

Excellency will not fight them again, as they intend to withdraw the forces.

I am in haste, yours, &c.

(Signed) JOS. DAWSON.

His Excellency Major-General

Sir G. Wolseley, C.B., K.C.M.G.,

&c. &c. &c.

P.S.—The Chiefs desire me to ask your Excellency to stop the Court, if your Excellency agree to stay and send my cane-bearer to take the prisoners directly. I pray your Excellency to stop the forces from fighting, if his troops do not bring it to your Excellency. The King says now that he will do your wishes.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) COFI BUAKI, his X mark,
Linguist.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

KING, *On the March, February 3, 1874.*

YOU have deceived me so before that I cannot halt until the hostages are in my possession; as time presses I will consent to accept for to-day your mother and Prince Mensah. Both shall be well treated by me.

You can trust my word. If you send them to me this evening I will halt my army this side of the River Ordah. Unless you send them at once, my army will march upon Coomassie.

I am, King, your true friend and well-wisher,

(Signed) G. J. WOLSELEY,

Major-General and Administrator,
Gold Coast.

*To His Majesty Coffee Kalcully,
King of Ashantee, Coomassie.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

SIR, *Coomassie, February 4, 1874.*

I FIND things have come to a crisis concerning the lives of us all here, that I am bound to run to your Honour to beg of you to plead with the Major-General for us all concerned.

Finding that my cane-bearer foolishly denied of the men, I mean the prisoners here, being put in irons ever since last Monday, and remaining in them to this day, I beg to be believed that I would not dare to write nonsense to the Major-General or my master. Both he, the cane-man, and I were taken out yesterday morning about 3 o'clock to write the letters which he brought, and I have been since left at liberty, but every one else, except my cook, whom I have got released this morning, and two other servants, is in iron, and as soon as the Ashantees are driven very close to Coomassie we all shall be killed. My boy Robert comes now, and your Honour will see the marks of the beating he has had. It is true the King was not at Coomassie, he had gone to see some great fetish of his, and his chief Procurator and Privy Counsellor thought some bad fellows would hurt us, or some of us might, through the excitement in the country, commit suicide; but this ought to be without beating. As this Chief could not find room for all in his house, he shared us to some of his Captains under him, and it is only those who were kept in his house escaped the being beaten. May I beg to ask your Honour to plead with the Major-General to defer his personal coming, which frightens the people so much, and appoint an officer of rank, if he could not spare your Honour, and then the Major-General might demand two or three of his (King's) principal cap-

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tains; for instance, Essamuah Iukwauta, Busumarengwira, and Prince and Captain Berrempa, instead of giving the mother and brother, Royal lineage which is against their superstitions to give for hostages. Then let him withdraw all his forces, and leave the path between entirely free for the time being in the hands of the Major-General, so that his forces are allowed no chance of doing any mischief.

Matters might be very well settled in this manner, and we may be saved, since the destruction of the whole blessed kingdom after we are killed would not bring us back.

I know now the Ashantees will yield to all the terms of the Major-General for peace, except the sending their Royal lineage out of the kingdom, which is against their superstitious notions, so much so that they would rather die or perish foolishly than doing it; I would not care a button if they could do it without us.

The Major-General might, after things being put straight in this manner, come for a day or two to see the King and then march to the coast.

The question about the money can be very soon arranged if the Governor, with security, allow them to pay it instalmentally. On my knees I pray your Honour to do all you can for us in this my petition.

As it regards Ashantee power now being broken is very evident; they now beg me, which they have never done before, to do all I can to save them. The King himself sent his step-father to tell me that he now acknowledges the superiority of the white men, and crave pardon that he may be allowed to treat for peace.

I pray your Honour, therefore, to do all you can to pacify the Major-General to halt at the river, that the prisoners may be sent at once and have everything settled, as the distance is only about three hours within Coomassie. May the Lord aid you in your endeavours, is the prayer of your Honour's humble and obedient servant,

(Signed) JOS. DAWSON.

Captain Butler, &c. &c. &c.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

SIR, *Coomassie, February 4, 1874.*

FOR Heaven's sake I pray your Excellency to halt the forces for to-day and to-morrow. All the Ashantee forces are coming back home, and I think I will succeed in getting what I have written Captain Butler. If your Excellency do not halt, and do not hear from me about 12 to-morrow noon, then all is over with me.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) JOS. DAWSON.

His Excellency Major-General

Sir G. Wolseley, C.B., K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

KING, *Coomassie, February 4, 1874.*

YOU have deceived me, but I have kept my promise to you.

I am in Coomassie, and my only wish is to make a lasting peace with you. I have shown you the power of England, and now I will be merciful.

As you do not wish to give up your mother and Prince Mensah, send me some other hostages of rank, and I will make peace with you to-morrow on the terms originally agreed upon.