

CYPRUS

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"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.

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

CYPRUS.

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

(Continued from our last.)

Troodos, July 7th, 1881.

WATER SUPPLY OF TOWN.

The management of the water of Nicosia is also under charge of the municipality, the accounts are kept perfectly separate.

The water is brought into the town aqueducts known by the names of Arab Ahmed and Salutah, the supply is constant and of excellent quality; a considerable amount of money has been expended during the last twelve months in repairing the old and digging new wells from which the water takes its source.

The annual cost of keeping the wells and aqueducts in good state of repair is great, as also is the cost of repairing fountains, pipes, &c., within the walls of the town.

The revenue to meet these expenses is derived by charging a water rate of 10s. per annum on all persons into whose premises the water is taken, and by selling water at 6l. the measure to people who require it, and who have hitherto been dependent on the public fountains.

The annual revenue obtained by charging the above rates is but little over 300l. a year, an income totally insufficient to meet current expenditure, and there is no doubt but that the rates must be increased.

LOCUST DESTRUCTION.

It had been hoped, from the amount of eggs collected in this district during the Autumn of 1879, viz., about 12,000 okes, and the steps taken for the destruction of live locusts during the months of April and May 1880, that few locusts would appear during the year 1880; however, towards the end of May and beginning of June vast flights were seen in many parts of the plains of Nicosia; fortunately the hatching had been late, and the corn crops did not suffer to any extent.

Commencing from the middle of March

1880, to the end of April, every exertion was made to destroy the live locusts; this is done by surrounding the localities where the eggs are hatched with canvas screens in height about 2' 9", at right angles to the screens, and at intervals of 30 or 40 yards rectangular pits are dug, in depth about 3 feet; the upper section of these pits is about 5' by 2' 6". The bottom section somewhat larger.

The locusts soon after hatching commence moving, are stopped by the screens, and driven into the pits. This method of destruction is only effective when the locusts are quite young, as when from a month to six weeks old they are able to jump over the screens. In this district last year, about 960 of these pits were dug, and many thousand locusts destroyed.

With a view of wiping out the locust pest as much as possible for the year 1881, orders were given by his Excellency that every able-bodied man throughout the island was to be assessed to contribute a receipt for eight okes of locust eggs, zaptiehs, soldiers, and people in military employ excepted. Every official and alien resident in Cyprus was to furnish his quota. To encourage the collection of eggs at the commencement, for every seven okes of eggs brought in before the 1st of November credit was given by adding one-seventh, so as to render the receipt equivalent to an eight-okes receipt, after which date nothing was credited, and, for a single receipt of eight okes, eight okes of eggs had to be brought in.

Toward the end of last July, a Commission was formed under the presidency of the Assistant Commissioner, four of the leading gentlemen of Nicosia, Fuad and Naili Effendis, and Messrs. Shakalli and Liassidis, voluntarily sat as members of the Commission; each member was on duty for a week, and superintended the work in the town of Nicosia, which had been selected as one of the depôts where eggs had to be collected and destroyed. Many of the leading merchants of the town entered into the business as speculation, and greatly aided the Government thereby; they purchased large numbers of receipts from the villagers who had brought in the eggs to the konak, the eggs were carefully sifted and then weighed in the presence of a member of the Commission, and receipts given in exchange; each receipt was for seven okes or a multiple of seven; the eggs were stored in the konak, and every Saturday they were again weighed, and buried in a deep pit with quick-lime, in the presence of the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner and the member of the Commission on duty for the week. The market prices of the receipts fluctuated considerably, varying from 3s. to 10s. per receipt of seven okes; after a little time the average value settled down to 4s. 6d. to 5s. per receipt. In this district the actual number of men assessed was 12,955 (—okes 103,640), the actual number of receipts brought in was 9,080 (—okes 72,640), which left 3,875 persons (—okes 31,000), who had not paid their quota on the 31st December 1880.

All the better class have paid their quota, and I believe that the district was over-assessed, as I have found, from personal enquiry in certain villages, that in some cases men had left the country, others were zaptiehs and therefore exempt, others dead, and still they were included in the assessment which was made by the Local Commission appointed for this purpose. Such assessments will be much simplified in future, as a proper census will be taken this year.

Nicosia was named as one of the depôts for the collection and destruction of eggs; up to the 31st December 1880 the total quantity of eggs destroyed in Nicosia was 138,490 okes, a number considerably in excess of the total assessment of the entire district, but the merchants bought the receipts and sent them for sale in other districts where locusts do to exist. The above high figure does not represent what has been collected in this district,

as very great numbers of eggs were brought in by the inhabitants of the bordering districts of Kyrenia and Famagusta; the former district was not a depôt of collection, and it was nearer for the inhabitants of the latter in some cases to bring their eggs to Nicosia than to take them to their own capital.

This enormous destruction of eggs cannot but be beneficial to the island, and it has been carried out at a comparatively small outlay; at the same time the number of eggs deposited annually by each female locust is so great that, unless the destruction be carried out annually, the pest would soon make headway.

The more cultivation there is, the less will be the number of locusts; not that the eggs are not deposited on cultivated ground, but the mere fact of ploughing the land and exposing the eggs to the air is sufficient for their destruction.

LAW AND JUSTICE.

Since last year a Deputy Commissioner has been appointed in this district for judicial duties. He is magistrate of the town and holds a magistrate's court every morning, and disposes of petty cases of assault, drunkenness, and other minor offences; this relieves the Daavi Court of a considerable amount of work which formerly came before it.

The Daavi Court is comprised of the Cadi and same three members as last year. The Deputy Commissioner generally is present at its sittings, and always in cases of any importance.

The public generally are satisfied with its rectitude, and are assured of obtaining justice.

The tables, as furnished by the Deputy Commissioner, show the amount of work done by the Court during the past year.

The District Mejlis Idaré was until lately composed of five members, the Cadi Mudir of Nicosia, Malmudir, and two unofficial members; quite lately one of the latter died. The Commissioner sits as president; its duties are administrative, and the principal function is to fix annually the price of all titheable produce; it also deals with the assessment of lands, &c., required for public purposes.

MALMUDIR.

Keeps the accounts of the district. I think it will be found shortly that the office is superfluous, and that the accounts can be kept entirely in the office of the Inland Treasurer, who is also treasurer for the district of Nicosia.

TAPOU OFFICE.

There is a clerk in this department specially for the registration of all sale of lands in the district of Nicosia; and his duties are to see that everything is done according to law; this department has of late been brought immediately under the control of the Director of Survey, and the sales of land have therefore been properly supervised.

VAKUAT OFFICE.

There are four clerks in this department for the district of Nicosia. Their duties are to register the values of land and property, and keep books of all the valuation and the Askerieh books; from their registration the assessment of Verghi or property tax, Askerieh, military exemption tax, &c., are made. This department much to its efficiency, has of late been placed under the order of the Director of Survey.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

There is a Collector of Customs at Nicosia, and one at Lefka; they collect all Customs and Excise revenue, and pay the same into the Treasury. The Customs officer also collects the Roosomat tax or animal measuring and weighing taxes; the latter is granted to the municipality. These officials take their orders from the Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca, which are conveyed through the Commissioner.

POLICE.

The local commandant has sent in his re-

port on the police of this district to the Chief Commandant, Military Police. On the whole the zaptiehs have performed their duties well, and belong to a superior class of natives more especially the mounted zaptiehs.

The report on the central prison has also been sent to the Chief Commandant, Military Police.

CATTLE PLAGUE.

Early in the year the pest made its first appearance in this district; it was brought to a village close to the gates of Nicosia by a merchant who removed his cattle from Larnaca on the disease breaking out in that part.

The plague lasted with more or less violence during seven months, and was not fairly stamped out of the district until the month of August.

Every village or locality where the disease showed itself was at once placed in strict quarantine, and one or more zaptiehs stationed at the village, and others at the neighbouring villages, to prevent all communication with the infected area; animals that died of the disease were buried in quick-lime, and, as it was found that dogs were a sure means of conveying the contagion, they were ordered to be tied up, and if their owners did not comply with this order dogs found loose were shot.

For some months the absolute movement of all cattle throughout the district was prohibited, and no cattle allowed to pass from one village to another.

An ordinance was passed in Council which gave certain powers, and fixed penalties varying from 5l. to 20l. for breach of the law, according to the degree and nature of the offence.

It was absolutely necessary that the penalties should be severe and enforced, as some evil-disposed persons made a trade of the disease, and on hearing of its outbreak in some particular locality would purchase from the owners their oxen at very low prices, and carry them off to some other part of the island.

Zaptieh patrols and vedettes were stationed along the line of frontier of adjoining districts, but they could be evaded at night in an open country such as extends from Morphou Bay to Famagusta.

The following table shows the approximate total number of animals in the district and the number that died of disease. The disease was much more virulent in the Nicosia nahieh than in the others.

Nicosia. Number of oxen about 2,100. Died of disease—150			
Dagh.	"	2,000.	" 85
Morphou,	"	3,400.	" 32
Lefka.	"	2,800.	" 25

Total - 9,800 Total Died 151

PUBLIC WORKS.

The principal public work in this district was the improvement of a road between Nicosia and Lefka, the distance is about 34 miles, and the road is taken by the large village of Peristerona and opens out several other large villages.

The road is not metalled, but what is usually termed a fair weather road, and was only the improvement of the old country track; carts can now with ease pass from Nicosia to Lefka, which formerly was almost impossible. Considering the very heavy rains that have fallen during the past three months, the road has borne the trial well; it has been considerably cut up in some places by the mountain torrents, but the only remedy to prevent this is by the torrents being bridged.

The main road from Nicosia to Larnaca has also been greatly improved, and macadamised throughout the greater part.

The other public work in the district have been more of a nature of petty repairs to buildings and offices, on which I have no remarks to make.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Tithes form the principal source of revenue.

and they vary considerably according to the amount of rainfall from October to January, which, if plentiful and followed by a little during the month of March, a good harvest and corresponding good revenue is assured.

The attached return shows a comparison of the tithe revenue of 1880-81, as compared with that of 1879-80.

The soil in the neighbourhood of Nicosia and Morphou, and some of the valleys of the southern range of mountains, such as Dali, produce the best cereals; near to Kythria irrigation is constant and plentiful, and the soil rich.

The rights to the different supplies of water are intricate, but are in a much more satisfactory state than was the case at the time of the occupation, and now one seldom hears of bitter disputes on the titles of water, most having been adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties.

Water is everything to the Cypriot, as, excepting in Lefka nahieh and at Kythria, there are no constant springs of any moment which can be turned to the purposes of irrigation, and the people depend mainly on the rain, which, when heavy, brings down the water from hills by rivers which are usually dry beds. Channels conduct the water from these rivers to irrigate the neighbouring lands.

The Moslems, on conquering the island some 300 years ago, took for themselves the most favoured spots, and established certain rights and claims to water; in so acting they did but follow the right of conquest, but since the British occupation much litigation has resulted therefrom.

During the winter of 1879-80 considerable quantities of rain fell in certain parts of the district, whilst in others very little fell. Morphou, Dagh, and Lefka, were the most favoured and their crops have been fairly good.

A quantity of seed corn was imported owing to the partial failure of the year before; this seed corn was issued to the poorer villagers, repayment in money to be made within 12 months of the date of issue. Seed corn to the value of 1,770*l*, was issued in this district, and there remains only about 35*l* unpaid. It was a great boon to the people after a bad year, and the result has been satisfactory.

Last winter, of 1879-80, was one of great severity, and much snow fell even in the plains, and a large number of sheep died of the cold.

This winter, on the contrary, has been very mild, and, commencing from November, an unusual quantity of rain has fallen, and we may now confidently hope for a magnificent harvest; the people themselves say that, happen what will, sure and abundant crops must be.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly, but I should say that at least double as much land has been cultivated this year as was last.

During the past year his Excellency was pleased to direct that the tithe on a number of articles of Cyprus produce was to be taken on exportation. This had been a great boon to the people, as the articles were such as are principally for household consumption; the people generally have expressed their satisfaction, and in some cases in writing, notably in the nahieh of Lefka.

The principal source of revenue after the tithes are the taxes: Verghi, or property tax, Bedel Askerieh, or military exception tax, and Temetu, or trade tax. His Excellency has also directed that the latter tax be not levied on day labourers or tradesmen who receive daily wage, but only on those who keep shops; this also has been a great boon to the poorer classes.

Mules, principally, are employed in this district as beasts of burden and means of transport; they are strong and well bred, though not of large size. The average height is not much over 13 hands, and girth under 60 inches. From their breeding and powers of endurance they are well suited for commissariat purposes, but are, as a rule, hardly big enough for mountain artillery. Camels also are used in the plains as beasts of burden.

The oxen are, generally speaking, of inferior class, they are principally used for agricultural purposes, and it is seldom that one meets with carts drawn by oxen, excepting near the large towns.

In the mountain districts, more especially in the neighbourhood of Kikko Monastery, there remain a few herds of the Moufflon, or wild sheep, and of late it has been reported to me that in the forest below Kikko there is a herd of about 100 wild pigs. I have not yet seen this herd. There are plenty of red-legged partridges, but they have a hard time of it, great destruction being caused by the shepherds collecting their eggs during the breeding season.

Woodcock and snipe are to be found in considerable numbers from December to February,

especially during a hard winter, such as that of 1879-80.

The close season is from 15th February to the 31st July, I think the dates might be advantageously altered to—from 15th January to 15th August. The birds begin to pair early in Cyprus.

In conclusion, I venture to remark that I have travelled much in almost every part of my district and have never come across any real case of poverty or distress.

The poorer labouring classes and agriculturists are, as a rule, well clad and housed, and have a sufficiency of bread.

I beg to attach Report of District Medical Officer.

(Signed) R. GORDON, Major,
Commissioner of Nicosia.

CONSERVATISM IN ENGLAND.

The new number of the "Fortnightly Review" contains an article by Mr. Alfred Frisby giving an affirmative reply to the question, Has Conservatism increased in England since the last Reform Bill? Figures being distasteful to the general reader, we propose here merely to give the results arrived at in the paper, together with a few remarks on the real lesson to be derived from them. We are not told why the inquiry is limited to England and Wales; but there is no difficulty in guessing that the reason lies in the fact that in the cases of Scotland and Ireland there are not sufficient materials for the investigation. Out of the 60 members for Scotland only constituencies returning 19 were contested by Liberals and Conservatives in both 1868 and 1880, and in Ireland the disturbing element of Home Rule has arisen between the two periods. On the other hand, out of the 493 members for England and Wales, constituencies returning no fewer than 304 were contested by Liberals and Conservatives in both 1868 and 1880.

For the purposes of the inquiry the constituencies have been divided into five classes. Those having fewer than 1500 registered electors in 1880 are grouped together in the first, and are called "very small" constituencies. Those having between 1,500 and 7,500 registered electors are called "small" those having between 7,500 and 12,500 are called "moderate-sized," those having between 12,500 and 17,500 are called "large," and the remainder, those having over 17,500, are called "very large." The reason why 5,000 was chosen as the interval by which these groups in all cases after the first differ from each other is because there were, in round numbers, 2,500,000 registered electors in England and Wales in 1880, and as they had 493 members allotted to them, each member represented on an average about 5,000 voters. It may also be noticed in passing that the extent of the electorate, and not of the population, is taken as the standard. This is as it should be, for on the fallacious theory that members represent indirectly non-electors as well as electors, there would have been no need for Reform Bills extending the franchise.

We have been at the pains to throw into a different, and, we think, a more generally intelligible, form the conclusions which are arrived at in detail in the paper. In the following table are given the increases per cent of the Liberal and Conservative voters between 1868 and 1880, and their significance is at once apparent:—

	Liberal Increase.	Conservative Increase.
Very small constituencies	16.5	15.2
Small constituencies	30.6	21.8
Moderate-sized constituencies	29.4	13.3
Large constituencies	41.1	22.1
Very large constituencies	27.3	68.7

It is clear from the most cursory glance at the above figures that in all classes of the constituencies, except the very large, the Liberals have been adding to their strength since 1868 in a greater ratio than the Conservatives; but that in the group which is by far the most important from every point of view the Conservatives have been advancing by leaps and bounds, as compared with their rivals. So much, indeed, have they advanced that, in spite of their relative falling back elsewhere, the net result of the summary given shows that while the Liberals have added 29 per cent. their strength, the Conservatives have increased by no less than 38 per cent. As both Liberals and Conservatives derive about half their voting strength from the very large constituencies, it is difficult to exaggerate the significance of the result.

What is the practical lesson which the writer designs? It is this: That the irregularities and anomalies arising out of our present system of representation are so many and so gross that before extending the franchise in the counties, or at all events simultaneously with that act of political justice, it is imperatively necessary that the question of how to remedy them should be seriously considered, and, if possible, satisfactorily answered. Otherwise we shall run the risk, and no improbable one, of having either Liberals or Conservatives at some future general election entirely swamped as compared with their strength in the country. Either contingency is to be equally deprecated, for

nothing can tend more to political stability and a feeling of confidence in the decisions of the House of Commons than the knowledge that the two parties will be therein fairly represented. It has been shown conclusively that it is very doubtful whether the Conservatives really had any majority in the general election of 1874, and it is certain that they were very much over-represented in the House of Commons, and yet they continued in office for six years and entirely overrode the real wishes of the constituencies. The result was seen in the strikingly dramatic defeat with which they met in 1880—a defeat which, although not in reality so severe as in 1868, was yet a very sufficiently overwhelming one.

The following summary gives the results, for the details of which we must refer those who are interested to the paper itself.

LIBERAL.				
	1868.		1880.	
	Members.	Voters.	Members.	Voters.
Very small constituencies	13	14,184	17	16,518
Small constituencies	86	112,626	88	147,069
Moderate-sized constituencies	24	96,000	31	124,266
Large constituencies	5	48,193	4	60,956
Very large constituencies	45	237,224	43	365,770
Totals	173	558,227	190	714,579

CONSERVATIVE.				
	1868.		1880.	
	Members.	Voters.	Members.	Voters.
Very small constituencies	24	15,052	20	17,243
Small constituencies	41	165,411	39	128,539
Moderate-sized constituencies	24	100,350	27	113,658
Large constituencies	15	46,532	9	56,797
Very large constituencies	17	172,518	19	290,966
Totals	131	439,863	114	607,303

It may be mentioned that the remaining 185 members (four seats being vacant), the constituencies returning whom were not contested in both 1868 and 1880, were composed in 1868 of ninety-one Liberals and ninety-four Conservatives.

There is one very important observation to be made upon the whole calculation—namely, that the writer has overlooked the difference in definition between a Conservative in 1868 and a Conservative in 1880. In other words, voters who were Liberal in 1868 are Conservative in 1880, because the things which they wished to be done at the earlier date have been done. The Conservatism of the later date does not stand for the same set of political wishes, principles, and aspirations as the voting force called by the same in 1868. In the same issues had been submitted last year as were submitted thirteen years ago, what would the result of Mr. Frisby's calculations come to then? As the issues were entirely different, the computation can be really hardly depended on as a true and substantial measure of the force and direction of the movement of political opinion.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN M.P. ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Speaking on the above subject the other day when dining with the Carpenters Company, the president of the Board of Trade said that it had developed in to great municipal corporations, and upon it the welfare and happiness of the people greatly depended. Nothing was of more importance than the perfecting of our local institutions, and it was absolutely impossible that any central government could efficiently attend to local affairs. That could only be done by those upon the spot, who knew what local necessities and means were. Passing to the question of municipal reform, Mr. Chamberlain confessed that he sometimes felt humiliated when thought that the metropolis, the greatest city in the world, the most intelligent, the most wealthy, and the most populous was alone without the organized popular representative government which was enjoyed and so highly prized by every other city of importance, not only in England but in Europe and in the States of America. Mr. Chamberlain believed the opposition of those interested in maintaining things as they are would be stubborn. If would not suffice, however, to stay the advance of the reforming tide, which would assuredly sweep away both the bad citizens and the institutions they defended.

CYPRUS.

Saturday Dec. 17th. 1881.

A period of calm has commenced with us. We hope that the new era now begun will be taken advantage of by the Government to practise the good disposition it shews towards the Island. The first essay—an essay of the people as well as of the Government—to come into *rapports* has been so satisfactory that it suffices to demonstrate the desirability of the Government walking side-by-side with the representatives of the country. Such a state of things will materially strengthen the Government, and, when sincerely accepted will procure for it at all times sure information as to public opinion, and as to general requirements. And thus we shall not be inflicted with erroneous notions, such as have lately appeared and from which the Government is the first to suffer. We think that, to-day, an opinion has been formed that the country is in a condition to present persons who possess sound sense, knowledge and patriotism to work in accord with the Government to the common benefit. There are no radical opinions held here; they are abjured by the natives, who have a very fair conception of the relative positions of the government and the people. This is a very healthy sign, and one which only future errors on the part of the authorities could alter and give a worse direction. We are, however, convinced that all the efforts made to arrive at the present position will not be lost by a one-sided party.

Local Notes.

We are obliged this week, in consequence of want of larger paper, to print this issue at its present size.

We have been favoured with the following statistics from the Chief Secretary's office:—The collection of Locusts eggs up to the end of October has amounted to 709,387 okes; that of November has been 188,073 okes: total 897,460 okes. The expenditure consequent on collection has been £9,332.10.0

Mr. Watkins, manager of the Ottoman Bank here has been appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council of the Island to occupy one of the two posts vacant and which are filled by Christian members. We congratulate the Government on its excellent selection. Mr. Watkins has been resident a long time on the Island, and is conversant with its language and wants and we are sure he will always conserve native interests. Of course the appointment is provisional as a new legislative body will be elected in a few months; in the meantime the present Council will pass certain enactments which have been drafted.

We have received a new and accurate map of the Island published in London by Messrs. Bacon of the Strand.

The Temyiz Court of Nicosia has condemned the man who recently while drunk, abbed fatally a comrade at the village of Ashia in the Messoreia district to 15 years' imprisonment with hard labour. The same Court is occupied with a case of another murder perpetrated in the Papho district. Three Turks are accused of being concerned in the crime. The Court at the request of the defence deferred the proceedings until further evidence was obtained from the district.

Rain is greatly wanted. The first few showers that have fallen whilst satisfactory in themselves require to be followed by rain to aid the growing crop. There are, however, signs of a downfall. Cyprus needs only plenty of water and if it only has that this year and the promised reforms are realized a period of prosperity for the Island under the new rule may be looked for.

A fine Phœnician inscription on marble has just arrived at the British Museum from Cyprus.

We hear that the "Larnaca Musical Society" held its meeting last Tuesday evening at the house of Mr. W. Thayer.

As it was strictly confidential to the members of the Society, we cannot give any account of the proceedings. We cannot help expressing our regret that by the present plan of the "Society" our fellow townsmen are debarred from participating in the pleasure of these weekly meetings. It strikes us that one very potent means of promoting cordiality and sympathetic feeling between the English settlers and the natives is thus neglected. In many other parts of the island it would perhaps be difficult thus to bring the two communities together, but in Larnaca, where most of the better class are certainly much more advanced in sociability, we see no reason why our English occupiers should not sacrifice a little of their "darling exclusiveness" for the good and enlightenment of the country they occupy.

Any one observing the work of our present Police Force, must be fully aware that since its amalgamation with the "Pioneers" under the able command of Colonel Gordon, it has become a most important, and at the same time the hardest-worked branch of the Government of Cyprus. We might also add that it is the worst paid. In most branches of Government service the salary is varied according to the importance of the position and the amount of work required, but in the Police there is one fixed rate of payment, so that, though the Police in the Larnaca district has evidently no inconsiderable share of work, and its responsibility is moreover increased by the number of strangers passing to and fro, through the port, yet its officers receive no higher rate of remuneration than those of the other divisions of the force where the work is comparatively unimportant.

Speaking generally of the Police Officials, with the exception of the local Commandants, their salaries are decidedly small. We hope, however, that, in the arrangements meditated, their services may be recognized at their true value, and that some of the crumbs saved from the superfluities in other branches of the administration, may fall to the share of these guardians of the peace.

"EXPERIENTIA DOCET."

TO THE EDITOR OF CYPRUS.

Sir,
In continuation of the letter which appeared in your last I find noted in my file of the "Times" the following paragraph—the remarks of Mr. Hunter, C. I. E., Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India, "I shall ask your attention in the present lecture to two of the saddest and most fundamental problems with which a state can be called to deal, namely the poverty of the people, and the alleged inability of the Government to pay our way." Is not this the present saddening position of things in Cyprus? He proceeds to say that "if the British nation had realized the poverty of India, it would have refrained from several acts which now form standing reproaches against England in the native Press." And look at the next sentence. It runs "Fortunately for the national honour, the list of our injustices to India, although sufficiently painful to all who wish to see this country discharge its great duties in a noble spirit, is not a very long one. But under pressure of party exigencies and class interests in England, that list may at any moment be added to." These are strong words—too strong if applied to Cyprus—but we find them used by an English official of high rank concerning colonial government in another part of the East. There is, indeed, little in what Mr. Hunter said which is not as applicable to Cyprus as to India. "Alike under Mogul and British rule, we see a population of small husbandmen, contending, without any reserve of capital against the chances and misfortunes of the tropical year." In 1879 a Government Commission was appointed to inquire into a number of questions concerning Indian affairs, and their report "will ever remain a monument of noble intention, able discussion of principles, and honest statement of the facts." There occurs a passage in the report which it occurs to me is rather striking and worth of quotation. It deals with a question to which a good deal of attention is being directed now. The principle is enunciated that "the land of a country belongs to the people of a country; and while vested rights should be treated with all possible tenderness, no mode of appropriation and cultivation should be permanently allowed by the ruler which involves the wretchedness of the great majority of the people, if the alteration or amendment of the law relating to land can by itself, or in conjunction with other measures obviate or remedy the misfortune." "In both countries (Bengal and Ireland) a state of things has grown up under British rule which seems unbearable to a section of the people. In both countries, I believe that the peasantry will more or less completely

gain the day, for in both the state of things of which they complain is repugnant to the awakened conscience of the British nation." The last sentence is Mr. Hunter's and it is evident that he is no shirker of facts. He indeed speaks too strongly. We in Cyprus recognize the Government as enlightened as compared with the past but as lacking adaptability.

I have only to add that, on the same day on which Mr. Hunter addressed his Edinburgh audience, Major Daring, Finance Minister of India, received a deputation to which he remarked:—"I will only, on this point, observe that the tendency, and as I think the very wise tendency of recent legislation in India is to give the local taxpaying community a voice both as to the means by which local funds may most advantageously be raised and as to the manner in which they should be expended."

I remain, Sir, etc

A GOOD HATER OF NEPOTISM.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

I observe that the "Cyprus Herald" impugns the accuracy of some information published by you in a recent issue. I am aware that your young contemporary has for one of its vocations the worthy aim of elevating the tone of journalism on the Island; and I should be exceedingly sorry if "Eatanswill" notions of the amenities of newspaper conduct arose between you. I think it more than likely that the "Cyprus Herald" has been better informed than your Nicosia correspondent. The fault lies in the fact of the difficulty of obtaining official accurate news, or indeed news at all. I wished the other day to obtain some to send to England. The subject was not an important one, and would hardly affect public interests. I applied to what I believe to be the right source and was received with a good deal of politeness. On my stating the object of my calling, however, the gentleman I had the honour of addressing seemed rather embarrassed and hitched nervously on his chair. He remarked he should be glad to put me in possession of information that might be useful to me, but he did not proceed to impart it. After a great deal of beating about the bush he said "there was some delicacy about imparting official news." And he added apparently greatly relieved at my rising to go "It is all nonsense you know," in which remark I most cordially concurred. In point of fact, I believe the same view is held by each official, individually, and that only some crude, obsolete idea is at work which a little time will satisfactorily eradicate from our system of Government.

May not we be enlightened in regard to our own affairs except through dusty blue-books and official gazettes and semi-official opinion? Is it not fair that expression of conflicting opinion may be allowed us? Is it not in great measure by acceding to wishes like these that the English nation has reached its present exalted position among nations? Or has it been obtained by vigilant supervision of the press, and attempts at suppression of national ideas?

If I determine its aspects rightly the "Cyprus Herald" is a semi-official organ; an organ to which information would be acceded whereas it would not be allowed to the vulgar herd of persons. That may account for its presence in regard of the Nicosia affair.

Yours faithfully,

X.

LIMASSOL NEWS.

Dec. 16th, 1881.

The body of the Maltese who was drowned near Episcopi last week, was found on Wednesday morning and buried the same day in the catholic cemetery here.

The French cruiser "Voltigeur" arrived in our roadstead from Larnaca on Tuesday afternoon. She had on board Mr. Fairfield and the French Consul, Mr. de Castillon St. Victor and his family.

The "Voltigeur" was to have left this morning for Larnaca and Famagusta, but owing to rough weather was detained. The French consul could not embark on his return and will come back overland.

A dinner in honour of Mr. Fairfield and the Commandant of the "Voltigeur" was given by Mr. Mitchell, Commissioner, on Wednesday. A number of officers and others were present.

Col. Hackett, commanding the troops in the Limassol district, also entertained at lunch on Thursday, the Commandant of the "Voltigeur".

Mr. Fairfield, I hear, has visited the prisons, konak, and the other public offices here. A deputation of Limassol personages desired an interview with him. It was replied that he would be glad to receive them individually but he was unable to meet them as a deputation. A number of persons have, however, interviewed Mr. Fair-

field and have been very agreeably impressed by his kindness, and by the consideration for the interests of the country shown by Mr. Fairfield.

The officers of the "Voltigeur" were well received by the English officers stationed here. They were complimented by the band of the Royal Sussex Regiment playing the "Marsillaise" in Rosslyn Square where by the kindness of Col. Hackett and the officers of the Regiment one can on every Thursday from 3 to 5 hear good music and pass an agreeable afternoon.

A farewell dinner was given at the Union Club last night to Captain Ireland who is leaving on Sunday for Malta. Captain Ireland has been in Cyprus for the last three years and his departure will be regretted by everyone.

The weather which lately has been like summer has suddenly become very windy and clouds portend rain. The rain will be very acceptable.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the 15th instant has been fixed as the date from which, inclusive, the new tariff of stamp duties as printed below will be in force. From that date every cheque of whatsoever value, and every receipt for any sum of £1 or upwards, shall be chargeable with a stamp of one piastre.

All Petitions must bear a stamp or stamps of the value of two piastres.

Up to the 15th January, but not later, unused stamps and stamped paper of the values of 1d, 2d, 3d, and 2½d will be taken in exchange for new stamps of the same aggregate value.

(By Order)

FALK. WARREN,

Chief Secretary to Government.

NICOSIA, 8th December, 1881.

		Value of Stamp.	
		£	£ s. d.
For sums of	1 to	12	0 0 1
For sums above	12	25	0 0 2
"	25	40	0 0 3
"	40	60	0 0 4
"	60	80	0 0 6
"	80	100	0 0 1
"	100	150	0 1 4
"	150	200	0 2 0
"	200	300	0 3 0
"	300	400	0 4 0
"	400	500	0 5 0
"	500	750	0 7 4
"	750	1000	0 10 0
"	1000	1500	0 15 0
"	1500	2000	1 0 0
"	2000	3000	1 10 0
"	3000	4000	2 0 0
"	4000	5000	2 10 0
"	5000	7500	3 15 0
"	7500	10000	5 0 0
"	10000	15000	7 10 0
"	15000	20000	10 0 0
"	20000	30000	15 0 0
"	30000	40000	20 0 0
"	40000	50000	25 0 0

And so on adding 10/- duty on every £1,000 or part of £1,000.

For every fixed Stamp in use since the 1st day of February 1879, if of the value of 1 penny, 1 copper piastre; if of the value of 2 pence, 2 copper piastres; if of greater value, 1½ copper piastres for every 2 pence.

Occasional Notes.

Mr. C. A. Cookson, Consul at Alexandria, has been appointed to the Companion of the Bath.

The Prussian Government, though officially informed by England of the death of the late Bishop Barelay of Jerusalem, has not yet done anything positive in the way of exercising its alternate right of filling the vacant episcopal post. The "Times" correspondent says that "the friends of freedom and order half-seriously suggest that there Stocker, the notorious Jew-baiting Court chaplain, should be invested with the office, ostensibly as a well-earned reward, but really as a just punishment."

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, addressing his constituents the other day at Carlisle said, speaking on the question of Ireland. "He did not see any argument in the way the leaders and everybody else

dealt with this question; they got up and talked about Ireland, and said they would do so and so but there was one thing could never be allowed, and that was the disintegration of the Empire—and a five-syllabled word allways, "fetches" John Bull—and yet we had been disintegrated over and over again and it had done us a great deal of good. Once upon a time we ruled America, but the Americans did not wish us to rule them any more, and we were disintegrated. Calais once belonged to England, but we were disintegrated; we gave up the Ionian islands because the people wanted to join Greece, and only the other day we gave up the Transvaal and were disintegrated there. He was convinced of this, that hating the rule of the country which governs is not a source of strength but of weakness."

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

December,		
" 12th	'Hilane' Ottoman	52 tons from Chilandrya goat skins and general.
" "	'Salimi' Ottoman	38 tons from Port Said, ballast.
" "	'Evarista' Italian brig	225 tons from Alexandria in ballast.
" 15th	'Maria' Ottoman	20 tons from Limassol, General cargo.
" "	'Katam Her' Cypriot	55 tons from Limassol, petroleum.
" 16th	'Adelphi Gistachis' Greek barque	396 tons from Piræus in ballast.

Outwards.

December,		
" 13th	'Salamè' Ottoman for Famagusta	in ballast.
" "	'Evarista' Italian for Alexandria	do.
" "	'The Queen' British revenue cutter	for Famagusta.
" "	'Vultigeur' French Gun vessel	for Limassol.
" 16th	'St. Maria, Ottoman for Beyrout	general cargo.

LIVERPOOL AND THE EAST. PAPAYANNI & CO'S STEAMERS. LINE OF FIRST CLASS

BRITISH SCREW STEAMERS.

These first class screw steamers run regularly between Liverpool, Malta, Alexandria, Larnaca and the Syrian coast; they carry a stewardess and have splendid accommodation for passengers.

The "Ayia Sophia" left Liverpool on the 28th Nov. for Malta, Beyrout, Larnaca, Alexandretta and Alexandria, and is due at Larnaca on or about the 21st. inst.

The "Laconia" was advertised to leave Liverpool for Larnaca on the 10th Dec.

NOTICE.

DIRECT SHIPMENT TO CYPRUS

A fast-sailing vessel will be dispatched from London on, or about, Feb. 1st, 1882 for Larnaca and Limassol direct, taking cargo at through rates for all parts of the Island. For freight, passage, etc. apply to

Messrs. Warre, Curtis and Co.,
Strand,

LARNACA.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

CHARLES SAMMUT SMITH

No. 214, Saint George Street
LIMASSOL.
DEPOT OF

GENERAL ENGLISH GROCERY

Spirits, Woodhouse's Best Marsala Wine,
Draught Bass' Ale & Guinness' Stout
in 18 gallon Casks,
Richmond Mixture, Habana and
Virginia Cigars.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
Very reasonable terms.

NICOSIA.

PONY EXPRESS.
Livery and Bait Stables.
Near Larnaca Gate.
NICOSIA.

Saddle Horses and a Dog Cart to be let on
Hire by Day or Month.

A Night Groom Kept.

Proprietor, H. T. COMMELENE,
Late Pony Express.

ALBERT HOTEL

NICOSIA.

Proprietor:

Mr. JOHN SOLOMIDES.

THIS Establishment is now under
entirely new management, and has
just been re-decorated at great ex-
pense. Tourists and travellers will
find every accommodation.

Table d'hôte daily at 12.30 and
7.30 p.m.

Charges extremely moderate. Guides
horses and mules supplied for the con-
veyance of travellers.

G. CARUANA.

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The above has just imported a use-
ful, English-made and varied assort-
ment of CROCKERY and EARTHENWARE;
a large supply of the best PERSIAN TUM-
BLERS, PORTLAND CEMENT and SPORTING
and BLASTING POWDER of superior
quality.

PRICES VERY REASONABLE.

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PILLS & OINTMENT.

THE Troops in Cyprus will find HOLLOWAY'S PILLS
invaluable to them if taken in such doses as will
act gently on the system—once or twice in the day.
They correct all disorders of the liver and stomach.
In cases of weakness and debility, they are priceless.
The late Col. Sir JAMES DENNY, of the 3rd Buffs
many years ago, and on the day of his arrival in
London with his gallant regiment from India, called
to see Mr. Holloway and said that he considered he
was indebted for his excellent health whilst there,
to the use of his Pills. Col. Denny afterwards lived
in Ireland, and frequently sent to Mr. Holloway for a
supply of his Pills.

THE OINTMENT will cure any Old Wound, Sore,
or Ulcer, and is famous in cases of Rheumatism.
The Pills and Ointment are sold at Professor Hol-
loway's Establishment, 538, Oxford Street, and by
nearly all Medicine Vendors throughout the civilized
world, in Boxes and Pots, each with directions for use
in almost every language. They may be procured in
LARNACA at the

ESCUAPUS PHARMACY

11, WATKINS STREET.

and of every Chemist in the Island

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MR. LIASSIDES begs to inform
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they will find at his stores a large
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ESTABLISHED IN 1856.
THE LEVANT HERALD is published daily on a
single broadsheet, of which the two external pages
are devoted to advertisements, and the inner pages, one
English and one French, to general news. The daily
edition of the *Levant Herald* has the character of a ge-
neral newspaper, and is intended for readers in the
East.

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

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

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provincial correspondence, reviews of the Turkish
press, sketches of Eastern life, and much extractable
matter which renders it of great utility to the Editors
of Country papers, to whom it is confidently recom-
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THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget will be sent
post free to any part of the United Kingdom on the
following terms: Three months, 15s; Six months, 25s.6d.
Twelve months 42s. Cheques and post office orders to
be made payable to E. B. A. WHITAKER, Constantinople.

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget may be or-
dered of any bookseller or News Agent in the United
Kingdom or of Messrs. George Street & Co., 30 Cornhill,
London the Agents for the paper.

Subscriptions and advertisements are received at
the Office of *Cyprus* for the *Levant Herald*.

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From Alexandria on the arrival of the
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Tuesday at daylight.

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to and from the above ports, and goods
at through rates to all ports of Europe,
Syrian Coast, Asia Minor, and Egypt.

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The proprietor, Mr. Liassides, sup-
plies also special conveyances for
Nikosia, Larnaca, Famagousta, Ky-
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be hired either in Nikosia or Larnaca.

For particulars and tickets apply at
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CYPRUS.

The above Firm's agent for Nicosia Mr. Mon-
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on hand, the Offices and Stores are situated near
the Post Office the premises lately occupied by
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Henry S. King & Co. have lately received
Consignments consisting of Fine old Dublin Whis-
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Dunville's V. R. Old Irish Whisky
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Guinness-Stout bottled by Burke
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Webb and Son do do
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A Stock of the above fresh from England con-
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Olive Oil, Marmalade, Cheese, Raisins, Figs,
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A various assortment from James Collins & Co.
Holston and Co's Paints in all Colors
Foulger and Co do do
Washing Soda Gouids
Tents to hold 2 people very light and useful.
Patent beds fitting into cases for Transport.
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Sheet zinc, Hurricane Lanterns, Knife boards
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NOTICE.

Purchasers of Goods will kindly understand
that after the last day of the present year all cur-
rent accounts must be settled at the end of each
month. If outstanding after that date the rate
of interest current in the Island will be charged
until the account is paid, unless otherwise spe-
cially arranged.

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