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1881-04-02

ἡ Ἐξαρτητικὴ Κυπρίτις: an independent newspaper no 137

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FRANCE.

The Italian Opera House at Nice was destroyed by the fire on Wednesday night, the efforts to subdue the flames proving of no avail. The fire broke out at the commencement of the opera "Lucia di Lammermoor." The gas at the back of the stage suddenly exploded setting fire to the scenery. The flames spread with alarming rapidity, and attacking the motor the house was soon plunged in darkness, adding to the confusion among the crowd who were pressing madly towards the doors. In the panic many were down and trodden underfoot. The fire was got under about ten o'clock, and at three on Thursday morning fifty-nine bodies had been recovered from the ruins. It is feared that many other lives are lost. Madame Donadio, the prima donna, was saved, but the tenor, bass, and baritone, with a number of the chorus singers, are among the victims.

We read in the *Pensiero di Nizza* the following details of the conflagration of the Opera House at Nice. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening the theatre was pretty well filled and the gallery crowded. Scarcely had they commenced to illuminate the gas burners when one heard on the stage a deep murmur prolonged, and some gas flames suddenly rose between the wainscoting. Afterwards all at once a great darkness took place and there was an insupportably strong smell of gas. The audience in the gallery who looked over felt themselves very unwell, caressed by a cold and fetid wind and their hands and face were burnt and all this in less time than you can speak.

The theatre was a prey to great darkness the stench augmented: cries, scuffling, voices of imploring women, of children crying took place, there was a terrible confusion and an atrocious chaos of people clamouring for their lives, a moribund complaint. Those who were in the pit and in the stalls could save themselves amidst all the confusion, the crisis was in the gallery. The poor spectators at the first fetid puffs of gas rushed backwards in order to escape but as they were foolish they formed as it were a compact mass and the zeal to escape prevented them from doing so. It is impossible to describe the terror of these unfortunate beings, the darkness increased the horror of the situation and the gas reaching everywhere the unfortunate victims died in the most heart-rending spasms. There was a funeral-pile, and entire families perished and among them that of Aurelli, composed of father, mother, two children and the maid. Once the news of the disaster spread the firemen and mariners arrived followed by an immense crowd. Some courageous men attempted to enter the building in order to save the unfortunate people there; the mariners of the *Hirondelle*; Jourdain, Gartier, Dellorme, an officer of the Argentine Navy, Francesco Riviera, and the sculptor Schaeffer, joined hands with a wet handkerchief and marching courageously in front arrived at the first gallery; they met with the poor Catani, the comic so applauded, the poor artiste fell down at the feet of these persons fainted away; they raised him and conveyed him to the nearest place which happened to be a hair-dressers shop.

The poor Catani opened his eyes for a moment but surprised by a sudden loss of blood he expired in the arms of the sculptor Schaeffer. Dellorme and Schaeffer entered the theatre a second time and they encountered a poor woman with her daughter, they took them by the arms and went away and thus the poor mother and her child were saved. Meanwhile the flames rose with an enormous force, the chandelier fell with a terrible fracas and the stalls gave way setting at liberty a large quantity of dust and smoke; the flames like horrible sheets of fire rose above the four walls throwing in the most remote parts a dazzling light and between the flames that rose into the air were a cloud of packets and parts of the scenery. An indescribable spectacle in words. Nice was the prey to a great terror, everyone had in the theatre parents, friends, some their mothers, the others their sons. At nine they commenced to bring the victims to the church of *San Francesco di Paola*, who were horribly mutilated, and it is dreadful to behold them.

Many perished victims of their own courage. The Dr. Arent de Camsastadt, a German, died in searching for those in danger. A musician at the first cries of alarm instead of saving himself jumped on the stage in order to save his mother, she had already fled and the poor musician was lost. A woman was taken with such a fright that she fled from the theatre in running and precipitated herself in the Padiglione; but she was saved and taken to the hospital. Horrible to relate there are not any wounded as all have

died from the injuries received. Up to the present one has counted sixty dead and there are many others in the smoking ruins of the theatre.

Several of the bodies are deprived of their legs, these are probably the unfortunate who in a moment of terror threw themselves down from the upper gallery. The greatest part of them are women, there are three darling little babies and among them one with its hands benumbed with cold and a little girl almost entirely carbonised found together with her mother. The funerals of the unfortunate victims took place on the 25th ult. at 9 a. m. followed by an immense cortege. The 26th of March they said there were one hundred bodies under the ruins of the Theatre.

RUSSIA.

An important arrest of a woman, who is believed to have been intimately associated with the conspirators against the life of the Czar, has led to the postponement of the trial of the four prisoners previously apprehended. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at five o'clock on 24th March afternoon at St. Petersburg, accompanied by Lord Dufferin, who had gone to Gatchena to meet them. The Royal party and suite were met at the railway station by the Empress of Russia and all the Grand Dukes. The German Crown Prince also arrived at St. Petersburg yesterday.

Alexander III. a Parisian correspondent writes to the 'Pall Mall Gazette,' is a man of instinct, and certainly was not over-educated. His nature was refractory to the lessons of men of science and philosophers. The easy-going father let him have his own way, and consoled himself in reflecting that after all it was perhaps well not to instruct too highly a second son. The present Czar came in for his eldest brother's inheritance and "faucée." He is a rough soldier, and his manners have a guard-room savour. They were much ruder when he married. His gentle wife exercises over him an influence in many respects salutary. But she is detested at Berlin because she passes there for encouraging, from antipathy to the Prussians, the Slavophil agitation of which the new Czar has long been the leading promoter. Because he is so, the Nihilists may not give him so much trouble as they caused to his ill-starred father. But if he escapes from dangers at home it will be to face greater ones perhaps abroad. It is believed here by many that Bismarck and the military party at Berlin have for some time agreed to pick a quarrel with Russia as soon as the late Emperor died. We may shortly witness a general fight between Slavs and Teutons. Whether such a struggle would be to the advantage or otherwise of France will depend on Spain, Italy, and Gambetta. Should he lose his popularity and become discredited there would not be cohesion in the fighting forces of the Republic. It is therefore to be hoped he will not use himself up in the approaching parliamentary struggle about the "scrutin de liste."

Latest Telegrams.

London 29th March.

The Sultan has demanded a contingent of Egyptian troops in case of war with Greece. 500 Basutos made a successful raid capturing horses and cattle. The garrison of Potchefstroom capitulated the day peace conditions were signed after severe fighting. English loss 18 killed and 90 wounded. Prince Charles has been proclaimed King of Roumania.

A Russian Imperial manifesto names the Czar's brother Vladimir as regent in case of the death of Alexander III during the minority of his children.

Mr. Parnell is organising an English land league.

London 31st March.

The Ambassadors approve of the offer of the Porte and the Powers urge Greece to accept.

The Greek journals condemn the proposed arrangement and demand decisive action. An army corps has received orders to proceed to Chalcis.

The news of the Sultan having demanded a contingent of Egyptian troops has been contradicted.

Lord Beaconsfield is seriously ill.

A telegram from St. Petersburg states that Scobelev was recalled owing to having demanded permission to occupy an oasis south of Merv.

London, 2nd April.

It is generally believed that Greece will agree to the Turkish proposition but news from Athens states that Greece insists on the cession

of Prevesa. It is reported that the Christians of the Macedonia mountains are preparing for an insurrection.

The pest is diminishing in the Bagdad district but is stated to have broken out in Aserbeidsjan Persia.

England has declined the invitation to take part in the bimetallic conference. General Roshberg replaces Scobelev. A Russian Imperial decree establishes a municipal representative government at St. Petersburg.

Lord Beaconsfield illness continues. He is suffering with fever caused by gout.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Saturday, April, 2nd, 1881.

We have already noticed in our column the different phases which the war in the Transvaal between England and the Boers has taken; and it is with pleasure that we salute the end of the struggle in which so many of our countrymen have so bravely lost their lives, and the course of which has in some degree injured the prestige of England among some of the continental Powers. In fact the agitation for the rights of the Boers had made itself felt in Holland; at Berlin a committee had been formed for the same purpose, and an appeal made in France in favor of the Transvaal. In England itself the Boers have found numerous partisans of their liberty even amongst some members of Parliament, and a portion of the Press has not failed to make its voice heard in a like manner. At this moment when the question of Ireland has caused so much embarrassment to the Home Government, and when questions of foreign policy are discussed which touch so near the interests of the British Empire, the Government has followed in this affair the wisest policy and the most conformable to liberal principles. In fact the Government has known how to conciliate the consideration to the claims of a small but courageous people to the security of the English interests in that part of the world, and if we understand the last telegrams the Boers will receive their autonomy but recognising the sovereignty of the Queen and perhaps abandoning a part of their territory to England. Even with this loss of territory the Transvaal comprises a space larger than the half of France, and England grows in the esteem of the world by the moderation and the sentiment of humanity of which it has given a proof. It is only a blind spirit of party which can sustain that the actual Government in England has receded from a serious danger, because in this century England has had to combat powers exceedingly stronger and has always left the battlefield victorious and her arms covered with honor and we hope that also in the future England in serving its interests in all parts of the globe will take into account those precious rights of liberty of which she is the most glorious champion in the world.

And now that the Colonial Office is disembarassed of the war in the Transvaal, as we have already expressed the hope of the promises made being realised the present is a fitting time for thoroughly taking up in earnest the question of reform in Cyprus, if ever the Island is to throw off its present chaotic condition.

We considered it our duty to render justice to the Government for the measures of precaution it has adopted to prevent the plague from appearing in Cyprus. But we cannot help thinking that if one takes measures of precaution against an eventual epidemic and

one which cannot realize itself, so much more ought one to anticipate means of stamping out the germs of malady already existing in the country. It is a fact well-known that after a good rainy season the island of Cyprus suffers in a stronger proportion from fever which dominates more or less every year in all warm climates. We therefore call the attention of the Government to the general hygiene of the country this year, and more particularly still to those places in the neighbourhood of marshes and stagnant waters.

At this last point Larnaca which had received more than her share has for several years seen her condition gradually improving even since the occupation. But it is not less true that the cause of evil has not entirely disappeared, and there is in the neighbourhood behind the church of St. Lazarus a quarter pretty well populated which in winter is very often nearly submerged under water as we have already remarked in our columns.

A great part of this water which finds no means of outlet remains actually in the ditches which surround what is commonly called the lake of St. Lazarus, and already it commences to be in such a state of putrefaction that it is impossible to resist the bad odours which exhale from the neighbourhood if one endeavours to approach the quarter. We are certain that here there is a cause for epidemic which when augmented by the heat aggravates itself terribly; it tells then on the life of a great many people in a country where in years like this the fever decimates the population and all negligence to take measures to dry the marshy ditches of which we are speaking is a most grave charge of which the public are right in demanding a severe account from the authorities. We hope then that in taking measures against this evil they will impress themselves of promptly finding a remedy in the real interest of the public health, which is seriously threatened.

Local Notes.

We announced in our issue of the 20th inst. that the Austrian Lloyd's steamer arriving from Smyrna would touch at Limassol, but on a telegram having been forwarded to the Agent at Rhodes by the local Agent the steamer proceeded immediately for Larnaca, and we learn that the projected line has been abandoned.

Last Monday morning at 11 o'clock the Rev. J. Spencer officiated at Divine Service held in the room specially arranged for the purpose at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, where we were pleased to notice a larger congregation than usual.

We believe that the Ottoman brig *Epoki* at present laying in our roadstead is loading up with the whole of the Ordnance stores now remaining here, and will sail as soon as the cargo is all on board which it may be expected to be in about a fortnight. A sergeant will proceed with her in charge of the stores which will reduce our local garrison to the strength of one man.

It is an interesting moment and a change from the general tone in the town that which occurs every week on occasion of the arrival of the European mail; no matter at what time, as through the consideration for the public on the part of the Post Office you can obtain your letters as soon as they are sorted. We take for our description last Friday night when the mail boat arrived in port at 9.30 o'clock, and notice was issued that the letters &c. would be given out at 11. Some half an hour before the time appointed a small crowd in which we find a great part of the local citizens, as well as the English and foreign element took possession of that part of the Quay in the vicinity of the Post Office, anxiously awaiting the time for receiving their letters. Almost punctual to the minute the door is opened and in rush those so eager to receive their letters, while some who are of a quieter tone of mind await the moment when they can receive their's more at their ease. Some we notice have so much to take away that they are obliged to make use of a handkerchief for the purpose, and others receive nothing for their patience in waiting.

We learn according to a telegram received here that M. Eugène de Castillon St. Victor, the newly appointed French Consul for the Island of Cyprus will arrive here at the end of April next. He will travel via Vienna and Constantinople.

