

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 feature in the new conduct of the paper will be a desire to render it an organ for the expression of public opinion. To this end letters on subjects connected with the interests of the Island will always command attention, and when free from personal allusion, will have publication. The Editor cannot, however, hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed, and will not undertake the return of rejected manuscripts.

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"Cyprus" can be purchased in Nicosia, at the New Albert Hotel, and in Larnaca at the Office of the Newspaper.

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

PRINTING.

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

Chief Intelligence of the Week.

(From the "Overland Mail").

The Cabinet meets again on Dec. 15. The Queen goes to Osborne on Dec. 17.

General Sir F. S. Roberts was entertained at a dinner at the East India United Service Club on Dec. 7, the Marquis of Hartington presiding.

Sir Frederick, on Dec. 9, was present at a banquet given by the Fishmongers' Company, and was presented with a gold casket containing the freedom of the guild.

Mr. Goschen left Constantinople on Dec. 8, for London, *via* Brindisi. He is expected in England on Dec. 18.

Several political speeches have been delivered during the week, amongst the speakers being Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, the new Secretary to the Admiralty; Mr. Shaw-Lefevre; Mr. E. Stanhope; and Col. Stanley.

An application to the Dublin Court of Queen's Bench to have the trial of the Land Leaguers postponed to Jan. 25 has been refused.

Mr. Paenell has delivered another denunciatory speech, in which he announced that the Land Leaguers "will work by constitutional means so long as it suits them to do so."

Another dreadful murder has been committed in Ireland, a bailiff having been deliberately shot through the heart.

The applications for the three and a half millions of the new India Three and a half per Cent. Loan amounted to fourteen and a half millions.

The eighty-third Cattle Show of the Smithfield Club has been held this week at the Agricultural Hall. The prize beast of the show is Mr. Colman's three and half year old steer, which carries off the maximum premium of 220l. Altogether Mr. Colman wins thirteen prizes worth 370l.

The international fleets assembled at Catara have dispersed. The Ottoman troops continue to hold San Giorgio.

The Porte, it is said, is disposed to make concessions with a view to the settlement of the Gaeck question. Greece, however, at present, does not display the same conciliatory spirit.

A Ministerial crisis is said to be imminent at Vienna. Further shocks of earthquake have been felt at Agram.

The session of the United States Congress

was opened on Dec. 6 by the reading of President Hayes's message.

A disastrous subsidence of land has occurred in the salt district of Cheshire.

The Bank of England rate of discount has been raised from 2½ to 3 per cent.

Amongst the deaths recorded this week are:—Sir J. W. Colville; Sir C. E. B. Kennedy; Dr. Cotton; and Mr. J. F. Stanford.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette", 19th Dec.)

According to the *Standard*, the Khedive, accompanied by Mr. de Lesseps, will make a detailed inspection of the Suez Canal in the course of next month.

Our Community will be pleased to learn that there is no truth in the rumour that Mr. Mallet will be appointed British Minister at Stockholm. It is satisfactory to know that for the present, at any rate, there is no intention on the part of H. M.'s Government to make any change in the person of their able representative in Egypt.

The judicial members of the International Commission have been formed into a sub-committee to draw up a project of reform of the Tribunals which will probably be definite.

One meeting has already been held and several important decisions taken. As the details are generally, though imperfectly, public and tolerably freely discussed, it is, we think, to be regretted that the sub-commissioner has not thought it advisable to give the community, or at least the Auxiliary Commission, definite information as to what is taking place so that the points, as they arise, may be fairly considered.

This, at least, is the only way in which the full benefit of the Auxiliary Commission can be reaped.

And, in view of the importance of the matter, we have no doubt that Mr. Cookson will see fit to depart, in some slight degree, from that official reserve which is doubtless imposed upon him through a mistaken appreciation of its effect.

The Auxiliary British Commission on the International Tribunals comprising Judge Scott, Hills and Law, Mr. Charles Royle Barrister at Law, and Mr. E. D. Carver assembled yesterday at the British Consulate Alexandria. The Commission will hold a sitting every Friday until further notice.

A Joint Stock Company is being formed under the name of "The Alexandria Omnibus Company," for the purpose of providing omnibus accommodation for this city. The Company is to be a Limited one in point of liability, and there are to be five lines of omnibus all converging on the Place Mehmed Ali. One line will run to the Alexandria Station of the Ramleh Railway, another to Roseta Gate, another to Moharrem Bey Gate and beyond, another to the Marina and a fifth to Minet-el-Bassal.

The celebrated tragedian, Mr. Ernest Rossi, will give a series of 12 representations at the Zizinia Theatre. The first performance will take place on 1st February 1881.

The Poste Khedivie steam ship *Ho-deida* encountered a heavy gale off Tripoli, in the course of which her sternpost was carried away, and other injuries were sustained.

The steam yacht *Pandora*, with the Right Honourable W. H. Smith and family on board, arrived at Alexandria on Monday after three days voyage from Beyroot, in the course of which she met with very heavy weather.

The party left for Cairo the same evening and returned last night. They leave to-day for Malta.

Col. Glover, Managing Director of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company, arrived here on Wednesday last, from Marseilles, by the *Fransinet* S. S. *Asia* and left the same evening by express for Cairo.

In view of the imminence of war between Greece and Turkey, it will be very unfortunate circumstances for Egyptian finance, should Egypt be called upon by the Sublime Porte to furnish its contingent of troops.

Count della Sala has been successful lately in making several seizures of slaves; the number thus released at one time is small, as the dealers are getting wary and introduce their contraband human merchandise in small quantities at a time, but a great step has been gained in thus discouraging these dealers. If only the Government would close the market by abolishing the legal status of slavery, this foul trade would be extirpated at once. We still cling to the hope that the step we advocate will be taken shortly.

THE NILE STEAMERS.

It is now upwards of eight years since Messrs. Cook and Son started their passenger steamers on the Nile. Previously to this epoch, the ordinary method of travelling on the most ancient and interesting of rivers, was by "Dahabeah." That this was and is a most luxurious mode of locomotion is well known. At the same time it is undoubtedly costly, and requires more leisure than most travellers are prepared to devote to this particular object. Consequently before Messrs. Cook's steam service was inaugurated the great majority of visitors to Egypt went away without ever having made the Nile voyage. This is now no longer the case. Thanks to aid of steam, the whole trip of the first catamaran and back can be effected in three weeks, and to the second catamaran in two weeks more. It is not therefore surprising if thousands of travellers take advantage of these facilities to complete their tour by a voyage to Upper Egypt.

The steamers which Messrs. Cook have hitherto been able to place at the service of the public have generally left somewhat to be desired. That this should have been so was inevitable. They belonged to the Government, were mostly old vessels, and had been allowed to fall much out of repair. The contracts which Messrs. Cook were able to make with the Government for their hire were too limited in point of time to justify the former in incurring any considerable expense in adapting the boats to the requirements of the service. Consequently the most that was done was to keep them so far in repair as to allow of their running without interruption. During the present year, however, Messrs. Cook have succeeded in renewing their contract for a period of ten years, and no time has been lost in taking advantage of the circumstances to put in order, we might almost say to reconstruct, their fleet of eight steamers.

A contributor to the "Egyptian Gazette" recently paid a visit to what might be called the dockyard at Boolack, with a view of observing the operations being carried on in order to adapt these vessels more completely for passenger traffic. The scene witnessed was one of the utmost bustle and activity, over one hundred and fifty work-men being engaged either afloat or in the different workshops.

Though all the vessels were more or less undergoing alteration, the principal work was concentrated on board the larger steamers the "Masr" and the "Behera." On the foredeck of each of these a big saloon was in course of construction, with a hurricane deck communicating with, and forming a promenade to the paddle boxes and poop. Below, the number of cabins had been reduced, whilst the space allotted to each had been largely increased. At the same time the bed places had been widened, and increased bathrooms and lavatories provided. The decorations though simple were all in excellent taste. The "Masr" as altered, will accommodate sixty first class

passengers and the "Behera" forty. In addition to other advantages, each vessel will possess a number of single berth cabins. Throughout, no expense is being spared in rendering the various steamers as perfect may be, and we have no doubt that the summs £15,000, which is mentioned as being the approximate cost of the improvements, will be all expended. The first steamer of the season was appointed to sail for Upper Egypt on the 7th December, and on the date of the publication of the article we are citing (Nov. 27), a large number of places had been secured by intending voyagers.

TURKEY.

(From the "Constantinople Messenger" 15th Dec., 1880.)

Early on Tuesday morning a daring robbery was perpetrated in the house of Mr. R. Hamilton Lang, situated in the Grand Rue de Pera, adjoining the premises of Mr. Commendinger, the music-seller. The drawing-room on the first floor looks upon the Grand Rue and has three windows, of which the middle one is a projecting bow window, provided with a door on the inside flush with the main wall, which is always closed and locked at night. Of this last fact the burglars were evidently not aware. They scaled the front wall of the house from the Grand Rue, the main thoroughfare of Pera in spite of the zaptiehs, the bekdjis, and the military patrol who are presumed to maintain a constant watch, and obtained an entrance by the bow window. But the locked-door for which they were unprepared barred their passage, and they were compelled to redescend, leaving the marks of their unshod feet on the cushions of the divan which runs round the inside of the bow window. They then scaled the wall a second time and by the side window nearest to Commendinger's shop they made their way into the drawing-room. They gathered together all the valuables and placed them on the floor ready to carry them off. Then they ransacked the corridor and the back drawing-room, and went downstairs into the dining-room, where they opened all the drawers, cupboards, &c., and took out all the plate, breaking a fork in two to see whether it were solid or plated. They made a light and wholesome meal on the contents of the biscuit box, and examined with attention the silver tea-pot and milk-jug, which were found in the morning spotted all over with candle-grease. Apparently, while they were pursuing these investigations, they were struck with some apprehension, as they made an attempt to leave through the front door. They were, however, unable to open it although they smashed the principal lock, and then appear to have bent a hasty retreat through the window by which they came, carrying off a valuable silver cup, and a number of plated forks and spoons, a yataghan, some plated salt-cellars, and some ornaments; but leaving most of the booty where they had heaped it together on the floor. It was evident they had calculated on being able to make their exit through the front door, as the descent from the window with a load of plunder was no easy matter. As it was they had difficulty in getting through the window even with what they had, for, in pushing through the aperture, some portions of the salt-cellars were broken off and were found on the floor. The burglars appear to have operated with great deliberation up to a certain point, and then to have abandoned their enterprise with precipitation leaving it only half accomplished. Probably the discovery that there was no retreat through the hall-door, and that the only available exit was through the window by which they entered, rendered them uneasy and anxious to be well out of the house; as in the event of alarm being raised their position would have been perilous. Fortunately, Mr. Lang had left all his real silver plate in England, except the tea-pot and milk-jug which was not taken and the silver cup which fell into the hands of the thieves.

—The Commission for the reorganisation of the army has recommended the addition of two regiments of artillery to each army corps. As, however, the financial situation does not warrant any great present expenditure, and artillery is a costly arm, it has been decided for the present to limit the increase to one regiment for each army corps.

—Mr. Goschen on his way from Constantinople to London, was to call at the Piræus on Thursday, and the new Russian Minister to Greece was expected in the Greek capital on the evening of the same day. Mr. Ternaux-Compans, first secretary of the French legation, left Athens for St. Petersburg on Wednesday, to take possession of his new post in that city.

—The "North German Gazette" says that recent communications which have passed between Prince Bismarck, the Prince of Hohenlohe, the German ambassador in France, and Count de Saint-Vallier, the French ambassador in Berlin, have demonstrated the existence of an understanding between Germany and France to sustain a pacific policy in regard to the Eastern question.

—His Excellency M. Tissot, the French ambassador, M. de Montholon, M. Denaut, and M. de Longeville, members of the French embassy, dined last night with His Majesty the Sultan at the Palace of Yildiz-kiosk. After His Majesty presented M. Tissot with the Insignia of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Osmanié. His Majesty had a long private conversation with M. Tissot, and was in excellent spirits throughout the evening.

—The great activity and zeal displayed by the Minister of War in his military preparations is exceedingly praiseworthy, but it is said to be felt somewhat inconveniently at the Treasury, where the inflow of revenue scarcely sustains the drain upon it which results from the energy of the Seraskier. "Est modus in rebus." True, there is nothing like energy in matters of warfare; but military activity must be coordinated with the financial supply from which it derives its support, otherwise confusion may arise, tending to defeat the best design of the most vigorous military administration.

—The Treasury cannot be in such a very bad way after all if it be true, as Galata rumour has it, that the Minister of Finance has refused an offer made by M. Tiano, the well known Galata banker, and purveyor of mutton to the Imperial palace, to advance the Treasury two millions of liras half in cash and half in overdue "havalles," at ten percent interest, against new "havalles" at long date. The Treasury, it appears, had no objection to take M. Tiano's cash at 10 per cent interest, but the "havalles" part of the proposal was deemed unacceptable.

—We announced a few days ago that the Commission instituted in order to formulate the proposals for the necessary modifications in the Commercial Treaties had commenced its sittings at the Custom house under the presidency of Edib Effendi, Director-General of Customs. We now learn that at the sitting of Saturday the report drawn up by the Commission was signed, and that the document was forwarded yesterday by Edib Effendi to the first Minister. We have reason to believe that Hassan Fehmi Effendi, Minister of Public Works, and Raif Effendi, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, aided by Farnis Effendi, legal counsellor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are designated by the Sublime Porte to open negotiations in this matter with the Powers.

—The contract with M. Goscher, whose appointment as one of the legal advisers to the Ottoman Foreign Office we announced some weeks ago, has not yet been signed, but it is understood that, except in some minor matters of detail, the terms of that gentleman's engagement have been settled, and that, on the completion of all the formalities, he will come to Constantinople and enter upon the duties of his post. The Porte is in negotiation with a third German functionary, Monsieur Bertram, Inspector of the Prussian Customs, and Imperial German controller of the Zollverein at Saarburg, Lorraine. The arrangements with M. Bertram are not definitively settled, and their conclusion depends upon the fulfilment of certain conditions proposed by him. The position of M. Bertram will be analogous to that he now holds; he will be adjunct to the Director-General of Customs, and his duties will be to assist that functionary in reforming the Custom-house administration—the necessity for which it is gratifying to see that the Porte practically acknowledges—and also in the general control of the department.

—The Turkish papers announce that the Montenegrins have withdrawn a portion of their military force from Duleigno. The Mahomedan residents in that place have begun to emigrate, and the Ottoman authorities at Scutari are doing their utmost to make provi-

sion for their lodging. A large bourgade will be built near Scutari, in which each emigrant will be provided with a house as nearly as possible like the home in Duleigno out of which he has been hunted by the Powers and their protégé. The cost of this arrangement will be borne by the Imperial Government. The Imperial troops continue to occupy the positions of St. George which the Montenegrins claim, but it is agreed that the question shall be decided by the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier.

—Before leaving Constantinople his Excellency the British Ambassador consulted Mr. Consul Wrench as to the donations he wished to make to local English charities. The result was that Mr. Goschen gave a cheque of £10 for himself and £5 for Mrs. Coschen for the "British Relief Society" another £5 for the "British Literary and Mechanics Institute," and also subscribed £3 to the sum shortly to be raised for a New Year's present for 1881 to the men of the Lifeboat and Rocket service, in which service his Excellency has ever since his arrival among us taken the warmest interest. Mr. H. Clarke Jervois, first secretary to the special embassy, who left Constantinople with the Ambassador, also presented the Relief Fund with a sum of £5.

—Count Hatzfeld and Musurus Pasha left on Friday by the Austrian mail steamer "Niobe."

—An Athens telegram says the Greek army numbers 60,000 men, and if 27,000 reserves are added, a total of 87,000 is thus reached.

—It is stated that Musurus Pasha will remain a few days in Vienna on his way to London having been charged with a special mission.

The Austrian mail steamer "Niobe," which arrived on Thursday from Varna, brought 250 Mahomedan fugitives from Bulgarian rule.

—The Russian steamer which arrived from Odessa, having called at Varna, brought 35 families of Mahomedan refugees from the latter port.

—The Commission formed under Imperial auspices for the relief Duleignotes desirous of emigrating has already forwarded a first instalment to Scutari to be applied to that purpose.

GERMANY and the EMPIRE of the EAST.
There have been many indications of late that Germany was the quarter from which the next surprises in the eventual drama of the Eastern question might be looked for. A first instalment of these surprises was contributed, according to the latest Vienna telegrams, on Wednesday last, to the "Standard" by its Berlin correspondent, and a telegram of the 9th inst., from London, represents the revolutions made by that gentleman as having caused in London the most profound sensation. These revelations consist in detached fragments of a conversation which is alleged to have taken place at Friedrichsruhe between Prince Bismarck and the French ambassador, and the correspondent expresses the hope of being able shortly to supply the missing links between these passages. After some conversation on the dangers which threaten Europe from the revolutionary spirit which is abroad, and the means which France had in hand to check to growth, the German Chancellor, in evident allusion to Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet, deplored the existence of certain Ministers who, to all outward appearances represented monarchical principles, and yet a heart were anything but monarchists. M. de Saint-Vallier put in a faint plea on their behalf, adding: "Recent events have embittered you, Highness! But who is responsible for them? Certainly not France, who was scarcely concerned in them." Whereupon Prince Bismarck delivered himself of the following oracular statement which we commend to our readers' careful pondering: "A future which is perhaps already close at hand will show what a plenary indulgence in things political means. You will see that my suppositions have been correct, and that if their fulfilment appear to recede for the present, it is only that it may hereafter be the more complete. 'Quoniam Deus perdat'... M. de Giers would not have even a chance of tripping us up on the Bosphorus. We have only to realise what M. de Wettendorff has in hand, and 'the Empire of the East is ours' without so much as drawing the sword." And to the ambassador's objection that the General, who was engaged in the same game would surely be clever enough to see what was at stake, the Prince replied emphatically: "His action is caught in the tangle of Gladstone's theories, and Gladstone, that unfortunate spirit of delusion and of error, the ill-fated forerunner of the fall of Kings, will help us instead of thwarting us. Besides, their results—were they to obtain any—would never prevent us from obtaining results far more considerable, before even they had materially time to arrest our progress." Thus spoke the German Chancellor, according to the correspondent of the "Standard." That the conversation was denied in an official "démenti," has little or no importance. They have much the same value as Sir Walter Scott's answer, when, at the time he was still writing under a pseudonym, he was asked if he was the author of the Waverley novels: "No, Sir, and if I were, I should give you the same answer." The London paper vouches in its correspondence for the accuracy of the intelligence. At any rate, if it be not true, there is no reason why it should not have been.

SIR CHARLES DILKE'S SPEECH AT KENSINGTON.

.....It is not necessary for me to express my own warm sympathy with Greece and my belief—the belief of the Governments of Austria, of Germany, and of France, which are falsely represented as being lukewarm in their dispositions towards her—that Greece is especially deserving of European care. To use the admirable words of Baron Haymerle, in his speech at Pesth upon the foreign relations and foreign policy of the Austrian Empire. "We treat the Greek nationality as a nationality whose struggles we regard with sympathy. It represents an ancient civilization, and we have, indeed, to thank the struggles of the Greeks for whatever civilization has been preserved in the Balkan Peninsula." (Cheers.) The Porte has had more than two years in which to come to terms with Greece under the Berlin Treaty. As it has made default to do so, the Powers have met in solemn conclave, which they were authorized to do by the treaty, and have come to a unanimous conclusion respecting the frontier which should be that of Greece towards Turkey. Their decision was not only unanimous, but was the result of mature deliberation, and the six Powers remain united in sustaining it. (Cheers.) It has been said that there is one advantage which clever men undoubtedly possess—viz., that they can always say something which is wholly nonsensical. (A laugh.) Thus it was that we beheld Lord Salisbury ridiculing the united action of the European Powers. That common action has already settled several most serious questions, and is being steadily exerted to procure the settlement of others. (Cheers.) It will be the opinion of the constituencies of this country that my noble friend Lord Granville deserves the highest praise for not allowing the violent speeches of his predecessor to drive him from his constant purpose. (Cheers.) Mr. Bourke lately told us at King's Lynn that no progress had been made with regard to the unexecuted portions of the Treaty of Berlin since the late Government left office. The awkward and dangerous Arab Tabis question, and that of the Asiatic and Montenegrin frontiers, have been settled by us; and as to the remaining questions with which we are earnestly dealing, we do not find ourselves assisted by the language of Lord Salisbury, or even by that of the far more moderate and reasonable speeches of my predecessor, Mr. Bourke. (Cheers.) A great outcry is made by the Conservative speakers against what is styled the "coercion" of Turkey. In his speech at Bristol, at the Colston festival, Sir Stafford Northcote said:—"One point on which there is a real difference between us and the present Government is this: that the policy involved in the Treaty of Berlin ought to be enforced by coercion; they say it should be; we always said it ought not to be." In his Guildhall speech of 1878 Lord Beaconsfield said that it was the determination of the Government that the Treaty of Berlin should "be carried out in the spirit and the letter." Her Majesty's Government would, if necessary, appeal with confidence to the people of this country to support them in maintaining to the letter the Treaty of Berlin with all their energy and all their resources." This, it may be said, was coercion directed against Russia. But the late Government used similar language towards Turkey. Although we fear that Turkey will fall, with much danger to the peace of Europe, unless a speedy change, under pressure, takes place at Constantinople, yet we have never used language of isolated menace, such as that which Lord Salisbury employed when he told the Turks only a year ago, that if they did not at once reform he could give no undertaking that England would abstain from active measures. How is Lord Salisbury's present doctrine, that nothing but diplomatic pressure can be allowed, to be reconciled with his last year's despatch to Sir Henry Layard, a despatch on which the Ambassador was to base his language to the Porte, and in which Lord Salisbury threatened active measures if Turkey did not fulfil her promises? (Cheers.) Lord Salisbury was especially severe upon a suggestion of what he styled "a buccannering expedition to seize the port of Smyrna," which he seemed to think was a proposal without precedent. There are, however, a great number of cases in which English Ministers have ordered the seizure of Custom-houses and of Customs to enforce international obligations. The latest of them is one of 1874, when a Government of which Lord Salisbury was a member decided, on the suggestion of Mr. Ward Hunt, but with the knowledge and

approval of the Cabinet, upon a similar act against another "independent Power." (Cheers.) It must be remembered that while everybody can see the dangers of movement, there are far greater dangers in inaction, although they are, perhaps, less obvious to the hasty observer. Lord Salisbury has assumed in his speeches a grave responsibility by sneering at the European concert, while he offers us no other means of preventing the downfall of the Turkish Empire amid circumstances calculated to produce a general war. Unless the united Powers continue to show firmness, it will be difficult indeed to save Turkey from suicide. I am afraid I must apply to Lord Salisbury some words of Shakespeare, which Constance, in *King John*, addressed to the Lord Salisbury of that time:—

"Then speak again—not all thy former tale, 'But this one word, whether thy tale be true.'"

(Cheers.) To my mind the European concert is not only applicable to the present emergency, but of happy augury for the future. As Matthew Arnold has said in his preface to Wordsworth, "here is a tribunal free from all suspicion of national and provincial partiality." The European concert is the first real attempt in modern times to arrive at such an understanding among the six Great Powers as might gradually become a basis for partial disarmament, and for the adoption of a policy which would cease to ruin nations in time of peace by perpetual preparation for war. (Cheers.) In arriving at the idea that territorial changes are to be made it is for Europe to arrange them, a practical step has been taken in the direction of this policy. (Cheers.) At the conclusion of the recent speech at Taunton Lord Salisbury accused the Government of having "deliberately sought to substitute the exclusive alliance of Russia for friendship and intimacy with the German Powers, and alienated those Powers who were our natural friends in Europe." There is not the smallest foundation for this charge. (Cheers.) Our policy has throughout been one of collective action. We have sought no exclusive alliance, and we should have declined any that had been offered. But in that sense, I may ask, were Austria and Germany the allies of England under Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury in which they are not the allies of England now? (Cheers.) They are acting cordially with us in promoting the full execution of existing stipulations by means of concerted action. The statement has been made, indeed, that the Austrian Government does not share the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the question of the Hellenic frontier; but that statement is, as I have shown, untrue. (Cheers.) When Austrian opinion is spoken of by our Conservatives, they do not mean the Austrian Government, but the *Neue Freie Presse* an Opposition paper, the attacks of which upon Mr. Gladstone are quoted day by day by the Tory Press, while its equally violent attacks upon the Government of Austria-Hungary are, of course, omitted as uninteresting matter. (A laugh.)

Nothing could have been more wanton than Lord Salisbury's language at Taunton about Austria. Her Majesty's Government now are, and have been throughout, in active and friendly co-operation with the Austrian Government. So far as his words are noticed, it must tend to thwart the policy of England that Lord Salisbury should hold such language. (Cheers.) The objects we have in view in carrying out the treaty are those which he, as a member of the late Government, declared to be of supreme importance; the difficulty of carrying them out is, as he has often shown, immense, and certainly, therefore, the Government ought to have his support, as well as that of every other Englishman, in carrying out objects, confessedly of great national and European moment, amid circumstances that admittedly are most difficult. There cannot be a more foolish mode of showing friendship for Turkey than advising the Sultan to resist all Europe. It is the expressed opinion of Lord Salisbury himself before he fell, that if Turkey will not settle the Greek question, abstains from regulating her finance, and, by refusing to carry out reform, allows the existing anarchy to long continue, she must fall. In repeating to the Sultan this, which was the language of Lord Salisbury, we speak as the true friends of the Turkish Mahomedan population. As the first Mahomedan Power in the world, England possesses a direct interest in the contentment and tranquillity of the populations under Ottoman rule, and, were the concert of Europe to break down, her predominant interest in the fate of these populations must be recognized. The policy of England is to prevent the catastrophe, or, if she cannot prevent it, to avert it for as long a period as she can. The concerted action of Europe is directed to this end, and is, therefore, [an ac-

tion which is in reality friendly to the Turks. We were once told that the concerted action of Europe could not be brought about. When it was brought about we were told that it could not continue. It was brought about, and it has continued. At every step the action of the Powers has been marked by absolute unanimity, and the whole of the Powers continue at the present time to inform the Sultan that the future of his Empire depends upon the acceptance of their views. (Cheers.) Mr. Pombo said lately at King's Lyceum that "the influence of England had vanished," and that "the concert of Europe had been broken up." England has for nearly eight months been the chief suggester of the unanimous action of the European Powers, to say which is to answer both for the concert and for influence. I recommend to Lord Salisbury's notice Baron Haymerle's words—"It will be the aim of our policy, not to split Europe up, but to unite it in a common course of peace." There is one subject connected with foreign affairs, which was brought before the House of Commons in the last Session, which is of peculiar interest to myself, and I think to you, because we have discussed it together frequently. Acting under the directions of Lord Granville, I have been able to secure the repeal in Cyprus of the ordinances permitting recourse to forced labour and forbidding foreigners to hold land. (Cheers.) It was explained by Mr. Gladstone in the debate that it is the desire of the present Government that the inhabitants should take part in the administration without distinction of race or creed, and that the language of the majority of the people should not be subordinated to two others, as has hitherto been the case. (Cheers.) I hope that the effect of the changes that have been made and of those which are now under the consideration of the Colonial Office will be such that Cyprus may in time become a model in Eastern administration. (Cheers.)

Special Telegrams.

London, 22nd Dec.

A second battalion of Guards and 300 London constables are going to Ireland. The ninety seventh regiment received orders to embark for Natal.

Five thousand boers have taken possession of Heidelberg without violence, and established republican government proclaiming Kruger president.

The communication with Pretoria has been cut.

Austria and Germany are deliberating on French proposition whether or not to submit the Greek frontier question to European arbitration, and will probably adhere to the proposition if the Porte and Greece are willing to submit to arbitration.

The Russian troops have retired from the Persian frontier.

London, 24th Dec.

All the Powers have accepted the proposition for arbitration of the Greek frontier question but Comandouros has sent a circular to the foreign representatives to refuse the offers of European arbitration. A cargo of arms has been seized at the mouth of the Shannon. The district is excited.

Baker has completely defeated Umhlonblo, but the latter has escaped. Basuto losses 300 killed and wounded.

It is rumoured that the Boers have defeated the English at Middelburg; 200 English have been killed and 50 are prisoners.

The Persian Government invokes the mediation of France and Austria with the Porte to restrain Sheikh Abdullah to expel compromised Persian Kurds and prevent future incursions.

London, 27th Dec.

A patrol has been attacked at Cork and one policeman shot. Affrays between civilians and soldiers have been occurred at Dublin. The Pope officially regrets the deplorable state of Ireland, prays the English Government to promptly repress the agitation and advises the clergy and laity to sepa-

rate themselves from the promoters of the revolution.

The Boers have murdered five Englishmen at Potchefstroom. They were shelled out and one hundred killed.

Comandouros has declared that Greece will refuse to submit to European arbitration having no intention to retrocede from the position devolving upon her by Berlin conference.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Monday, December 27th, 1880.

In resuming the subject with which we have occupied ourselves for the last two weeks—that of the land-impost—we will briefly set forth the views of the Commission some of whose sentiments on this question we have already laid before our readers. They regard the levy of the tax as affecting the various classifications of land. The commission states that the rate is fixed by the annual Parliamentary Budget and it desires that this should continue to be the case. But it considers also that in this new law the maximum limits of the impost should be fixed; and that once so settled it should not be exceeded for fourteen or fifteen years. The report further cites reasons why the land-impost should now and in the future be decreased. For the last two years it had produced under the system of tithes—and exclusive of the tax on acorns—the sum of 8,500,000 drachms annually. It is thought that if the total amount to be raised was fixed at 6,000,000 drachms, this would be found convenient to all parties,—the financial condition of Greece not allowing at present of a greater diminution of revenue. This six million drachms may be raised if the tax on uncultivated lands were set down at 15 or 16 centimes per stremma and that of the cultivated lands from 60 centimes to 2 drachms. It might be estimated that—for a maximum—a levy of 20 to 80 centimes might be imposed on the uncultivated lands, and from one to three drachms on those cultivated. To make up what might, possibly, prove eventually a deficit, a moderate tax upon ground answering for building and gardening purposes is recommended.

It is proposed that payment of taxation should be made in September; this month being the one most convenient to rate-payers. The Commission would permit to Government the faculty of transferring—by adjudication—taxes which may be in arrears. According to this new system, rights which are secured to the national exchequer are thus transferred, with the only object that a ready liquidation of public income should be effected.

The Hellenic press has very generally approved of this project of law submitted by the Commission; but some of the papers appear to be of the opinion that there is some modification necessary, as regards its ideas of classification of lands; also in the mode of verification of the declarations of these lands; and, too, in respect of the proposed reform—or innovation—to submit vines to direct impost. The maintenance of the duties on exportation is desired on all hands, because of the ease with which—of course—it is collected; and, beyond, because it does away with much disagreeableness.

The whole project has been submitted to the Greek Chamber, but opposition has been raised to it. The question has been made a crucial one—

involving the fate of the ministry of Finance.

When the Greek Chamber pronounces its verdict, we will make known the result; the question being one interesting all countries submitted to a similar system of land-taxation.

Local Notes.

The *Agia Sofia* of Messrs. Papayanni & Co. line of Steamers was advertised to sail from Liverpool on the 21st instant for Beyrout, Alexandretta, Larnaca and Alexandria.

This vessel will proceed from Malta straight to Limassol to land material for the new pier there as well as other cargo. From Limassol she will proceed to Larnaca and thence to Beyrout.

The average run from Liverpool to Limassol touching at Malta would be fourteen days.

From the 1st January next, we understand, Government will not undertake to receive locusts' eggs in kind, but will take satisfaction for the sum in current coin.

The Legislative Council assembled at Nicosia last week. Despite the muteness which the members of this assembly are, we believe, obliged to observe, it would appear that the principal subject of deliberation was judicial reform. We hear that as regards the Daafi Tribunals, they will in future number four members, one of whom will be an Englishman, president of the court.

Professor Sayce of Oxford, arrived here by the last mail.

By the *Roumelia* arrived, also, from London, Mr. Garemfillaki, a young Cypriot lawyer who intends—we understand—to practise here.

The first number of the weekly newspaper *Thruth* has been issued last week; it is published at Limassol in the Greek language under the editorship of Mr. Paléologue.

NICOSIA HARRIERS.

Meets for December, 1880.

Wednesday 29th...Greaves' Jheel. 2 30 p.m.

SERIOUS FLOOD AT LIMASSOL.

On Friday last rain fell in such torrents that the river which flows through the town of Limassol overflowed its banks. The water rushed down with such impetuosity that in a short time some of the streets were six feet under water.

On Saturday we learnt by telegraph that sixty houses had been destroyed and almost every other house in the town damaged more or less; and we regret to have to add that eight lives were lost.

On Friday afternoon the house adjoining the offices of the Eastern Telegraph Company fell, burying two poles and breaking all the wires but thanks to the energy of the company's officers communication was rapidly re-established.

Today (Monday) rain has again fallen very heavily and there were fears of a more general catastrophe but at the moment of going to press we are happy to hear by telegraph that all danger is passed, the river having been diverted. Numbers of men are employed in pulling down ruins of houses to avoid danger in this respect.

A letter from Mr. Charles Christian, Manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, at Limassol, to a friend says,—

"We had a terrific flood here all yesterday and were in the water all day. No end of houses have been swept away, and some bodies have been found already. The telegraph wires broke; and in fact it was touch and go whether the entire town was not carried away—the loss of property is tremendous, and scores of families are left homeless and without a penny in the world.

It was so cold in the water that we were nearly drowned. Many times, in places, it rose over the lower story entirely, and was covered with about six inches of hail stones frozen together. I cannot describe the scene,—we thought the last day had really come—and it was night before we knew where we were, although looking back it seems a week at least. We had to come home and go to bed several times to get rid of the cramp and as soon as we were warm we had to be again out to relieve the others."

Kyrenia News.

We are glad to see that the Commissioners of the different districts are taking a personal interest in the approaching agricultural show.

Mrs. Scott Stevenson in Kyrenia held a meeting in the Konak last week to appoint a local Committee. The head-men of the principal villages in the district attended, and on the Commissioner explaining to them the advantages of the show a local committee was chosen, consisting of Mr. Gregorio Demetriadis, Hadji Savas and Haffis Effendi. The inhabitants have promised to select the finest of their products for exhibition and quite appreciate the advantages to be derived from the show.

—On the 21st inst. an accident occurred at Lapithos (Kyrenia) which caused the death of three men. They were excavating a species of earth, which when placed on the roofs of houses makes them impervious to rain. The bank, about fifty feet above them, suddenly gave way smothering the unfortunate workmen. It took several hours to dig the bodies out when they were found in a crouching position with life of course extinct. Immediately on hearing of the catastrophe the Commissioner accompanied by the Civil surgeon started for Lapithos. An enquiry as to the cause of the accident was made but no blame could be attached to anyone.

—Fifty Pioneers under the charge of a Turkish officer have been sent to help the labourers in repairing the Kyrenia road. It is supposed that in a month's time it will be passable for carts.

Occasional Notes.

It is reported that the possibility of utilizing Persia as an anti Russian factor in the settlement of the Eastern question according to Austrian ideas is "exciting very earnest attention in the highest military circles" at Vienna. Austria it seems, in these exalted regions imagines that she has a "great part to play in the Balkan district, and above in Asia Minor." In order to play this great rôle Berlin and Vienna are discussing with "an extraordinary degree of interest" whether a Persian army can be made so efficient by Austrian officers as to operate as an effective diversion against Russia in Central Asia. It is now nearly a month since the 9th of November, the date at which Lord Beaconsfield remarked a cessation in the flight of political canards, so that this story of Austrian aspirations to utilize Persia for the purposes of Austro-German alliance is somewhat out of season. The telegram from Teheran reporting that two Russian regiments passed Urumiah on their way to Mergawar on the 23rd to assist in suppressing the Kurdish insurrection whether true or false ought to be a sufficient reminder to political gobemouches of the geographical conditions which render absolutely impossible the realization of the wild dream that Austria could derive assistance from the Shah in any projected exploitation of Asia Minor.

The *Cologne Gazette* states that a beautiful statue of Minerva has recently been discovered by Dr. Humman, at Pergamo. It was found in the temple of the goddess, and appears to belong to the best age of Greek art.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

December
21st S. S. 'Fortuna' 433 tons, British, mails from Beyrout, general cargo.
21st S. S. 'Achilles' Austrian mails from Constantinople and Smyrna, general cargo.
22nd S. S. 'Apollo' Aust. mails from Alexandria and the coast of Syria general cargo.
23rd S. S. 'Roumelia' from Liverpool and Malta general cargo.
25th S. S. 'Elpitha' 462 tons, British, mails from Alexandria, mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

December
21st S. S. 'Fortuna' British, for Alexandria via Limassol, general cargo.
22nd S. S. 'Achilles' Aust. for Syria and Alexandria general cargo.
23rd S. S. 'Apollo' Aust. mails for Constantinople, general cargo.
23rd S. S. 'Roumelia' for Alexandretta and Beyrout, general cargo.
26th S. S. 'Elpitha' British, for Beyrout, general cargo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the S.S. 'Achilles' from Constantinople Professor Sayce and Mr. Percival.

By the S.S. 'Apollo', from Beyrout, 19 deck passengers.

By the S.S. 'Rommelia' from Liverpool and Malta, Mr. J. Caraphylacis.

By the S.S. 'Elpitha' from Alexandria, Lieut. R. E. Powell 35th Regt. and 4 deck passengers.

ADVERTISEMENTS.



NOTICE.

THE GOVERNMENT of Cyprus is prepared to receive tenders for the exclusive right of working a portion of the raw amber ('terra umbra') deposits situated at Mavro Vouni, near the village of Trullos, near Larnaca. For particulars and the conditions on which these workings will be let, apply to the Government Engineer, Nicosia, on or after the 1st January next.

Tenders to be sent in on or before the 28th day of February next.

The Government does not bind itself to accept the highest or any Tender.

Government Engineer's Office
Nicosia, Cyprus.

NOTICE.

LARNACA RACES.

Ponies in training for sale.
Dancing Master—Indian stud - bred chestnut gelding. 7 years. 14 hands 1 1/2 inches. Price £20.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE LEVANT HERALD weekly budget may be ordered of any bookseller or News Agent in the United Kingdom or of Messrs. George Street & Co. 80 Cornhill, E.C., the London Agents for the paper.

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

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

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

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„ Larnaca every Tuesday at 9 p.m.
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