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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 118. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1880. PRICE THREE PENCE.

"CYPRUS"

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of *Cyprus* will always gladly receive news of local events for insertion in the journal; and a feature in the new conduct of the paper will be a desire to render it an organ for the expression of public opinion. To this end letters on subjects connected with the interests of the Island will always command antention, and when free from personal allusion, will have publication. The Editor cannot, however, hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed, and will not undertake the return of rejected manuscripts.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The charge for subscriptions is 3s. 9d. for 3 months; s. 6d. for 6 months; and 15s. for 12 months, postage paid throughout the Island. For all countries included in the International Postal Treaty, it is 4s. for 3 months; 8s. for 6 months, and 16s. for 12 months.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The scale of charges for advertisement is low, and may be had on application at the office.

Subscriptions and Advertisements are in all cases payable in advance.

"Cyprus" can be purchased in Nicosia, at the New Albert Hotel, and in Larnaca at the Office of the Newspaper.

All letters or communications to be addressed to the Editor of "Cyprus".

PRINTING.

Printing orders of every kind, and in English, Greek and Turkish characters, executed with promptitude and economy at the office of this journal.

Chief Intelligence of the Week.

(From the "Overland Mail".)

Mr. Alderman M'Arthur, M.P., the new Lord Mayor of London, went in the usual state from Guildhall to Westminster on Nov. 9.

Mr. Gladstone was the principal guest at the banquet at Guidhall in the evening, and he devoted the greater part of his speech to the present condition of Ireland. He also alluded to South Africa, to India, and to the Eastern Question.

The Earl of Northbrook, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Hartington, the Earl of Morley, the French Ambassador, M. C. Lacour, the Lord Chancellor, and Sir William Harcourt, were also present at the banquet.

The Marchioness of Ripon and suite left London, "en route" for India, on Nov. 10.

Sir Bartle Frere was entertained at a banquet at Willis's Rooms on Nov. 6, in celebration of his return to England from the Cape.

Mr. Adam, the new Governor of Madras was entertained at a private dinner on Nov. 10, by the members of the Devonshire Club.

Sir Stafford Northcote was present at the Yeovil Agricultural Society's dinner on Nov. 5, and made some references to the leading questions of the day.

Prince Leopold unveiled the Temple Bar Memorial on Nov. 8. On the 6th His Royal Highness took up the freedom of the Vintner's Company.

The Prince of Wales's birthday was celebrated with the usual rejoicings at Windsor and elsewhere on Nov. 9.

Great excitement has arisen in the district of Mayo, owing to the intention of the Orangemen to march to the relief of Capt. Boycott.

A large force of infantry and cavalry have been sent to the neighbourhood to preserve the peace.

The Channel squadron has also been despatched to the Irish coast.

Little or no progress has been made in the negotiations for the transfer of Dulcigno.

Another change of Ministry in Turkey is considered to be shortly probable.

The eviction of the religious communities from their houses has been completed in Paris and the French provinces.

Amongst the deaths recorded this week are:—Lord Wenlock; Lord Ormidale; General J. T. Brown-Greive; General T. Brooke; Lieut.-Col. W. Mure; and Lieut. C. J. Dalton.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette", 11th and 13th Nov.).

On Monday last an enquiry was held at the Consulate in Cairo, in the presence of Mr. Cookson Judge of H. M.'s Chief Consular Court for Egypt, by Mr. Raph. Borg Vice-Consul assisted by Mr. F. W. Rowsell C.B., C.M.G., into the circumstances of the death of Mr. Laurence D. Kirby Barrister at Law. The investigation was of the fullest character and occupied the whole of the day.

After examining numerous witnesses, and considering the Report made by the medical men who assisted at the autopsy, the Court found that the deceased died from natural causes.

—Lieut. General Sir Frederick Roberts V. C., G. C. B., R. A., Major General J. Hills V. C., C. B., R. A., Brigadier General Baker and other officers arrived at Suez per S.S. "Peshawur" yesterday and left by the special train at 1. 15 p. m. and embarked on board the S. S. "Sumatra" which sailed this morning for Brindisi. We understand that Sir Frederick Roberts will receive the Royal commands, on arrival in England, to proceed to Windsor, when he will be invested by Her Majesty with the Grand Cross of the Bath and will then be informed as to the intentions of the Government as to monetary and other rewards for this distinguished services in Afghanistan. He will also be entertained by the Lord Mayor of London on which occasion he will be presented with the freedom of the City and a sword of honour.

— According to "L'Egypt" the Government is considering the question of reforming the monetary system and of recoining the money. It is thought probable that Egypt will join the Latin Union, formed of countries which have adopted the franc as a unit and the decimal monetary system.

—The Minister of Foreign Affairs has issued a circular to the Consuls General, informing them that H. E. Riaz Pasha will preside at the International Commission on the Mixed Tribunals and that he will be assisted by H. E. Fakhry Pasha.

—An action has been brought in the Tribunals by Mr. Alexander Minotto, agent for Bell's Asia Minor Steamers, against Bloomfild as Captain of the Port of Alexandria, in connection with the Harbour Dues payable under the new Rules.

It is contended on behalf of the Plaintiff that Bell's steamers, being coasting vessels, are entitled, as before, to continue to make use of the harbour on paying only half the full dues. The Port Administration, basing itself on the fact that the new tariff contains no mention of any such exemption, claims on the other hand the full amount. It is a little singular that in the former tarriff under which these steamers, as coasting vessels, for years paid only half dues there was a similar omission.

—Suez has been full lately of illustrious travellers, among them Hofrath Gerhard Rohlfs and Dr. Steker on their way to Abyssinia, the former with presents to King John from the Emperor William.

TURKEY.

Mr. Goschen has had an interview with the Sultan to present Mr. W. H. Smith, M. P. The interview is said to have been "particularly cordial." Mr. Goschen requested that the Terdjiman Hakikat, which contained a violent article against him a few days ago, and was suspended in consequence, should be allowed to reappear. His Majesty, however, "assured Mr. Goschen in strong terms of his deep displeasure against the writer, and declined to consent to the application, on the ground that such an article compromised the best interests of Turkey." It is also stated that "the Sultan has sent his secretary to Count Hatzfeld announcing the arrest of the four soldiers and officers who were guilty of insulting Mr. Goschen." Mr. Goschen, Mr. W. H. Smith, and Colonel Sandison are to dine with the Sultan on Monday next. Mr. John Pender, M. P., has also had an interview with the Sultan, and has given the following account of it in a telegram:—"My interview with the Sultan lasted one hour and twenty minutes, and was most interesting. It left on my mind an impression of the strong desire of the Sultan to obtain an honourable settlement of pending questions in order that he might give effect to his settled purpose of advancing the industrial and material development of the country."

A collective Note from the Ambassadors of the Powers has been presented to the Porte demanding the execution of Veli Mohammed, the murderer of Colonel Commeroff.

Assym Pasha has asked Mr. Foster, Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, to lend his co-operation in the selection of delegates to Constantinople possessing authority and position to represent the foreign bondholders. The Bank has advanced £T40,000 to the Porte. According to the Constantinople correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, the Porte has been informed by Mr. Goschen that the British Cabinet objects to the arrangement proposed by the Turkish Government for the settlement of the public debt, and is of opinion that the acceptance of a European commission would be much more likely to restore Turkish credit. This proposal has been declined on the ground, it is reported, that the Sultan is opposed to European interference in the internal affairs of the Turkish Empire.

CYPRUS.

WINE IN CYPRUS.

The vineyards, grapes, wine, spirits, and raisins of Cyprus are worth writing about. The chief wine district is Limassol, where there are about 9,400 acres af vineyards, which yielded 1,700,000 gallons in 1878, at so cheap a price that it did not pay the cost of transit from the more distant villages. But wine is produced in other localities. In Paphos 52 villages produced in 1879 104,000 gallons of red and black wine and mastic. Twelve villages in Morphou are wholly devoted to the cultivation of the vine; and Larnaca produces at Ora and Lefkara a commanderia that is highly esteemed. The average yearly quantity of wine and spirits made in the whole island in 1877 and 1878 was about 1,500,000 gallons; and in 1879 over 2,000,000 gallons were produced. The grape crop of 1879 was rated at £ 75,000; and there is good reason to believe that this was an under-valuation. The manufactured wine and spirits of the same year were valued at about the same amount, on the absurdly low prices of the island, which are less than one shilling a gallon. About half the wine produced, or about a million gallons, is roughly estimated to be drunk within the island. The yearly value of wine and spirits exported in 1878 and 1879 was about £ 35,000. Turkey and Egypt engross three-fourths of the whole export; but Alexandria is a great port of reshipment, being only thirty hours off and convenient for Cyprus; and it is thus improbable that Egypt is the ultimate destination of all the wine sent there. Austria takes, viâ Trieste, about one-tenth of the export; France, viâ Marseilles, about one-seventeenth of the direct consignments; but much, no doubt, finds its way from Alexandria into France; and, this year especially, in consequence of the comparative failure of their grape crop, the French buyers have purchased all they could get, even in advance; and the weekly mail steamer from Limassol now sometimes takes away as much as 150 hogsheads. Greece comes next to France as a consumer; and small quantities go to Italy, Malta, Russia, and, chiefly as a curiosity, to England. In Trieste, "vino di Cipro" is sold cheap in the wine-shops by the litre, red "Cipro vecchio" may be drunk in the hotels of Venise, and in Paris red "vin de Chypre" may be found with bouillabaisse in the old Provençal restaurants of the Rue Dauphine—but at the modest price of ten francs the bottle, about twenty times its value in Cyprus. The chief export of the commanderia, and of the commoner white (or rather red) wines is to Austria; while Egypt and Turkey take the greatest proportion of the black wine (mavro, as it is called in Cyprus). France also takes a fair proportion of the "mavro". Skilfully mixed with the poorest Bordeaux, it fortifies it and simulates succesfully a bad Burgundy; while the red wines properly blended often produce the Madère which is to be seen at every refreshment-bar in France. It is well known that the vineyards of Madeira were not only originally planted from Cyprus, but when devastated by the phylloxera the replanting was also effected with Cypriot vines.

The superior variety of the red wine called commanderia is heavy, sweet, aromatic, and luscious. That produced at Ora and Lefkara, in Larnaka, is much liked. It can be obtained in monasteries and from some merchants, of any age up to fifty and one hundred years, if the foreigner is credulous. That it keeps a long time there is no doubt; and when kept, whether from the want of cleanliness in manufacture or the action of the tar of the skins in which it was originally transported (which is that of pine and not of coal) becomes thick, almost black, and very heady. It would be interesting if Dr. Richardson would compare the specimen of Cyprus wine of the last century which he has found in the Trevelyan cellars with samples of old and new commanderia from Cyprus, and give us the result. Such samlpes would be sent, no doubt, on application, by the local officials. The price of new commanderia in the bazaars is about three pence to fivepence a bottle; that of the mavro from one penny. From the refuse of the wine-press is made a spirit which is a kind of raki, and is called mastic, because a gum is mixed with it. It is flavoured with the aniseed which is grown to some extent in the island. It is a perfectly pure spirit, and, as sold, is about 52.5 under proof. Mixed with water, it gives a whitish hue. A great deal of it is drunk in the East, and there are numerous small "stills" for its production in the towns. It is looked upon as a good stomachic; and, if liqueurs must be restored to, it is probably, when taken in small quantities, as pure and safe as any that can be had. It may be mentioned, in passing, that a liqueur which is now being sold in brown jars as "Curaçao de Chypre," is not known in the island. Fortunes might be rapidly made by establishing distilleries in Cyprus and manufacturing spirits for export: indeed, agents of large French wine firms have passed months investigating the capabilities of the place. But the uncertain tenure of the island frightens away capitalists, who will not commit themselves to investments with the risk of being hereafter abandoned to the Turks.

The growth of the vine and its produce in Cyprus are nothing short of marvellous. New vineyards are expeditiously established by planting green cutting; and the rapidity with which these take root is surprising. The cultivation, however, leaves much to be desired; and the laziness of the peasant is such that he may actually be seen carrying out the pruning by turning donkeys, mules, and goats into the vineyards to eat down the shoots after the grapes are picked, sooner than go to the trouble of cutting off the branches and carrying them elsewhere to the cattle. A disease has made its appearance among the vines in Limassol of late years. It is not due to the phylloxera; but although it sometimes kills the plant outright it has been hitherto entirely disregarded. Its nature is now, however, being investigated by the principal forest officer who belongs to the French service.

From July to December the bazaars are crammed with grapes which are sold for less than a penny a pound. They are of various kinds—black, red, green, pale, Muscat (misket uzmi), and stoneless, the same that make the Sultana raisins. Some of the grapes are so fine as to be exceeded in flavour and in the size of both the grape and the bunch only by the best English hot-house grapes. The trauben-cür might be extended in Cyprus over as many months as it last weeks in Germany, and, in fact, immense quantities of the wholesome food are consumed. It has been calculated that one-half the produce of the vines is sold or eaten at home by the peasants. Much is altogether wasted owing to the marvellous abundance. Loss has also occurred in some years in consequence of the dilatoriness of the tithe agents, for the peasant cannot touch his crop until it is valued. Owing also a good deal to its abundance, the manufacture of wine is dirty and careless, and the product sometimes abominable. It is alleged by the Excise officers that 5 per cent. of the yield turned to vinegar in 1879. The presses are primitive and rough; all sorts of grapes are employed, and the stalks and stones being crushed with the black wine give it an excess of tannin, which makes it rough, coarse, and astringent. Then it is brought down from the hills in skins, which are tarred within to keep them sound. This mode of transport is necessitated by the want of roads: mule tracks alone are available, and on these tracks even small barrels would not in some places pass on the mules. Tarred skins have been used from time immemorial, and the wine is churned in them mile after mile in the boiling sun. It has been proposed to employ flat barrels for the mules, like the water-breakers that are made for boats; but it would be impossible to vanquish the peasants' innate objection to innovation, and the barrels would probably soon start in the sun and leak. The only cure is to open up the wine districts by roads practicable for bullock-carts in all weathers; and then the town and export merchants of Limassol and elsewhere can send their own casks up the country for the wines. Even now, by sending wicker-covered glass jars on donkeys, private persons can obtain good vintages in small quantities without the tarry flavour. As to the roads, they will have to be made in great numbers and will cost large sums; and then the eternal question recurs—where is the money to come from? In every direction and at every turn the dead-weight of the payment to the Porte acts as a stop to all progress. The peasant stores his wine in vast earthenware jars, with wide mouths. They are of various dimensions and shapes, but differ little from the oil-jars of southern Europe. It is a rude and filthy mode of storage; and the wines get mixed, or otherwise spoiled by foreign substances, or turn to vinegar, absolutely without observation or control. The accurate measurement of quantities is impossible in these jars, and all gauging is done by guesswork.

Another disadvantage under which the vineyards of Cyprus labour is the taxation. In the firs[t]

place there is the property tax, or four per thousand annually on the selling value of the land, which is of course put relatively high for vineyards. Then comes the tithe of the grapes, which brought in last year nearly £ 8,000. Next is the Excise duty on the wine and spirits, which is ten per cent.: this produced last year about £8,000 also. There is no export duty. The only encouragement given by us to the wine-growers has been the abolition of the vexatious "permits," or teskerehs, required under the Turks for the transport of wine; but we took a quid pro quo by withdrawing the exemption from excise which every grower had previously enjoyed for fifty-seven gallons annually for family use. The simplest step towards relieving the wine-grower would be to take off the tithes on grapes altogether, and to replace them by an export duty of ten per cent on grapes and raisins. This would free the home consumption of grapes and raisins from taxation, and would take ten per cent of the grapes used for wine-making. It would be an immence relief, not alone to the vine cultivators, but, in consequence of the great consumption of grapes and wine within the island, to the population generally. The Government could then safely trust to the development of trade to give further encouragement and amelioration to production and manufacture; and it would be open to them to recoup any loss of revenue by an increase either of Excise or of export duty on wines or spirits, as experience and statistics might indicate The removal of the tithes would free the grape crop from the attentions of the tithe officers, and thus remove an old grievance of the people who frequently complain, and often with just grounds, that their grapes ripen while these officials are employed elsewhere, and that their attendance cannot be obtained until much of the vintage is spoiled. It is worthy of remark that the manufacture and export of raisins is rapidly increasing. From £ 4,800 in 1878, the value of the export of raisins had increased last year to £ 18,000. This has been attributed to grape-disease elsewhere; but there is another and more cogent cause: there is no export duty on raisins; thus the grapes which made the £ 18,000 worth of raisins paid only 10 per cent. to the Government in tithes. Had they been made into wine, another 10 per cent. on the value of the wine would have been paid in excise. This was saved by diverting the grapes to another purpose, and, in fact, a profit of about £ 2,000 accrued to the raisin-makers; and the conclusion is that the Cyprus Government is actually at this moment discouraging the manufacture of wine in favour of that of raisins.

Altogether, it must be confessed that the position and prospects of the wines of Cyprus are still deplorable. From a Western point of view, they do not deserve the name of wine: they are for the most part mere grapejuice. That, disguised by blending, they are consumed in Austria and France, and that when a home crop fails their consumption increases, is no doubt true; but they are not drinkable in their native condition by anybody accustomed to wines made and managed with intelligent care and cleanliness. The English who have gone to Cyprus generally decline them as "poisonous stuff," and import their wines to a large extent from England, France, and Germany, or even from the neighbouring Lebanon, where a pure and fairly agreable wine can be got cheap. The consequence is that in a country where wine is almost as common as water, and forms an important item in the people's died, the declared value of the imports for the last two years was £ 8,200, as against the native export of £ 69,000.

(From "The St. James's Gazette."

Special Telegrams.

London, 17th Nov.

The French Senate has passed a vote of confidence in the Ministry by a majority of six.

Forty thousand redifs has been called out for service in Thessaly and Epirus, and in order to reinforce Dervisch Pasha in Albania.

The Albanians still resist to surrender Dulcigno. A Turkish official has been shot and killed whilst reading the proclamation of surrender.

There has been a renewal of the earthquakes in Austria.

Cape news announces the repulse of Boer rebels by the local militia.

London, 19th Nov.

Cabinet councils were held in London on Wednesday and to-day (Friday). Differences of opinion exist in regard of the Irish policy. No definite decision has been arrived at. The Tories express indignation at the inaction of Government, and threaten to obstruct reforms. It is expected that Parliament will be summoned for business in the beginning of January.

Heavy firing was heard in the direction of Dulcigno on Tuesday.

The commanders of the combined fleets have informed Admiral Seymour that they would support the Montenegrins in their attack on Dulcigno, and if necessary take forcible possession.

London, 22nd Nov.

Perfect harmony reigns in the British Cabinet under Mr. Gladstones influence. A winter session is not now expected.

Lord Napier has written to the Minister of war advising the retention of Candahar.

General Roberts has been appointed Commander in Chief Madra's.

Reports from Constantinople say that fighting has taken place at Dulcigno; no particulars.

Albanians refuse to furnish contingent to the redifs.

Kurds are committing terrible massacres.

The Persians are making reprisals. The Porte has promised to assist Persia.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Monday, November 22nd, 1880.

We reported in our number of the 18th October last that at the invitation of the Commissioner of this district a committee had been elected to fulfil the functions of a municipal council, apparent or regent. We added, moreover, that this was in view of the bringing into being of generally representative bodies throughout the Island. One election, thus precursed, has taken place. Some thirty persons who formed the electors nominated at the last municipal elections in Larnaka, and who since aided in the constitution of the recent assembly which resigned, have here been enabled to take this step. Beyond this representation the Commissioner has summoned to the convocation five or six other citizens of Larnaka; and a local administration has been granted Larnaka and has just received the sanction of the authorities. It is hardly necessary to be said that we can hardly consider such mode of procedure as the *nec plus ultra* of legality, and we believe that government itself, in the Bill on the subject which has been forwarded to Mr. Cobham, has expressed that such representation is that of part only of the people. However, the town is at last going to possess a local government—a desirability which she has lacked many months. And it may be said of our ediles, without inquiring too closely into their origin—perhaps a trifle irregular—that their constitution as a body is a step in the direction of the right development of the place, and gives to our local affairs a little more system than they have enjoyed hitherto.

It is certainly much that is expected and demanded of them. We may be allowed to express a hope that the responsible duties devolving upon the members will be carried out with such spirit and determination as cannot fail to effect the results aimed at, and as will lead to the establishment of a Larnaka municipality being a pronounced success.

We are of opinion, primarily, that attention might be devoted with advantage to the urgent question of the public ways, and that it should be endeavoured to give the streets of our town such repair as will render them decent and fit for perambulation in the ensuing season. As it is, the rain, when it falls, forms in great part of the town into large pools which render locomotion difficult and annoying in day-time, and next thing to impossible at night. It is certain that this is a matter to be taken into serious consideration. And the inhabitants will not be lacking in gratitude to the municipal committee for all measures it may think fit to adopt to put an end to a state of things which is not alone troublesome and vexatious to themselves, but which tends to bring the town into discredit with foreigners and visitors.

We have no need to add that on this point as on all others, we shall follow the proceedings and deliberations of the municipal Committee with the attention they merit. For the present we are contented to hope that we may never have other than eulogy to shower upon its actions during the short period, we trust, separating us from a time when the will of the people will be carried out by persons having the pleasing consciousness that they are the regularly elected representatives of the whole of the population of the town and of public and general opinion.

Local Notes.

We have been kindly informed that the Nicosia hounds will meet at Lacatamia on Friday, 26th inst. at 7 o'cl. a. m. On Wednesday, 1st December next, another meet will be held at 3 o'cl. p. m. at the second milestone on the Larnaca Road.

The spectacle which we are thus promised will be a somewhat novel one and we are assure will excite a good deal of attention and interest in our town which numbers many lovers of sport.

The Austrian Lloyds' steamer which arrived here on Friday morning in order to transport the some 250 mules purchased on the Island to Greece, on behalf of whose Government they have been bought, has successfully effected the embarkation and left for the Piræus on Saturday evening having the two Greek officers on board. Before their departure these gentlemen were entertained by a number of Greek residents in the colony at a dinner at the "Belle-vue" Hotel. A number of patriotic toasts were drunk to having regard to the circumstances in which the Greek army and nation may in all probability shortly find themselves.

The Daavi Court having been brought up to its full strength by the nomination of Mr. Ongley Senr. in quality of third judge of this tribunal, has proceeded to occupy itself with the charge recently brought by the Customs officials against Captain Fenduk and his two sailors of having smuggled into the Island.

A correspondent at Limassol informs us that we were incorrect in our statement of last week that the relief committee of the town had notified to the Chief Secretary that the damage done amounted £10,000. On this point we are quite prepared to publish any corrective statement the committee may send us.

The public has been much troubled by the news from Limassol of the murder which has lately taken place there. It is generally believed that the hand which struck the base blow in ambush must have been that of a foreigner; because Cyprus does not afford example of a crime committed by a native under similar conditions. Government has issued this morning a public notice offering a reward of £ 20 to any such person or persons as shall give such testimony as shall lead to the conviction of the assassins of the murdered man.

As we mentioned last week, the last P. and O. Steamer conveying the mails from Brindisi proceeded to Port Said in order to land the Marchioness of Ripon, without touching at Alexandria. We were able, however, to obtain our corrsepondence from Europe at the usual time, and we have reason to know that we owe this good fortune entirely to the good-will of Mr. A. Minotto, the director at Alexandria of Bell's Asia Minor Company's steamers. This gentleman took the requisite measures to enable the *Fortuna* to proceed to Port Said at day-break on Wednesday, and it was thus that we received our letters on Friday. The step was even taken at a pecuniary loss to the Company, which, of course, was not able to embark at Alexandria the merchandize proceeding from this port on the ordinary day. And we think it desirable that general attention should be directed to the spirit of good-will and voluntary concern for the Island's interests which have been displayed.

We are informed that from the first of next December the Pioneer force on the Island will be amalgamated, under the command of Colonel A. Gordon, C. M. P., with that of the zaptiehs. Major Bowlby, the present chief commissioner of police, will, we hear, shortly resign his appointment and rejoin his regiment.

In reference to the Larnaka Race Meeting we have been informed that the Committe have arranged the races so as to suit al comers, and have introduced a race entirely for Cypriot Villagers, without entrance. It is hoped, therefore, that the natives will enter for this and other races for which they have suitable horses.

The subscriptions here already amount to £ 65 and it is expected that liberal amounts will be received from Nicosia and Limassol. The days now fixed are the 6th and 7th January, which being Greek holidays will be convenient for the majority of the community throughout the Island.

All subscriptions should at once be forwarded to Mr. R. Fisher, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

We learn from Nicosia that H. E. the High Commissioner was about to proceed to Famagousta and the Carpas district. It was said that the Engineers on the Island would accompany His Excellency, and that the works of draining the Famagousta marshes would shortly be proceeded with.

Mehemet Ali Effendi, one of the members of the Legislative Council of the Island has returned to Larnaka. We are assured that the Council had been convoked in order only to take the oaths of the two recently appointed unofficial members. On this subject we will speak with all reserve; because as is well known here, the greatest mystery envelops all the doings of the Council, the sittings of which are strictly private. We are of opinion, however, that publicity would do no harm to the deliberations of this body, and that many mistakes might be prevented if the public might be allowed to express its sentiments on matters which essentiatly interest it, and on which it would be so well to gain the public opinion of the country, before empowering laws with definitive and obligatory force.

Limassol News.

MURDER IN LIMASSOL.

I regret to have to inform you that a murder or assassination of the most foul kind was committed in this town on Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., upon a gentleman named E. Russo, by some person or persons who up to the present have set the law quite at defiance as to his or their whereabouts.

It would appear from the information which has been gathered up to the present that the unfortunate gentleman, who had been employed as government interpreter at the Konak for the past 18 months, left his place of business, it is presumed for the purpose of proceeding to his lodging about or shortly after 6 o'clock. On reaching the Marina, which is only about 250 or 300 yards from the Konak, the assassin was in wait for his victim, and plunged a knife into his left breast causing a terrible wound. The poor fellow, it appears, when wounded, rushed into the store known as the "Dew Drop" kept by Mr. James Sleep, where were seated several Englishmen. He uttered the words "a man has stabbed me." Doctors Steel and Karageorgiades were instantly applied for, but medical assistance was of no avail and he died within five or six minutes. When dying he was asked to say who the assassin was, but the poor fellow was quite unable to reply.

The funeral took place on Wednesday, and was attended by all the English and other respectable inhabitants of the place, as also by many of the military stationed in the town, amongst whom the deceased was universally respected and had many friends.

I am sorry to have to inform you of a crime of this nature committed in a public part of the town almost at dusk in the evening; and if the perpetrators escape without being brought to the notice of the authorities life after nightfall must not be very pleasant to the residents in Limassol. But I trust and have no doubt the Government will offer such reward as may lead to the arrest of the assassins, and make an example, if possible, to deter others who are so fond of using the knife, from committing crimes of a similar heinous nature on the Island.

Kyrenia News.

Government has had built at Kyrenia a small house on the Dâk Bungalow system so constant in India. It will be let by the the week or the month to anyone official or otherwise visiting Kyrenia. Hitherto the Commissioner has had all the expense of entertaining strangers, and this house has been built in order to relieve him of what must

latterly have been a considerable tax. If a few more of these houses were built throughout the Island, it would be a great comfort to travellers, who suffer much from the want of proper accomodation.

ARCHIBALD FORBES.

Mr. Archibald Forbes—unsurpassed as a war correspondent—as a lecturer, is to use the term he at the time of the occupation applied to Cyprus, a "fiasco". We remember hearing him some years ago, and we must confess that we came away disappointed. The subject—his experiences of the war between France and Germany—was an interesting one, but we should have preferred listening to what he had to say through the medium of the newspaper which so evidently—by no means unreasonably—plumes itself on possessing him as a correspondent. Like everything Mr. Forbes *writes*, the lecture was couched in splendidly graphic English, but it is not too much to say that the way in which it was delivered would have disgraced an ordinary schoolboy. What was said, or rather read, was at times altogther inaudible in the part of the little Baptist chapel in which we sat, although the expressive Saxon which the lecturer has at command seemed occasionally to considerably startle the worthy minister who presided. After craning our neck for some time, and giving utterance to an unproductive "speak up", we remember we were fain to find absorption in a "Telegraph" till the close of the address.

Mr. Forbes' career has been a strange one. The son of a minister in the north of Scotland, he was educated at the University of Aberdeen. He then enlisted as a private dragoon, and it was during his career as a soldier that his literary accomplishments first showed themselves. The receipt of a cheque from the "Cornhill" or other influential magazine was always understood to precurse a discreet orgy in camp. Purchasing his discharge he became more intimately connected with the press, and was for some time editor, and if we do not mistake, proprietor, of the "London Scotsman." But it was in the Franco-German war that he—conscious of his abilities—saw his opportunity. A "toss up" on Ludgate Hill decided as to which of the newspapers he should lend his services, and the *Daily News* has good reason to congratulate itself on the result. He acted as its correspondent throughout the war of 1870-71 and at once made his mark. He has since represented the same journal in Spain, in Turkey during the late struggle, in India during the famine there, and in many other parts of the world, including Cyprus, his views on which, although not complimentary to the country—they were uttered at a wrong time for that—at least showed that his strong common sense was not to be misled by the Sindbad the Sailor kind of tales current here at the time of the occupation.

Although Forbes has rendered signal service to the public of England in his capacity of newspaper correspondent, we do not expect to see a string of handles—or rather tails—to his name. Journalism is not a profession that government delighteth to honour. The sort of recognition which literary ability meets with in England is an improbable pension of £ 50 a year to a man's widow. Forbes is a man with too much backbone and self-reliance to care about these things. "Solid pudding" as Skakespeare says "against empty praise." "Carte blanche" to expend as much as he likes on the journal he represents is, we may assume, considered by Mr. Forbes as a more substantial sort of blessing than the adulation of princes; and, although his pockets are full of decorations and orders showered upon him by foreign nations, we may confidently assume that he keeps them quietly esconced in their morocco cases at Maida Vale, and views with considerably more respect the receipt of a handsome cheque from the "News."

The "back-bone" of the paper he represents is just now enjoying a well-earned period of repose. Although we are not without rumours of them, we are not without a war of sufficient signification to engage Mr. Forbes' attention. Latterly Mr. Forbes has been in America, and we observe that his appearance there has been hailed with considerable acclamation, and his reception by New York audiences has been highly friendly. But for all that it is not necessary he should be able to thrill the hearts of men from the platform.

NOTES ON CYPRUS.

By an Observer.

(*Continued from our last*).

It is much to be regretted that no African travellers, much as they enlarge on the important position assigned him and the esteem in which he is held, have been able to give us trustworthy information as to the secret means employed by the *Rain Maker* for causing the clouds to collect and to pour down on the parched-up and thirsty earth the untold blessings of the long delayed shower. As, however, we cannot, I believe, place any great trust in the skill of the untaught savage, we must, and shame to us if we cannot, devise some other and more reliable means of protecting ourselves, here in Cyprus, from the consequences of those often recurring droughts for which the Island has obtained so unfortunate a reputation, and which are alike ruinous to the peasant and disastrous to the revenue. The *Question of Questions* then is *Irrigation*, or how to obtain the water required for the necessary wants of the soil (it being as essentially needful for the growth of plants as air is to the continuance of our lives), and by which alone the labours of the husbandman can be of any avail; and he cannot only secure the food he requires for himself and family but in addition the dues he ought to pay to the government. Fire and water, when placed under proper control, are most excellent servants, and it is to the proper management of the latter that we would now wish to direct attention. The soil of the whole is nearly equally fertile and yet every year we are able to see magnificent crops growing where there happens to be a natural supply of water, while at a short distance off, owing to the absence of rain, the yield will not be equal to the amount of seed sown. It will, therefore, be a mere waste of words to enlarge on the necessity of irrigation. Planting of trees is allowed by all to be an excellent means of increasing the rain-fall of a country, but, as a means of bringing down the much needed moisture, we cannot unfortunately afford to wait for their slow-growth. Cyprus belongs geologically to the chalk formation and one peculiarity of this is that there exist in it vast subterranean cavities, as one instance of which we may refer to the cave of Adelsberg in Austria, the largest known in Europe, through which runs a river of very considerable size; and again to the Mammoth caves of Kentucky in North America, which have been explored to a distance of 18 miles and are yet thought to be larger. These caverns are naturally formed reservoirs and are sometimes found at very shallow depths below the surface, as may be inferred from the hollow sound heard when the earth is struck over them. Hence there can be no doubt that borings or Artesian wells, if made at these points, would without much difficulty or expense, soon reveal their whereabouts. It is well known that during the Abyssinian war, the English army had to depend almost exclusively for the supply of water on these Artesian wells, and it is hardly too much to say that its progress would have been prevented altogether if they had failed to yield the necessary supply. In India, where large irrigation works and canals have been undertaken, a water-rate is put upon the land using the water and there can be no reason why the same system should not be adopted here in Cyprus, not as a means of profit but for the ordinary cost of labour and the superintendance of the wells and their maintenance in a due state of efficiency. It becomes also an interesting question for the able engineering talent in the Island to determine how far some of the surplus water of the Pedias, that ordinarily flows into the sea after a fall of rain, might not be reserved for subscquent use, and from which the water could be distributed over land requiring irrigation under certain well defined regulations. Many of these works have been carried out in India by Joint Stock Companies and have paid a very handsome profit on the outlay.

(*To be continued.*)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

I have read the last instalment of "Notes on Cyprus" in your valuable journal with much interest. While sharing the desire of the writer of these notes to see the resources of the Island developed, I feel that an accurate knowledge of the facts to be dealt with is essential to success; and I, therefore, wish to draw attention to a few points in his observations on tobacco which are somewhat misleading.

Of course the quotation of £ 120,000 (instead of £23,801) as the value of 300,000 lbs. of Tobacco at 40 piastres the oke, is a mere clerical or typographical error. But, apart from that, 20 ½ piastres of the 40 being duty, paid in the Island, should not be regarded either as available for tithe in the case of native tobacco or as sent out of the country for the purchase of the foreign article.

I understand that "20 years ago" while duty at the rate of 12 copper piastres an oke was charged on tobacco brought into the towns, none was levied on what was grown and consumed in the country districts; the result being that foreign tobacco taxed at 12 copper piastres the oke was probably not used at all outside of the towns, and that even within them it had to compete with an extensive trade in smuggled native tobacco. Financial reasons prohibit a return to such a state of things, even if it were desirable to adopt a protective scale of duties.

The regulation proposed by the author of the "Notes" with a view to reconciling security of the revenue with freedom of cultivation, is practically that in force. An account is taken of the quantity grown by the peasant; as long as he retains it in stock no duty is chargeable; when he brings it to market the duty is paid by the purchaser, not by the planter; and the quantity transferred is deducted from the number of okes charged against the latter. The conditions really wanting are the capital and skill requisite to enable the Cyprus planter to prepare his produce in such a way as to render it as cheap and saleable as that of his Roumelian competitor.

Finally, the import duty on leaf tobacco has been increased, not reduced, in England. It is now 3/6d per pound on tobacco containing 10% or more of moisture, and 3/10d per pound on tobacco having less than 10 % of moisture. The value of the leaf itself is, say, from 3d to 9d per pound; computed on which rates to duties quoted range from 466 per cent. to 1400 per cent and upwards, while in Cyprus the charges of customs and excise—altogether 20 ½ copper piastres per oke—do not reach the figure mentioned by "Observer," namely 75 per cent on foreign or native tobacco manufactured in the Island.

Observer No. Two.

LARNACA RACE MEETING.

Thursday, 6th. and Friday, 7th. January, 1881.

First Day.

1st Race.—1 p. m. "*The Maiden*" for ponies 14 hands and under, 14 hands to carry 12 stone; 4 lbs. allowed for every ½ in. under. Entrance 10s. Distance ½ mile. Added £ 8.

2nd Race.—1. 30 p. m. "*The Nicosia Hunt Cup.*" for Horses. Catch weights. Distance 1 ¼ miles. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 10.

3rd Race—2. p. m. *Zaptiehs' Race.* 1 mile. No Entrance. 1st £ 1. 2nd 10s.

4th Race—2. 30. p. m. "*Citium Cup*" for Ponies 13. 2 and under. 13. 2 to carry 11 st. 7 lbs.; 4 lbs. allowed for every ½ inch under. Distance 1 ¼ miles. Entrance 10s. Added £ 8.

5th Race—3. p. m. "*Santa Croce Maiden Steeplechase*" for ponies 14 hands and under. 14 hds. to carry 12 st.; 4 lbs. allowed for every ½ in. under. Distance 1 ¼ miles. Entrance 10s. Added £ 10.

6th Race—3. 30 p. m. "*Lilliputian Sweepstakes*" for ponies 13 hands and under. 13 hds. to carry 11 st. 7 lbs.; 4 lbs. allowed for every ½ in. under. Distance ¾ mile. Entrance 10s. Added £ 5.

7th Race—4. p.m. "*Larnaca Steeplechase*" for ponies 13. 2 and under. 13. 2 to carry 11 st. 7 lbs; 4 lbs. allowed for every ½ in. under. Distance 1 ½ miles. Entrance 10s. Added £ 10.

Second Day.

1st Race—1. p. m. "*Limassol Cup*" for ponies 14 hands and under. 14 hds. to carry 12 st.; 4 lbs. for every ½ in. under. Winners 5 lbs. extra. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 10. Distance 1 mile.

2nd Race—1. 30 p.m. "*Famagusta Steeplechase*" for horses. Catch weights. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 10. Distance 1 ½ miles.

3rd Race—2. p. m. "*Papho Lilliputian Steeplechase*" for ponies 13 hds. and under. 13 hds. to carry 11 st. 7 lbs.—4 lbs. for every ½ in. under. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 5. Distance 1 mile.

4th Race—2. 30 p. m. "*Cyprus Cup*" for ponies 14 hds. and under. 14 hds. to carry 12 st.—4 lbs. for every ½ in. under. Distance 1 mile. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 10.

5th Race—3. p. m. "*Cypriot Race*" for villagers' ponies. Catch weights. Distance 1 mile. No Entrance. 1st £ 2, 2nd £ 1

6th Race—3. 30 p.m. "*Grand Naval and Military Mediterranean Steeplechase*" for horses and ponies. Catch weights. Distance 1 ½ miles. Entrance £ 1. Added £ 10.

7th Race—4 p. m. "*Ladies' Consolation Stakes*" for non-winners. No Entrance. Added £ 5.

8th Race—"4. 30 p.m. "*Zaptiehs' Race*". Distance 1 ¼ miles. 1st £1 10s. 2nd £1.

REGULATIONS.

1. Three horses to start or no money added.
2. Second horse to save his Stake.
3. 3 lbs. allowed to mares and geldings.
4. Objections must be accompanied by a deposit of £ 2, to be forfeited to the fund if the objection is disallowed.
5. All horses must be measured previous to the Meeting.
6. Entries to be made in writing with Stakes enclosed to the Hon. Sec. and Treasurer before the 25th December.
7. Stewards' decision to be final.
8. Added money subject to revision.

The Committee reserve the right of making alteration in the above arrangements.

Robert Fisher,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

Larnaca, 12th Nov. 1880.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Vessels inwards during the Week at Larnaca.

November
15th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, mails from Beyrout, general cargo.
19th S. S. 'Timavo' 1094 tons from Triest with ballast.
19th S. S. 'Fortuna' 433 tons, British, Mails from Port Said, touching at Limassol, Mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

November
13th 'Maria' 284 tons Italian for England via Carrubiere, with terra umber and carobs
15th S. S. 'Elpitha' British, for Alexandrian viâ Limassol, general cargo.
29th 'Timavo' Aust. for Pireo with 244 mules for the Greek Government.
19th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, for Beyrout,

LIMASSOL ARRIVALS.

November
17th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, from Larnaca, mails and general cargo.
19th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, 433 tons from Port Said mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

November
17th S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons, for Alexandria, mails and general cargo.
19th S. S. 'Fortuna' British 433 tons, for Larnaca, mails and general cargo.

Passengers Arrived.

By the S. S. 'Fortuna' from Alexandria. Lieut. Kenyon and Lady, Mr. Thomas and 6 deck passengers.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

IMPORTANT SALE.

RAPHAEL LEVERSON and Co. being about to leave the Island very shortly, and wishing to dispose of their stock, Mr. M. Raphael has received special instructions to sell by auction the whole of the remaining stock, effects and fixtures, including woollens, hosiery, gloves, Eno's Fruit Salt, trimmings, counters, shelves, comptoir, looking glasses safe etc.

Sale to take place at 10 a. m. on Friday next. Nov. 26th 1880.

On view the morning of sale.

The usual conditions to be observed.

For further particulars apply to

Raphael Leverson and Co.
26 Valsamaki St. Larnaka.

Larnaka Nov. 19th 1880.

M. CHRISTOPHIDES has the honour to inform the Public in general and his customers that he has just received a considerable supply of tinned goods and liquors from the leading English and French houses. They are of the best quality and are offered at quite moderate prices.

Kyko Street,
Nicosia, November 21st 1880.

NOTICE.

COMMERCIAL COURT OF CYPRUS.

Bankruptcy of Hadji Abdallah Ibrahim general Dealer at Larnaca.

HAGGI ABDALLAH IBRAHIM having been declared a Bankrupt, the apparent creditors of the said Bankruptcy are invited to attend at the Commercial Court on Wednesday 24th November (new style) of the present year at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of choising the permanent Syndics and examining the validity of the debts, in accordance with articles 199 and 200 of the Commercial Code.

CLEOBULOS L. CRAMBY,
Judge Comm.

Larnaca, 15th November, 1880.

A FORTUNE.

In the event of a stroke of good fortune you can win **400,000 marks.**	The WINNINGS are GUARANTEED by the STATE.

You are invited to participate in the chances of winning in the grand drawings of prizes guaranteed by the State of Hamburg in which more than 8 millions 600,000 marks have to be drawn.

In the course of these advantageous drawings, which contain according to the prospectus only 90,500 tickets, the following prizes will be forthcoming, viz:

The highest prize will be ev. 400,000 Marks.

Premium of	250,000	Marks
1 Prize of	150,000	Marks
1 Prize of	100,000	Marks
1 Prize of	60,000	Marks
1 Prize of	50,000	Marks
2 Prizes of	40,000	Marks
2 Prizes of	30,000	Marks
5 Prizes of	25,000	Marks
2 Prizes of	20,000	Marks
12 Prizes of	15,000	Marks
1 Prize of	12,000	Marks
24 Prizes of	10,000	Marks
4 Prizes of	8,000	Marks
3 Prizes of	6,000	Marks
52 Prizes of	5,000	Marks
6 Prizes of	4,000	Marks
108 Prizes of	3,000	Marks
214 Prizes of	2,000	Marks
10 Prizes of	1,500	Marks
2 Prizes of	1,200	Marks
533 Prizes of	1,000	Marks
676 Prizes of	500	Marks
950 Prizes of	300	Marks
65 Prizes of	200	Marks
100 Prizes of	150	Marks
26,345 Prizes of	138	Marks
2300 Prizes of	124	Marks
70 Prizes of	100	Marks
7300 Prizes of	94 and 67	Marks
7850 Prizes of	40 and 20	Marks

which will be sure drawn in 7 drawings within the space of a few months.

The first prize-drawing is officially fixed and the price of
a whole original ticket is only shill. 6—or 6 Marks,
a half original ticket is only shill. 3—or 3 Marks,
a quarter original ticket is only shill. 1. 6d. —or 1½ Marks,

and I will forwarded these original tickets guaranteed by the State (not prohibited promissory notes) even to the most distant countries in return for the amount forwarded prepaid. Every ticket holder will receive from me gratis along with the original ticket the original prospectus provided with the arms of the State and immediately after the drawing, the official list without any charge.

The payment and forwarding of the sums won to those concerned will have my special and prompt attention, and with the most absolute secrecy.

☞ All orders can be sent by the medium of a Post Office Order.

☞ Please address the orders before the

30th of November

on account of the approaching drawing of the prizes in all confidence to

SAMUEL HECKSCHER SENR.,
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HAS the honour to inform the Public in general that he has on hand a large stock of Superior Gun and Cannon Powder at the Government Magazine.

Prices. Net Cash, FF per Barrel of 25lbs. £1. 5. 0
» » 000 Cannon per Barrel of 25 lbs. £1. 2. 6
Price in retail, 1s. per lb.

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Ὁ Κος. Κάρολος Σαμμούτ Σμὶθ ἔχει τὴν τιμὴν νὰ γνωστοποιήσῃ εἰς τὸ Κοινὸν ἐν γένει ὅτι εἶναι κάτοχος ἱκανοῦ ποσοῦ ἀρίστης πυρίτιδος πυροβόλων καὶ τηλεβόλων ἐν τῇ ἀποθήκῃ τῆς Κυβερνήσεως.

Τιμὴ τελευταία FF ἕκαστον βαρέλλιον 25 λιτρῶν Λ. 1.5.0
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CIRCULAR NOTES and Letters of Credit available in all parts of the world.
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PILLS & OINTMENT.

THE Troops in Cyprus will find HOLLOWAY'S PILLS invaluable to them if taken in such doses as will act gently on the system once or twice in the day. They correct all disorders of the liver and stomach. In cases of weaknes and debility, they are priceless.

The late Col. Sir JAMES DENNY, of the 3rd Buffs many years ago, and on the day of his arrival in London with his gallant regiment from India, called to see Mr. Holloway and said that he considered he was indebted for his excellent health whilst there, to the use of his Pills. Col. Denny afterwards lived in Ireland, and frequently sent to Mr. Holloway for a supply of his Pills.

THE OINTMENT will cure any Old Wound, Sore, or Ulcer, and is famous in cases of Rheumatism.

The Pills and Ointment are sold at Professor Holloway's Establishment, 533. Oxford Street, London, and by nearly all Medicine Vendors throughout the civilized world, in Boxes and Pots, each with directions for use in almost every language. They may be procured in LARNACA at the
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11, WATKINS STREET.
and of every Chemist in the Island.

HELIOS' PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO.

Mr. Max. Ohnefalsch-Richter begs to inform the public that he is now prepared to execute photographs in every style: Portraits, Landscapes, Views, Costumes, etc., and that in order to comply with the general request, and having received a large supply of new and cheap chemicals from Europe, he is able to make the following reduction in his prices for photographs executed at the Studio:

Cartes-de-Visite 5s. the half-dozen.
» » » 8s. » dozen.
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» » 14s » dozen.

Larnaca, July 6th 1880.

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A Stock of the best Limerick Brawn on hand &c.

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JOHNSON & Co's. famed Canterbury Ale packed in 2 doz. cases very handy for travellers in the mountains.

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62,000 best English made Bricks to be sold a Bargain.

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NICOSIA.
Proprietor:
Mr. JOHN SOLOMIDES.

THIS Establishment is now under entirely new management and has just been re-decorated at great expense. Tourists and travellers will find every accomodation.

Table d'hôte daily at 12. 30 and 7. 30 p. m.

Charges extremely moderate. Guides horses and mules supplied for the conveyance of travellers.

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Quite New. Full size, walnut cottage. Truss legs, Trichord Treble, Patent check action, and all the latest improvements.

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