

of the slave trade, Eyo describes the personal horrors of the strong preying on the weak. Eyo is responding to criticisms made about slavery's continuation in Old Calabar by a resident Scottish missionary, Hope Waddell, a close friend who recorded Eyo's words in his journal.

## *An Alliance to Raid for Slaves, 1568*

JOHN HAWKINS

The ships departed from Plymouth, the second day of October, Anno 1567 and . . . arrived at Cape Verde, the eighteenth of November: where we landed 150 men, hoping to obtain some Negroes, where we got but few, and those with great hurt and damage to our men, which chiefly proceeded of their envenomed arrows: and although in the beginning they seemed to be but small hurts, yet there hardly escaped any that had blood drawn of them, but died in strange sort, with their mouths shut some ten days before they died, and after their wounds were whole; where I myself had one of the greatest wounds, yet thanks be to God, escaped. From thence we passed the time upon the coast of Guinea, unto Sierra Leone, till the twelfth of January, in which time we had not gotten together a hundred and fifty Negroes: yet notwithstanding the sickness of our men, and the late time of the year commanded us away; and thus having nothing wherewith to seek the coast of the West Indies, I was with the rest of the company in consultation to go to the coast of the Mine [i.e., the Gold Coast], hoping there to have obtained some gold for our wares, and thereby to have defrayed our charge. But even in that present instant, there came to us a Negro, sent from a king, oppressed by other kings, his neighbors, desiring our aid, with [the] promise that as many Negroes as by these wars might be obtained, as well of his part as of ours, should be at our pleasure; whereupon we concluded to give aid, and sent 120 of our men, which the 15 of January, as-

---

Source: From "The third troublesome voyage . . . to the parts of Guinea, and the West Indies, in the yeeres 1567 and 1568 by M. John Hawkins," in *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation*, pp. 53–55, by Richard Hakluyt, New York, 1928. Spelling has been modernized.

saulted a town of the Negroes of our ally's adversaries, which had in it 8,000 inhabitants, being very strongly impaled and fenced after their manner, but it was so well defended, that our men prevailed not, but lost six men and forty hurt: so that our men sent forthwith to me for more help: whereupon considering the good success of this enterprise might highly further the commodity of our voyage, I went myself, and with the help of the king of our side, assaulted the town, both by land and sea, and very hardly with fire (their houses being covered with dry palm leaves) obtained the town, put the inhabitants to flight, where we took 250 persons, men, women, & children, and by our friend the king of our side, there were taken 600 prisoners, whereof we hoped to have our choice: but the Negro (in whose nation is seldom or never found truth) meant nothing less: for that night he removed his camp and prisoners, so that we were fain to content us with those few which we had gotten ourselves.

## *Trading on the Slave Coast, 1700*

WILLEM BOSMAN

The first business of one of our factors [agents] when he comes to Fida [Whydah], is to satisfy the customs of the king and the great men, which amounts to about a hundred pounds in Guinea value, as the goods must yield there. After which we have free license to trade, which is published throughout the whole land by the crier.

But yet before we can deal with any person, we are obliged to buy the king's whole stock of slaves at a set price, which is commonly one third or one fourth higher than ordinary; after which, we obtain free leave to deal with all his subjects, of what rank soever. But if there happen to be no stock of slaves, the factor must then resolve to run the risk of trusting the inhabitants with goods to the value of one or two hundred slaves; which commodities they send into the inland country, in order to buy with them slaves at all markets, and

---

Source: From *A New and Accurate Description of the Coast of Guinea, Divided into the Gold, Slave, and the Ivory Coasts*, pp. 339–345, by William Bosman, translated from the Dutch, 2nd edition, London, 1721. Spelling and some punctuation have been modernized.