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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 131.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 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 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.

Limassol News.

20th Feb., 1881.

The steam yacht *Vanadis* arrived this morning from Beyrout. On board Messrs. Hankey and two Miss Hankeys; Hon. Mrs. Lyons; Mr. and Mrs. Deane; Mr. Little and Mr. Jackson.

Chief Intelligence of the Week.

(From the "Overland Mail").

The Secret Correspondence found at Cabul by General Roberts has been published by the *Standard*.

A desperate battle has been fought with the Boers at the Cape by General Colley's force. The action took place on the Ingo-go, the British suffering great loss, and returning to the camp at Newcastle during the night.

General Colley has lost the whole of his staff, the moral of the troops is said to be seriously affected, and an attack upon Newcastle is expected. The arrival of reinforcements is anxiously awaited.

King Coffee of Ashantea has declared war against England, on account of the non-surrender of a chief who had sought refuge in the Gold Coast Colony.

The second reading of the Irish Coercion Bill has been passed by 359 votes to 56.

Mr. Goschen arrived at Berlin on Feb. 6, and had a long audience of the Emperor William. Mr. Goschen reached Vienna on Feb. 8, had an interview with Baron Haymerle, and left in the evening for Constantinople.

Neither Austria for Germany, it is said, is disposed to urge the decision of the Berlin Conference on the acceptance of the Porte.

The Porte is making preparations for the imposition of new taxes, including a poll tax.

The Greek Premier is reported to have said in the Chamber that it is necessary for Greece, following the advice of the Powers, to avoid precipitate actions.

General Skobelev has reported that the Tekkes having made their submission, he considers the campaign to have ended.

M. Naquet's new Divorce Bill has been rejected by the French Chamber.

The Spanish Ministry has resigned, and a new Cabinet has been formed under Senor Sagasta.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law has been conferred on Gen. Sir. F. Roberts by the University of Oxford.

Michael Davitt, the Land League organiser, has been recommitted to penal servitude on a charge of having violated the conditions of his ticket of leave. He has been sent to Portland Prison.

The arrest of Davitt and the recent action of the Government have caused a marked abatement in the virulence of the agitation in Ireland.

Mr. Thomas Carlyle died on Feb. 4, and was buried at St. Fechan's churchyard, Ecclefechan, on Feb. 10.

SYRIA.

Beyrout, 14th Feb., 1881.

In a village 48 hours distant from here, the Druses revolted against the Turks, and in a conflict 125 Turkish persons were killed and 50 wounded.

A great many women were disgraced and killed by Druses. 400 Turkish soldiers were sent from Damascus to overtake them, but all their attempts were unavailing for the Druses' position is inaccessible.

Yesterday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a fight took place near the Pines between Greeks and Turks. Four Turks and two Greeks were killed, besides that a number were wounded. I do not know the cause which led to their fighting.

We read in the *MUSBAH*, an Arabic newspaper published in Beyrout, under date the 14 February, what follows:—

"We have already spoken of the disturbances, which had taken place between the zaptiehs, owing to their insubordination and some inhabitants of Mas Raat and of the Baedra quarter; on this occasion we drew the attention of the local authority in order that the affair should not assume regrettable proportions. Some of our contemporaries seemed not to understand what we wished to say; they did not think there was any fear to put the people into anxiety, and that the town was quiet; from that moment we have not spoken any more in the interest of the public tranquillity. But the differences began to increase, to-day we learn that on Sunday a scuffle ensued at the Pines, which take place every Sunday at the Pines. The quarrel commenced with the children, till it reached the men at which point they used sticks and fired their guns. Two christians were killed, one is called Chalil Yeredin and the other Elias Ydlam, also a Turkish woman; there were many wounded on both sides, and when the authorities of Beyrout and the Lebanon were informed of the affair, H. E. Rustem Pasha ordered two battalions to march to Seefat, one hour's distance from Beyrout, of which place the two christians killed were natives, in order to quell the rising there. H. E. Rustem Pasha went in person to the scene of the quarrel in company with the Commandant, the colonel, the president of the Municipality and zaptiehs soldiers, etc. At their arrival peace was reestablished and they have taken all the necessary measures to discover the authors of the disturbance. We write at the moment of going to Press, so we can not give all particulars, which we will do in our next number; but we hope that the authorities will not fail to discover and punish the guilty ones.

According to a telegram received at Larnaca on Thursday last, public tranquillity is restored at Beyrout.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette", 16th Feb.)

On Saturday last the Khedive received the officers in garrison at Cairo, when His Highness addressed them in firm language on the recent occurrences and reminded them that over since his accession to power he and his Ministers had laboured earnestly for the welfare of the country and full confidence should be placed in them. The officers, before retiring assured the Khedive of their unwavering loyalty and promised in future to fulfil their military duties faithfully and to obey the laws of the country.

His Highness Hossein el Soltaneh, uncle of the Shah of Persia, arrived in Alexandria on the 13th inst, and was received with all the honours due to his high rank.

On account of stress of weather, Prince Rudolph put into Zante, H. I. H. left that island on Monday evening and may be expected in the course of tomorrow.

We have every reason for believing that the English language will be admitted by the International Commission on Judicial Reform as one of the recognised official languages of our Tribunals.

Last night Commandatore Rossi appeared for the last time in Alexandria.

Next Saturday the first masked ball of the season will take place at the Zuzinia Theatre.

WAR IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Sir George Colley has had another engagement with the Boers, and though he succeeded in beating them off, his condition is considered very critical. After the repulse at Laing's Neck the British camp was removed to a spot about eighteen miles distant from Newcastle. For several days the communications were not interfered with, but a force of Boers established itself on the heights commanding the road, with the object of intercepting convoys. On Tuesday some mounted police accompanying the mails were obliged to return in order to prevent being cut off by a body of Boers, who had stopped an ambulance of wounded men, and, according to the correspondent of the *Standard*, took away the draught animals, notwithstanding the flying of the Geneva flag. On the same morning Sir George Colley moved out of camp to protect his communications, and came into conflict with the enemy.

A *Times* telegram says that military critics fail to see what has been gained by so costly an operation. A convoy was expected at the time, but fortunately it did not leave Newcastle, but waited for the reinforcements.

Several ships with reinforcements have arrived at Durban. The *Tamar* arrived on the 4th inst. with the 97th Regiment, which has started for the front. She also landed reinforcements for the Naval Brigade ashore from the *Dido* and *Boadicea*, and two guns. The *Dunkeld* arrived on Sunday with a number of officers. The *Hankow* arrived at the Cape on the 6th inst, the *Ararat* on the 7th and the *Queen* on the 8th.

TURKEY.

(From the "Constantinople Messenger."

9th Feb., 1881.)

At the Sublime Porte, preparation is being made for the opening of the negotiations which are to begin on the return of Mr. Goschen and Count Hatzfeld with the object of settling the Greek question. There is some little difficulty in furnishing this new incorporation of diplomatic forces with the requisite outfit of formality, ritual, and general procedure. The thing itself has no name; it is not a conference, and its action is neither to be concerted, nor collective nor identical. Its form of utterance, moreover, is not yet settled; in fact, it is not settled whether it is to have a voice of its own at all, or whether it is to speak only with the separate tongues of its component elements. Some of the Powers pin their faith upon protocols, others upon collective notes, others upon separate reports. Some wish the meetings of the ambassadors to be formal, others that they should have an informal character. But the general prejudice is in favour of speechlessness and informality, as best affording the protection of privacy to the blundering to come. The experience of the Berlin Conference and the Dulcigno demonstration has taught the Great Six that there are some scenes which it is wisest to perform with the curtain down. It is a hopeful sign that the Powers have become alive to the real gravity of the situation, so that they are not likely again to perpetrate such a bad joke as that of drawing a straight line across the map at right angles to the Earth's axis and calling it a frontier.

The Reverent J. O. Bagdon has been summoned to appear to-day before Mr. Assistant-Judge Burrell, sitting as magistrate, on a criminal charge of libel, preferred by Mr. consul General and Judge Fawcett. The charge arises out of a work lately published, of

which Mr. Bagdon is the author, and in which one of the characters is a judicial personage called Sir Rhyns Weltcaf. Some passages of the work in which this character figures have given rise to the proceedings.

The Imperial "irade" which was to sanction the decision of the Council of Ministers in regard to the Mitylene dispute, has not yet been issued.

The appointment of Stephanski Musurns Bay to the post of ambassador to the Court of Rome was officially announced on Sunday. The new ambassador is raised on this occasion in the rank of the official hierarchy to the grade of 'oultah.'

The mistake that was made by the Turkish press in reporting the message sent by the Sultan of Zanzibar to his Majesty Abdel-Hamid, on the occasion of the Bairam, has been repeated in the case of a message sent by the Bey of Tunis. Both messages were all that could be desired in friendliness of tone, and naturally gave the satisfaction they were designed to give in high quarters. But neither the one nor the other had precisely the colour that the Turkish press gave to them, and the Sultan of Zanzibar was the first to take exception to the version of his despatch given in the Turkish papers. The Bey of Tunis now does likewise, protesting that a communication which was designed to express sentiments of loyal friendship, regard and sympathy, ought not to have been construed by the Turkish newspapers as having a wider significance. It is unfortunate that the zeal of the Turkish press should have given rise to these explanations, as there was no need to enhance the significance of the spontaneously frank and friendly greetings forwarded by the Princes in question to the throne of the Sultan.

Nedjib Pasha, ex-governor of Saroukhan, is appointed governor of Beyrout.

Abdulla Pasha left for Adana, of which province he has recently been appointed governor-general, on Wednesday last by the French mail.

According to the 'Vakit' the Ottoman troops now concentrated on the Greek frontier number one hundred thousand. Two reserve camps are now being formed, the headquarters of which will be at Trikala and Janina respectively. The 'Djoridai Havalis' states that Dervish Pasha will have the title of Commander-in-chief of the Ottoman army (commandant-oumoum), which has now precisely the same significance as 'Serdar Ekrem', Commander-in-Chief of the forces.

A sensible improvement has taken place in the health of the Bey of Tunis, which for some time past has not been all that could be desired.

Recent news from Batoum gives a sad account of the condition of that town. Torrential rains had been falling for some days in succession, and on the 31st the city was inundated.

The governor ad interim of Salonica telegraphs that a band of seven brigands has surrendered to Colonel Salih Bey at Caterina. Another telegram reports that two brigand chiefs of Thessaly have given themselves up to the governor of Larissa.

According to advices from Scutari, Ali Pasha of Gussigne is suspected of stirring up the Hotti and Castrati Albanians with the object of inducing them to attack the Montenegrins. The 'valli' of Scutari has despatched a body of troops to the vicinity of Podgoritzza to observe the movements of the Albanians concentrated near that town, and to counteract, if needs be, any ill-judged action on their part. As regards the position of affairs about Pristren, it is evident that the feeling is not so hostile as has been represented. The Albanians do not object to the Turkish troops being carried by the railway, but they will not permit arms and munitions of war to be conveyed out of the country. The leaders of the loyal League of Albania seem to be unconscious of the fact that in opposing their Sovereign upon one point they oppose him on all points, weakening his arrangements, adding to his embarrassment, and creating an abnormal position which tends to paralyse the action of the Central Government.

The transport 'Latfî' sailed on Thursday with troops to the number of 500 for Salonica. General Ibrahim Pasha, son of Namyk Pasha, appointed military commandant in the vilayet of Kossova, took passage in the same vessel.

There is great activity in the naval arsenal, where the authorities are proceeding vigorously to put the fleet in an efficient state. The officers of the department frequently remain the whole night at their posts in order to expedite the work on hand.

The advance which the Admiralty demands of £T. 100,000, on the security of the toll of the Galata bridge, has not either been concluded. The Government proposed to pay 8 per cent interest. The banking house of Lorando made a tender, but it is scarcely necessary to say that the terms of Messrs. Lorando were not 8 per cent. The Treasury thought them too high; and negotiations were opened with Michel Pasha, it being understood that if he were able to oblige the Porte in this matter his position as applicant for the concession of the Quays in the Golden Horn would, in reasonable measure, improve. Michel Pasha endeavoured to negotiate the operation with M. Bourgeois, of Paris, but his combination, although costing only two-thirds of that proposed by Messrs. Lorando, came nevertheless to about double the rate which the Porte proposed to pay, and that arrangement consequently fell through also. Then it was intimated to M. Meynier, applicant for the concession of the coal mines of Heraclia, that it would be agreeable to the Government if he would make an advance of £T. 100,000 to the Admiralty on the security of the bridge toll. To this M. Meynier is understood to have replied that his errand in Constantinople was not to lend money but to obtain the concession of the Heraclia coal mines. Nevertheless, if that concession were given to him, and his relations with the Government thus became of a permanent character, he would have no objection to make the advance demanded. Mr. Meynier's mingling proposal is now before the Tophané Commission, and it is probable that a decision in reference to it will be come to early in next week. On the conclusion of this affair depends a financial operation of some importance, which would bring about half a million into the Treasury, and would not in any way burden the revenues of the Empire; but of this operation it is superfluous for the present to speak in greater detail.

Appropos of this, the "Vakit" says that the 1854 loan will be "amorti" in two years. This is a mistake; the loan will not be paid off until 1887; it was a 33 years' annuity of £ 210,000. Our contemporary is right in his guess about the Porte having a plan in view for dealing at once with the reversion of the portion of the Egyptian tribute, which the extinction of the loan in question would set free, but it is quite premature to say that the Porte is negotiating a loan on the basis of the security referred to.

An inquiry has, for reasons which we are unacquainted, been instituted at the Treasury. Tewfik Pasha, Minister of Finance, and Joseph Effendi Wettendorff have placed their seals on the cash safe in order to proceed to a verification of the balances.

Hobart Pasha has written the following letter on the Turco-Greek question, to the Editor of the "Levant Herald."

Sir—At this critical moment it is satisfactory to see by this morning's telegraphs that the first Minister of Greece recommends moderation and attention to the counsels of Europe. This must be gratifying to all those who, like myself, are desirous of seeing friendly relations established between Turkey and Greece. There is still another point which might be urged with the Greek people in the cause of moderation and peace: I take it, that Greece depends not only on the military power and ardour of her people to obtain movements in other parts of Turkey in Europe, movements which she conceives will be made on her behalf. In this belief I am inclined to think that Greece will find herself mistaken; my idea being that if any province was inclined (a somewhat doubtful eventuality) to revolt, it would be in its own interests and not in that of Greece, and that the large territory (apart from that offered so liberally by the Turkish Government, which she aspires to obtain), would become the hotbed of communism and confusion, entailing on Greece years of trouble and a ruinous outlay to tranquillity; whereas if Greece is satisfied now with the rich territory offered by Turkey in return for nothing, but solely in the cause of peace, her revenues would be largely increased, and a friendly feeling be established between the two nations who might thus form a barrier to the advance of Slavism. On the other hand, I cannot see what Greece expects to gain by going to war with Turkey more than she will now be offered. It is true that at the present moment Turkey, pecuniarily speaking, is somewhat hard-pressed, but the Turkish Empire is still powerful enough to crush invasion such as now threatened on this frivolous pretext that Europe has not only recommended, but insisted, on the partial destruction of this ill-used Empire.

I am &c.,

HOBART.

Special Telegrams.

London, 14th Feb.
Coercive Bill Ireland retrospective first October 1880.

Boers entered Bigarsberg and Newcastle. Eleventh and fourteenth Hussars and detachment 1000 men left Port Natal to reinforce Colley. Childers offered to send considerable reinforcements within ten days. Colley accepted offer. Under Secretary India lays before Commons confidential documents respecting Candahar before debates on 24th. Secret correspondence does not authorize supposition that Russia wished form at rebellion India.

London, 16th Feb
The safety of the garrison at Leydenburg is confirmed. At a meeting held at the Mansion house, in the presence of the duke of Cambridge and the Secretary for War General Roberts severely criticised the present state of the English army.

At a council held at Merv the Turcoman chiefs resolved to resist to the last extremity, and to unite all their forces to prevent the march of the Russian army to Tejeud.

Sebeleff is accumulating provisions and has the intention to march on Tejeud through Persian territory. 7th Hussars not 11th has received orders to proceed to Transvaal.

London, 18th Feb.
The French Chamber has passed the press law.

Mr. Parnell has addressed a letter to the land League advising a passive resistance against the law of coercion. The land agitation is spreading in England and Scotland. The Irish Roman Catholics have protested against the friendly interviews between Mr. Parnell and Monsieur Rochefort.

It is reported that Eyoub Khan has occupied Maimend and declared war against the Emir of Afghanistan.

It is stated that the Boers have strongly entrenched themselves at Langsneck and are preparing to concentrate their forces.

The flying squadron has reached the cape of Good Hope.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Sunday, February 20th, 1881.

The financial year, 1880, will draw shortly to a close and the issue of the Island Balance Sheet will be awaited with considerable interest. The position when the last financial statement was made public will be remembered. Excluding a sum of £ 28,000 balance in hand on the 1st April, 1879, from the debtor side, and the payment to the Porte for the year 1879 from the credit side, there was a debtor balance of £ 36,636, and 1880 was entered upon with cash "in hand" amounting roughly to £ 13,000. The total receipts from April 1st, 1879, to March 31st 1880 were £ 151,361 of which £ 57,845 were received from tithes, and the payments—leaving as before that to the Porte out of consideration—amounted to £ 115,165 of which the expenditure on establishments amounted to £ 74,559, including £ 21,914 for Police.

We are unable to foresee to what extent the audit of the country's financial affairs which it may be deemed is now occupying the attention of the Accountant General's office will prove satisfactory or the reverse; and we can only hope that we shall when the time comes be able to congratulate Government on the brilliancy of its Finance. Now, however, that the time approaches for the publication of another account of stewardship it

may be of interest to glance back at the estimates contained and opinions expressed in the extract from the letter dated June 7th, 1880, from H. E. Major General Biddulph to Earl Granville.

"The estimated expenditure for 1880-81 is £ 83,276, without allowing for public works. Supposing we take a loan for this purpose, we could not allot much less than £ 6000 for interest and sinking fund, thus raising our total expenditure to £ 90,000. The revenue for the coming year when a good harvest is expected is estimated at over £ 190,000 and, although, if this is realized, we shall be able to pay our way, yet it will leave us nothing to lay aside for a future bad year for...the fluctuating nature of our revenue compels us to lay by the surplus of one year in order to provide for the deficit of the next."

We are not surprised if our rulers when they prepare the annual balance-sheet and compile the Blue-books of Cyprus feel chagrined when the enormous subsidy paid Turkey on account of the occupation forces itself upon their notice. As His Excellency long ago pointed out "it is hard on a country...to continue a number of taxes which press heavily on the people, and to be absolutely obliged to borrow money (for that is what we shall come to) in order to continue the annual payment to Turkey of the average sum which was only raised to its present high figure by the total neglect of all local necessities." This is doubtless the greatest evil under which Cyprus groans. As is pointed out, we have a country the revenue of which far exceeds its expenditure, even without the exercise of economy; yet crippled with the agreement to pay £ 105,000 yearly to the Porte, we do not undertake any public works, we do not attempt to relieve the lower orders of the taxation which presses, as is admitted, so heavily upon them, we take no measures for bringing about that fairer dawn for our isle which has as yet proved but an unsubstantial idea, leading us like some *ignis fatuus* only into sloughs of despond.

It was the wish of the High Commissioner in June last to dispense altogether with the Military exemption tax which, under its altered conditions, yielded only £ 4,319 in 1879, about 20 per cent remaining outstanding in consequence of bad collection. The third class (Temetu) of the Verghi (30 per cent of the Verghi impost remained uncollected at the end of the financial year 1879) as well as some of the burdens that rest on the grape it was also considered advisable by H. E. to do away with. But it would appear that Government has found it difficult to give effect to these desires for reform, and for the present they remain things unaccomplished.

It would seem necessary if the present "uncertain tenure of the Island which deters capitalists from investments" here is to continue, and we still have to hand over the money which should be used "to pay for all sorts of improvements" to the Sultan, that we should endeavour to effect retrenchment in other ways. For the fact that whereas the expenditure of the Turks averaged annually £ 30,000, the estimate for 1880 reached treble that sum we should have small regard but that material prosperity has not increased in a like ratio. Looking, however, upon things as they are and the urgent necessity there exists for economy it would seem not only expedient but imperative that the estimate for es-

tablishments for 1881 should be considerably lower than £ 74,000 as in 1879. Not for one moment do we consider the salaries of many of our officials high if only the resources of the Island could provide for them. Engaged in commerce, in business or some profession—elsewhere than in Cyprus—they would probably have been paying their clerks larger incomes than they themselves are now in receipt of. But Cyprus is a poor country; and while the Government seems disinclined to encourage loans and laments "uncertain tenure" it would seem advisable to reduce the expenses of administration to the lowest farthing in order that the money thus saved may be devoted to other and more important ends.

We cannot do better than close with the last clause of the letter of His Excellency from which we have already given some excerpts—"I trust that some measure may be devised for lightening the burden that weighs on the revenues of Cyprus, in order to enable us to make those financial reforms that are expected of us."

The Cypriot agricultural peasant has to provide against not a rainy day but a day which is not rainy. And to his credit be it said as a rule he does so to the best of his ability. He is as well aware as the best of us that in the absence of irrigation he can only depend upon a fair harvest once in a certain term of years; and when that fair harvest comes and he reaps the benefits thereof, he prudently puts the pecuniary results away—not up the chimney because that would be impossible—but in some quiet hiding-place best known to himself. And so takes he thought for the morrow.

The subject of Thrift is one that has lately been attracting a great deal of well-deserved attention in England. The ordinary member of the British lower classes has a

"hand open as day"

for petty and unnecessary disbursements which considerably affect his debtor balance at the end of the week. This fact has been recognized by those who care for him, and by some who probably care at least equally for themselves. The *Times* in its general review of the past year singled out two ministers of the present government as having displayed marked administrative ability: the first was Sir Charles Dilke, the second the Rt. Hon. Henry Fawcett, Postmaster General. The one we may for the present pass over; the name of the other will be remembered as that of the philanthropic statesman who, among other things, gave to the masses the opportunity of depositing their pence in a place where they might have security and bear interest. A penny saved is not now only a penny earned; it is a coin which deposited with as ample security as that of the Bank of England in any Post-Office at home which happens also to be a money-order office will be increased at the end of a year by 2½ per cent.

To give the whole of the particulars of Professor Fawcett's scheme would be to be unnecessarily prolix. They are known to most of our readers. Briefly, in order to encourage saving, forms for the making of small deposits are now issued gratuitously at every Post Office in the United Kingdom. These forms, which are about the size of an ordinary cheque, have twelve divisions in each of which a penny postage-stamp can be placed. When a form has thus been filled with stamps it will be received at any Post-Office at which there is a Savings Bank as a deposit of a shilling. The experiments which Mr. Fawcett made in various parts of England in order to ascertain if the public would appreciate the facilities proffered them for being provident proved highly successful, and, as will be seen by what we have stated, have encouraged him to make the system universal throughout Great Britain and Ireland. The results have exceeded all anticipation, and have attracted the attention of other countries. Switzerland is at the present time making trial if like advantages would be availed of if afforded her population; and we observe that in Turkey, where if the Government invited the people to deposit their coppers with them, they would probably be suspected of a "try" on the "confidence dodge lay"—individual good

intention has set on foot a project for a Savings Bank which will take charge of sums of one piastre and upwards and pay three per cent on all monies which are left in the Bank for three months. A highly respectable committee of which Mr. Foster C. B., has accepted the presidency supports the undertaking.

Now despite that in these times by reason, we suppose, of his not comprehending instinctively and instantaneously a language other than his own, the poor Cypriot peasant comes in for more kicks and bad language than anything like consideration or praise, we claim for him that he compares very favourably with specimens taken elsewhere from his class in the social scale possessing the advantage over him of a properly cultivated and therefore richer country. His mud hut must be luxury itself in comparison with the miserable and degrading cabens than which the Irish labourer desires nothing better; you never see him otherwise than well-clothed with material evidently selected with views of comfort and lasting wear; he is frugal to a degree, yet manages to keep up a physique by the side of which our undersized militiamen at home would present a rather sorry cut; lastly, not to wax too enthusiastic on his virtues, he is temperate in respect of alcoholic drinks and it is rarely that you see him the worse for liquor.

We should like to see the Cypriot peasant given the facility and inculcated with the wisdom of depositing his piastres where they would be safer than in any place of concealment that he could devise, and where they might accumulate. Could not the same plan which has been found to work so well in the United Kingdom be adopted here at the various Post-Offices on the Island? Such a scheme could not of course be carried out until many difficulties had been overcome. The idea of depositing his money at a Post Office would not at first be seized upon with avidity by the native mind; but if recommended by those persons in our midst in whom the poorer classes have confidence the advantages accruing to its adoption would, we believe, soon be recognized. The plan would not be a success all at once but in the future it might be found necessary to institute agencies in some of the villages remote from the present postal stations. Certainly, nowhere does there exist a necessity for thrift and provident saving greater than in Cyprus; nor does there exist a people more worthy than the Cypriots of participation in the benefits which humane statesmen may devise for the amelioration of the condition of the so-called lower classes. Let it not be said that while we teach and preach in theory at Constantinople, we neglect teaching in practice in Cyprus.

It was the late Albert Smith who once said "All things earthly have an end except Upper Wimpole street." The meets of the Nikosia Harriers have not come to an end, but inexorable Game laws demand that with the runs an account of which we give "in another place" season number one of their existence as an institution in Cyprus should close; and for the nonce we suppose we shall have to provide our readers with other pabulum than that afforded by the breezy sketches of scampers' cross country by "THE MAN ON THE COB" and occasionally by "CŒUR DE CHASSE."

Time spent in riding to hounds is almost always well spent; but it is whose avocation is laborious, whose brain is always well and sometimes over-employed who derives from it the most exhilaration and pleasure. Just as one experiences after witnessing a well-played comedy or smart burlesque a sensation as if one's cobwebs had been dissipated, so it is with hunting. After a good run the professional or business man returns to the "demnition grind" of his daily affairs perhaps a little bandy-legged but feeling again thoroughly set up and "fit." Despite that heavy rains have interfered with some of the recent meets, our correspondent announces that very good sport has been had with the Nikosia Harriers in this their first season, and now that the "horn of the hunter" may not temporarily "be heard on the hill" or rather the deep notes of "Farmer" "Damsel" and the rest may not resound along the plains round about Nikosia, we are not surprised to learn that it is with regret and reluctance the members of the Hunt submit to the inevitable and await with the best grace they can the advent of another season.

We observe in the London papers that a large deputation of Scotch members of Parliament have recently waited on Mr. Gladstone at the House of Commons urging him to consider the advisability of creating a ministerial department for Scotland. The Premier replied that the matter should have his careful consideration but added that the present was hardly an opportune time for the proposal, inasmuch as all the expectation of the Government with regard to the progress of public business had been frustrated. We make allusion to this in order that Cyprus may make moan. For if the English Government does not know how to sufficiently economize time to be able to deal with its home affairs we need hardly expect it to bestow attention upon those of a colony like ours! This consideration, together with many others we have already set forth, tends to demonstrate the necessity that we should receive a constitution enabling us to develop the internal energies and abilities we possess for the management of our local affairs without being under the obligation of having recourse to the government at home should we require the least thing done.

Local Notes.

With Wednesday commenced the imposition of the new levy of 10 paras on all mules and donkeys entering the town. The tax-collectors were stationed in the Larnaka road near the Caé Aphrodite, and some incidents occurred during the day to relieve their duty of any monotony which might appertain to it. One villager stoutly refused to pay at all, and rather than do so, he left his donkey in charge of the collector. This appeared to have been precisely what that functionary desired, for he quickly bestrode the animal and used it for the pursuit of recalcitrant peasants who had entered the town not by the straight gate.

During the week Mr. Richter has returned here from pursuing his archaeological researches at Mari near which was situated the ancient town of Marion. The finds were rather interesting than important. They comprised pottery ornamented with paintings of birds, etc., some small Greek black vases in imitation of the Phoenician style, and a Phoenician decorated vase.

Mr. Richter left on Thursday for a spot near the old Salamina, where he hopes to light upon further archaic treasures.

Captain Luttmann-Johnson, who has been laid up for some weeks and we are now pleased to state, has fairly recovered came down from Nikosia last week, and stayed at the Commissioner's house till Tuesday evening, when he left by the mail steamer for Limassol.

On Wednesday last there was a meeting of the Court of Idaré at the Konak, which was attended by the Commissioner, and the other members of the court. The subjects of discussion were concerning the price of carobs for exportation per quintal, on which a percentage of duty is levied; this was fixed at 17. A guarantee of one of the Custom House employes was confirmed; there was also a discussion about the cemeteries; but however no decision arrived at.

Dr. Heidenstam District Medical Officer left last Saturday for Beyrout to make a report about the Cattle Disease. We hear that he will not be able to return till Sunday week, there not being any communication with Beyrout till that time.

At their sitting of Feb. 8, the Greek Chamber of Deputies voted a grant of 50,000 drachmas, for the relief of the sufferers of the late inundation of Limassol.

At a general meeting of members held in the rooms of the Larnaka Literary Institute on the 12th instant, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"As it appears by the statement of the Hony. Treasurer that the expenses incurred by keeping open the rooms at present occupied by the Institute are more than the revenue will permit, the Hony. Secretary and the Hony. Treasurer are requested to obtain rooms at a lower rent. The meeting was adjourned to the 17th Feb. At the adjourned meeting the Hony. Treasurer having stated that he had not succeeded in obtaining rooms at a lower rent the following resolutions were passed: 1st. "That taking into consideration the want of appreciation of this Institute on

the part of members generally, and the unsatisfactory financial position of the same, it is expedient that the affairs of the institute be forthwith wound up."

2nd. "That the foregoing resolution be submitted to the consideration of a further general meeting to be held on Tuesday, the 22nd inst. at 8.30 p.m."

The latter resolution was rendered necessary on account of the small attendance of members at the meeting.

After an almost continual rainy season during this winter, the weather has become very fine which favors vegetation, and the prospects of all the crops are very splendid.

We hear with regret that Mr. Alexander Mavrogordato purposes leaving Cyprus by the next mail for Constantinople. Mr. Mavrogordato came here at the time of the occupation, and has since been in the employ of the Government. His departure is, we believe, entirely owing to private reasons.

Nicosia Feb. 18th, 1881.

After a few days rain the fine weather has set in; the environs of Nikosia with the green barley sprouting above the surface of the earth forms a most glorious sight. Although there has not been much liveliness in our town since the commencement of the Carnival, a party here and there enlivens Nikosia occasionally.

Mr. Samuel Brown the Government Engineer entertained the elite of the Nikosia Society in his extensive halls last Friday. The rooms were crowded with people, and dancing was kept up to an early hour with great animation. The management of the ball was as well as might be expected for Cyprus, the ladies being so pleased with the attention of Mr. Brown, on this occasion that they intend presenting him with a memorial of their gratitude; it was however, noticed with regret by many, that foreigners were entirely excluded from this party; nothing but the pure English type, from the highest situated to the lowest clerk adorned the "salon de bal." It is of great advantage to a place, and is usual in every British colony, for the leading officials to do their utmost to raise the tone of society to admit everybody whether English or Foreign into their circles, and to avoid the existence of various cliques, which cannot but cause dissatisfaction and envy in a small place. We regret to see that this is not at all the case in Cyprus, and that a very disagreeable feeling reigns in our town on this account.

Great preparations are being made for the Nikosia race; a meeting was held in the Commissioner's house last week for electing a Committee. A fair sum has been subscribed for the purpose and we sincerely hope that the capital may enjoy the best race meeting of the season.

The English school of Nikosia is progressing with the greatest rapidity, the scholars of the first class have already acquired a very fair knowledge of the English language, classes of English are also being followed in the Kushaie school the Greek School and the Greek "Parthenagigion" at the girls school we are glad to hear that great progress is being made by all, and that the work of the Revd. Director of Education promises with success.

The tannery situated outside the Papho gate that has always been a great nuisance in point of smell is at last to be removed; the promenade outside that gate will now be much pleasanter than it has hitherto been, and we hope that these steps will help to decrease the number of dogs that have always been crowding about the premises of the tannery.

Mr. Seager Magistrate of Nikosia is leaving for England by next mail, the reason of this gentleman's departure is, we believe, on account of some disease in the toe which has now for some time caused him much trouble.

THE NIKOSIA HARRIERS.

A notice has gone round that Tuesday the 15th inst. will be the last day of the season with these hounds, and though of course obedience to existing Game laws is inevitable, yet lovers of sport in and round Nikosia will sadly miss their bi-weekly gallops with the merry little pack which under many disadvantages has shewn such excellent sport. At any rate the season will end brilliantly as recent sport has been first rate. On the 2nd inst. we met at Latchia, found at once and had an exceedingly fast gallop of 20 minutes over an excellent country, followed by some beautiful hunting on the part of the hounds over a rough and difficult country, when we again ran very hard into the open but the hare was finally lost in a heavy shower of rain on ground foiled by large flocks of sheep, after a beautiful hunting run of one hour and twenty-five minutes.

On the 4th inst. the Meet at Orta-Keni had to be abandoned on account of heavy rain, but early in the following week while the hounds were at exercise near the camp with only the Master and two of the Whips a regular demon of a hare jumped up close in front of them and the pack of course broke away. The scent being very good it was impossible to stop them and they ran very hard

and perfectly straight to the ridge of rocks known as the "Oyster beds" crossing the top of the ridge and down to the river on the south side and from thence across the Dali road and away as if for Thalassa, but after a mile or so they bent round up the hill and over the plateau towards Latchia, turning near the road back past the "Oyster beds" which they passed and ran two wide rings round the foot of the crags, finally running their hare to ground in a regular stronghold in the rocks. This severe run lasted 55 minutes and from the severity of the pace and the extent of country covered may be considered one of the best runs of the season. On the 9th the Meet was at the 4th milestone, Larnaca road, and we had an excellent afternoon's sport, finding at once on the plain towards Piroi, and running hard up to the crags towards the North West, and from thence down the valley towards Yeri, where we killed after 25 minutes. We found again on crossing the Larnaca road and ran very fast towards Ornithi and round towards Margo, finally running into and killing our hare in the open in a little under half an hour. I am happy to say that Capt. Luttmann-Johnson, the Master of the Nikosia Harriers, has so far recovered from his illness as to be able to proceed on leave for the benefit of his health.

CLOSE OF THE SEASON.

A bright sun and cold wind did not promise much scent for our last hunting day when we met at Lacatamia on Tuesday 15th inst. In the neighbourhood of this Chiftlik we have had so many good runs that it was no wonder a large field turned out on this occasion, no less than six ladies being among the number. Lacatamia plain being for the most part now under cultivation we crossed the river at the ford and drew along the high ground to the north of the village. Here we soon found a very large dark-coloured hare, but the scent on the rocky ground was very bad, so the hounds were unable to force her away from the hills and we had eventually to give her up.

We then drew over the open country on the road to Peristerona where we found a real "straight going" hare, who as soon as she was found set her head straight for the wide plain to the south, and the scent being here first-rate the hounds at once began to run very hard; the further they went the harder they seemed to go, and the ground being heavy there was soon an extensive straggling among the field. The straight line taken by the hare gave but little chance for thrown out "pursuers" to make up lost ground, and in a short time there were only three men with the hounds.

The line taken by the hare was so straight over the plain and no villages having been passed, I cannot give names to show the country we ran over, but I can testify that for 25 minutes we ran as hard as hounds and horses could go without the semblance of a check; till a very sharp turn down a little valley showed that this gallant hare was beat at last.

This double-back gave the scattered field a chance of seeing the finish of this "clipping" run, and the hounds running from scent to view rolled their hare over in the open just 28 minutes from the time they found her. After "the worry" and the trophies of the chase having been awarded to the two ladies first up, the Master gave the word for home and a long jog of 12 miles we had of it.

The appearance and condition of the hounds and the sport shewn by them this season, while greatly redounding to the credit of the Master, give promise of a brilliant future for this pack; and hunting in Cyprus has now become not only an established fact, but also a marked success.

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