atani (stations A and B), Odekwe, Abutshi, Onitsha (now closed as a port of entry), Asaba, Illah, Illushi, and Idah.

Atani.

Atani factories (A) and (B) were inspected by Captain Ferryman and myself on the 29th July.

They were in very good order. Dwelling-house No. 1, (A) factory, a very substantial and comfortable building 40 feet by 30 feet, the wooden portions having been sent from England. Dwelling-house No. 2 in (A) factory, and No. 1 in (B) factory, were of the kind already described, mat roof, with bamboo palm walls. Two "all iron" stores, and six stores partly of iron and partly of wood, all in excellent condition.

The station yard, sheds, kitchens, porters' houses, of which there were eleven, were clean and well kept. No buildings for strictly administrative purposes.

Odekwe.

Within an hour's steaming is the small station of Odekwe, consisting of dwelling-house, two stores, a shed, and house for porters, all in very good order. Administrative buildings, *nil*.

Abutshi.

Some 10 miles beyond Odekwe is Abutshi, the depôt and head-quarter station (commercially) of the Igara district.

Abutshi is the largest station on the Niger with the exception of Akassa, which is, as I have stated, the depôt and seaport for the Niger Territories, and Asaba, which is almost exclusively an administrative centre.

The dwelling-houses, stores, botanical gardens, stables, &c., cover an area of about

50 acres; this area is surrounded with a mud wall some 6 feet high, crowned with a corrugated iron coping to carry off the rain.

Dwelling-house No. 1 is a handsome structure 74 feet by 50 feet, iron sides to deck or upper floor, which is reached by wooden stairs; from this floor to the roof is composed of English wood; a central dining or reception room, with bedrooms on either side, occupied by Mr. W. Earnshaw, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. R. Benson, District Agent, and five European assistants, who are, however, mostly distributed over other stations in the district; Mr. Smith, Depôt Agent, and Mr. Wood, Customs Officer, being the permanent officials here.

Dwelling-house No. 2 is occupied by native agents and clerks; there are also two separate dwelling-houses (mat roofed) for porters, Krooboys, and local porters, who act as police, also separate dwelling-houses for pilots, coopers, and gardeners. There are three "all iron" stores, and four stores with iron walls and roofs, and wooden posts and beams; the above stores are all in very good order. Three sheds for trading, cooper's work, &c., stables, lichen, bath-rooms, and poultry-yard complete the buildings.

In front of dwelling-house No. 1, which is pleasantly situated on rising ground some 80 feet above the river, is a well-kept garden, and to the right a large plantation, of some 15 acres, of cocoa and coffee, under the superintendence of Mr. Woodruffe, who has lately arrived from Kew, and his assistant, Mr. Bartlett, also from Kew.

The garden is kept in excellent order, and alligator pears, oranges, limes, guava, and banana trees have been planted sufficiently long to bear fruit. There are also in the garden roses, camellias, African mignonette, and frangipanni; the above, with the exception of African mignonette, are all imported, and thrive well. A Report on the plantations of Abutshi and Asaba is annexed herewith.

Abutshi was inspected by Captain Ferryman and myself on the 29th and 30th July, and again on the 24th October; on the latter occasion I saw marked improvements in the garden and plantation.

Onitsha.

Some 6 miles further up the river on the same side, left bank, is the station of Onitsha; this has been a closed port since 1884, but the buildings are still kept up, and were duly inspected; there are three separate inclosures, (A), (B), and (C), consisting of four dwelling-houses, five iron stores, and various sheds and offices. The dwelling-house No. 1 in (B) factory is a most comfortable-looking building, surrounded by a garden well stocked with fruit trees; there is at present only a caretaker; it was originally the residence of the District Agent. All the buildings in the three factories are in good order, and could be occupied at short notice. The dwelling-house in (C) factory is a large building 104 feet by 40 feet; part of this is occupied by Mr. Taylor, the Company's Diplomatic Agent, a native of Sierra Leone.

Dwelling-house No. 2 is set apart for the district police; it is found necessary to keep a force here for the protection of the Protestant and Catholic Missions, as the Onitsha and Abutshi people are not on very good terms with each other, and the latter are a wild and savage race of cannibals, and apt to be troublesome.

Asaba.

Six miles up the river, and opposite to Onitsha, is the station of Asaba; this is the head-quarters of the Administrative of the Royal Niger Company, but I will here only treat of the station from a commercial point; as such it is only on a small scale, consisting of a clearing of some 3 acres, with a dwelling-house (mud walls and thatched roof) for the native agents, a smaller one for porters, and a small store, the whole inclosed in a split bamboo fence. The administrative buildings, Judge's house, barracks, &c., I will treat of under a separate heading.

Illah.

This station was inspected on the 1st August; it has been recently opened by the Niger Company for the rubber and gum copal trade, and is in charge of a native agent; it consists of the usual wood and thatched dwelling-house, with two stores, one "all iron," and the other iron walls and mat roof, two sheds, kitchens, &c.; the village of Illah or Allah is 4 or 5 miles distant. On the opposite bank McGregor Laird in 1835 buried thirteen of his crew, all Europeans.

Illushi.

This station was inspected on the 1st August; it is very similar to the last. The dwelling-house, same as the last, inhabited by a native agent, a dwelling-house for

coopers, a store (iron sides, mat roof), a shed, and kitchen comprised the whole block of buildings.

Idah.

This station was inspected on the 2nd August and 18th October; it was at one time a place of considerable importance, and the Attah of Idah is mentioned in the pages of Lander 1820, Laird and Oldfield 1835, Bird and Allen 1841, Hutchinson, &c.

It may now be classed as a station of the second order; the dwelling-house No. 1 is 65 feet by 41 feet, mud walls, iron roof, is most comfortable and well kept, a small verandah in front, with well-kept garden, roses, African mignonette, &c., in blossom.

Another and smaller dwelling-house for clerks and porters, two "all iron" stores, two stores, iron sides and roof, but wooden uprights, a shed, kitchen, and bath-room complete the establishment; everything in good order and well kept; full dimensions of all buildings given in Detail Return.

Asaba.

Before leaving the Igara district it will be as well to give a description of Asaba as an administrative centre.

Inspected on the 30th and 31st July and 20th and 21st October; the buildings, barracks, &c., here are entirely built and maintained for administrative purposes.

The whole establishment (not counting "Soldier Town") covers an area of 40 acres, and consists of officers' quarters, mess-room, doctor's quarters, Commandant's residence, Judge's ditto, hospital, magazine, &c., which I will now proceed to consider in detail.

Nos. 1 and 2 (*vide* Detail Report) are the officers' quarters, with store at basement. These quarters are exceedingly substantial and very comfortable, built on fifteen iron columns, with a good verandah of English wood, from which a fine view of the river can be obtained. This house, as well as the mess-room, Commandant's quarters, Judge's and doctor's houses, are all well situated some 100 feet above the river; the officers' quarters are 75 feet by 30 feet, and accommodate the second in command, Adjutant, and Gunner. A store under the officers' quarters (2) is used for small-arms, &c.

No. 3, mess-room. Originally sent out as a barrack-room for the troops, but used now as a mess-room; a substantial iron house, 40 feet by 22 feet, on iron columns, with double English wood-work, iron roof, no verandah; consists of one room only, used as a mess and ante-room by the officers of the constabulary.

No. 4, Commandant's residence. A very substantial and comfortable-looking house, 68 feet by 52 feet; adobé walls, English wood-work, and mat roof. All the above in excellent order.

Nos. 5 and 6, new barrack-houses. These have only recently been sent out from England, and on our first visit were not erected. They are iron houses on 14 ft. 6 in. iron columns; iron roof, English wood-work; length, 60 feet; breadth, 15 feet; on 3 feet burnt brick foundations. These bricks are made by soldiers of the constabulary, and are well spoken of. On our return in October I carefully inspected these barracks, and do not consider them suitable for the purpose.

They are, I consider, as far as their dimensions are concerned, too narrow (15 feet); with a double row of beds the passage down the centre is only broad enough for one man to pass, and that not easily.

They are too expensive in the case of native soldiers, who are born and have their being on the ground. Iron columns to raise the building off the ground are unnecessary.

As a matter of fact, very few men sleep in their barrack-rooms, but on mother earth in their native huts in Soldier Town, this being considered a privilege.

If it was considered necessary to put the men in iron barracks, an ordinary Moreton's store, of which there are three large ones at Asaba, would, to my mind, have answered the purpose better.

During our first visit to Asaba the men occupied these stores, which, being 30 feet broad and 20 feet high, gave ample room.

It is my opinion that the money expended in these barracks might have been laid out to better purpose.

No. 7, guard-room. A well-built substantial house of brick, 36 feet by 22 feet, with iron roof and English wood-work; would accommodate a guard of thirty to forty men.

No. 8, men's quarters. These are the three iron stores which I consider would

...done very well as quarters for the men, supplemented by what is ...
...soldier Town.
No. 9, hospital. A large building, 54 feet by 44 feet; adobé walls and mat roof.
Under the admirable management of Dr. Crosse, Senior Medical Officer.
Nos. 10 and 11, magazine and cells. Constructed of burnt bricks; iron roofs; in
very good order.

The remaining buildings in the military departments are a store for paints, oil, cement, &c.; another shed with iron walls and roof containing a condenser; a gun-shed containing a 12-pounder Whitworth, five 7-pounder mountain guns, with appliances complete, in admirable order, under the direct charge of Mr. Clarke, gunner; there are also three kitchens, bath-houses, &c.

Attached to the military department, and inside barracks, is a village called "Soldier Town," to which I have already alluded.

This is a collection of upwards of 300 native houses or huts. Here the soldiers keep their wives, each married man having a separate hut; the houses are neat, well kept, and clean. The village is divided into two, the Houssa, or Mahomedan, and the Elminas (either Christian or pagan), each sect keeping rigidly apart; 760 yards of iron railing, 9 feet high, inclose the parade-ground and barracks generally.

The parade-ground is a fine open space, capable of holding a battalion of 1,000 men for drill purposes.

There are also in barracks 200 yards of railing 4 ft. 6 in. high, inclosing gardens, walks, &c.

Between the officers' quarters and the Commandant's residence is the gaol. A building with adobé wall 14 inches thick, forming three sides of a rectangle 115 feet long and 84 feet broad; the fourth, or front face, is made of heavy wooden piles. There are thirty-three cells each 8 feet by 6 feet; the cells were clean and well kept; there is a regular Visiting Committee, and the prison is visited daily by an officer. This is the only gaol in the Territories. Separated from the military inclosure by a road 30 feet wide is a garden of some 15 acres. Here is situated the Judge's residence and the doctor's quarters.

The former is a large well-built airy house of English wood, with iron roof. The entire building was sent out from England in pieces, and put up in Asaba. It is the best and most comfortable house in the Territories, and the only one of its kind; a large verandah, commanding a beautiful view of the river, runs round the house.

The doctor's quarters consist of a building 68 feet by 52 feet, with verandah 6 feet broad; the roof is of iron, with a covering of thatch. It is similar in character to the building I have mentioned as being used by the native agents at other stations, only considerably larger and better built, and resembles the Commandant's residence in size and general appearance. There are here the usual bath-houses, kitchens, sheds, and dwelling-house for stewards.

At the back of the Judge's house is an inclosure of some 8 acres, devoted to botanical purposes, under the superintendence of Mr. Woodruffe: for details, *vide* Botanical Report.

The stations of Abutshi and Asaba present a very pretty and picturesque appearance from the river, owing to their situation on rising ground, well wooded, and the neatness of the various buildings.

ANAMBARA DISTRICT.

Flowing into the main river almost opposite Asaba is the Anambara River. On this river the Royal Niger Company have three stations, Gloria Ibo, Igbaku, and Ogrugu, which were visited on the 21st and 22nd October.

Gloria Ibo.

This is the first station arrived at after leaving the Niger River, and is picturesquely situated on a small hill some 100 feet above the water. It consists of a dwelling-house, 39 feet by 29 feet, iron walls, and mat roof; this is the residence of the District Agent, and consists of a central room and two bed-rooms, one on either side. The late Commander Pullen passed the night here, and informed me he was most comfortable; another small dwelling-house of the same kind is used by the native clerk, and also as a store. There are two stores, one "all iron," and one with iron sides and mat roof, two sheds, porters' house, and bath-room. The whole clean and in good order.

Igbaku.

Some 15 miles further up the river is the station of Igbaku, consisting of a similar though smaller dwelling-house, two iron stores, three sheds, kitchen, bath-room, and house for porters; everything in good order and well kept.

Ogrugu.

This is the last station on the Anambara River, and is some 40 miles from the main river; consists of a dwelling-house, 40 feet by 30 feet, on the usual native agent pattern. Captain Ferryman and I spent a night here, and were very comfortable; everything is neat, clean, and well kept.

There are here three stores, all with iron walls and mat roof, five sheds, one 94 feet in length, a kitchen, poultry-house, and house for coopers, porters, &c.; the buildings here were particularly well kept and neatly finished, which may be accounted for by the presence of an English carpenter.

NUPÉ DISTRICT.

The Nupé district comprises the stations of Lokojah, Kusso, Sokun, Egga, Shonga, and Rabba.

Lokojah.

Is a very important station, and capital of the Upper Niger; its situation at the junction of the Rivers Niger and Benué, placed where the pagan and Mahomedan worlds of this part of Africa meet, should make it of the greatest importance both from a commercial and political point. When I visited it at the commencement of August, however, there were no barracks or administrative buildings of any kind, and not a single soldier.

Lokojah is very prettily situated at the foot of Mount Patteh, a beautifully wooded flat-topped hill 1,200 feet high, and is built on the site of the old model farm which was brought here by the expedition of 1841.

Both the Church Missionary Society and the Roman Catholic Missions have establishments here, the former having a large and handsome two-storied stone house, the only one in the Territories, as a residence for the Bishop and Archdeacon.

The Company's station consists of a handsome dwelling-house, 75 feet by 46 feet, wood frame, painted adobé walls, iron roof, with verandah all round; this house is almost new, the roof being entirely so. I resided here for several days, and was most comfortable; it is the residence of the District Agent.

There are three Moreton's iron stores, 60 feet by 30 feet, all iron, one store, composite iron side and roof, 73 feet by 33 feet; another store, 48 feet by 26 feet; four sheds, including a carpenter's and engineer's shop, and three dwelling-houses for native clerks, coopers, carpenters, and engineers; everything is well kept and in excellent order.

With ordinary care, and if the sanitary arrangements in the neighbouring native town were improved, Europeans could live here for many years without going home. The same remark applies to the whole of the River Benué.

Sossokusso or Kusso.

This station and that of Sokun are two of the smallest class; they divide the distance between the important stations of Lokojah and Egga; they consist of a dwelling-house for native agents and a store and shop. I inspected both on the 9th September, and found them in good order.

Egga.

This is a very important station, and one of the oldest in the Territories.

I resided here on two separate occasions for some days, and made a thorough investigation of the buildings; there are in reality three distinct factories in different parts of the town, but for purposes of classifying the buildings, I will treat them (the three factories) as one.

In the Detail Report, Nos. 1 and 2 are one building, the store and shop forming the basement of the dwelling-house; the latter is a substantial building, 75 feet by 30 feet, with iron columns, pitch pine wood-work, and iron roof; a verandah 6 feet broad runs round the whole width of the house, and the store is behind. There are two "all iron"

stores, 60 feet by 30 feet, one big iron store, 90 feet by 30 feet, and four smaller ones with iron roofs, and either iron or adobé walls.

Two large dwelling-houses, with store combined, for native agents, of whom there are four.

Two produce stores, respectively 93 and 63 feet long and 12 and 29 feet broad.

Two dwelling-houses for clerks, a cooper's shed, 57 feet by 10 feet, a gallery, pantry, bath-room, and range outhouses, also two commodious houses for labourers with adobé walls and mat roofs; all three factories are inclosed in mud walls 8 feet high with strong wooden gates.

Shonga.

This station is midway between Egga and Rabba (the furthestmost station on the Quorra); it was inspected by me on the 26th September; it has since been closed for political reasons; the buildings, as enumerated in the Detail Report, were all in good order.

Egbaji.

A small station consisting of a dwelling-house, 40 feet by 62 feet, and three sheds or stores, inspected on the 20th September; everything well kept and in good order.

Rabba.

This is a station of the second class; in charge of a native agent; consists of a dwelling-house, 51 feet by 30 feet, adobé walls and iron roof, very substantially built and comfortable, small verandah in front.

Two stores, adobé walls and iron roof, two sheds, one for produce and the other for cooper's work, and a dwelling-house, 33 feet by 16 feet, for coopers and labourers. The above were all in good order and well kept.

BENUÉ DISTRICT.

This is by far the largest "district" in the Niger Territories, extending from Lokoja at the confluence to Garua in the Ribago Province, a distance of 500 miles.

There are seven stations, viz.:—

Loko, Koonini, Mainaraiwa, Bakundi, Donga, Ibi (the dépôt and head-quarters), and Abinsi; three new stations are in course of construction, viz., Odeni, Bofu, and Mozum; two hulks (new) at Garua and Numan, and the steam-ship "Niger" acting as hulk at Mount Herbert.

Loko.

A medium sized but important station, being the starting point for caravans to Sokoto. It is here that all messengers between the Royal Niger Company and the Sultan of Sokoto start from and return to. The station consists of a dwelling-house, 20 feet by 40 feet, adobé walls, and iron roof.

Four stores, adobé walls, iron roof, 50 feet by 25 feet, dwelling-house for clerks, and various outhouses. All the above in good order and well kept; native agent in charge.

Koonini and Lau.

This is a station opened within the last few months for the rubber and gum trade; the latter consists of the usual dwelling-house, adobé walls, mat roof, and two Moreton's "all iron" stores; the dwelling-house is 40 feet by 20 feet, and occupied by Messrs. Zweifel and Watson, two European employés of the Company.

Mainaraiwa.

A small station, on a river of that name; consists of a dwelling-house, same dimensions as above, very well kept and in good order; occupied by a native agent; one Moreton iron store, 60 feet by 30 feet; the trade here is small; the dwelling and outhouses are surrounded by a high wall of split bamboo, and are clean and well kept. The iron store is situated in the town some 300 yards from the dwelling-house.

Bakundi.

A medium-sized station, situated on the River Tarraba, some 40 miles south of the Benué, inspected on the 30th August. The station consists of a dwelling-house, 30 feet by 40 feet, adobé walls, and mat roof, with small verandah; a Moreton store, 60 feet by 30 feet, and a shop, adobé walls, mat roof, 40 feet by 30 feet; there are also various

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outhouses, and amongst them a very artistic pigeon-house, the whole inclosed in a split bamboo fence.

Nothing could exceed the cleanliness and good order of this station, and in this particular it was *facile princeps* of any station in the Niger or Benué. The agent was a native of Sierra Leone, by name Lewis, and the condition of his station reflects the greatest credit upon himself. A very fair trade is done here in ivory and rubber.

Donga.

A medium-sized station identical with the last so far as size of buildings is concerned. Inspected on the 1st September, and found to be well kept and in good order.

Donga is also some 40 miles from the main river, on a river called the Wukari.

In the dry season both these stations have to be arrived at by small steam-launch or canoe. Trade, ivory and gum.

Ibi.

This is the head-quarters and dépôt station of the Benué.

Is pleasantly situated some 200 yards from the river, by which it is approached by means of a raised road some 30 feet broad.

One dwelling-house, 70 feet by 40 feet, adobé walls, and galvanized iron roof, with verandah, an exceedingly substantial and well-built house, similar to the one for District Agent at Lokojah. This is the residence of Mr. MacIntosh, Senior Executive Officer, and also of the District Agent for the time being; needless to say everything here is very clean and well kept. A smaller house, 30 feet by 45 feet, on the same lines, is for native agents and clerks.

There are three Moreton's "all iron" stores, 60 feet by 30 feet; outhouses, used as pantry, kitchen, bath-room, adobé walls and galvanized iron roofs.

A house, adobé walls and iron roof, 40 feet by 12 feet; part of this is used as an armoury—a 9-pounder Whitworth and fifty stand of arms—all exceedingly well kept and in good order.

There is a guard here of one sergeant and fifty men of the constabulary. These have as barracks a long house, 40 feet by 12 feet, divided into small rooms; a store-room, 25 feet by 12 feet, and various outhouses complete establishment. The whole are very well kept and in first rate order, and reflect great credit on Mr. MacIntosh and the other European officials stationed here.

Abinsi Station.

A small one, third class, consisting of one iron store and small dwelling-house; inspected on the 3rd September; trade here small, principally Benni seed, at a place Sindridi, at the mouth of the Tarabba River; a Moreton's "iron store," 60 feet by 30 feet, has been erected; it is in charge of the Headman of the village.

In addition to these stations there are two hulks recently arrived from England, the "Africa" and "Nigretia." They were inspected by me on my passage down the Benué, and seemed to be well suited for the purpose. One will be stationed at Garua (Ribago), where recently the steam-ship "Niger" has been trading, and the other at Numan, the inhabitants of which town are very anxious to establish trading relations with the Company.

These hulks are identical as far as dimensions go; have comfortable accommodation for the trading agents; bulwarks seemed rather low in case of an attack from hostile tribes. They are made of steel, gross tonnage, 388.35; deduction 17.81; registered tonnage, 370.54.

A small hulk, length 30 feet, called the "White Rose," is stationed at Mozum, value about 200*l.*, used as trading station.

With regard to Sir T. V. Lister's despatch on the Budget of 1887, and Sir George Goldie's reply thereto, to which I have already alluded in the Chapter on "Steamers," I do not think that the amount, 4,500*l.*, charged under the heading "Stations" is excessive.

Two things must be remembered in considering this question: (1) that every "station" is an open port, *i.e.*, a place where the general public, under certain conditions, may come and trade, all other parts of the Territories being closed to them for purposes of trade; and unless the Company kept up a sufficiency of these ports, the public would have very good cause for complaint; and (2) that every station is both a commercial and administrative centre; the two cannot be separated.

As will be seen in the Benué, the pagan tribes request the Company to come and trade with them—not so much for purposes of trade, but that they know that a station means protection from their Mahommedan oppressors. The Report on the plantations of Asaba and Abutshi was drawn up for me by Mr. Woodruffe (Superintendent from Kew Gardens), now in the employ of the Royal Niger Company.

Annex 1 to Chapter X.

I.—AKASSA DISTRICT.

(A.)

The Royal Niger Company (Chartered and Limited).

Stores, Houses, Sheds, &c.

Akassa Dépôt Station.

No.	Stores, Houses, Sheds, &c.	Description.
1	Dwelling-house	Iron columns and roof; English wood framework. Length, 107 ft. Breadth, 36 ft. Height, 10 ft. 9 in. from ground to deck; 9 ft. from deck to plate; 24 ft. from ground to ridge.
2	Dwelling-house	Wood posts and English wood framework; iron roof. Length, 70 ft. 6 in. Breadth, 30 ft. 6 in. Height, from ground to floor, 5 ft.; from ground to ridge, 17 ft.
3	Office and Customs	Wood posts, English wood framework, and iron roof. Length, 38 ft. 8 in. Breadth, 25 ft. Height, from ground to floor, 5 ft. 7 in.; from floor to plate, 14 ft. 10 in.; from ground to ridge, 23 ft. 6 in.
4	Beach office	English wood and iron roof. Length, 9 ft. 4 in. Breadth, 15 ft. 3 in. Height, from ground to plate, 8 ft. 10 in.; from ground to ridge, 13 ft. 10 in.
5	Iron store	All iron. Length, 81 ft. 6 in. Breadth, 60 ft. Height, from ground to plate, 12 ft.; from ground to ridge, 19 ft. 2 in.
6	Iron store	Sides and roof, wood framework. Length, 84 ft. Breadth, 41 ft. 10 in. Height, from ground to plate, 8 ft. 4 in.; from ground to ridge, 17 ft. 5 in.
7	Iron store	Iron sides and roof, wood framework. Length, 83 ft. 5 in. Breadth, 37 ft. 10 in. Height, from ground to plate, 6 ft. 8 in.; from ground to ridge, 19 ft. 10 in.
8	Store	Iron roof, wood frame. Length, 83 ft. 5 in. Breadth, 37 ft. 10 in. Height, from ground to plate, 6 ft. 8 in.; from ground to ridge, 19 ft. 10 in.
9	Iron store	All iron. Length, 60 ft. 5 in. Breadth, 30 ft. 5 in. Height, from ground to plate, 13 ft.; from ground to ridge, 19 ft. 6 in.
10	Store	All iron, wood framework. Length, 83 ft. 6 in. Breadth, 42 ft. 5 in. Height, from ground to plate, 8 ft. 8 in.; from ground to ridge, 13 ft.
11	Iron store	All iron. Length, 60 ft. 5 in. Breadth, 60 ft. 10 in. Height, from ground to plate, 13 ft.; from ground to ridge, 19 ft. 6 in.
12	Store	All iron, wood framework. Length, 71 ft. 4 in. Breadth, 21 ft. 7 in. Height, 12 ft. 11 in.
13	Open shed (timber store)	Wood posts and iron roof. Length, 62 ft. 10 in. Breadth, 18 ft. 7 in. Height, 12 ft.
14	Coal sheds	Wood frame, iron roof. Length, 91 ft. 6 in. Breadth, 35 ft. 8 in. Height, from ground to plate, 11 ft. 9 in.; from ground to ridge, 18 ft. 11 in.
15	Boat shed	Wood frame, iron roof. Length, 78 ft. 4 in. Breadth, 27 ft. 4 in. Height, from ground to plate, 7 ft. 8 in.; from ground to ridge, 15 ft. 5 in.