

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

| | Page |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| FIRST JOURNAL. | |
| CHAPTER I. | |
| Object of the journey—Difficulties, and removal—Anamabu—Domonasai —Yankumasi—Asin Chibbu—Mansu—Preaches to the Chief—Fessu —Beraku—River Prah—Enters the Ashanti territory—Asins—Anso —Quisah—Fomunah—Preaches to Korinchi, the Chief—Human sacrifices—Superstitious observances | 11 |
| CHAPTER II. | |
| Appetite for blood—Preaching, and further proceedings at Fomunah— Obstacles to advancing further in Ashanti—Return to Quisah | 30 |
| CHAPTER III. | |
| Journey to Ashanti resumed—Dumpasi—Akwankowasi—Eduabin— Rsargu—Franfraham—Entrance into Kumasi—Reception by the King —Human sacrifices—Apoko—Town of Kumasi described | 43 |
| CHAPTER IV. | |
| Bantama—Heathen jealousies—Interview with the King—Preparations for returning to Cape Coast—Kindness of Apoko—Leaves Kumasi— Emancipation of a slave—Fomunah—Conduct of Korinchi—Journey to the coast—Practicability of a Mission to Ashanti—Letter of President Maclean..... | 57 |
| APPENDICES TO THE FIRST JOURNAL. | |
| APPENDIX, A. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. T. B. Freeman to the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Cape-Coast Castle, Sep- tember 17th, 1839 | 73 |
| APPENDIX, B. | |
| Letter from the same | 74 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS.

| | Page |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| APPENDIX, C. | |
| Visit of the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman to England; and preparations for the Ashanti Mission | 85 |
| APPENDIX, D. | |
| Ordination and Valedictory Services. Departure of the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman and party | 86 |
| APPENDIX, E. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, dated Anamabu, May 5th, 1841..... | 89 |
| APPENDIX, F. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the late Rev. William Thackwray, Wesleyan Missionary, dated Anamabu, May 5th, 1841..... | 90 |
| APPENDIX, G. | |
| Extract of a Letter from President Maclean, dated Cape-Coast Castle, September 11th, 1841..... | 92 |
| APPENDIX, H. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, dated British Akrah, September 10th, 1841 | 93 |
| APPENDIX, I. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. S. A. Shipman, dated Cape-Coast Castle, Nov. 9th, 1841..... | 95 |
| APPENDIX, K. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. John Watson, dated December 24th, 1841 | 95 |

SECOND JOURNAL.

CHAPTER I.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Departs from Cape Coast for Kumasi—Asabu—Akroful—Tukwah—Yankumasi—Chibbu—Mansu—Beneficial effects of the Mission in Mansu —Ernebirim—Fasuwia—Crosses the river Prah—Arrival of a messenger with a letter from the King of Ashanti—Esiriman—Ansah— Akwansirem—Passes the Adansi hills | 97 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

CHAPTER II.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Fomunah—Korinchi's disgrace—Second letter of welcome from the King—Dumpasi—Interesting circumstance during divine service— Natural scenery—Ludicrous adventure on leaving Dumpasi—Akwan- kowasi—Signs of civilization—A human sacrifice—Eduabin—Karsi— Prince Quantamissah's sister..... | 110 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

vii

Page

CHAPTER III.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Preparations for entering Kumasi—Apoko—Favourable reception by the King—Presentation of the carriage and other gifts—Human sacrifices—A young executioner—Ashantis attend divine worship—Presents from the King—Important conversation with him—Slavery—Christmas-day in Kumasi—Favourable disposition of Apoko Akim—Value of his support—Curious kind of fish—Commencement of the Adai custom | 123 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

CHAPTER IV.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Entertainment given by the King of Ashanti to the strangers—Visit to the “Stone-House”—Important declaration of the King in regard to the Mission—Affecting reminiscences—The new year—Devotional services of the new-year's day—Singular domestic scene in the palace—Member of the royal family sick—The King promises land for the purposes of the Mission—Conversation on the subject of education—Magic lantern—Custom | 138 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

CHAPTER V.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Visit to Jabin—Seiwa, the Queen of Jabin—History and description of the town—Letter from Mr. Brooking—Execution of two Chiefs at Kumasi—Annoyed with ants—Is visited by the daughter of Seiwa—Returns to Kumasi—Medical advice sought by the natives—Singular practice at executions and sacrifices—Conversation on the policy of public executions—Favourable impression produced by the successful medical treatment of a sick Chief—Land given by the King upon which to erect a Mission-house | 153 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

CHAPTER VI.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Conversation respecting the establishment of a school at Kumasi—Objections of the natives stated—Dreadful fire in the capital—Half the town consumed—Providential preservation of the Mission party and property—Great distress among the inhabitants—Conduct of the Moors during the fire—Enlightened views of Osai Kujoh, the heir-apparent to the throne of Ashanti—Departure from Kumasi and arrival at Cape Coast | 168 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

APPENDICES TO THE SECOND JOURNAL.

APPENDIX, A.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. T. B. Freeman to the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, dated Mission-House, Cape Coast, February 25th, 1842 | 182 |
| From the same, dated April 17th, 1842 | 184 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

| | Page |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| APPENDIX, B. | |
| Extract of a Letter from Prince William Quantamissah, to the Rev. John Beecham, dated Kumasi, May 1st, 1842..... | 185 |
| APPENDIX, C. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Robert Brooking, dated Kumasi, April 6th, 1842, to the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, Cape-Coast Castle.. | 187 |
| APPENDIX, D. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, to the General Secretaries, dated Mission-House, Cape-Coast Castle, May 9th, 1842.. | 188 |
| APPENDIX, E. | |
| Dix-Cove.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. John Watson, dated Dix-Cove, July 13th, 1841 | 189 |
| APOLLONIA.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. William Allen, dated Cape-Coast Castle, February 2d, 1842 | 192 |
| AKRAH.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, dated Cape-Coast Castle, April 17th, 1842..... | 194 |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, dated Cape-Coast Castle, June 25th, 1842 | 195 |

WOODCUTS.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Preaching to Korinchi and his Captains..... | (Frontispiece) | 19 |
| Preparation of a Fetish | | 23 |
| Human Sacrifice | | 28 |
| Crossing the Prah with the Carriage | | 106 |

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

ix

THIRD JOURNAL. Page

CHAPTER I.

- Introduction—Badagry—Yariba—Dahomi—Importance of these Stations
 —Mr. Freeman departs from Cape Coast—Arrives at Badagry—Preparations for the erection of a Mission-House—Sends a messenger to the King of Abokuta—An awful catastrophe—Return of messenger—Present from Sodaka, the King—His letter—Interview with some Moors—Progress of the new Mission-House—Arrival of messengers from Sodaka, to conduct Mr. Freeman into the interior 197

CHAPTER II.

- Mr. Freeman departs for the interior—Amouw—Atonga—Troop of horsemen, as an escort, is sent by the King, Sodaka—Addo—Military encampment—Shumai, the King's brother and Captain of war—Appearance of the country—Conversation with the Captain relating to the war—Departs from the encampment—Mojiba—Mowo—Grassfield—Alowagu—Awayadi—Owayadi—Approach to Abokuta, or Understone—Okwaru—Messenger sent to the King—Entrance into the town—Description of Abokuta—Introduction to the King—Cordial reception—Meets with Christian emigrants from Sierra-Leone 215

CHAPTER III.

- First religious service at Abokuta, attended by Sodaka, the King—Description of Abokuta—Its merchandise—Hausa—Is visited by messengers from the King of Hausa—Sierra-Leone emigrants—History of their visit to, and subsequent settlement at, Abokuta—Cruelty of the natives of Lagos—Generous conduct of Sodaka towards the emigrants—Their employment—Conversation with Sodaka—Circulating medium of Abokuta—Preparations for departing from Abokuta—Return to Badagry—Okwaru—Owayadi—Great Alowagu—Mowo—Mojiba—Addo—Amouw—African soup—Reaches Badagry—Anxiety of the Badagris concerning the journey to Abokuta..... 226

CHAPTER IV.

- Mr. Freeman embarks for Whydah—New-Year's day—Visits the Chief, to whom he intimates a wish to see the King of Dahomi—Mr. De Souza—Hostile commotion in the country—Injurious reports concerning the Wesleyan Mission, and object—Accident in the surf at Whydah—Harmattan—Kindness of the Chief of Whydah—Sabbath services—Anticipated movement of the British Commodore, for the total destruction of the slave-trade at Whydah—Mr. Freeman contends with prejudices—Real position of Mr. De Souza at Whydah—Extracts from Minutes of Evidence before Committee of Parliament—Prince de Joinville—Death of Mr. Shipman at Akrah—Mr. Freeman expects speedily to visit the King of Dahomi..... 237

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02330-6 - Journal of Various Visits to the Kingdoms of Ashanti, Aku, and Dahomi, in Western Africa

Thomas Birch Freeman and John Beecham

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

X

CONTENTS.

| | Page |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| CHAPTER V. | |
| Mr. Freeman departs from Whydah to visit the King of Dahomi—Difficulty in arranging for the journey—Salwi—Torri—Appearance of the country—Asowa—Alada—Country palace of the King of Dahomi—Description of the town—Enormous flock of bats—Appa—Appearance of a comet—Avadi—Agremi—Message from the King—Kwo—Arrives at Kanna, the royal residence—Appalling sight—Ceremonies upon entering the town—Mr. Freeman's official attendants—Personal introduction to the King—Native ceremonies on entering the royal presence—Encouraging conversation with Guzu, King of Dahomi, on the subject of Christian Missions—His favourable opinion and earnest wishes respecting such operations | 250 |
| CHAPTER VI. | |
| Mr. Freeman visits Abomi, the capital of Dahomi—Procession—Fetish-man—Kumasi—Reception—The King's residence—Entrance into Abomi—Adangerakadi, the King's residence—Barbarous embellishment of the building—Dalzel's account of that cruel proceeding—Culprit on a gibbet—Wall of human skulls—Abomi described—Returns to Abokuta—Presents from the King—Prepares to return—Audience with the King on departure—Arrives at Agremi—Alada—Torri—Arrives at Whydah—Friendly disposition of the Chief of Whydah—Proceeds to Akwa—Appearance of the country between Whydah and Akwa—The Lagoon—Akrah—Cape Coast..... | 265 |
| APPENDICES TO THE THIRD JOURNAL. | |
| APPENDIX, A. | |
| Extract of a Letter from the Rev. S. A. Shipman to his Father, the Rev. John Shipman, dated British Akrah, December 16th, 1842 | 280 |
| APPENDIX, B. | |
| DAHOMI.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. T. B. Freeman, dated Kanna, Kingdom of Dahomi, Western Africa, March 11th, 1843..... | 281 |
| APPENDIX, C. | |
| BADAGRY.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. William De Graft, (Native Assistant Missionary,) dated Wesleyan Mission-House, Badagry, July 10th, 1843 | 283 |
| APPENDIX, D. | |
| KUMASI.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. Thomas B. Freeman, dated Kumasi, September 7th, 1843 | 294 |
| APPENDIX, E. | |
| DOMONASI.—Extract of a Letter from the Rev. William Allen, dated Mission-House, Domonasi, September 1st, 1843 | 295 |