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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 130.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 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 8s. 9d. for 8 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.

"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").

A Cabinet Council was held on Jan. 29, and another on Feb. 3.

A debate on the policy of withdrawal from Candahar took place in the House of Lords on Jan. 28.

Another "all night" sitting occurred on Feb. 1 and 2, on the continued discussion of the Coercion Bill. The sitting altogether lasted forty-one hours.

Ultimately the Speaker closed the debate on the ground that the minority had resorted to modes of obstruction which amounted to a Parliamentary offence. Leave to bring in the Bill was then carried by 164 to 19 votes.

On Mr. Gladstone rising, on Feb. 3, to move a resolution proposing new rules for the better conduct of the House on future occasions, Mr. Dillon endeavoured to prevent him being heard; and, refusing to resume his seat at the Speaker's order, was named, suspended, and ultimately removed by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. Parnell and other Irish members, pursuing a similar course, in the end thirty-six of the party were named, suspended, and expelled by the Sergeant-at-Arms.

After these scenes the House took up the discussion of Mr. Gladstone's resolutions, which, with some alterations were finally passed.

Michael Davitt has been arrested for breach of his ticket-of-leave.

General Roberts and Sir Garnet Wolseley have both addressed meetings of Volunteers this week.

Lord Cranbrook was present at a Conservative banquet at the Crystal Palace on Feb. 2, and spoke on public affairs.

The British troops under Sir G. P. Colley have been repulsed by the Boers in the Transvaal with heavy loss. Seven British officers were killed. Sir G. P. Colley is now waiting for reinforcements.

Negotiations with the Porte are still in progress in connection with the Turko-Greek frontier. Mr. Goschen left for Constantinople last night.

Assim Pasha has declined to make a statement as to the intended concession of the Porte to Greece before negotiations with the foreign Ambassadors.

General Skobelev's official account of the capture of Geok Tepe has been published and will be found in another column.

Amongst the deaths recorded this week are:—Major-Gen. J. N. A. Froese; Lieut.-Col. J. G. Rawstone; Major F. W. Cartwright; Capt. C. Bettington; Lieut. A. J. Hillcoat; and Dr. J. Davidson.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette", 5th and 9th Feb.)

By Khedivial Decree dated 1st instant Mahmoud Samy Pasha has been named Minister of war in succession to Osman Kifki Pasha, whose resignation, as we announced on the 2nd inst. had been accepted.

Mons. Violand is named, by Khedivial Decree, Judge of the Court of Appeal.

We understand that all the chief Government Administrations, except perhaps the Railways, will show in the forthcoming Returns a considerable increase in revenue for the past year.

The military riot which took place on the 1st inst. appears to have been caused by the antagonism which has always existed between the native Egyptians and Turks or Circassians. While those engaged in the civil and agricultural pursuits had benefitted by the equitable system of government introduced of late, the army continued to be sacrificed to the relations and favourites of the governing classes. The colonels of the first three regiments of the Guards had, it would appear, presented a petition to the Khedive praying for the dismissal of the Minister of War. On the 1st inst. these colonels were summoned to the Ministry of War, the 1st regiment finding their colonel not returning marched out of their quarters at Abdeen to the Ministry at Kasr-el-Nil, where the 2nd regiment was quartered, they freed the three colonels and returned to Abdeen and defied before the Khedive in perfect order, cheering their Sovereign, who received the colonels and advised them to take the proper steps for the redress of their grievances. His Highness acknowledged at the same time the loyalty of the troops to his own person.

The affair is most regrettable from every point of view, especially seeing the necessity for maintaining strict discipline in the army and it is to be hoped that the new Minister of War will give the complaints of the troops his best consideration and prevent the possibility of a recurrence of such mutinous conduct. We believe the French and English Ministers Plenipotentiary used their influence in counselling moderation and justice.

We have seen a prospectus of "The Egyptian Delta Lands Mortgage Loan."

We are inclined to think that we are becoming rather overburdened with similar operations and, while abstaining from offering any opinion on this last scheme, until we are in a position to give fuller particulars, we would recommend our readers extreme caution in all similar investments.

Both the P. and O. S. N. Co.'s steamer "Sumatra" arriving on Thursday from Brindisi and the Bul's Asia Minor steamer "Fortuna" arriving yesterday from Cyprus report very heavy weather on the passage.

At Cyprus the amount of the rainfall was something unprecedented. So heavy was it during the "Fortuna's" stay that her scuppers were insufficient to carry off the water which accumulated on deck.

Last night a banquet was given in honour of Commandatore Rossi at the Hotel Abbat. About eighty sat down to table.

The business of the Suez Canal appears likely to be even more prosperous during the present year than in 1880, the traffic up to the 29th of January being represented by 227 ships and £. 4,103,667 as compared with 204 ships and £. 3,892,178 in January 1880.

Since the events of the 1st instant our local gossip-mongers have had an opportunity of proving their ingenuity. The air has been full of all sorts of disquieting rumours, and "canards" were flying about in great profusion. The Riaz Ministry had fallen, the names of the new Ministers were authoritatively announced, in fact every one was better informed than his neighbour. There was no foundation whatever for all these rumours. Riaz Pasha and his colleagues still enjoy the confidence of the Khedive and though we are certainly far from asserting that the present Ministers have an eternal lease of power, we are in a position to state that there is not one word of truth in any

rumour as to the actual or prospective retirement of the present Ministry.

Baron Iapenna left yesterday by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer for Trieste. A very large number of the most prominent of our citizens, including the judges and many high Government officials, went on board to take leave of the late Vice President of the Court of Appeal who has done so much to secure the independence of the Tribunals.

On 7th inst. at the Ezbekieh Restaurant, Cairo, a banquet was given by the advocates to the judges and principal officials of the Tribunal of First Instance at Cairo to commemorate the expiration of the first quinquennial period of the International Tribunals. The object of the social gathering was to record in a public manner the good results obtained by the institution of the tribunals and to show the concord that exists among the members of the Bench and of the Bar, although both are composed of such varied elements.

From Syria we hear that there has been rather a serious rising of the Druses in the Hauran, so serious, indeed, that a couple of battalions, which had come down to Beyroot to embark for service on the Greek frontier, were started back to Damascus at midnight and the Wali's intended removal to Beyroot postponed. It is always difficult to get at the exact truth in such matters in the East, but we may state, under reserve, that over 200 lives are reported to have been lost and that the Christian women were violated and subjected to gross outrages. We hope to be able to give further particulars later.

WAR IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The following authentic account of Friday's 28th Jan. engagement has been published by the *Mercury*:—

"Major Dartnell and the Mounted Police returned to Newcastle from the camp on Saturday morning. There is no doubt as to Friday's fight being a repulse of the British forces. The Boers were strongly entrenched at and beyond Lang's Neck, where they had occupied a house and cattle kraal, from which they were shelled early in the day. Lang's Neck is the most difficult point on the road from Newcastle to the Transvaal. At 9 o'clock the guns and the rocket battery advanced within range. The guns were then ranged on the right and the rockets on the left of the road to the Neck. The Neck was shelled for one hour, when there was little sign of the enemy. The 58th Regiment then advanced to storm, led by Colonel Deane. They were met by a destructive fire, but held their own gallantly. Meanwhile, the Boers emerged from dongas to the right and left, and poured a heavy flanking fire into the 58th Regiment, who now suffered severely, especially among their officers. Their ammunition ran short, and their supports failed to reach them. They therefore retired with their guns towards the camp, keeping up a bold front the while and now the encounter at times became hand-to-hand. The Boers advanced on the left and the right of the camp to within a short distance. The General then sent out a flag of truce, asking for time to bury the dead. The proposal was accepted, and both parties proceeded to the task. One British surgeon attended a Boer who was wounded, and is said to have been detained. Our shells apparently passed over the Boer earthworks. The Gatling guns were kept in the camp to guard it. The rockets, when they were fired at any considerable body, proved to be very effective. The Boer losses are estimated at 500 killed and wounded.

The following officers were killed:—Colonel Deane, Lieutenant Elwes, his aide-de-camp; Major Poole, of the Artillery; Lieutenants Bailie and Dolphin, of the 58th Regt.; and Lieutenant Lovegrove is severely wounded. Altogether 169 foot and 30 mounted infantry were killed and 80 wounded. The officers were picked off early. Second Lieut.

Monck had a narrow escape. Sub-Lieutenant Jopp now commands the 58th Regiment. The wounded are to reach Newcastle on Saturday.

The General addressed the troops after the engagement, declaring his intention to hold the camp till reinforced. The camp is now strongly entrenched, with a fort at each corner.

The Boer position is so strong that 500 men should be able to hold it against 5,000.

There is a great excitement throughout the colony.

A detachment of Hussars has left Maritzburg by mule wagons. They are to be mounted at Ladismith and Newcastle. The 2nd Battalion of the 60th Rifles leaves Maritzburg to-day.

The troopship Crocodile arrived last night from India with reinforcements.

Three hundred Boer horses are said to have been killed, also the Boer commandant, Greyling!

MR. BRYCE, M. P., ON ASIA MINOR.

On Saturday evening Mr. Bryce, M. P., delivered a lecture at the Jewish Working Men's Club and Institute, Hutchison-street, Houndsditch, on the subject of "Asia Minor: Its Past and Its Future." Mr. Arthur Cohen Q. C., M. P., is the chair.

The lecturer said that he had selected Asia Minor as the subject of his address not solely because it was the ancient home of the Jewish people, but because having recently visited it he could speak from personal observation of its present state and future prospects. Tracing back 2,000 years to the rule of the Phœnicians, whom he described, from the extent and number of their colonies and their indomitable commercial enterprise as the English of that age, whose magnificent cities of Tyre and Sidon were the wonder of all time, he passed on to the conquest of the country by Philip of Macedon, B.C. 330, who not only succeeded in uniting all the nations and races into one vast political body, but further so thoroughly established the Greek language that even up to the present day anyone having a knowledge of that tongue, and aided by a slight smattering of Arabic, might make himself understood in any part of the land. Philip also brought with him the glorious culture and art by which the Greeks had gained for themselves undying renown, and at the present day the ruins of the grand temples built by them existed all over the land and were the envy and admiration of the civilised world. Referring to the rule of the Romans, whom he described as the most tolerant nation the world ever knew—a nation which granted religious freedom and equality to all its subjects, the so-called persecutions of the Christians not being on account of any religious differences, but because the Christian sects were antagonistic to the Roman rule—he went on to describe the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and the dispersion of the Jewish race. Hebrews, said the lecturer, were in the habit of looking on this event as the direst calamity which had ever befallen their people, but he thought that the very dispersion they much deplored had been to them the greatest blessing that could have happened, for it had given them the opportunity of displaying that business capacity and the commercial industry which had raised them to the head of the nations of the world. Passing on to the rule of the Turk, whom he described as a nation without art, without science, and without literature—for during the past 200 years no book of any value had been written in the Turkish language—he described the gradual but sure decadence of the land down to the present day, when the whole country scarcely contained as many souls as London, where vast tracks of land once fertile were now sterile deserts, and where in their chief city, Smyrna, the "delta" of the river was allowed to "silt" up to such an extent that ere long it would be unapproachable except by vessels of the smallest tonnage, and where life was so insecure that no

nan ventured out unarmed. The lecturer then went on to say that the only remedy for his state of things was the overthrow of the power of the Sultan—a power which, by its capacity and cruelty, rendered commercial enterprise and the advance of civilisation impossible; and this overthrow, he believed, to be near at hand. The Arabs, who hated and despised the Moslems, were in a state of revolt, and the other nationalities would follow suit, and then by the establishment of local self-government, by permitting each nationality to govern itself by means of local chiefs and local assemblies, those who knew exactly the wants and requirements of the country would administer the affairs of the country. The Greeks would take the seaboard, and then there would be a gradual return of the Jews to Palestine. It was the wish of all men that Palestine should come back to the hands of its ancient rulers, the Jews, and to this end the first emigrants must be agriculturists, and these could be recruited from the ranks of the persecuted Jews of Roumania, Poland, and he was sorry to say Germany. Sad was it to think that that grand nation, ever foremost in proclaiming civil and religious liberty, should be so degrading herself in the eyes of the civilised world by the display of such a miserable, patriotic spirit of jealousy towards the Jewish race—her best and noblest sons. (Loud cheers.) If this were done the fertile slopes of Palestine would be again clad with vines, her now sterile deserts would become golden cornfields, and her wooded heights would overflow with oil, and the world would look forward to the time when the Jewish race would again possess the home they once had—a home which they as a great and a noble nation had a right to have.

The lecturer sat down amidst loud and prolonged cheers.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the lecturer.

Special Telegrams.

London, 9th Feb.

In the House of Commons the under secretary for the colonies said that the governor of the Gold Coast rests on the defensive but is prepared to resist the Ashantees.

The corvette "Champion" ordered to the Gold Coast to form a naval brigade. Reinforcements of 1000 men will be sent from the West Indies.

The Marquis of Hartington has declared it to be impossible to fix the date of the evacuation of Candahar.

The Russian government has informed Lord Granville that it has no intention to push its conquests further in the direction of Merv.

Secret documents discovered at Cabul prove an alliance between Russia and the Ameer of Afghanistan. The Russian plans included a Mohammedan rebellion.

London, 11th Feb.

In the House of Commons Lord Hartington said that the discovery of the secret Russian correspondence does not alter the decision of the Government respecting Candahar.

The "Daily Telegraph" announces the intention of the opposition in the House of Lords to propose a vote of want of confidence in the government policy since the discovery of the secret correspondence.

The coercion Bill has passed the second reading in the Commons by 359 against 56. It is rumoured that it is intended to arrest Mr. Parnell.

General Colley sent the 60th Rifles against the Boers near Ingogo. After six hours fighting the Boers were repulsed, but the British losses are very severe and the wounded were left on the field. General Colley is isolated.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Sunday, February 13th, 1881.

The happy idea of a Cypriot Civil Service originated, we are told, with Sir Garnet Wolseley; and with him it

may be said to have remained. That is to say, unless this distinguished general's conception of such a system differs very materially from ours. Until we came upon the fact in the Blue book, we had never suspected Sir Garnet of proclivities in this direction, any more than we had thought him enamoured of newspaper correspondents. We had fancied that he would at all times have been far readier to have relied for administrative ability upon his staff of military gentlemen, selected on a plan the very antithesis of that usually followed by the Commissioners at that ugly little building at the top of Parliament St., and nearly opposite the House of Commons. Highly probable would it seem that our ex-administrator's "earnest desire to establish as soon as possible a permanent Civil Service for Cyprus" amounted to little more than a common-sense wish to see installed in some of the posts on the Island which it may reasonably be supposed a military man can only by accident be qualified to fill,—legislative, sanitary, etc.—persons who by reason of special study are adapted to the positions in question.

We are easily able to explain our own particular views as to how a "Civil Service for Cyprus" is to be desirably consummated. It will be by giving to those Cypriots who show themselves qualified an opportunity of forming part of the personnel of the administration. And although there appears at the present moment not the slightest sign that any such ideal state of things here will ever be brought about, we may perhaps be allowed to indulge in a few pleasing anticipatory reflections upon the qualifications which will be required of the Cypriot Civil Service candidates of the remote future. Of-course we have only experience to go by; we cannot predetermine any regulations which, like Artemus Ward's tallow candle, glimmer only in the dim vista stretched before us.

To the *jeunesse dorée* of Cyprus, provided there exists such an element in our midst, and that the members composing it are aspirants for name and fame, we recommend Sandhurst. Having graduated there, they will find it a universally-received opinion that they are fit for anything. Nothing will then fall short of their apprehension; and there is no position on this lower earth of ours they will find themselves unable to fill. As for those of our youth who without being gilded are ambitious, and who—juvenile Broughams—have their eyes fixed on the Cypriot wool-sack, they too cannot do better than concentrate their energies on a succinct comprehension of military strategy and the drill-book—it will be a pass-word to official favour, and, even if they do not obtain their *summum bonum*, they will be able to bask in the smiles of official regard, and to put "leading questions" with a courage and impetuosity which can hardly fail to convey—well, mingled feelings. As for those who aim at occupying those overpowering—quite awe-inspiring—posts known as Commissionerships and under-Commissionerships, of them an ignorance of any language except their own will probably be demanded; although perhaps a school-boyish smatter of French may be deemed a desirable linguistic attainment. A clerkship in the Chief Secretary's Office will be found difficult of acquisition; but the candidate should cultivate carefully the perspicuous literary style of the *Lana Blue* books, and sit at the feet of the young gentleman who, in the return of all

officials in Cyprus (No. 6, 1880) announced to the world that the salary of Captain Bond, R. N., Superintendent of Ports, was £300 "per mensem." Entrance to the Financial department will perhaps necessitate some little special knowledge; but the main requirement will be a firm persuasion that the sort of accountancy required in a public office is altogether apart from, and transcendental to, that required in a commission merchant's warehouse—although those persons who are acquainted with both declare them to be very much alike. As the public works in progress on the Island amount to nothing at all, or consist only in patching the faulty work of the past, it would seem desirable to dispense with this service altogether, and thus spare the Island a good deal of extravagant expenditure to no visible end in salaries. If, however, the department is retained, it may be opined that to enter it a crucial "exam." will have to be passed in that interesting branch of engineering skill, the planting of eucalyptus trees.

But, as we said before, Sir Garnet Wolseley's idea of Civil Service probably differs widely from ours. And he would doubtless consider the persons whose names figure in the return of all officials, higher and subordinate in the public service in Cyprus dated July, 1880, as forming an admirably representative and constitutional administrative body.

The prodigious feats executed in Cyprus by that much vaunted scientific corps the Royal Engineers will long dwell in the memories of most of us. They have planted quite a number of Eucalyptus trees; and if the result has been far from a signal success it is due wholly to the captious climacteric absurdities of Cyprus. They have constructed bridges; and, if the irresistible tide of time, or a little overflow of water, has carried them away, why, then Homer will nod, and accidents will happen even to persons so replete with abstruse technicality as those to whom it is given to direct the operations of the Royal Engineers. The roads, too, all over the Island are in a most deplorable condition; but then it is simply because we are blessed with such a wealth of rain—of natural irrigation—that not only does it seem to appear to the governmental mind that we stand in no need of its production by artificial means, but it is perhaps hailed as a happy omen that our high-ways and bye-ways are in such a condition that to traverse them is impossible.

Seriously, a bronzed and lacerated-faced warrior informed us that never in his life had it been his lot to make such a journey as one he undertook from Limassol to Larnaca overland during the past fortnight. The road from this to Nicosia is better; perhaps owing to the pressure of public opinion which Larnaka is able to bring to bear upon questions such as these. But of that between the capital and Kyrenia the worst possible accounts reach us. A correspondent writing from Nicosia under date of 7th inst., alludes in no exaggerated language to the "terrible state of the road constructed by the Royal Engineers between here and Kyrenia." "I cannot tell you" he says, "how many camels have died on it this season. Merchants will now send nothing over."

This is indeed a peculiarly sorry state of affairs for Cyprus after two-and-a-half years of British occupation; yet we are far from having recorded all the facts of the case. By all the information we can obtain, the road has been condemned from the very first by competent and impartial authorities. There is something at the back of it all, the truth of which it is not altogether easy to arrive at; but it would appear, so far as we are able to discern that there exist an obstinacy and moreover, a spirit of complacent self-esteem on the part of those principally charged with the responsible public duty of looking after the work in question which will go far towards an explanation of the matter. Putting the camels on one side, information has reached us of a number of accidents which have occurred, but which, of course, from the peculiar dislike of publicity which cha-

acterizes our governmental system, have been hushed up. Some hundreds of pounds have been expended on this precious road, and now the last end of it would appear rather worse than the first. Our correspondent thinks—and we are entirely of his opinion,—that the honest plan would be to look the matter straight in the face, and construct another road altogether. In point of fact—there are not two doubts about it—an altogether new one must be made, and that in quite a different direction. The present is five miles longer than the old road, and the hills over which it has to pass are far steeper. Kyrenia is the only port on our north coast, and it is shameful that no communication should exist between it and the interior. All or most of the trade with Asia Minor is conducted there and it is needless to say that an uncertain portage of mules and donkeys entails upon merchants a considerable increase of expense upon what should be the case. Only last Sunday, our correspondent writes, several gentlemen and some ladies attempted to reach Kyrenia from Nicosia but were stopped by the impassable gaps in the road. And the same thing happened the Sunday before.

To ascribe this state of affairs to misfortune would be absurd; a capable engineer would not recognize any such element of uncertainty in his profession. It must be reluctantly confessed, our correspondent says, that the manner in which the work undertaken by the Royal Engineers in Cyprus has been performed reflects upon their credit, and has helped to make doings in Cyprus the subject of criticism to all who have an intelligent acquaintance with the East.

Local Notes.

Last Friday morning being the fête day of the three Patriarchs, Saints Basil, Gregory and Chrysostom, the schools of St. Lazarus proceeded to celebrate the day as is usual on this occasion. At first there was divine service celebrated in the Church of St. Lazarus, where all the school-children in holiday trim were present. After service at 10 a. m. the ceremony was transferred to the school-room, which was gayly decorated for the occasion. The ceremony was opened by a procession of some of the school-children carrying banners, and headed by the Archimandrite and several of the clergy, who came in singing a hymn. After a short prayer in the school-room the national anthem of Greece was sung, and then the head-master of the school proceeded to give a speech which was lustily cheered at several points. There were several toasts proposed and responded to with great warmth. The ceremony passed off in a most satisfactory manner.

We are informed that the meet of the Nicosia Harriers announced for the 16th Feb. will take place on the previous day at Lacatamia, and then the hunting will close for the season. We congratulate the Nicosia Hunt on obtaining such good sport with their knowing little pack.

On Friday morning at the early hour of 2 o'clock the house of the Director of the Salt lakes, situated in the Turkish quarter was attempted by robbers. Just behind the cash box the robbers tried to remove the stones from the wall, but owing to the barking of a dog they were detected and had to make their escape without any results.

General Sir Arthur Cunynghame, G.C.B., we read in the *Malta Times*, returned to Malta on Tuesday the 25th Jan., in the P. and O. Co.'s steamer *Ancona*, from a tour in the Island of Cyprus and in Egypt.

A correspondent writing from Kyrenia relative to the resignation of Mr. Greg. Dimi-triades, and to the gentleman appointed in his place, says that the present magistrate obtained his post merely from the zeal and devotion he displayed while acting as harbour master at Kyrenia, which must have naturally attracted the attention of the Government. Whatever be the case, we are pleased to hear that interpreters have no interference whatever in Government affairs, and that their only duty is to interpret one language into another or to act as clerks.

We hear that the Direction of the Anglo-Egyptian Banking Co., London, have authorised their branch in Cyprus to effect mortgages on landed property, and have already commenced operations in this new branch of their business. We trust it may prove beneficial to the interests of the Island.

I am told this is absolutely untrue. In fact the old Turkish road remains for those who wish to use it. I cannot ascertain that any camels have died on the road this year.

Notwithstanding that the inward mail generally arrives at such a late hour, we appreciate the endeavours made to meet the wishes of the public by the postal authorities here, although it causes an extra amount of trouble to the employes in giving out the letters at any time they may arrive.

We are glad to notice that the house which was in a ruined condition on the Strand, and to which attention has been drawn in our columns, has been demolished by order of the Municipality.

The prisoners charged before the Temyz Court at Nicosia, with the recent robbery at the Custom House here, have been acquitted, there not being sufficient evidence for their conviction.

We are informed that M. Castellan de St. Victor, now Consul at Bahia (Brazil) has been appointed French Consul for the Island of Cyprus, vice Mr. Dozon promoted to the Consulate at Salonika.

The first agricultural show which will be for cattle and other beasts has been fixed to take place at Nicosia on April 1st.

EARLIER DEPARTURE OF THE ENGLISH MAIL.

In consequence of the action taken by the Liverpool and Bombay Chambers of Commerce the homeward Indian Mails will in future leave Bombay on Thursday evening during the North East Monsoon, and on Monday evening during the South West Monsoon. Hitherto the mails have left Bombay on Saturday evening, and the allowance for the South West Monsoons has been made in the day of arrival at Suez.

The effect of this alteration will be to bring the mails into Alexandria about daylight on Wednesday instead of Friday. Although the Cyprus mails have always reached Alexandria on Thursday afternoon, they have on eleven occasions between the 1st October, 1880, and the present time missed, owing to the P. & O. Comp.'s steamer having sailed considerably before the time fixed by the time-table.

It is thought that by the new arrangements, which, by the advertisement on another page it will be seen come into operation on Sunday, the 20th instant, the risk of the mails missing will be very much reduced.

From the above mentioned date the Mails for England, the Continent &c., will be closed at Larnaka at 1 p. m. on Sundays; but with extra fees letters will be accepted up to 2 p. m. The steamer will leave Limassol at 9 p. m. on Sundays, and should reach Alexandria at daylight on Tuesdays. If the P. & O. Steamer has already sailed for Brindisi the Cyprus mails will go forward the same morning at 9 a. m. by the Messageries Maritimes via Naples. In the one case if sent via Brindisi by the P. & O. steamers, the mails would occupy 8 days between Cyprus and London, and in the other case if sent via Naples, 8 1/2 days.

There will be a corresponding change in the Island Mails. At Nicosia, instead of a daily despatch to Larnaka at 12 noon, there will be a despatch at 8.30 a. m. on Sundays to convey letters for the English Mail. On other days the mail will be despatched at noon.

The following will be the hours at which the English Mail will be closed at the various Post Offices :-

Table with 2 columns: Post Office and Closing Time. Includes Larnaca (1 p. m. Sunday), Limassol (8 p. m.), Nicosia (8.30 a. m.), Kyrenia (6 p. m. Saturday), Famagusta (8 a. m. Sunday), Papho (8 a. m.), Polymedia (7 p. m.), and Head-Quarter Camp (7 a. m.).

The Mail for Beyrout by Bell's Asia Minor Steamer will be despatched as before on Saturday evening, but the steamer from Beyrout will, from Sunday 20th inst., reach Larnaka on Sunday at daylight.

Kyrenia News.

7th February, 1881. Communication has again stopped between Nicosia and Kyrenia by the Royal Engineer road; several feet of water cover it between Dikorno and Agrida, but the old Turkish pass across the hummocks is still open. Both last Sunday and the previous one a large party of ladies and gentlemen started in the diligence for Kyrenia, but had to return after going a short distance owing to the frightful state of the road.

The yacht Pelican arrived outside Kyrenia harbour on the 5th inst., and Mr. Bill accompanied by Captain Scott Steven... at once sailed for the opposite coast of Carmania. The Commissioner is expected to be absent for a week. The Pelican cleared for Rhodes on the 9th inst.

During the last eight days it has rained almost continuously, and if showers will only fall in March the coming season will be the best for crops that has happened during the last 31 years.

NOTES ON CYPRUS.

By an Observer.

In a work published in 1875 called "St. Helena, a physical description of the Island," the account given of the reckless destruction of the primeval forests so forcibly reminds me of the state to which Cyprus was being fast reduced before the annexation that I am tempted to ask you to find room for the following in your columns. Their irreparable injury was aggravated by the introduction of goats by the Portuguese. As the author says "these animals are the greatest of all foes to trees, because they cut off the young seedlings and thus prevent the natural restoration of the forest;" "as to healthiness, we don't think it will hold good if the wood that keeps the land warm were destroyed," "as it is, we think in case the wood were enclosed, it might be greatly improved," "when once the wood is gone, the island will soon be ruined." In 1810 the then Governor reports the total destruction of the great forests by the goats, and the result is the comparatively rocky desert St. Helena has now become. The number of goats in Cyprus, where they have only been introduced of late years, is supposed to be about 200,000, and as long as they are allowed to remain, any efforts to introduce the common Larch and other trees will be useless, as they are eagerly devoured and without suitable fencing would all be at once destroyed. A largely increased tax per head would seem to be the only means of diminishing their number and thus discouraging their maintenance. In "The Earth as modified by Human Action," Mr. Marsh thus remarks on the effect of browsing quadrupeds in destroying and checking woody vegetation, in words peculiarly applicable to Cyprus and which well deserve the most serious attention and confirm the truth of my former remarks:-

"I am convinced that forests would soon cover many parts of the Arabian and African deserts if man and domestic animals, especially the goat and the camel, were banished from them. The hard palate and tongue of these animals and the strong teeth and jaws of the latter quadruped enable him to break off and masticate tough and thorny branches as large as the finger. He is particularly fond of the twigs, leaves and seed-pods of the Soud, and other acacias, which, like the American tobacco, thrive well on dry and sandy soils, and he spares no tree the branches of which are within his reach, except, if I remember rightly, the tamarisk which produces manna. Young trees sprout plentifully around the springs and along the winter water-courses of the desert, and these are just the halting stations of the caravans and their routes of travel. In the shade of these trees annual grasses and perennial shrubs shoot up but are mown down by the hungry cattle of the Bedouin as fast as they grow. A few years of undisturbed vegetation would suffice to cover such points with groves, and these would gradually extend themselves over soils where now scarcely any green thing but the bitter colobynth and the poisonous fox-glove is ever seen."

Occasional Notes.

BATOUM THE NICE OF RUSSIA.—A recent letter from Batoum to the Voice of St. Petersburg says that at the time of its annexation to Russia everybody predicted a great commercial future to that Turkish village, but that hope has not been realized during the three years that have since elapsed. The cause of this must be sought in the want of regular communication and in the dearth of transport. When these inconveniences have been remedied, Batoum will emerge from her obscurity and may rival the best Russian ports. As to the climate, until last winter the inhabitants did not remember any great fall of snow. The intense cold which prevailed in 1879 in all Europe was also felt in the Caucasus, where the snow covered the earth for three months. At present, when the cold prevails over all the Empire, when in St. Petersburg and Moscow people must

bury themselves in furs, the sun shines so joyously at Batoum as to irresistibly draw people from their houses to bask in its warm beams. The winter days at Batoum are as pleasant and agreeable as those of the beginning of autumn in Northern Europe. Besides its excellent climate, Batoum might form an excellent bathing station. Baths may be taken there from April to October, while the vicinity of the Caucasian vineyards gives ample facilities for the grape-cure.

MALARIA IN ITALY.—The question whether it is possible to saturate the human system with some substance which, without prejudice to general health, would counteract the germs of malarial infection and enable persons to live in malarial districts with impunity at any time is being studied by M. Tommasi-Crudeli. In the end of the 17th century arsenious acid (commonly called arsenic) was largely employed in the treatment, especially of the graver forms of the disease, and though displaced to some extent since the discovery of quinine, is still used as being cheaper and sometimes efficacious where quinine is not in some cases, too, the system will not bear the dose of quinine necessary. Now, M. Tommasi-Crudeli knows of cases where men had to pass the summer in the most unhealthy districts of the Agro Romano, and who were every year attacked by the fever till the last two years, when by a regular use of Fowler's arsenical liquor they have both enjoyed immunity and regained appetite and vigour. He is about to make experiments on animals to find (1) whether such immunity may be secured in a constant way; (2) what is the minimum daily dose of arsenious acid (in proportion to the body-weight) which will make the system refractory to the malarial ferment. An extensive distribution of such a poisonous substance among an agricultural population would, no doubt, be attended with danger; and M. Tommasi-Crudeli suggests the use of the arsenic in some such way as that lately adopted at Caserta in the treatment of a grave malarial epidemic. The substance was supplied in the form of gelatine tablets (made by Decian, of Venice), each divided into 50 square pieces containing so much arsenic (2 mgr.). For the preventive purpose, the proportion would be reduced. The nature of malarial fever has been further elucidated by the researches of M.M. Cuboni and Marchiafava. In the former researches of M. M. Tommasi-Crudeli and Krebs (1879), it was a curious fact that the characteristic form of the bacillus was not found in the circulation of persons who had the fever, though largely in certain parts, the spleen and bone-marrow especially. It now appears that during the ingress of the fever, and also during the last period of the febrile intermittence, the blood of the whole body contains a considerable number of individuals of the parasitic species. These are mostly spore-producing; and when, in the second period (up to the crisis) they are all, or nearly all, destroyed, one sees in the blood merely a number, sometimes enormous, of the small spores which have been liberated, and which in favourable conditions produce a new generation of bacilli in the same blood.

The Palestine Exploration Fund has finally determined upon conducting the proposed survey of the coast of Jordan on the same minute and accurate scale as has been used in that which they have just completed of the country on the western side. This part of Palestine is about a black upon existing maps, but it is covered with ruins which may be expected to yield a rich harvest of archaeological remains.

Mlle. Sarah Bernhardt's four weeks' engagement in New York is said to have produced 98,800 dol. gross receipts. She is now playing in Boston, where her two weeks' engagements will produce 48,800 dol. if the present receipts continue. The expectation is that Mlle. Bernhardt and her manager will each make 200,000 dol. during the season. The Treasury Department have decided to refund to Mlle. Bernhardt the sum of 1,560 dol. exacted as Customs dues on her wardrobe. The sum was paid under protest, and the Treasury have decided that, as the wardrobe really comprised the actress's professional implements, it was therefore exempt from duty.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

February 5th 'St. Domenico' 52 tons Greek from Port Said (wind bound).

7th 'Ballestrino' 484 tons Italian barque from Gravosa in ballast. 8th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, from Beyrout, mails and general cargo. 10th 'Caroclus' Italian brig, put back, wind bound. 11th S. S. 'Fortuna' 433 tons, British, from Alexandria, and Limassol with mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

February 7th 'Caroclus' Italian brig for Beyrout with terra amber. 8th S. S. 'Elpitha' British, for Limassol and Alexandria, mails and general cargo. 12th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, for Beyrout, general cargo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the S. S. 'Elpitha', Capt. Mc Ewen from Beyrout—Mrs. Falkaaisa and 5 deck passengers.

LIMASSOL ARRIVALS.

February 5th 'Evangelistria' Cypriot brig, 98 tons from Port Said in ballast. 5th 'Themis' Greek brig 359 tons from Syra in ballast. 9th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, from Larnaca, mails and general cargo. 11th 'Despina' Greek schooner 50 tons from Alexandria in ballast. 11th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, 433 tons, from Alexandria, mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

February 7th 'Aphrodite' Cypriot brig 96 tons for Alexandria general cargo. 7th 'Rosina' Italian schooner 128 tons for Marseilles with wine. 9th S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons, for Alexandria, mails and general cargo. 11th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, 433 tons, for Larnaca, mails and general cargo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the S. S. 'Elpitha' from Larnaca—Mr. and Mrs. Dobbin and boy, Messrs. Hally, Antonidas, Kackatina, Husue, Vandyke and sixteen deck passengers. By the S. S. 'Fortuna' from Alexandria—Mr. Jassonides and sister.

THEATRE DU CASINO.

SOCIÉTÉ D'AMATEURS.

Représentation du 19 Février 1881. Ouverture à huit heures 1/2 du soir.

PROGRAMME.

1ERE PARTIE.

- 1. Hymne Grec..... M.M. Nicolaidés 2. Bidoche (scène comique)..... Bart 3. Une nuit sur la scène (vaudeville)..... Aumann, Küss 4. Chœur Grec..... Gentilini, Pasco-tini, Nicolaidés

2ME. PARTIE.

- 1. Variation sur la Melancolie de F. Prume (violin et Piano) M.M. Küss 2. Tripartite ed Durafé (Bouffonnerie)..... Bart, Darbon 3. Ah quel plaisir d'être garçon, (scène comique)..... Gayotti 4. Les 2 geandames de Geneviève de Labant..... Bart, Darbon

BOXES D'ENTRÉE: 1 SHILLING.

On peut se procurer des billets chez R. Carré 12, Valsaniaki street, à la Marine.

NOTICE.

ON and from the 20th instant, the Mails for England, the Continent, etc. etc. will be closed at this office at 1 p. m. SUNDAYS.

Letters bearing a 1d. stamp in addition to the ordinary postage may be posted up to 1.30 p. m. and with 2d. additional up to 2 p. m.

ΕΙΔΟΠΟΙΗΣΙΣ.

'Από της 20ης ενεστώτος το Γραφετον του Ταχυδρομείου δι' Αγγλιαν, Ηπειρωτικην Ευρώπην κτλ. θέλει κλείει την Κυριακην εις την 1 μ. μ.

Επιστολαί φέρουσι αυθησιν μιὰς πέννας παρά το σύνθηρ γραμματόσημαν δύνανται να ριθώσιν εις το Ταχυδρομειον μέχρι της 1.30 μ. μ. και με αυθησιν 2 πένων μέχρι των 2 μ. μ.

J. A. BULMER

Acting Postmaster.

Post Office, Larnaca, 8th February, 1881.

V. R.
ARMY CONTRACTS.
 SEPARATE TENDERS

Will be received by the Senior Commissariat Officer, Cyprus, for the undermentioned services respectively for the period from 1st April 1881 to 31st March 1882, viz:

1. Hospital Supplies.
2. Fresh Vegetables for Royal Navy.
3. Bread for Head Quarters Nicosia.
4. (a) Washing and repairing Barrack & Hospital Bedding, &c.
- (b) Washing Camp Equipment.

Tenders must be delivered at the Commissariat Office, Limassol, not later than noon of the 24th February 1881 or they will not be considered.

Forms of Tender, Conditions of Contract and further particulars can be obtained on application at the Commissariat Offices, Limassol and Nicosia.

The Senior Commissariat Officer does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

CECIL F. LEACH, A. C. G.
 Senior Commissariat Officer.

Commissariat Office,
 Limassol, 4th February, 1881.

MR. LIASSIDES begs to inform his numerous customers that they will find at his stores a large stock of wines, spirits, etc., etc. He has also recently received an assortment of English goods of the best quality, which he is prepared to offer at lowest prices.

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THE LEVANT HERALD is at present published under the title of *The Constantinople Messenger*. It is the oldest newspaper published in Constantinople.

THE LEVANT HERALD is published daily on a single broad sheet, of which the two external pages are devoted to advertisements, and the inner pages, one English and one French, to general news. The daily edition of the *Levant Herald* has the character of a general newspaper, and is intended for readers in the East.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget consists of sixteen to twenty-four pages. It is published every Wednesday in winter and every Tuesday in summer. It contains only Eastern matter selected from the columns of the daily issue, and is a *Levant* newspaper specially designed for readers not residing in the *Levant*.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget contains from two to four pages of Commercial information gleaned from the best authorities and carefully collated and edited. Merchants engaged in trade with the *Levant* will find the *Levant Herald* a valuable and trustworthy business record.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget contains provincial correspondence, reviews of the Turkish press, sketches of Eastern life, and much extractable matter which renders it of great utility to the Editors of Country papers, to whom it is confidently recommended.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget will be sent post free to any part of the United Kingdom on the following terms: Three months, 15s; Six months, 25s. 6d; Twelve months, 42s. Cheques and post office orders to be made payable to *EDWAR WHEATKES*, Constantinople.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget may be ordered of any bookseller or News Agent in the United Kingdom or of Messrs. George Street & Co., 20 Cornhill, E. C., the London Agents for the paper.

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NOTICE.

FROM the 20th of December, 1880, Marinelli's Diligence will daily start from Larnaca to Nicosia and vice versa, having a change of five horses at Piray.

The Diligence is to start from Larnaca at 6 a. m. and from Nicosia at 2 p. m. The prices for each passenger is of 3/6; heavy baggage will have to pay an extra charge. Tickets can only be issued in Nicosia at the office of Messrs. C. A. Pace & Co., Baroutchi Zadé Street, and in Larnaca by their Agent Mr. Thomas Cirilli.

Packages & Parcels will also be received at both Agencies and consigned to destination, at a moderate price. Messrs. C. A. Pace & Co. being responsible for the safe delivery of goods consigned to them.

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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 weakness and debility, they are priceless.

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