

three-quarters of an hour by thrashing them to death. The Belgians inquired into this atrocity and found him guilty. He was fined \$100. Since the trial the official has been promoted, and is now recruiting and looking for a new route to the slice of Portuguese territory which the State has annexed.

The writer says that the natives of a village called M'bu, in indignation at the brutalities of the State soldiers, killed four of them and burned them. A force of fifty-five soldiers marched upon the village, but were routed by the villagers and chased to their boats. An old cripple was left by the natives in an outlying village and he was killed, decapitated, and sliced into pieces by the State soldiers. The writer concludes:

"We hear of children of the tender age of 10 being outraged, of old men being forced to carry heavy loads, of mothers and their babies being made prisoners, the mothers assaulted and their babies exchanged for carriers, of the written regrets of European officers that they cannot get more than fifty carriers for a mother and her babe; and we are told that the prime movers in this so-called civilizing power are actuated by holy motives, by a sincere love for their fellowmen—their black brothers."

The king of the Belgians has recently been in London and he has had something to say in regard to these accusations against the government of the Congo State. The substance of conversations with him is that though sad things have been done on the Congo it should be remembered that not a few of the stories of atrocities have come to Europe through enemies of the king and the State. One individual, who was about to visit the Congo recently, threatened the king himself that he would make dreadful revelations if his majesty did not agree to bribe him.

With regard to accusations against the officials of employing slave labor and themselves being slaveholders, it should be remembered that when there are so many officials scattered over an enormous area it is not possible to keep a strict watch over every individual. At the same time his majesty pointed out that the system pursued on the Congo is essentially the same as that so successfully initiated by George MacKenzie in British east Africa, many slaves are earning money in the service of the State, with which they may purchase their own freedom. On all sides the officials of the State, with the trained forces at their command, are constantly keeping back the raiding Arabs and freeing their captured slaves. Quite recently, on the river Sankuru, Lieut. Deschamps met a band of 7,000 slave-hunters. As these would not submit unconditionally, Lieut. Deschamps, with 200 native soldiers and five whites, marched out of the camp to meet the Arabs, whom he attacked and utterly routed. One thousand slaves were freed, the forces of the slave-hunters were scattered, and the country was rid of their presence. Were it not for the occupation of the Congo Free State there could be little doubt that before now the Arabs would have held the river as far as Stanley Pool. In the camp of the Arabs referred to was found a barrel of powder with the mark of a well-known Dutch

house. Facts like these were adduced by the king to show that the Free State is doing good work.

The king added that it was true that the taxes and duties are heavy and are driving some of the Dutch houses to the Portuguese side of the river. He said, however, these taxes and duties are absolutely necessary to carry on the work of the State. At first the State naturally treated its territory as its own property, and worked its ivory and other resources in order to secure a revenue. As the traders complained of this, the king abandoned his monopoly, only on condition, however, that he should impose the taxes. These were admittedly somewhat heavy, and the latest decree has greatly reduced them.

His majesty hopes to make up for this reduction by the duties on imports authorized by act of the late Brussels congress. While spirits, arms and ammunition are stringently dealt with, the duty on other articles, it is maintained, is comparatively light. Personal equipment, clothing, agricultural and industrial implements, and other articles are admitted free. These tariffs are only for a limited term of years, and by the end of the period it will be seen how far they have benefited or injured the State. Even with them the king will probably have to pay from one-third to one-half of the expense of the administration.

Col. George W. Williams, a colored man and a Republican campaign orator, who went to the Congo about two or three years ago, has published a pamphlet addressed to the king of Belgians, in which he accuses Stanley of scaring the natives half to death by means of tricks for the purpose of making them sign treaties. For instance, he says Stanley would give his black brother an electric shock while shaking hands in order to impress him with the strength of the white man, and he utilized burning glasses to show that the white man could, if he chose, cause the sun to fire the native villages. Williams accuses officers of the Congo State government of taking land from the natives by force, burning their towns, enslaving their women and children and committing many other crimes. He says women are imported from the Portuguese coast for immoral purposes, and that he has seen Belgian officers quarrel over the choice of four comely young women who had survived an almost indiscriminate massacre of natives.

Mr. Stanley laughed yesterday, says the New York Sun, when spoken to about Col. Williams' pamphlet. He said:

"In 1884 Williams came to me and wanted to go to the Congo. I sent him to King Leopold with a recommendation, in which I suggested that as he was a colored man he might be of service. For some reason, I don't know what, the king did not take a fancy to him, and he didn't get what he wanted. He did, however, obtain permission to go into the country. I saw or heard nothing of him afterward until the very night before I sailed from England for this country last October. That night at dinner Sir William McKinnon, president of the British Imperial East Africa Company, asked me if I knew a Col. Wil-

liams. I told him I did, and he showed me the pamphlet. Sir William told me that Col. Williams, while in the Congo, had had the backing of Collis P. Huntington, and was then seeking his (Sir William's) permission to go into East Africa. This whole thing, I am satisfied, was nothing more than a threat to King Leopold that if he did not come to terms the letter would be published. Possibly sending the pamphlet to Sir William was a hint that he might be written up, too. There are plenty of persons who try to abuse the king. Some are offended at him because he has refused them the badge of some order, but they are mostly Belgians; others are hostile to him because perchance they have failed to get what they want in the Congo, and Col. Williams seems to be one of them."—*Chicago Mail*.

WESTERN NEWS NOTES.

In a Wyoming town, a few evenings ago, a colored tramp was found in the coal shed of a man named Howe. The servant took the negro's head for a lump of coal and in the darkness endeavored to put it in the scuttle with the intention of carrying it in the house. To this, descendant of Africa, entered a vigorous protest. His objections were of a noisy character and soon attracted the attention of Mr. Howe, who turned the fellow over to the police. He was fined \$5 by the police magistrate.

A man, evidently a miner, was placed in the city hospital Saturday in a highly drunken condition. Sunday morning he gave his name as C. Franklin and stated that he was from Telluride. He showed plainly the marks of excessive dissipation. Sunday afternoon he was found dead in his cell. An express receipt for a bundle of blankets shipped by him from Glenwood Springs and consigned to Ridgway was found in one of his pockets, besides \$18 in money.—*Junction Star*.

It is understood, says a dispatch to the Denver News, that the Union Pacific company is closing down its Rock Springs coal mines, and 200 men were laid off yesterday. The company claims that coal orders are falling off, but the men say that the action of the company is to forestall a movement of the men towards inaugurating a strike for the eight-hour system, and prevent them joining the general movement of coal miners throughout the country which is expected in May.

A man who is physically capable of making a living and who lives off the honest earning of a woman is usually looked upon with scorn and contempt, then how much greater must be the utter disgust entertained against one who lives upon the disgrace and sin of a woman? Yesterday there were fined in the police court the following individuals, who are designated on the police register as "pinkeys," men who have no visible means of support: Charley Robain, Leon Rachel, Bignial Guigar, Lifont and Dude Johnson. They were required to pay to the city \$25 each. These men, or most of them, drive good horses, wear good clothes, and even diamonds glitter in their shirt fronts. They live and thrive and have