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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 126.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17th, 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.

"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.

The Session of Parliament was opened yesterday by Royal Commission. The Queen's Speech read on the occasion intimated the ultimate withdrawal from Gladstone the introduction of a Land Bill for Ireland, and also of extraordinary measures for repression of outrage and violence in that country.

Mr. Fawcett, M. P., Postmaster-General, on Tuesday spoke at Manchester, and after expressing his belief that the land question would be dealt with by Parliament in a reasonable and effectual manner, he declared his opinion that the House of Lords was not open to the charge of ignoring the decision of the House of Commons in rejecting the Disturbance Bill.

Notice was given in Friday's "Gazette" that, in compliance with a request from the native chiefs, the Queen had directed letters patent to issue declaring the island of Rotumah to be annexed to the colony of Fiji, as part of Her Majesty's dominions.

A deputation from the Paris Missionary Society had an interview on Wednesday with Lord Kimberley to suggest concessions that might advantageously be made to the Basutos.

A tragedy by Mr. Alfred Tennyson written in blank verse, and entitled "The Cup," was produced on Monday at the Lyceum Theatre and was received with great favour by a crowded audience, among whom was Mr. Gladstone.

A War Office circular has been addressed to the commanding officers of Volunteers throughout the country requesting them to take precautions to protect their armories from attack.

The proceedings in the State trials in Dublin were resumed on Monday, and have continued daily since then. Mr. Parnell and the other M. P.'s who are included in the indictments at Dublin left that city on Wednesday for London to attend the opening of Parliament.

There have been several collisions between mobs and the Irish constabulary escorting process servers, and in several instances the police have been compelled to resort to their weapons, in some cases with fatal effect.

Six of the principal members of the Tralee branch of the Irish Land League have been arrested on charges of sedition.

A land meeting at Drogheda, summoned for Sunday, was prohibited by the Lord-Lieutenant. An attempt was, however, made to hold the meeting on Saturday, and some thousands of people collected, with Mr. Healy, M. P., and Mr. Davitt. The magistrates, accompanied by a force of police, forbade the meeting and read the Riot Act, after which the crowd dispersed.

Many further cases of "Boycotting" are reported from various districts in Ireland.

A man has been sentenced at Limerick to three months' imprisonment for parading the town calling upon people not to allow the sale of Captain Stapoole's horses.

The Stock-Exchange had been adversely affected by the increased seriousness of the political state of affairs in Ireland and Greece, and the out break of fresh disturbances at the Cape. The Queen's Speech was anxiously awaited, and after the substance of it had been made known the markets rallied, Consols closing at 98½ sellers for money, while most British Railway and Foreign stocks showed an advance on the previous day's prices.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette", Jan. 8th and 12.)

On the 3rd inst. a Khedivial Decree was signed sanctioning the establishment of a Société Anonyme under the title of "Société Générale de Travaux en Egypte," founded by Count Edouard de Caprara and Mr. Edward Masterman Jun., (the latter on behalf of the Anglo-Egyptian Banking Company Limited.) The Capital is £ 400,000 in 20,000 shares of £20 each.

On the same day a Khedivial Decree was signed authorising the establishment of another Société Anonyme under the title of "Société Anonyme Egyptienne d'entreprises et de travaux publics." The founders of this Company are Messrs. Zervuonchi, Jacques Oppenheim, A. Baudry, R. Soares, Salvago, B. Menasse, C. Beyerle, F. Soares, E. Benahi, J. de Menasse, E. Schulz, Henry Barker, A. Cattaoui, P. M. Salvago and Ambroise Sinadino. The Capital is fixed at 10,000,000 francs in 20,000 shares of 500 francs each.

We are in a position to state that the Abyssinian envoy to the Coptic Patriarch was the bearer of a letter to the Khedive from King John, couched in very friendly and conciliatory terms. No territorial claims are mentioned in this letter which refers only to pending questions respecting the commercial relations of Abyssinia with Egypt. This letter has produced an excellent effect at the Khedivial Court and the importance of re-establishing friendly relations with Abyssinia cannot be overestimated.

A notice published by the Minister of Wakouf informs tourists that permission to visit the mosques &c., in Cairo can be obtained on application to the "Bureau de Traduction" at the Ministry of Wakouf.

On the 6th inst. Baron de Ring French Minister Plenipotentiary, invested H. H. the Khedive with the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour. A large number of the members of the Legion of Honour attended the ceremony which was conducted in an imposing manner. In the evening of the same day Baron de Ring gave a banquet to which all the members of the Legion of Honour, then in Cairo, were invited.

On 6th inst. the first number of "Le Sport" appeared. Its name is a sufficient indication of the nature of its contents and in wishing our new confrère every success, we hope the sporting community in Egypt will give the new venture their support.

The Minister of Justice has issued a circular to all the local tribunals requesting them to get up all arrears of work, as the new Code may shortly be expected to be put in force, and it is necessary that all old business should be completed in order that the two Codes may not clash.

The international Commission on Judicial Reforms held meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

The Khedive has been graciously pleased to promote Count della Sala to the rank of General of Brigade and Pasha, in acknowledgement of his services in suppressing the Slave Trade.

H. R. H. Prince Oscar of Sweden arrived in Alexandria last night and the frigate, on board of which he is an officer, will probably sail tomorrow.

We have to announce the arrival on the 8th

inst. of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos G.C.S.I., at Suez accompanied by his three daughters, the Ladies Grenville, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Gore Langton and E. P. Gore Langton.

His Grace and party, who were attended from the British India steamer "Navarino" by Capt. Beyts, the agent, proceeded direct to the Suez Hotel where rooms were in readiness for them. In the afternoon His Grace visited the camp, the Ladies Grenville and remainder of the party going for a short ride on donkeys into the desert.

His Grace on leaving Suez expressed himself as being much pleased with the attention and comfort he had experienced during his short stay and was agreeably surprised at the superior accommodation which the Suez Hotel afforded.

They are now at Shephard's Hotel, where they will probably remain for a week.

The Duke was presented by Mr. Malet to the Khedive this morning.

The celebrated actor, Ernesto Rossi, will make his first appearance in Alexandria at the Zizania Theatre on 22nd inst. when he will perform the part of "Kean" in the Italian version of Dumas's Drama "Kean".

THE RISING IN THE TRANSVAAL.

No further fighting is reported from the Transvaal, but the situation has not improved. Colonel Bellairs is still closely besieged at Potchefstroom, and grave apprehension is entertained concerning his position. No attack has yet been made upon Wakkerstroom and Stryderton, the garrisons of which places are said to be well supplied. Sir Owen Lanyon, at Pretoria, has been summoned to surrender, but the Boers have abandoned Utrecht, where no violence was offered to the inhabitants. A body of 200 Boers have entered Natal and taken up a strong position on the road to the Transvaal, pushing patrols to within sixteen miles from Newcastle. A deserter reports that they intend to offer opposition to the forces with Sir George Colley in the Drakensberg, five miles on the Natal side of the frontier. Telegraphic communication is completely cut off except through the Orange Free State. The excitement in this State is said to be very great, and it is reported that President Brand has telegraphed that he finds himself unable to restrain the Boers there from joining the insurrection in the Transvaal, and that he may in a few days be compelled to resign. The Boers are also said to have sent representatives to the Pondoos and other native tribes. The "Times" correspondent at Cape Town says that "in the Cape Colony the revolt is regarded as a terrible calamity. It is hoped that reinforcements will speedily be forthcoming. The military authorities do not deem it advisable to denude Cape Town of its garrison."

Some further information concerning the recent fighting has been brought to Pietermaritzburg by Captain Lambert of the 21st Regiment, who has been a prisoner at Heidelberg. He reports that he and Captain Elliott, Paymaster of the 94th Regiment, were set at liberty, and escorted towards the Orange Free State by a patrol of Boers. While they were crossing a ford over a river on the Orange border in a waggon the Boers fired upon them, killing Captain Elliott, and continued firing at Captain Lambert, who, however, succeeded in escaping by swimming. He subsequently walked for three days on foot, the Boers in the Free State refusing him all assistance. He says that sixty-two prisoners of the 94th Regiment have been released, and are on their way down. Regarding the attack on the convoy of that regiment, Captain Lambert states that the detachment was met by two men with a letter for the commanding officer, calling upon him to surrender, and allowing two minutes for decision. He refused, halted, and formed his men, who were much extended, when fire was immediately opened from the hills on all sides. The officers were almost immediately shot down. In a few minutes most of the force was disabled, and a surrender was ordered. Eighty-six men were buried on the field, and twenty-six have since died of their

wounds. Lieutenant MacSwiney, Captain Nairn, and Carter of the Commissariat have died of their wounds. Colonel Anstruther and Lieutenant Hume are reported dead.

The Boer Triumvirate consisting of Kruger, Pretorius, and Joubert, have issued a proclamation defending their Constitution. They offer forgiveness to their opponents; they also offer to allow officials to retain their positions and to admit a British Consul, and they sanction the expenditure incurred during the annexation.

Sir G. Colley (a "Times" telegram says) has issued an admirable address to the troops, in which he says that the stain cast on our arms must be quickly effaced, and the rebellion must be put down; but the Major-General trusts that officers and men will not allow the soldierly spirit which prompts them to gallant action to degenerate into a feeling of revenge. The task now forced upon us by the unprovoked action of the Boers is a painful one in any circumstances, and the General calls on all ranks to assist him in his endeavours to mitigate the sufferings it must entail. We must be careful to avoid punishing the innocent for the guilty, and must remember that, though misled and deluded, the Boers are in the main a brave and high-spirited people, and are actuated by feelings that are entitled to our respect.

The "Standard's" correspondent at Durban telegraphs the arrival of her Majesty's ship "Boadicea" with reinforcements. The patrolling party of the Boers have advanced to within ten miles of Newcastle, and have seized a magistrate. The murder of Captain Elliott, the correspondent adds, has greatly added to the general excitement and indignation. Sir G. Colley has not gone forward, but is awaiting the arrival of further reinforcements. The soldiers of the 94th who were taken prisoners have arrived at Kimberley. They were only released on giving a promise not to serve again during the war. A Lisbon journal contradicts the report that the British Government had applied to the Portuguese Government for permission to send reinforcements to the Transvaal by Delagoa Bay.

Special Telegrams.

London, 12th Jan.

A plot has been discovered at Kolarapore to massacre the Europeans and dethrone the Rajah.

Osman Pacha has been appointed Minister of war for Turkey.

In consequence of rumours of intended Fenian attacks precautions have been taken in Portsmouth dockyards and Chester castle.

Lord Lytton, in the house of lords, justified the war with Afghanistan and condemned the abandonment of the advantages gained. The duke of Argyll replied that the frontier is secure while India faithfully maintains her engagements with her neighbours.

The Commons debate on the address continues. In an eloquent discourse Lord Hartington attacked the land league and declared that the agrarian law will be founded on principles of justice.

London, 14th Jan

Mr. Shaw and 15 other Irish members of parliament have seceded from Mr. Parnell. Mr. Gladstone has refused to give guarantees to the Irish liberal members of parliament respecting extent of the agrarian law but declared his desire to satisfy the just claims of the tenants. Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a cold.

Forty thousand Lancashire miners are on strike.

The boers occupy Christiania. General Colley has reached Newcastle.

Recuf Pacha has been appointed military commander at Stamboul.

Havas announces that Dervish Pacha with fourteen battalions has gone to Janina.

London, 17th Jan.

The Ambassadors of Great Powers at Constantinople learn that Greece intends to attack Turkey at the end of January. The Powers redouble pacific efforts. The Porte has sent a note to foreign representatives calling the attention of the powers to the military preparations of Greece and suggesting that negotiations between the powers and the Porte would advance a peaceable solution of the question.

An Athens telegram says Greece is treating for purchase of four cruisers. Mr. Gladstone recovered.

Lancashire strike extending.

Serious disturbance has taken place.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Monday, January 17th, 1881.

THE EXCAVATIONS IN CYPRUS FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

It will be probably known to our readers that, for some months since, the authorities of the British Museum, and the Government of Cyprus have commissioned Mr. Ohnefalsch-Richter—a gentleman not unknown to the literary world—to superintend some excavations on the Island. Through a London journal, the world has already been given particulars of some of these interesting discoveries; but we are enabled to supplement the facts which have already appeared in print with the item of news that these relics of a bygone age will, in all probability, not go to swell the exhibits of the already overgrown institution in Bloomsbury, but will form the nucleus of a museum which—as the chief port of the Island—will probably be formed in Larnaka. Such an acquisition would be a gain to our town, as scientific men and travellers who have hitherto neglected us, would be induced to visit our shores. We are glad to learn that our local commissioner—himself reputed a man of learning and a connoisseur of antiquities—takes a warm interest in the matter; and that H. E. the High Commissioner, has during his recent visit here suggested a plan for the preservation to the Island of all antiquities. Any-one who travels in Cyprus with his eyes at all open comes across the most interesting records of the times of the Phœnicians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Lusignans, the Genoese and the Venetians. Ruins older than these epochs in the history of the Island may be met with. The Government is bound to preserve these to the world. Once lost, they are lost for ever; and we, as Cypriots, should do our utmost to conserve them to the country. A few weeks ago, Cyprus was visited by Professors Sayce and Percival, of Oxford, the former of whom is well known by his published works on the ancient Cypriot characters; and who, it might be added, was probably, as a *savant* much interested in languages and we believe at the head of a society for the institution of phonetic reform a good deal appalled at the difficulties attendant upon verbal communication here. These gentlemen together with Mr. Cobham, were pre-

sent for about two hours at a time when Mr. Richter was excavating, and when there was unearthed a magnificent vase ornamented with paintings of two large birds. We have had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Richter and of inspecting his collection, and we were surprised at what he has been able to effect in so short a time, and we may add at so little expense. Articles of gold and silver, brooches, earrings, rings and chains were among the interesting antiquities we saw. Among the statuettes we particularly admired one of a nude figure of a boy; and among the engravings on stone a representation of Mercury. Of the inscriptions there is one on metal which from its length and characters is probably of considerable importance. It is easily seen that these excavations are simply being made for the benefit of Archaeology. Mr. Richter is an artist, and it is not necessary to visit the various tombs and places where excavation has been made in order to convince one's-self of the accuracy of the drawings he has made. Mr. Richter is well known here as the Cyprus correspondent of the "Neue Freie Presse" and some other important journals, and as a frequent contributor of illustrations and letterpress to the "Graphic". It is his intention to publish in various newspapers a diary of the work on which he has recently been engaged; and we, also, shall report from time to time particulars of his researches and of the relics of the past upon which it may be anticipated he will light. Public interest in Cyprus has latterly shown a tendency to diminish, but we hope that these recent discoveries will do something to restore it. And we shall be glad if Mr. Ohnefalsch-Richter is able to make for himself name and fame as an archaeologist such as those of Sir Henry Layard, Mr. George Smith, or of his own illustrious countryman Dr. Schliemann.

Local Notes.

The condition of our thoroughfares is abominable, and a crying shame and disgrace to the town. After a little rain such as fell on Thursday, walking was not only difficult but dangerous. Among the worst streets is one in which we happen to be interested as our printing-office stands in it—Valsamaki street. This is well-nigh impassable, particularly at night time at this season of the year, and walking through it is like passing through a veritable bog. Our Municipality has, no doubt done well in doing away with cesspools; but we invite our local authorities to come and regard the street in which we happen to have "a local habitation and a name." If they do not look upon it as possessing the aspect of a seething cesspool we shall only have to congratulate them upon an happy inacquaintance with such things. We altogether fail to perceive why something cannot be done, if only temporarily, to remedy this state of things. We observe prisoners at work occasionally in obscure, out-of-the-way neighbourhoods, but here is a leading street in the most central part of the town allowed to remain, for want of a few hours' work expended on it, in such a scandalous state, as to reflect severe discredit upon the authorities.

We are sorry to hear that M. Madon, head of the Forest Department, is suffering from a malady in his feet which will compell him to ask for leave of absence from his duties.

H. M. S. *Coquette* arrived here on Tuesday last from the Dardanelles and having coaled, left on Thursday morning for Famagousta, whence she will proceed to Alexandretta to rejoin the *Monarch*.

In the sitting of the House of Commons of the 6th Jan. Mr. Bourke, late Conservative Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, intimated that he would move a resolution having reference to the island of Cyprus.

Persons walking on the quay here are not only in danger of falling into the numerous ditches which abound, but their lives are also endangered by the chance of a certain house, now almost in ruins, falling down upon them. We hope that the authorities will perceive that it is their duty to take the necessary steps to have the building razed before any accident happens.

As we announced in our last issue, General Sir A. Cunyngame arrived from Nicosia on Tuesday, and left the same evening by the S. S. *Elpitha* in order to rejoin his family at Malta. The general much admired the ruins at Famagousta, where he thought a harbour could be constructed at no great expense. He declared himself, also, of opinion that England will decline the responsibility it would incur by purchasing the Island.

We are informed that Mrs. Z. Pierides will be president of the Ladies' Committee for the Relief of the Poor, during the next three months.

Colonel Swinley, who arrived here some time ago, has bought a chiflik in the village of Trikomo, in the district of Famagousta, for £1,900. It consists of 600 donums of land besides a house and garden. Colonel Clarke has also bought 400 donums belonging to the Government. We hail with satisfaction these facts as evincing the commencement of a real English colonization in Cyprus.

The weather in Cyprus lately for more than a week has been very wet. It was beginning to be thought, indeed, that more rain had fallen than was good for the crops. During the last two days, the downfall has ceased, and prospects for the harvest continue to be bright.

Lieut. Saulez, late Local Commandant of Famagousta, and formerly occupying the same position here, leaves Cyprus on Tuesday for the Cape. He will take with him the good wishes of all.

A male child about a month old was deposited at the door of Mrs. Fluhart's American school on the Greek New Year's day morning. It is, of course, being taken care of. This is the fourth time that an occurrence of the kind has taken place, despite the reward offered for the conviction of previous offenders.

We hear that it has been decided to establish an Island Museum of Archaeology, Natural History, and Botany at Larnaka. It is time that the Government did something for Larnaka, and when a Cyprus museum becomes *un fait accompli*, the inhabitants of our town will be grateful to the administration, and particularly to Mr. Cobham. For it is, to the interest that our Commissioner it may confidently be anticipated will take in the scheme that any realization it may have will be mainly due.

RECEPTION BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AT NICOSIA.

Thursday, the 13th of January being New Year's Day according to the Gregorian Calendar, His Excellency the High Commissioner held a reception at the Konak here, to wish all a Happy New Year. As usual the officials and notables of the town were present. In a short speech General Biddulph referred to the important question of irrigation, and stated that when last in England, he had been able to obtain the services of a geologist, Mr. Russell, whose report on the water resources of Cyprus had only lately arrived. The General remarked that although some writers have, with very little knowledge of the subject, reported that water could be found by only digging a few feet deep, this is not the case, as is best proved by the circumstance that wells have been sunk 60 to 80 feet deep, and still no signs of water arrived at. He further referred to the great advantages derived from the use of Artesian wells for the irrigation of the Island, but added they could not be obtained except at very great expense, and at the risk of being unsuccessful. Notwithstanding these obstacles he purposes persuading H. M.'s Government to make a trial of them.

Sir R. Biddulph also said it was the custom in England to take a census of the population every ten years, and this being the year for its taking, Her Majesty's Government also desires to take the census of the population of Cyprus on the same day that it will be taken in England. Forms will be sent round to each house which the head of the house will be required to fill up stating the number of persons sleeping there, as well as their names, sex, age, and condition. His Excellency requested all those who hold prominent positions and who have influence among the lower classes to help H. M.'s Government in carrying out this measure, remarking that it was one which had no political or fiscal bearing, but which would afford interesting information for general statistics. Mr. Commissioner Cobham who was in Nicosia at the time, very ably repeated His Excellency's

words in the Greek language, and all present listened with much more interest and attention than is usually the case when an interpreter translates. Those persons present were exceedingly astonished and pleased to hear their language spoken so accurately by a leading English official. This may encourage those who are trying to make themselves acquainted with the local language.

The Archbishop of Cyprus in a few words referred to the destruction of locusts and the irrigation of the Island. His Grace declared that every inhabitant of the Island would support the efforts of the Government in dealing with these two very important subjects. Notwithstanding the rain in the forenoon and the threats of the weather during the afternoon, crowds of persons assembled in the Victoria Road and before the Konak, to see His Excellency and Staff ride by. The whole proceedings were most interesting.

NICOSIA HARRIERS.

Meets for January, 1881.

19th Wednesday..Thalassa Chiflik 2 30 p.m.
21st FridayStaff Huts.....7 a. m.
26th Wednesday..4th Milestone
(Larnaca Road)...2 30 p.m.
28th FridayStravolo.....7 a. m.

THE NICOSIA HARRIERS.

These hounds have been having very good sport up to this, though the heavy rains interfered with some of the recent meets.

On Monday, the 10th inst., the fixture was at Ingomi, a short distance from Nicosia on the Morfu road, but though the morning was very fine only a small field turned up. We drew over the high ground towards the Peristerona road, and the hounds soon hit on the line taken by a hare in her nocturnal wanderings to feed. Nothing could be prettier than to see how the pack worked out the line through all the turns and doubles made by the hare in her rambles. Across the cultivated ground the scent, though cold, was fairly good, but getting on to a rocky ridge it nearly failed. However the Master cast forward to a warm-lying ravine about half a mile to the front, and here the hare jumped up close in front of the pack, who raced her for nearly a mile in view. She pointed first as if for Lacatamia, but bent to the left towards Stravolo, and turning sharp in the valley a check occurred. It was beautiful to watch the working of the hounds as they cast about trying to hit off the scent. The Master always lets them puzzle it out themselves, so there is no gazing about for help among this pack; but every hound does his own work, and rarely indeed do they fail to make out the cunningest double of their game. On this occasion, after a couple of minutes, "Farmer's" deep voice proclaimed he was on the line, and his note was quickly endorsed by "Damsel", "Merry Lass" and the rest, and away we went again as hard as horses could gallop over a capital bit of country pointing for Deftera, and then swinging round towards Ingomi. We now viewed the hare close in front of the pack, and she ran right through a large flock of sheep. But even this manœuvre failed to check the hounds, who never wavered for a second but pressed their hare down into the valley again, where they ran into and killed her in some rushes not far from the Monastery road, after a fast gallop of twenty-five minutes.

We greatly regret that Capt. Luttmann Johnson to whose care and attention the hounds owe their excellent condition, is still prevented by illness from hunting, but we trust before long we shall see him again in the saddle.

THE MAN ON THE COB.

Limassol News.

FROM ONE OF OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

12th January, 1881.

The Screw Steamer *Despatch* of Bell's Asia Minor Line, whilst off Cape Gato on Monday, the 10th inst., experienced some very heavy weather, during which she lost her propeller and was obliged to put back to Limassol on Monday evening to have her steering gear put in order. She had on board over 2000 sheep for Alexandria. Having awaited the arrival of the mail steamer *Elpitha* from Larnaca, she preceded the latter vessel to sea on Wednesday morning and it is reported that the two steamers would keep in sight of each other—having in regard the possibility of any further mishap—until they reached Alexandria, where the necessary repairs which could not be done at Limassol will be executed.

H. M. S. *Coquette* reached this Port on Tuesday evening and sailed for Larnaca early on Wednesday morning.

— Considerable anxiety and uneasiness prevailed among the people of Limassol on Monday the 10th inst., owing to the heavy downpour of rain, which lasted several hours; but they were still more uneasy on Thursday morning, the 13th inst., owing to the heavy rains which fell during the previous night, and continued incessantly for several hours accompanied with peals of thunder on Thursday morning. Many persons who had returned to their houses after the late floods had subsided, could he seen clearing away all their goods and chattels to new quarters, fearing they were again to be visited with a similar catastrophe to that of the 24th December last, which will be long remembered in the minds of many. Thanks, however, to the exertions of Mr. Brown the Government Engineer, and those under his orders, the repetition of such a calamity was happily averted, as a canal or channel has been cut close to the dépot, whereby the torrent of water coming from the hills, instead of rushing into the town, takes its course into the river and is thus carried into the sea. There are over 200 labourers and pioneers at present employed on this work, which has already proved of great benefit to the town. It is generally believed that, had not this been proceeded with in all possible haste, Limassol would again have suffered somewhat severely. The length of the canal is about 200 yards, 7 yards in width, and depth about 5 ft. and it is to be carried for a considerable distance further than at present. Limassol at the present time presents anything but a pleasing aspect. The houses are huddled together in heaps of ruins, the streets are almost deserted, and many faces are expressive of nothing but trouble and sorrow. In Victoria and Albert streets there is hardly an occupant in the houses still left standing, and pedestrians after dark are obliged to use hand lanterns to prevent them from falling into deep holes, several of which are to be met with in various parts of the town, and a false step into which would involve some difficulty of extrication. There have been already many fractures of the shins and knees, occasioned by persons inadvertently stepping into these quagmires. I am glad to learn that the Municipality of the town are doing their utmost with the small number of carts at their disposal to clear away the mud and debris as quickly as possible, and, if the weather was a little settled, we believe the condition of the streets would be much better than at present. Limassol now boasts of such things as a Croydon Waggonette, etc., but it would be very unwise to drive about a town in the thoroughfares of which there exist heaps of mud, nasty holes, and which above all are blocked up by barrels both full and empty, a nuisance which we are informed the authorities intend putting down at any cost; although it will be attended with some difficulty, as the merchants here seem to think that they have a perfect right to utilise and monopolise the public streets in this way after dark. The bones of several persons have been fractured owing to this nuisance and the fact of the lamps not having been lit in some of the thoroughfares. It was with much difficulty that a sufficient number of labourers could be procured and enticed to work on Thursday, and in some instances they were obliged to be called off from cafés, &c. where they were seated. Instead of working with a willing heart for their own benefit, they complained of being compelled to work against their will. Such is the line of conduct taken by the greater portion of the Cypriot natives at a time when the services of all are so urgently required for the general good.

I learn that it is the intention of the Limassol Musical Society to give a Concert shortly for the benefit of the poor who have been left homeless through the late inundation. I feel sure that the performance will be largely attended and crowned with success.

— The Life Boat which has lately arrived here was built at Portsmouth, and from thence sent to Malta, where it has remained for some time, although never used at that station. The dimensions of the Boat are 30 ft. in length, 7 ½ ft. in breadth, and about 4 ft. in depth. It will take a crew of twelve to man her. It is rumoured that it may be rather a difficult task to obtain volunteers for this purpose, but, on the other hand, it is reported that several English gentlemen and others have already signified their intention of offering their services at any time they may be required. A house will shortly be erected on the beach for the protection of the Life Boat during rough and stormy weather.

— A temporary wooden pier has just been completed here in the place of that construct-

ed by the Royal Engineers in 1879 and which was carried away during a S. E. gale in December last. This pier will be chiefly used for the landing of the matériel and other stores in connection with the construction of the new iron pier, a portion of which arrived by the S. S. *Agia Sofia* from Liverpool last week.

— The Steamer *Despatch* of Bell's Asia Minor Line was obliged to return to Limassol on Thursday night, as she broke down, whilst en route to Alexandria. It is expected that the cargo of sheep on board will be put ashore here, in order to careen that part of the keel which has been carried off by the sea, as well as to give the vessel a new rudder and sternpost.

FROM ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT. 11th January.

The S. S. *Agia Sofia* belonging to Messrs. Papayanni & Co. of Liverpool arrived in this port on Saturday last, having on board part (70 tons) of the iron-work for the new pier to be erected here. In another trip she will bring out the remainder of the matériel for its construction.

— At midnight on Sunday great rain fell, and Monday dawning with a sky overcast and heavy showers falling at intervals, a third inundation was feared. The works of widening the river had, however, fortunately been pushed forward with sufficient energy to prevent any repetition of the recent calamities; and I think that as a result of the measures taken, the inhabitants of Limassol may confidently rest assured that no like misfortune will befall them again. But I may add a word of advice to house-owners. In re-erecting their residences they should take care to give them proper foundations; for the falling-in of houses during the last floods was mainly attributable to the lack of these. 1881 years ago it was written—"A man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

The estimate of the losses sustained given in my letter of the 5th ult. was far too low. After careful inquiry, I find that the actual loss cannot be assessed at less than from £ 35,000 to £ 40,000.

H. E. Sir Robert Biddulph has made a second donation of £ 25 towards the Inundation Relief Fund. It is to be hoped that his good example will be followed by all who have it in their power to assist in this charitable work.

— D. A. C. General E. Houghton has arrived by S. S. *Agia Sofia* from Malta.

— The repair of the Limassol Platris road and of the water-works at Aghia Erini have been commenced; so that it may be said, that with this operation taken in conjunction with the construction of the pier shortly to begin, and the widening of the river, there is no lack of procedure with public works in Limassol.

— Among the passengers who left Limassol by this morning's steamer is Mr. J. S. Norman, who, for the last two years, has occupied a position in the Army Pay Department here, and now leaves for England.

— The first day of the Limassol races has been fixed for the 15th Feb.

— Arrivals from Larnaca:—Messrs. Henry, Carré and Alpiar.

"GORSE" FOR CYPRUS.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

Having read the letters of "Observer" that have appeared at various times in the columns of *Cyprus* with much interest, I am desirous, with your permission, to draw the attention of owners of land and agriculturists to a plant that has not been noticed by your correspondent, but which, if as I believe, it can be acclimatized, cannot fail to be a great boon to the Island. Except in one or two spots, viz, Kuklia and Kythrea, where a never failing supply of water preserves a perpetual verdure, the eye is wearied during the long summer with the barren aspect and the universal whity-brown colour of the whole country. The plant then to which I allude and which has been rightly called "the pride and glory" of the heaths of Europe, is the Furze or Gorse, an evergreen shrub with bright yellow flowers which is to be found at Constantinople and is there known as "Sparton." As to the use and advantages to be derived from its cultivation, I think I cannot do better than give the following extract from an account of it which I have been lately reading. "In England and various parts of Europe it covers extensive tracts of land on the borders of moors, luxuriates in waste and sandy soils

where the situation is dry and the climate is mild, in the rocky debris that has been excavated from quarries, or on the heaps of shingle that have been thrown up on the banks of rivers during floods. Though it cannot be said to be very generally cultivated, it is a crop that offers many advantages. Cattle are very fond of it, and whenever cows are fed upon it, it both increases the quantity and improves the quality of the milk. Horses will eat it in preference to either hay or grass, while mountain sheep and goats will thrive better on Gorse than on grass, and browse on it with delight, its prickly nature alone preventing them from eating it all up immediately. In North Wales it is much used by carriers as food for their horses. It is prepared by being first chopped into short lengths with a knife and then hammered with a mallet. If kept sufficiently free from water, experience has fully proved that heavy crops may be taken off the same land for any number of years in succession without any manure whatever. It may either be sown broadcast if on level ground or in drills about 15 to 18 inches apart, as light, the sun's rays, and a free circulation of air are all indispensable to promote luxuriant vegetation. The seedlings are to be planted out in rows, carefully cultivated and weeded, and not cut till they are two years old; while in the meantime they must be protected from the browsing of cattle or sheep. When raised by this method, it is better, after the first cutting, which ought not to be for two years, to take for use every year alternate rows, as by this plan there will be secured a constant succession of two year old gorse." That it will clothe the waste places of the Island with Nature's own livery and at the same time ensure a supply of food for all cattle ought, I think, to ensure it a trial.

I am, Sir, etc.
W. H. C.

THE LEGAL EFFECT OF SUSPENDING THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT.

More than fifty years have passed since the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended in England. Of the persons who now demand or who deprecate its suspension probably not one in a hundred knows either the precise effect of the Habeas Corpus Act, or the exact legal results of what is popularly termed the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. It is therefore opportune to call attention to one or two indubitable facts.

1. The Habeas Corpus Act does not confer on Englishmen any legal right not possessed by them under the common law. It constitutes simply the machinery by which the right to personal freedom is secured. Staffords a ready mode of applying to the courts for the liberation of any person alleged to be wrongfully kept in confinement. The courts, when so applied to, are bound, first, to examine whether the confinement be legal, i. e. under a valid warrant; and secondly, to see that any person imprisoned under a charge of crime be either discharged, bailed, or brought immediately to trial. The effect, therefore, of the Act is that no man can be illegally imprisoned, and what is of more practical importance, that any person being imprisoned on a criminal charge must be either set at liberty or be brought speedily to trial.

2. The result of what is termed "suspending the Habeas Corpus Act" is most easily shown by citing in a slightly curtailed form the principal provision of the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act passed in 1866:—"Every person who is within prison within that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland at or on the day on which this Act receives her Majesty's Royal assent or after, by warrant of her Majesty's Privy Council of Ireland, signed by six of the said Privy Council, for high treason or treason-felony, or treasonable practices, or warrant signed by the Lord-Lieutenant or his Secretary for such causes as aforesaid, may be detained in safe custody, without bail or mainprize, until the 1st of September 1866; and no judge or justice of the peace shall bail or try any such person so committed without order from her Majesty's Privy Council until the 1st of September, 1866, any law or statute to the contrary notwithstanding."

3. The gist of the Suspension Act, lies, it will be seen, in the words italicized. No person arrested under a warrant issued in virtue of the Act can be got out of prison by any legal process. In other words, the Government have in effect during the existence of the Suspension Act the power of arresting any man on the charge or suspicion

of treason and keeping him in prison till the Act Expires. It must, however, be carefully noted that the Act creates no new crime, that it does not in strictness give any new power of arrest, that it does not (except possibly in one instance) make any warrant valid which would not be valid at common law. Hence it is possible, and one may add probable, that under the cover of the Suspension Act things may be done which are not justified by law, and which, when the Act runs out, may render their authors liable to legal penalties. Hence the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act may entail in many cases, as it did entail in 1818, the necessity for a subsequent Act of Indemnity.

4. Any one, then, who examines a Suspension Act from a merely legal point of view will come to the following conclusions:—The Suspension Act produces in theory at least very limited results; it does little more than delay the trial of a certain number of persons accused of one or two special crimes. In practice, however, it enables the Government to arrest and keep in prison any person whom the Government may think it undesirable to leave at large. If such arrest and imprisonment cannot be justified under suspicion of treason or some other of the crimes enumerated in the Suspension Act it will subsequently be covered by an Act of Indemnity.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNAKA.

January

- 11th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, from Beyrout, mails and general cargo.
- 11th 'Alecto' 413 tons, British from Malta with ballast.
- 11th 'Carocla' 349 tons, Italian from Port Said with ballast.
- 12th S. S. 'Agia Sofia' 1694 tons British from Limassol general cargo.
- 12th H. M. S. 'Coquette' from Constantinople, Archipelago and Limassol.
- 14th 'Domenico' 182 tons, Italian from Port Said ballast.
- 15th S. S. 'Fortuna' 433 tons, British, from Alexandria, and Limassol with mails and general cargo

Cleared Outwards.

January

- 11th S. S. 'Elpitha' British, for Alexandria via Limassol, general cargo.
- 12th S. S. 'Agia Sofia' for Beyrout, Alexandria, etc. general cargo.
- 14th H. M. S. 'Coquette' for Famagusta.
- 15th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, for Beyrout, general cargo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the S. S. 'Agia Sofia'—Mustafa Effendi.
By the S. S. 'Fortuna' from Alexandria—Lieut. Kitchen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Henry, Mr. Giovannide and daughter, and 5 deck passengers.

LIMASSOL ARRIVALS.

January

- 9th S. S. 'Agia Sofia' British 1695 tons from Liverpool and Malta general cargo.
- 10th 'Dio Adelfi' Greek barque 322 tons from Alexandria with empty barrels.
- 10th 'Filantropia' Cypriot Schooner, 99 tons from Alexandria general cargo.
- 10th 'Aphrodite' Cypriot Brig 96 tons from Alexandria, general cargo.
- 10th S. S. 'Despatch', British 349 tons, from Alexandretta with two thousand sheep on board.
- 11th 'Panaja Iritiani' Greek schooner 125 tons from Alexandria in ballast.
- 11th H. M. S. 'Coquette' from Rhodes.
- 12th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, from Larnaca, mails and general cargo.
- 14th 'A. Marios' Ottoman schooner, 60 tons from Leros in ballast.
- 14th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, 433 tons, from Alexandria, mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

January

- 12th S. S. 'Despatch' British 349 tons for Alexandria cargo of sheep.
- 12th H. M. S. 'Coquette' for Larnaca.
- 12th S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons, for Alexandria, mails and general cargo.
- 14th 'A. Marios' Ottoman schooner 60 tons, for Jaffa in ballast.
- 14th S. S. 'Fortuna' British, 433 tons, for Larnaca, mails and general cargo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the S. S. 'Agia Sofia' from Liverpool Misses E. & C. Fisher, Messrs. Houghton, T. Bazano, Hermann Schubert and Lee.
By the S. S. 'Elpitha' from Larnaca—Mr. Mukka, Father Francisco, Dr. Castan, Sofia and Mr. Carré, also seven deck passengers.
By the S. S. 'Fortuna' from Alexandria—Sgt.-Major Drow and wife.

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