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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 173.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1881.

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 attention, 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; 7s. 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 advertisements is low, and may be had on application at the office. Subscriptions and Advertisements are in all cases payable in advance.

PRINTING.

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

"Cyprus" can be purchased in Nicosia, at the Stores of Mr. Constantinides, and also of Mr. Michel Christofides; in Limassol at the office of Mr. Euthybulis; and in Larnaca at the Office of the Newspaper.

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

CYPRUS.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR R. BIDDULPH
K. C. M. G., C. B., to the RIGHT HON
THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

(Continued from our last.)

Troodos, July 7th, 1881.

Education.

30. The close of the year 1880 witnessed the appointment of a Director of Education, and the Reverend J. Spencer, who had been previously engaged in establishing a private school for the teaching of English, was selected for the appointment. His school was at once re-opened as a Government school, and has had considerable success, and in all the larger towns and some of the villages there has been a demand for English teachers. The manner in which assistance should be given to the native schools is under the consideration of the Director of Education, and will form the subject of future report.

Post Office.

31. The Post Office, which, since the British occupation, had been administered by Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, was, on the 1st April 1880, handed over to the local Government. The Postmaster's Report, which is enclosed, shows the increase that has taken place in the postal business. The increase on the local correspondence being 25 0/0 on the correspondence of 1879 is a very gratifying fact, and I venture to say that this alone is a mark of very material progress. For the five years before the British occupation the receipts of the Turkish Post Office in Cyprus averaged 14l. a year. The receipts for the year 1880, for postage alone, without including registered letters and money order business, amounted to 1,587l., and, if the foreign postage be deducted as being due to the connection of Cyprus with England, there remains no less than 886l. which was paid on letters exchanged within the island.

Shipping.

32. There has been a slight falling off in the tonnage of the shipping that traded with Cy-

prus ports in 1880, but this falling off was entirely in sailing vessels. There has been an increase in the tonnage of steamers calling at the ports of Larnaca and Limassol. The apparently large increase at the latter port is due to the fact of the mail steamers having called there weekly since the 15th. June 1880.

Administration of Justice.

33. I transmit a report from the Acting Judicial Commissioner on the administration of justice during the year 1880. The reorganization of the Courts has not yet been finally decided by Her Majesty's Government, but a change of some importance has been made in the appointment of the judges. Under the Ottoman law the presidency of each Nizam court is held "ex officio" by the judge of the Court of Mehkemé-i-Shéri, and the members of the Nizam Courts consist of an equal number of Christians and Mahometans elected by the people. Both president and members hold office for two years only. By an ordinance passed last year it was provided that all judges of the Nizam Courts shall be appointed by the Crown, and shall hold office during Her Majesty's pleasure. Although this ordinance gives the Government the power of appointing the best men available, and is so far an undoubted improvement, yet there still remains the great difficulty of finding persons competent to exercise judicial functions.

34. Accusations of receiving bribes having been made against the Cadi of Papho, he was tried, and on conviction he was sentenced to the punishment laid down in the law, viz. three years detention in a fortress and a fine of three times the amount of the bribes he was proved to have received. He is now detained in the fortress of Famagusta. And I trust the example will not be thrown away.

35. As some misapprehension appears to exist about the languages of the Nizam Courts, it may not be out of place that I should state what are the facts of the case. Actions at law are commenced by petitions, as explained in paragraph 12 of my Annual Report for 1879. These petitions are received in any language that the petitioner chooses to employ, usually English, Turkish, Greek, or French. Similarly, documents are received in any language, and no charge is made for any interpretation or translation. Advocates are allowed to address the Court either in Turkish or Greek. A majority of them use the latter language. The only matter in which there is any restriction is in the written judgment of the Court. This, by law, is required to be in Turkish. The draft ordinance submitted by me a year ago provided that any judgment or report should be written or issued in English, Turkish, or Greek, as the Court might direct. The actual state of the case may best be judged from the words of an English gentleman who has resided for some years at Larnaca. "Formerly I used to hear nothing but Turkish spoken in the Court of Larnaca, now I rarely hear anything but Greek." I have only further to state on this subject that no complaint whatever has ever reached me from any individual personally concerned.

36. It is frequently represented to me by the villagers who live at a distance from their district town that they suffer loss from being obliged to lose one or two days in getting petty cases heard, so much so that it is not worth their while to prosecute for the recovery of small debts, and I have been asked to allow the Mudir or the Police Officer to judge these cases. I think that this difficulty may be met under a reorganized system, by causing a magistrate or county court judge to visit certain outlying places periodically in order to hear small cases from those neighbourhoods.

Irrigation and Water Supply.

37. In my Annual Report for 1879, I alluded to the question of obtaining supplies of water for irrigation. Early in 1880, Mr. Rus-

sell, of Her Majesty's Geological Survey, visited Cyprus with a view to reporting on this question. He remained here for 2 1/2 months, and examined the great plain extending from Famagusta to Morphou, together with the mountains on each side of the plain. His report has been carefully considered by the Government Engineer, whose remarks on it have been already submitted to your Lordship. The prospect of obtaining water by artesian borings appears to be too remote and costly to permit of our making the experiment, but it would appear that a great benefit would accrue by the proper utilization of the existing water supply. This would necessitate the organization of a scheme for controlling the general supply and its superintendence by some central authority. The difficulties which surround this question are much enhanced by the peculiar vested rights which exist as to water, which form the grounds of continual litigation, and are of so complicated a nature that the courts of law not only find it difficult to settle them, but their judgments generally fail to give satisfaction, and often lead to quarrels and renewed litigation.

38. It is not indeed easy to exaggerate the value of a proper system of irrigation. But there is something that is of more importance, and that is the introduction of order, economy, and incorruptibility into the administration, without which the money necessary for public services cannot be raised. It is in this direction that the efforts of the Government have been directed for the last three years, and the people of Cyprus have not been slow to recognize the honesty, the self-denial, and the impartiality of English officials. Any one who visits the mainland of Syria and Asia Minor may hear the lot of Cyprus mentioned with envy, and I am informed that at the recent Easter pilgrimage to Jerusalem the Cypriots were conspicuous by their prosperous bearing as compared with that of their companions, and indeed their own condition in former years.

39. I transmit reports from the Commissioners of districts and from heads of Departments, in which many interesting details will be found.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) I have, &c.
ROB. BIDDULPH.

Enclosure 1.

REPORT by the COMMISSIONER of NICOSIA.

The District of Nicosia is divided into four nahiehs or sub-divisions:—

Nahieh of Nicosia, formerly Deyrmanlyk.
" Dagh.
" Morphou.
" Levka.

The total area of the district is about 1,050 square miles, the total number of villages 181, not including farms and monasteries.

The nahieh of Nicosia, formerly known as that of Deyrmanlyk, contains 44 villages, the population is about 6,000 inhabitants, of whom about 1,200 are Moslems and 4,800 Christians.

It is principally a wheat-growing nahieh. The two principal villages are Deyrmanlyk (Greek name Kythrea) and Dali; near the former village one of the finest springs in the island takes its source; the water is private property, the owners, after taking their requirements, let out the surplus to owners of land near the neighbouring villages.

Dali lands are irrigated by a chain of wells, private property, and also by a river which becomes flooded after heavy rains in the southern range of mountains.

In this nahieh the principal land proprietors are Mr. Mattei, who owns a large farm near Dali, and Fuad, Houssain, and Naili Effendis; these latter gentlemen own large farms in the neighbourhood of Nicosia town,

They all have certain water rights, and their lands are well irrigated.

About 3,780 acres of land in the nahieh are irrigated, about 11,800 acres are cultivated but not irrigated, and there are 20,000 acres of uncultivated land.

The Mudir Fedai-Effendi was appointed on the 1st of April 1880, and I have found him very hard-working and energetic; his headquarters are in the town of Nicosia.

A detachment of 1 corporal and 2 privates of the military police is stationed at Kythria and perform their police duties well.

Owing to the evil repute of the inhabitants of a village named Louridgina, distant about 14 miles from Nicosia and situated among the lower spurs of the southern range, a detachment of two zaptiehs was sent out for the maintenance of good order; the result has been highly satisfactory, and it is long since there has been a case of sheep-stealing by the inhabitants of this village; and shortly after the arrival of the zaptiehs a letter of thanks was received from some of the leading men in the neighbourhood, in which it was stated that the zaptiehs had done very good service, and that crime had been suppressed.

DAGH.

In this nahieh there are 48 villages, the Christian population is about 4,253 and the Moslem 467; the principal villages are Deftera and Lithrodonda, the former is the capital of the nahieh and is the head-quarters of the Mudir; six zaptiehs are detailed to assist in maintaining order.

Cereals are largely cultivated, and in the hill villages a considerable quantity of grapes are grown and wine made.

About 200 acres of land are irrigated by wells, and about 800 acres by the river Pidia when flooded, and about 12,000 acres of land are cultivated but not irrigated. 4,000 acres of pasture and 3,000 acres of forest or uncultivated land complete the nahieh.

MORPHOU.

The capital of this nahieh bears this name, and after Nicosia is the largest town in the district.

The number of Moslems is about 767, Christians about 4,463.

During years when there is a large rainfall the plains of Morphou are well irrigated by several rivers which take their origin from the southern range of mountains and flow into the Morphou bay.

The rains of last January, and March were very favourable for the crops of this nahieh; for the year 1880 about 20,400 acres of land were cultivated with cereals; in the mountain villages grapes form the principal produce.

There are about 2,700 acres of pasture land, and 4,000 acres of forest land. Eight zaptiehs are stationed for police duties in this nahieh, and during the past year the people have been peaceful and law-abiding.

The prospects for this year's harvest are excellent, and far more land has been taken under cultivation in the nahieh even than during the past year.

LEFKA.

This nahieh is the furthest off from Nicosia, the distance being about 34 miles; it is, generally speaking, a mountainous country, the principal valleys being Evrichou and Maratassa; at the foot of the latter valley lies the town of Lefka, which is beautifully situated on the left bank of the stream at a height of about 350 feet above the level of the sea and two miles from the coast.

The nahieh contains 43 villages: 5 Moslem, 28 Christian, and 10 mixed population; 1,020 Moslems, 3,770 Christians.

The town of Lefka covers a considerable area of ground, the houses being built in enclosed gardens, which are full of orange, lemon, olive trees, &c.

In the months of January and March, 1880, very heavy snow fell which caused considerable damage to the lemon trees, and destroyed many

oranges, but the latter trees did not suffer. Maratassa valley is very narrow until it reaches Lefka. In the upper part of the valley the produce consists almost entirely of grapes, but about Lefka, and between it and the sea cereals are cultivated to a large extent. This is the only place in the island where cherry trees are grown.

There is plentiful supply of water in this valley.

The Evrichou valley is much wider than that of Maratassa, and there is an ample and lasting supply of water summer and winter; there are several rich and prosperous villages in this valley. Cereals are largely cultivated, as also cotton and other crops.

The inhabitants of the nahieh are not so dependent on the rainfall as their brethren of the plains of Morphou and Nicosia, but their soil is not so rich, and is very stony. The grapes, melons, and other fruit are, however, as fine as will be found in any country.

The nahieh extends along the coast to beyond a village named Pyrgos, about 12 miles to the west of the town of Lefka.

The monastery of Kikko, one of the wealthiest Christian establishments in the island has its head-quarters also in this nahieh. It is situated in the mountains at an elevation of about 3,700 feet above the sea. The priests maintain the mountain road up to it in an excellent state of repair.

Troodos is also within the boundaries, and the highest village is Prodromo, about 4,500 feet above the sea, and 3 1/2 miles from Troodos. The forest lands are very extensive, but I am unable to give their exact area.

The nahieh boasts of a port, Karavastassi. It is seldom approached except during the summer months, when ships come in to export grain, principally the produce of the Morphou plain; a few caroubs also are exported. Lefka is the only part of the district of Nicosia where these trees are grown.

Very little grain was exported last year, as though Morphou had a fairly good harvest, in most other parts of the Nicosia and Messaria plains the harvest was not so good, and the Morphou grain was sold principally in the island.

The number of ships that came into the port during the year 1880-81 has been sent to the Superintendent of Ports at Larnaca.

The Mudir Naim Effendi resides at Lefka. He is a very superior Turk, keeps his nahieh in excellent order, and the taxes, tithes, &c. are collected from the inhabitants without trouble.

Five zaptiehs are stationed at Lefka, and have performed their duties as police well and to my satisfaction. There has been very little crime in the nahieh.

The Municipality of Nicosia has remained unchanged since last year. Endeavour has been made to carry out improvements in the town, several new roads have been opened out, and constructed. The funds available are, however, insufficient for rapid progress.

The people themselves are averse to paying rates and taxes, and, though they appreciate the improvements, dislike contributing in any manner which concerns their pockets.

His Excellency approved of a new market place being constructed, and this work is now nearly completed; it will be very beneficial to the town, the narrow streets through the bazars will be relieved of the crowds of people who congregate in these thoroughfares, and it will be easier more directly to superintend the necessary repairs and general cleanliness of the streets; it is expected also that the market place will give a revenue of from 200L to 300L a year, which is much needed.

Building has been much on the increase during the past twelve months within the walls of the town, and many large and handsome houses have been erected. The expenses incurred by the municipality during the past year have been unusually great, but I trust that their funds may be in a much better way at the end of the present year.

The municipality revenue returns for the year 1880 have been given to the Auditor and Accountant General.

(To be continued.)

TURKEY.

Constantinople, Nov. 23d and December 10th.

The Paris Figaro has been forbidden entry into the Ottoman Empire.

The Turkish Government having, as we stated yesterday, sanctioned in principle the settlement of Jewish colonies in the Empire, with the exception of Palestine, it has caused the German and English philanthropists who have

submitted various schemes to the Sublime Porte in connection with this matter, to be informed that their projects will be taken into due consideration.

We learn that professor A. H. Sayce purposes making a tour in Egypt this winter, in order to copy inscriptions in the country between Cairo and Abydos.

The Hellenic Government has not yet replied to the proposals of the Porte, in reference to the exchange of mail-bags, pending a definitive postal arrangement.

Youssef Effendi, governor of Jaffa, has been transferred to Ghaza (Syria). Ahmed Vahid Bey, governor of Stroumnitza [Macedonia], is appointed to succeed to the post thus vacated.

An interesting operation will shortly be undertaken in the vilayet of Brussa. The census of the Empire has been taken on several occasions since the publication of the Hatt-i-Sherif of Gulhaneh, but, with regard to the fair sex, strict accuracy has always been sacrificed to the prejudices of the harem. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha having, however, lately pointed out the drawbacks arising from this circumstance, his Highness has been authorised to take the exact census of the female population of the vilayet of Brussa, and, if the experiment shows that the obstacles in the way of carrying out this operation are not insurmountable, it will be hereafter extended to the other parts of the Empire.

The Hellenic post-office in Pera was closed yesterday, under a warrant issued by the Prefect of Stamboul.

At the meeting of the ambassadors, yesterday, which was more than usually protracted, the incident above reported formed the topic of discussion. More will shortly be heard of the matter.

Advices from Scio report that there are almost continuous earthquakes in different parts of the island.

CYPRUS REGENERATE.

By W. H. CULLEN, M. D.

Nicosia, Cyprus.

The Climate.—The year 1878 as all Cypriotes have told me, was both exceptionally hot and unhealthy. Without dwelling at any length on the strange misconceptions that generally prevailed, at the time of the annexation, as to the nature of the climate, and the fears that were so freely expressed of the effects of a residence there, it may not be undesirable to record the experience obtained during the last two years. The extent to which our soldiers suffered is not at all surprising when we know the conditions under which the occupation was conducted. The men were harried on shore at Larnaca, which during the summer is especially unhealthy, on account of the exhalations from the salt lake near it, and the barren treeless character of the country round, huddled into single bell tents in the hottest month of the year, the thermometer stating in them at 110°, with indifferent food, and, as if to make matters worse, camped near a marsh. In fact it might be truly said, made ill to order, though in the neighbourhood of Limassol, excellent localities were available, with abundance of running water, and trees affording ample protection and grateful shade from the burning sun.

That the climate is not *per se* unhealthy is satisfactorily proved by the fact that many employes, both military and civilian, who with their wives have been here since the occupation, have enjoyed as good health as if they had been all the time in England, and whose ruddy countenances are a sufficient refutation of the supposed unhealthy climate of the Island.

Vital Statistics.—Statistics, in the proper sense of the word do not exist, as no attempt has ever been made to register births and deaths, and even among the Christian part of the population it is impossible to obtain any trustworthy information, as in answer to my inquiries of the Archbishop I find that

there are no church registers, every effort having been made to conceal the birth of males as far as possible, in order to avoid the payment of the tax for exemption from military service. Now that a Sanitary Commissioner has been appointed, these deficiencies will be gradually corrected, and Dr. Barry has no time in having meteorological observatories erected here at Larnaca and Kyrenia, to be followed by others at Limassol and Famagusta. At each of these places district surgeons are appointed to attend all who may apply daily at the Government dispensary, and thus in time a very accurate knowledge of the prevailing diseases will be obtained from the registers kept of the numbers of sick and the nature of the diseases under treatment. After the taking of the census in April, a medical certificate of the cause of death will be made compulsory in all cases, and where outlying villages are too far off to be visited by the district surgeon, the duty of registering both births and deaths will devolve on the Muektar or head man of the village, though in all cases of death by violence or supposed poisoning the District Commissioner, accompanied by the surgeon, will make the necessary inquiries.

Hygienic Conditions, Diseases, &c.—Before the occupation, a large open ditch, about twelve feet deep, and which served as the cloaca maxima, ran through a part of the town. This has now been covered, and a good road runs over it, while the same process of conversion of all open drains into sewers is being carried out. The following details have been obtained in answer to numerous inquiries, and will sufficiently enable anyone to form a fair estimate of the hygienic qualities of the town as a place of residence. Typhus, which, as may be supposed, was very frequent before the occupation, has disappeared, and though there appear to have been several cases, I have not heard of a single death during the last year. Of diphtheria one case occurred, but was not fatal. Phthisis, if not absolutely unknown, as asserted by Sir S. Baker, is exceedingly rare, the cases that have occurred during the last few years were not, as I have been told, hereditary, but as one informant told me "acquired," i.e., the result of some neglected disease of the lungs. Scarlet fever, measles, and whooping cough, appear to be unknown. Ague prevails more or less throughout the Island, though not of a malignant type, though at Morphou, towards the west end of the Island, and at Famagusta, at the east, the people suffer more severely, as the marshes are so nearly on the sea level that drainage will be very difficult. No objections are ever made to the periodical visits of the Government vaccinator, and I believe it will be made compulsory ere long, first in the towns, and subsequently throughout the Island. Ophthalmia is very general among the poor, owing to the dust prevailing during the summer, and aggravated by dirt and neglect, though the water supply is abundant.

The Military and Police.—The 20th Regiment, which left their encampment at Limassol last autumn, lost only one man in the nine months of their stay, and that from a disease previously contracted in Halifax. Among the 32 women belonging to the Regiment, there were 11 cases of fever, and 1 of diarrhoea, and among the 35 children, 9 cases of diarrhoea and 9 of fever, 2 children having died from the effect of burns. The mortality in Larnaca town last year was 22 per 1,000, and 18 for the country district, which is about the rate here for the last six months. The months of October and November, as is so generally the case throughout the east, affording nearly half the total number of deaths. In the Police Force, numbering 709 men, and composed of both Turks and Greeks, two deaths took place last year from pneumonia in men who had previously suffered from the same disease. All men declaring themselves unfit for duty are obliged to enter the hospital, and more than 25 per cent. suffer from syphilis in some of its many forms. A suitable hotel for the reception of invalids is in contemplation at Limassol for the winter, and what will be of perhaps more importance a summer retreat or sanatorium on the slopes of Troodos, about 4 to 5,000 feet above the sea level, in the midst of scenery of unrivalled beauty, and in a climate which will allow an invalid, even the most delicate, to live continually in the open air. A lady, threatened with phthisis, and who came out from England to Cyprus more than a year ago, has lost all symptoms of disease, and appears to be in excellent health.

LIMASSOL NEWS.

We are indebted to the "Cyprus Herald" for the following.

On Sunday last considerable excitement was caused in Limassol by the report that a man had been drowned in Akroteri Bay, and Mr. Craddock and six other men were on board a wreck, which has been lying for some months near the shore, and that they were unable to effect a landing. The sea was pretty high on Sunday owing to the strong east wind which was blowing, and considerable anxiety was felt

for the fate of the poor fellows. Mr. Ansell, the harbour-master, at once set off on horseback for the scene of the accident, taking with him a life-buoy, ropes and other appliances. It appears that about eight months ago, Mr. Craddock purchased the hull of a vessel which had gone on shore in Akroteri Bay, and last week he hired about six Maltese to break her up. They did not arrive however till Sunday, when he determined to commence the operation of breaking up the vessel. One of the Maltese who professed to be an experienced ship's carpenter, was placed in charge of the work, and he constructed a raft, upon which Mr. Craddock and three men embarked, calculating that from the spot from which she was launched, the wind would just bring them to the vessel, which lay about 100 yards from the shore; unfortunately however, they did not take into account a strong current which was running, and which they found was rapidly taking them out to sea. Mr. Craddock then stripped and swam to the vessel, meaning to come back to the raft with a rope; the only suitable one however that he could find was fastened to the top of a temporary triangular gyn, which had been erected on the deck, and to the top of this Mr. Craddock climbed, when the whole structure came down, falling upon his legs and body and bruising him considerably. By the time he had extricated himself from the mass of timber, he found that two of the men had reached the side of the ship, and he helped them in. On seeing his fall all three had jumped into the water to swim to the vessel: one of the three, a poor fellow named Borg disappeared immediately—the men who were with him saying they never saw him again after he jumped into the water: it is supposed that his heart must have been affected by the sudden shock of the water, which was very cold, and that he sank immediately: his body has not been recovered. Mr. Craddock and the two other men remained for some hours on the vessel, suffering exceedingly from the cold east wind, but eventually succeeded in reaching the shore with the assistance of some poles and drift-wood which were made into a sort of raft by the villagers and floated off to the vessel.

CYPRUS.

Saturday Decem. 10th. 1881.

Things are undoubtedly brightening. The old order is about to yield to the new. Things fulfil themselves in many ways. As a proof of this the Colonial Office, in communication with our administration in regard to an improved systematization of the government. And in respect of a better adjustment of finance, the mission of Mr. Fairfield we regard as to a considerable extent having in it the elements of usefulness. The Cyprus Government has already shown that it appreciates the importance of the subject; and all things go to prove that they have wish to promote the well-being of the country. To do so, would be to add to the significance of the Cyprus rule; and to extend to ourselves the beneficence afforded by the principles of English Constitutionalism is not to be feared. The persons who compose our little midst are made up of many classes. They are not "hare brained" as the Irish agitators, and under all circumstances while asking for advancement, they are loyal to authority and respectful to the law.

We may say that, looking to the temperament and good nature of the people here, nowhere in the East could be found better ground for a good system of government. And the population here have, from the first, held that, they could not expect better things and more prosperity than from an English regime.

It is impossible that the present state of things can continue. Financially we are not in a satisfactory way; and if a somewhat better condition of social affairs is to be brought about, we must, as soon as possible, dispel Turkish ideas and habits, and frankly embrace principles which are fundamental to an English colonial rule.

Local Notes.

We regret to be informed from Limassol of the departure from the Island of Asist. Com-

missary-General Leach of the Commissariat Department. Mr. Leach arrived here very shortly after the occupation and has shown himself to be an indefatigable officer. His social qualities also rendered him popular and his acquaintance with the Greek language helped him considerably in his intercourse with the people.

On Tuesday evening the Musical Society found a home at the American College under the direction of their old conductor and Mrs. Triandaphyllidi and went through several new and pretty numbers of their repertoire. We cannot help expressing a hope that this Society may come out of its seclusion and once more allow their fellow townsfolk to enjoy the harmony of sweet sounds. We are sure such a determination would be hailed as a boon in a locality peculiarly dull and monotonous and we have reason to believe that were it made a public institution it would have the hearty support of all nationalities in the district. Why the efforts so nobly in Pascoini Street were allowed to fall through when they had attained so respectable a standing is not for us to say. We can only hope for a resumption of public meetings and we feel assured there would be no want of even pecuniary support from members who would anxiously join such a Society. Let us have one ray of humanizing pleasure to look forward to in the week.

Mr. Fairfield accompanied by the Commissioner has this week visited the public offices here—the Konak, including the Treasury, the civil office of Police conducted by Mr. Triandaphyllides. He was present to the Commercial Court during a pleading. He visited the Post-Office, the Custom-house and some other public establishments. He looked in also at the municipality, and went largely into its affairs. Through the week Mr. Fairfield has received some persons from our community and has considered together with them, the affairs of our Island. Mr. Fairfield intends, we think, to leave for Limassol by the "Volligeur" on Tuesday. He will, however, return here in a few days.

Agricultural prospects are not bad. It may be remarked that when the winter here is mild, there is more probability of a rainy season. And we hope that as time advances, the expectations of the peasants will not be deceived.

The "Volligeur", a French cruiser, arrived here on the 8th inst. She will leave on Tuesday for Limassol and Famagusta.

NICOSIA NEWS.

The proposed conference between H. E. the High Commissioner and a select deputation from the inhabitants of the several districts, took place on Friday the 2nd inst.

The questions mooted on this occasion were 1st. the establishment of a Legislative Council to include members elected by the inhabitants, and 2nd. the Reform of the Courts of Justice.

With respect to the first question His Excellency seemed to be of opinion that the elected members would have the majority in the Council, and that Christians and Mohammedans would be elected in proportion to their respective numerical importance in the island. The members would also have the right to propose laws.

With reference to the courts His Excellency alluded to the scheme suggested by Lord Kimberley, and appeared to recognize the difficulty in forming itinerant tribunals.

The necessity of appointing Justices of the peace was also discussed and some debate arose about the organisation of the *Témyiz Court* which the deputation was of opinion should consist of four members, but this I will pass over, as it called forth some remarks about the qualifications of Cypriot lawyers which it were not seemly to discuss in your columns.

The second audience took place on Tuesday the 6th inst. when the utility of the *Témyiz Court* being composed of four members was considered.

A question was also raised as to the language to be used in the Courts, on which His Excellency remarked that when the parties concerned in a suit were Greeks, the case would be conducted in Greek; the records would also be kept in that language and registrars appointed for the purpose.

Afterwards the relationship of the Greek Church in Cyprus to the State and the subject of education were mentioned. Since the British occupation the ancient rights and privileges of the Greek Church have not been recognized by Government. The delegates pointed out that according to the usages of the Greek Church in the East regulations

should be drawn-up in a Council composed of representatives of the people and the dignitaries of the Church, such regulations to be submitted to the Legislative Council and to form the Ecclesiastical law of the Island. This course was some years ago adopted, according to the Hatt-Houmayoun, at Constantinople. I point to this precedent because Turkey, contrary to an objection raised, possesses a State Church as is very plainly stated in the last Constitution promulgated by Turkey. The High Commissioner said he would draw the attention of the Home Government to this important matter. In regard to education, the delegation said that the objects of the Director-ship had altogether failed and that the government subventions should be placed at the disposal of the various school-boards, which are presided, in their own right, by the Archbishop and bishops. Inspection and control should be vested in the Commissioners of districts. The High Commissioner seemed to agree that participation should be given to the clergy in such matters. The hour of audience being rather a late one, the delegates then withdrew, assuring His Excellency of the loyalty of the inhabitants and how thankful they would be to Her Majesty, the English Government and to His Excellency when their requests were complied with.

The delegation were treated by His Excellency with characteristic courtesy and evident disposal was shown to promote general interests.

I think it noteworthy that on Friday the peasants who came in great numbers to the weekly Bazar held here were very anxious to know the result of the audience.

Kyrenia News.

Dec. 8th. 1881.

The weather has been extremely cold here for the last few days, but the bright sun tempers the keenness of the air, and makes the climate at present most enjoyable and bracing.

Three gentlemen from the foreign office have been on a visit to the Commissioner who accompanied them to several of the sights in the neighbourhood.

Colonel Gordon inspected the prison and zaptiehs on the 7th inst. and was much pleased with the cleanliness and smart appearance of the men.

A CYPRIOT CIVIL SERVICE.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

The remarks you permitted me to make on the above subject in your journal last week I should like to supplement, if you will allow me, with a few facts. It seems that the subject here has much the same aspect as in India, with the exception that the people of this country have, perhaps the advantage in respect of capability and intelligence. Now the question in our great Eastern dependency has been already fully solved. It is recognized there that either taxation must be increased or expenditure must be cut down. And indeed the course has been followed. It is the belief of persons who have studied Indian statistics that many services will have to be paid for at rates lower than at present. And I believe, precisely the same opinion prevails in Cyprus. Mr. W. W. Hunter, C. I. E., stated the case succinctly some months ago in a lecture at the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. He said, speaking of India, "of course, you cannot work with imported labour as cheaply as you can with native labour, and I regard the more extended employment of the natives, not only as an act of justice, but as a financial necessity." The remark applies admirably to Cyprus, and our administration can surely take a lesson from experience. "By all means" said Mr. Hunter give the natives every facility for entering the "Covenanted Civil Service. If we are to govern the Indian people efficiently and cheaply we must govern them by means of themselves and pay for the administration at the market rates for native labour." Precisely what may be said of Cyprus to day.

In fact there seems to me much wor-

thy of attention in the straight forward, candid utterances of Mr. Hunter, himself Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India. He is of opinion "that you will find the natives of India the safer guides with regard to the wants of India." The lecturer attempted no brilliant epigram in saying that, but he set forth a very honest principle of administration. And he stated a belief which, adapted to ourselves, is very current here.

We are, as a people, to-day asking for reforms. This desire is, doubtless, a little disagreeable to officialism, but "what everybody says must be right," and so let us turn to an old programme of reform presented to Parliament by the British Indian Association. It expresses native views. In the first place there is asked for "a larger and more independent share in the legislative council of India." That coincides exactly with Cypriot ideas. "And" added Mr. Hunter "it is certain that at no distant date such a share must be conceded to them." The next question is "military retrenchments." It is not a serious one with us; and the colony asks rather for "naval extension"—that we should not altogether be denuded of the benefits of the expenditure of the fleet in the Mediterranean, the use of which is not apparent to the ordinary observer; unless, indeed, to remind him of extravagant taxation and of inherent savagery.

The visit of Mr. Fairfield to our, we hope, not inhospitable shores is not a strikingly original circumstance. It resembles very much the commission of inquiry asked for by the Association and which, according to Mr. Hunter would be similar "to those great parliamentary committees which sat every 20th. year in the time of the "Company" to examine into its administration. Just as hope sprang eternal in the Micawber breast, so the pleasures of it remain to us. Look what Mr. Hunter says about such examinations. "I am compelled, as a student of Indian history, to acknowledge that each successive flood-tide of administrative improvement under the Company took its rise from these successive inquiries. "After darkest night" Mr. Gerald Massey informs us "comes full of loving life the laughing morning" So let us then take courage according as our natures are sanguine or despondent. I should like, if you will allow me to address you further on this subject.

And I am,

Sir,

Yours faithfully

A GOOD HATER OF NEPOTISM.

LATEST NEWS.

Paris, Dec 3rd.

Mr. Roustan is here. It is believed that he has resigned.

Vienna, Dec. 3rd.

Relations between Austria and Roumania are greatly strained. The Government has required the cessation of diplomatic intermediation with Bucharest while the question is under examination by Count Calnoky

Chicago Dec. 3rd.

A thousand Irish have held a meeting here. There was resolved—Home Government and non-payment of rent.

Paris, Dec. 6th.

According to the "Standard" Italy had accepted propositions against Austria suggested by Russia. In consequence, however, of the Dantzic interview, Italy has changed attitude and organized the meeting at Vienna, with the purpose of proposing to Austria to cede to her the Trentino, leaving to her all freedom in the East. It appears that Austria has not given particular attention to the proposal.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 6th. The rumour of a ministerial change is contradicted, complete accord existing between the ministers.

Paris, Dec. 7th.

Germany endeavours to arrange the difference between Austria and Roumania.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

December,

- " 7th S. S. 'Espero' Austrian 1315 tons from Beyrout, Mails General cargo
- " " 'Mars' Austrian 1363 tons from Constantinople and Limassol; Mails. General cargo.
- " 10th "Volligeur" French Gun vessel from Beyrout, 3 guns, 117 crew.
- " " S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons from Alexandria and Limassol; Mails. General cargo.
- " " "Aya Maria" Greek brig 130 tons from Beyrout in ballast.

Outwards.

- " 7th S. S. 'Espero' Austrian for Constantinople; Mails and General cargo.
- " 8th S. S. 'Mars' do for Beyrout do.
- Passengers arrived by S. S. 'Espero' from Beyrout 7/12/81. Miss. Corby, Mr. Watkins and 17 Deck passengers.
- By S. S. 'Mars' from Constantinople and Limassol 7/12/81. Ghalit Bey, Nahli, Mr. and Mrs. Romy, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Sutherland.
- Passengers arrived by 'Elpitha' 10/12/81 Mr. E Spiers, Mr. Jas Blakely, Mr. Thos Chalmers, Miss Hildt and 4 deck passengers.

NOTICE.

Tenders are invited for the conveyance of the mails throughout the Island of Cyprus for Twelve months commencing on the 1st. January 1882.

The conditions of the Contract may be had on application at any Post Office in the Island.

Tenders should be sent in not later than the 10th instant addressed Island Postmaster Larnaca.

J. A. BULWER
Island Postmaster.

Larnaca,
December 1. 1881.

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