# CYPRUS

## AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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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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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.


## Latest News.

The Porte will send a commission to Armenia in connection with the reforms to be introduced there.

Mr. de Haymerle, Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has expired from a malady of the heart.

The American senate assembled at Washington on the 10th inst. when Mr. Bayard, democrat, was elected Speaker by 34 votes to 32. There is in the senate a democratic majority which opposes the admission of the republican senators recently elected.

A telegram from Paris dated the 10th inst. announced that the French ironclad "Alma" would proceed to Alexandria. Her arrival on the 12th inst. from the Piræus is notified.

The Tunisian troops have caused the Arabs to withdraw near Kestour.

Lord Granville has informed Lord Dufferin that he would await the report of Sir Ed. Malet on the proceeding of the Ottoman mission to Egypt before sending him instructions to Constantinople.

The "Morning Post" of the 11th inst. has an article which states M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire has mooted a proposal to the English Government to take the initiative of a common action in respect to Egypt. Lord Granville agreed to this proposition and counselled that an identical note be sent to the Porte in which the two Powers should declare that there exists a complete *entente* between France and England who, while recognizing the suzerainty of the Porte over Egypt, will not tolerate interference in the financial administration of that country. —The note of Lord Granville and M. B. St. Hilaire shows the complete *entente* of England and France as regards the maintenance of the Egyptian Control. —Mr. B. St. Hilaire has asked Lord Granville to take the initiative and to propose a common action.

—Lord Granville, having received information of the departure of the Turkish mission to Egypt has proposed to forward an identical note to the Porte and to despatch ironclads to Egypt.

Telegrams from Cairo of the 11 th inst. state that Nizaami Pasha, accompanied by Suffoullat Effendi has paid visits to the Minister of war at Kasr-el Nil. He has reviewed the 3rd. Regt. commanded by Colonel Talbé Bey.

The Ottomans Commission has manifested a desire to interrogate Arabi Bey, who, on the 3rd Sept., sent the Porte a petition enumerating the complaints of the army and setting out a statement of the conduct of its officers.

According to the latest news it was believed that the Turkish Commission would leave Egypt in a few days without proceeding to further labours

In consequence of the existence of cholera at Mecca, the Russian government refuses to grant passports to Mussulman pilgrims.

The Shah of Persia has solicited the Government of the Czar to grant him the services of officers to re-organize the Persian army.

The Porte has sent a sanatory commission to Mecca.

Mr. Gladstone, in answer to some addresses, has declared that he would not conclude any retrogressive treaty with France, and that he would not sacrifice principles.

At a meeting of 25,000 persons the Premier has severely criticized the Afghan policy of the Conservatives. He has expressed congratulation at the departure of the English troops from Afghanistan, and a hope that the resolute perseverance of the Liberal party will efface the remembrance of some very unfortunate and scandalous *souvenirs* which soil the renown of England.

He declared that our action in Egypt would be in intimate alliance with France.

He added that experience proved that some alterations were necessary in the arrangements with the Transvaal government.

On the occasion of the banquet given in his honour at the Guildhall, Mr. Gladstone expressed himself as follows on the Egyptian question :—

Though the Anglo-French intervention had not failed to create some difficulties of which we begin to perceive the danger, it has proved thoroughly salutary to the finances of the country and to the condition of the fellahs. The English government will use every effort to prevent difficulties between the Sultan and the Khedive, and unless unforeseen necessities arise, English interests would not be regarded as a supreme end but rather the welfare of Egypt.—

A despatch from Tunis of the 7th inst. states that the French troops occupy Tunis.

Mr. Gladstone in his Guildhall speech has stigmatized as immoral the doctrines of Mr. Parnell, comparing them with those of O'Connell, and appealed to all classes to lend aid to Government during the great crisis which is preparing.

## TURKEY.

[From the *Levant Herald*, 5th Oct.]

Erzeroum, Sept. 30,—On Wednesday last, about 8.15 P. M., the town of Tchangri, in Armenia, was visited by a severe earthquake, which lasted fully a minute. The dome and walls of the great mosque were seriously damaged, so also was the Bezestan. The chimnies of six bakeries and several minarets were thrown down. Eleven persons were killed. Of the damage to neighbouring places, nothing yet is known.

Gallipoli, Oct. 4.- Yesterday and today several shocks of earth-quake have been felt here. To-day there were four shocks between sunrise and midday; some walls were thrown down and buildings damaged, but there has been, happily, no loss of life.—

Adrianople, Oct. 4.—Since Sunday, several shocks of earth quake, differing in violence, have been felt here. No damage of importance.

In the early part of the summer, it was announced that some enterprising Armenians, residing at or connected with Van, had formed a consortium for the purpose of introducing steam navigation upon their native lake. This initiative on the part of the Armenians has aroused the jealousy of the rival race, and a Kurdish association has been formed to oppose it. The "Terdjumani-Hakikat" of yesterday states that the opposition "group" have held meetings, and have resolved to memorialise the Imperial Goverment not to grant any concession for running steamers on the lake, either to Armenians or to foreigners, as it would be prejudicial to the interests of the two-thirds of the population who are Kurds, to do so. The Kurdish opposition to the Armenian paoject further declares that they have delegated Sheikh Mehmed Said Effendi, one of the suite of Sheikh Obeidullah, to make application to the Porte, in the name of a Kurdish company, for a concession to establish steamers on the lake. One understands the principle of all this, but the Kurds do not show quite as briskly as could be wished. The Armenians originated the idea, and the Kurds simply try to get it away from them. It would have been much smarter to have let the Armenians establish their steamers and their arsenals, and then to have obtained a concession to drain the lake, in the same way as the Greeks are preparing to drain Lake Copais.

The post of Ottoman minister at the Hague, having become vacant by the death of Mourad Effendi, its late occupant, has been supressed, and Ottoman interests will henceforth be represented at the Dutch court by a chargé d'affaires, instead of a minister. The economy thus made between the salary of a minister and that of chargé d'affaires will be applied to the expenses of the newly-created legation at Madrid.

The Russian Note, which has for some time been expected, has been presented by Mr. de Novikoff to Assim Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs. In this Note, the Russian ambassador without disputing the right of the Porte to enter into arrangements with its creditors, whose representatives are at present at Constantinople, maintains that the Porte should, at the same time, take into consideration the war indemnity due to Russia. He requests that some other revenues shall be appropriated for the payment of this particular debt; and, furthermore, he protests against the application of the Bulgarian tribute to the service of the general debt.

The Ministry of War having resolved to re-establish the posts of military attachés to the embassies of Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, Veli Effendi, Seifullah Effendi, and Enver Bey have been selected for these appointments. A naval officer will also be attached to the embassy in London.

The members of the Council of State received on Thursday their salaries for the month of June.

The Ministry of Finance has sent instructions to the agents of the Ministry of the Evcaf in the provinces, not to employ the funds proceeding from Evcaf property to the improvement of the buildings, &c., but to remit the cash direct to the Ministry of Finance at Constantinople.

Monday was the day fixed for the trial of Messrs. Zivoglou and Zouni, who were arrested several weeks ago, on suspicion of being concerned in some scheme which involved the improper use of dynamite, and who have been in prison ever since. It will be remembered that some small dynamite cartridges were found in the possession of the accused, who explained that they used them for fishing. The court was assembled yesterday morning, and the accused were brought up for trial, when the President, addressing them said that he had received a telegram from the Palace stating that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant them a free pardon. He therefore discharged the prisoners, with an injunction to offer up prayers for the Sovereign, whose clemency had been so mercifully extended to them. The prisoners were then set at liberty and left the court accompanied by their friends.

A commission has been formed at Janina, composed of three Mussulman, three Christian, and two Jewish members, to take the census of Lower Albania.

The accounts lately received from Chio, do not draw a very cheerful

picture of the state of things there. The frequent recurrence of earthquakes, more or less violent, keep up the alarm, whilst the wooden huts, hastily constructed last spring, do not provide sufficient shelter against weather such as we have had of late; many of the inhabitants are in consequence quitting the island. The accounts from Tcheshmé are not much better.

The works for piercing the canal through the Isthmus of Corinth were begun on the 21st ult. As General Turr points out in his address to the Geographical Congress, the *trace* of the canal is to follow that contemplated by Nero, of which traces are still apparent at several points of the isthmus. The first operation consists in sinking a shaft to ascertain the nature of the rock which has to be worked upon. Wooden huts have been erected for the shelter of the workmen during the rainy season. In the absence of the Director of the works, M. Kerster, who has left for Western Europe to purchase plant and machinery, the works will be carried on under the superintendence of a Greek engineer, M. Streit.

## AUSTRIA AND THE EAST.

One of the most unfortunate consequences for herself of the selection of Austria by the European Powers for the ungrateful task of administering the provinces of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, is the jealous suspicion with which her policy in the East has been watched, ever since she reluctantly undertook the duty imposed upon, rather than sought by her. A correspondent of the *Times*, who has recently been travelling in the Levant, has caught the contagion of this suspicion, and under its influence, he draws a brilliantly imaginative picture of what the map of south-eastern Europe will look like when Austria, assisted by her powerful neighbours, has finished recasting it. An extension of territory, which is to draw even the kingdom of Greece itself within the sphere of Austrian preponderancy, ought to satisfy the ambition even of a dual Empire, and with the lion's share awarded to them, the Austrians need not cavil with the *Times* correspondent for letting the Russians advance further even than San-Stefano, and the English secure, as best they can, their highroad to India. The number of the *Times* which contains this eccentric contribution, has not yet come to hand, but, from the telegraphic analysis which we have perused (but which it might perhaps be inopportune to reprint), what we should be most inclined to wonder at, is that the *Times* should have thought such fantastic theories worthy the honours of a leader. The discovery of such mares' nests argues ignorance of the unwillingness with which Austria made her first move eastwards; of the difficulties against which she had to contend in the fulfilment of the mandate forced upon her by Europe; of the overwhelming objections which exist in Austria, on grounds of internal policy alone, to the further extension of an Empire already containing too many heterogeneous elements; and, lastly, though not least-ly, of the peculiarly friendly disposition which the Emperor Francis Joseph entertains towards the Ottoman State.

For the ninety-ninth time, however, a formal contradiction has been given to the playful fancy of those politicians who spend their time in taking the map of Europe to pieces, and putting it together again, like a Chinese puzzle. But even the long-suffering Austrian Government must grow weary of meeting day after day the same assertions, with the same denials; and suspicion, it must be recollected, whether directed against individuals or States, is the more to be deprecated that its victim sometimes ends by losing patience, and is driven by sheer exasperation into the course which he had previously been determined to avoid, simply because he tires of seeing his honesty of purpose get all the discredit and none of the advantages of dishonesty.

[From the *Levant-Herald*.]

## CYPRUS AFFAIRS

### A DISCORDANT NOTE FROM LIMASSOL.

We translate the following interesting passage from the speech of the Mayor of Limassol—"But while I say this very heartily, while I express openly the opinion and the feelings of the people, I do not wish to by any means disregard a struggle of opposite sentiments which at this very moment affects and agitates the people, who remember that in presence of many things which testify to the care of Government they yet lack the performance of many others to ensure their happiness. And while, on the one hand they rejoice and express with me their thanks to the Government of Her Majesty that not only by the construction of this valuable pier, the inaugurating ceremony of which we to-day celebrate, but also by other public works, a postal system and the like, they evince high care for our material improvement, yet on the other hand there are many measures which would be welcomed and the absence of which causes great uneasiness. In many ways the feelings, the wishes and wants of the people in reference to the affairs of the fatherland have been disregarded; there are many who could associate with you as assistants and helpers and worthy counsellors, and whom the people wish to see contributing with your Excellency to obtain the desired benefits.

The peaceful population of the Island has awaited the return of your Exellency with impatience, full of hope that, in the exercise of your wisdom, your Excellency has obtained for them the desired reform of the law-courts, the municipalities, legislation, etc., the fulfillment of which will really render our Island an envy to many peoples and countries, and will cause our population to bless your Excellency's name. By convocating around you the capabilities of the country your Excellency will accede to the popular wish, and be surrounded by devoted loyalty. And the people will be grateful to the Government and to the high authority who presides over their affairs.

We shall not forget the duties we owe to the noble English nation of confidence and honest loyalty. It is with gratitude we remember that we have been generously and importantly benefited by the English, and we are convinced, Excellency, that being brought by Providence under the potent protectorate of Great Britain, ruled over by a civilizing power, a magnanimous Queen, a powerful nation, and a Government inspired by the principles of justice and liberty we shall obtain all material improvement, the paths of the future will lie open before us, and our destiny will be attained. The glory and equity of Her Majesty, and the honour and magnanimity of the English people prescribe the attainment of these wishes.

It is with these hopes and with these expectations that we present to your Excellency our profound thanks for all that has been done for our benefit, and at parting, we wish to express our desire that we may meet to rejoice at the consummation of these objects, which will assure the moral and material prosperity of this Island confided, as a trust, by the Divine Providence into the hands of the renowned, powerful and magnanimous government of our most Gracious Queen."

## Local Notes

A quarantine has been imposed on vessels arriving from Aden and the Red Sea, from 7 to 1 day, according to the duration of the voyage. For vessels arriving from the Egyptian ports an inspection will be made, and if the result is not satisfactory a quarantine will be imposed by the Sanitary officer according to the lengths of time mentioned.

We understand that H. E. will visit Larnaca at the end of the present month when lady Biddulph is expected to arrive from England. At the same time H. E. will lay the first stone of the public buildings to be erected in the proximity of the Quarantine.

We hear that H. Excellency's recent speech at the Limassol ceremony will appear in extenso in number 1 of the forthcoming *Cyprus Herald*. We postpone remarking on the speech until we have the original text in our hands.

After a dry season of several months rain has fallen here in some quantity yesterday afternoon, but it has not lasted and there are no signs of its continuance. We hear that in the country it has descended very heavily.

We have frequently alluded to the progress made of late years in Syria. A London newspaper informs us that a Jewish colony is about to be formed in the district between Gilead and Moab (Palestine), a million and a half of acres having been granted for the purpose by the Sultan. The new colony will be subject to a Prince of the Jewish race and religion. A wealthy Jew having lent six millions sterling to the Porte on the security of the land of Palestine we may shortly expect to see this ancient people enjoying their own again.

We have obtained the first number of the "Cyprus Herald." "Introductions to newspapers,"—a well-known journalist once remarked,—"are too often promissory notes which are never taken up." Our contemporary—perhaps wisely—has disregarded the custom which favours initial assurances. We have already begun to doubt whether the views of the new venture in the Cypriot journalistic world will altogether accord with ours; but if the "Herald" is to be the harbinger of a brighter dawn in Cyprus we shall be amply content.

The last news from Aden (of the 5th inst.) is to the effect that on the 27th ult. there was a case of cholera and since then no case of, or decease from, cholera has occurred. This must be attributed to the change of the monsoon which has placed the sanitary state of the town in its normal condition. The malady has attacked only the African element and among it only the more wretched. It seems difficult therefore to bestow the term "Asiatic Cholera" on a plague which spares Europeans and even the Asians living in the country and who form almost the half of the population.

We extract the following from "The Eastern Morning News":—

PRESENTATION TO THE POSTMASTER OF CYPRUS.—A large gathering of the employés of the Hull Telegraph Department took place on Thursday night, on the occasion of the presentation of a testimonial to Mr J. A. Bulmer, late chief of the department, and now Postmaster of Cyprus. Mr Chambers, of Leeds, superintending engineer, and an old friend of Mr Bulmer presided, and was supported by Mr Snowden in the vice-chair. The testimonial consisted of a beautiful album and an illuminated scroll, bearing the names of the subscribers and the following inscription:—"We, the undersigned officers of the telegraph staff of the Hull Post Office, beg to ask your acceptance of this testimonial as a mark of our profound esteem, and in recognition of the kindly interest which you have ever evinced in our welfare, both official and private. We earnestly hope that you may be spared for many years to enjoy the high position you have so deservedly attained." — The presentation was made by Mr. West superintendent, who in the course of his remarks, referred to Mr. Bulmer's sudden departure from Hull, three years ago to take charge of the postal arrangements at Cyprus. He spoke of the pleasure it afforded the staff to see him amongst them once more. The album which had been presented was only a small mark of the respect and esteem in which he was held by every member of the Hull staff.—Mr. Bulmer responded in suitable terms.—The remainder of the evening was spent in drinking the usual toasts, and singing by several ladies and gentlemen.

We are glad to add to the above that since the time Mr. Bulmer assumed the direction of the Cyprus Post Office he has enjoyed here of general regard and esteem, not less than at home.

## Limassol News.

### WINE MAKING AT MANDRIA.

Having heard a great deal of an improved method of wine manufacture carried on at Mandria we determined, being in the neighbourhood, to inspect the place for ourselves. On arrival there we were fortunate enough to meet with the manager R. L. Sutherland Esq., one of the principals interested in the business, who kindly showed us over the manufactory and explained the necessary details.

It appears that a few enterprising Englishmen having convinced themselves of the inherent excellence of the Cypriote wines and that they were only marred by the ignorance and carelessness of the native makers, determined to try what effect superior methods and improved machinery would have in raising their value for foreign markets. With this object in view, they acquired possession of some premises in Mandria suitable for the business of wine making, and put them in thorough repair. The next step was to erect a pressing vat, this was built in Larnaca, taken to pieces there, then transported to Mandria and re-erected in its destined place. Four machines for separating the berry from the stalk were imported from France and a large supply of wine casks from London; which, on the occasion of our visit, we saw the island coopers, hard at work putting together. All being thus prepared, the next thing was to purchase the grapes, but at first the vine growers were very unwilling to sell; however, ready money and ability and willingness to purchase in large quantities, soon overcame their reluctance, and the first day nearly 15,000 okes came in, with every prospect of a steady increase in the supply. As the donkey loads of grapes arrive, they are weighed and passed into the capacious stores every care being taken to clear them from dirt on any extraneous substance, and in the evening every man receives the value of his grapes in hard cash, under the superintendence of the head man of the village. From the store the bunches of grapes pass into the hopper of the separating machine, and after being torn from their stalks, the berries fall into the vat which has a false bottom perforated with inch holes and situated a foot above the true floor they are then trod out, not

"By the white feet of laughing girls"
"Whose sires have marched to Rome"

But by the well washed feet of men shod with flat wooden shoes. The juice flowing through the holes in the false floor is then drawn off and placed in barrels to ferment, ultimately forming the best wine *la première cuvée*. The remainder of the grapes, after this has been successfully accomplished are put under an ordinary screw press and undergo two pressures, thus producing a second and third quality of wine, while from the distillation of the refuse a spirit is obtained from which brandy or mastic can be made.

Mr. Sutherland has already made at Larnaca 10,000 galls. of a very fine white wine, which only requires maturing to prove its excellent quality.

Such energy and enterprize as this calls for all praise and encouragement and opens up a great future for the vine growers of Cyprus, who if they consulted more truly their own interest would sell their produce at a fairly remunerative price instead of as now endeavouring to exact a ruinous rate, which must if persisted in, put an end to this promising industry. We trust therefore, that before it is too late they will see the error of their ways, and justify the hope which Mr. Sutherland expressed of seeing before many years are past, those hillsides now uncultivated covered with vines, and the prosperity of the district thereby materially increased.

## A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND.

*(Continued from No. 163)*

### XI.

The group of buildings over and around the Holy Sepulchre and Calvary were erected A D 329 by Constantine. Immediately within the entrance is the "stone of unction" upon which it is said the body of our Lord was placed during its preparation for interment. The stone was rapidly being worn away by the kisses of devout pilgrims, so it has been covered with a marble slab. A few steps hence to the left is a circular stone in the pavement enclosed by iron railings and covered by a small dome. According to the Armenians this marks the spot where the Virgin Mary stood during the crucifixion of her son.

The large dome built over the Holy Sepulchre is encircled with tiers of boxes as in a theatre. During great religious celebrations, contending factions of various sects almost invariably come to blows, and sometimes human blood is shed. On such occasions the boxes are occupied by grandees who go to see the disturbances as they would go to see a bull-fight.

Exactly under the large dome stands a small dome. The latter covers the Holy Sepulchre. Entering this we are in the "chapel of the Angel" (Latin) so called because on a pedestal in the centre is preserved the stone that was rolled away by the Angel from the mouth of the sepulchre. "The Angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it." The Armenians also shewed us a stone in one of their churches that was rolled away from the mouth of the sepulchre!

Passing from the "chapel of the Angel" through a low door, we enter the Holy Sepulchre proper. The sepulchral couch occupies the right hand side. It has been covered with a slab of marble to protect it, and even the slab is much worn by the continual kisses of pilgrims. Forty three gold and silver lamps are suspended from the ceiling of the chamber, kept alight for ever. Leaving this spot so sacred to millions, and crossing the main body of the church, we are conducted to the Koptic chapel, close to which are two tombs cut out of the rock, said to be the last resting places of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus the "ruler of the Jews."

Coming out into the rotunda again and passing along the corridor, two stones inlaid in the pavement are pointed out as marking the spots where Christ stood when He appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark XVI 9) and where Mary herself stood on the same occasion. Ascending a few steps we enter the "chapel of the apparition" (Latin) where it is said our Lord appeared to His mother after the resurrection. Behind the altar of this chapel is a hole in the wall. in which is seen part of a porphry column, called the column of the flagellation. We are told it is a piece of a column to which our Lord was bound when scourged by Pilate. Pilgrims suffering from sore eyes are provided with a stick which must be thrust into the hole until it touches the column, then withdrawn and the eyes touched with it. We are assured sore eyes are thus instantly cured. Fortunately we could not verify this statement, all our eyes being quite well. There are two relics in this chapel well worth seeing :—The sword and spurs of Godfrey. The chapel also contains a fine piece of tapestry work. In the left hand bottom corner of this needle-work picture the following words are embroiderod :—"Fanny Husken, fecit 1860."

"The prison of our Lord" is a small cave-like place partly hewn from the rock, with a vaulted roof supported by rudely formed pillars. Here is shewn a slab of stone with two holes therein, forming a kind of stocks, called the bonds of Christ Next to this is a small chapel (Latin) with an altar dedicated to St. Longinus the centurion who we are told pierced our Lords side. Why he should be made a saint for doing this is hard to understand.

The crypt-like chapel of St. Helena (Latin) is reached by descending a flight of slippery steps. It is sixteen feet below the level of the rotunda and is cold and damp. A musty smell pervades the place, and the air seems to hold the odour of burning oil and wax from the lamps and candles. The chapel contains an altar dedicated to St. Helena; the chair in which she sat while directing the search for the cross; a bronze statue of the same saint; and an altar dedicated to St. Dimas the Penitent thief. Descending another flight of steps we enter the "chapel of the invention of the cross." This is a vault hewn from the rock, and in it Helena claims to have found the three crosses, the crown of thorns, nails, inscription &c. Helena was in doubt as to which of the three crosses was the one upon which our Saviour was crucified, so she adopted the following plan to ascertain. A woman suffering from some dire disease was brought to the vault and made to kiss each cross in turn. She kissed two and the disease still remained, but no sooner had she kissed the third than the disease left her, and it was thus decided that by virtue of its curative power this was the cross upon which Christ was crucified. In a recess on the south side of the cave stands an altar with a crucifix hanging over it which marks the place where the true cross was found.

The "chapel of the mocking" (Latin) contains an altar under which is preserved a fragment of a grey marble column upon which the jews made our Saviour sit while they crowned him with thorns. The chapel called the "place of comforting" (Greek) covers the locality where the mother of Christ was attended to by the other Mary's after the death of her son. Advancing along the aisle we enter the "chapel of Golgotha" (Greek). Here we are shewn the tombs of Adam and Melchizedek! Godfrey, the first latin King of Jerusalem was buried in this chapel, and his tombstone is still in a good state of preservation Godfrey's brother and successor, Baldwin, was also buried here, but during a riot between members of the latin and greek churches the monument over Baldwin's tomb was entirely destroyed.

The Greek church of the Holy Sepulchre forms the nave of the main building which covers all the holy places. It is divided from other parts of the edifice by high partitions, carved and gilded in a most gorgeous manner. The walls are hung with scores of oil portraits of greek saints. The front entrance directly faces the Holy Sepulchre. The church was built by the crusaders and was used by them as a place for the choir; when the crusaders were expelled from Jerusalem the greek church obtained possession and has kept it ever since. The high altar is plentifully decorated with pictures framed in gold. Just as we entered afternoon service commenced. The priests came out in procession from behind the high altar, and mumbling all the time, each in turn prostrated himself before the Patriarch on his throne, kissing the ground. In the centre of this church is a short marble column said by a tradition of the eighth century to mark the centre of the earth.

It is affirmed by the greek clergy that on easter eve every year a flame descends from heaven into the Holy Sepulchre, which kindles all the lamps and candles. The Patriarch enters the tomb at a prearranged time and shuts himself in. When the fire appears it is caused to pass out through a hole in the wall to the fanatical pilgrims outside. In the rush that is made to get at the flame pilgrims are sometimes trampled to death. Formerly all the various sects took part in this heathenish celebration, but one by one denounced it. The greek church alone, keeps it up.

*(To be continued)*

## THE ISTHMUS OF CORINTH.

The following is a translation of General Türr's interesting essay read at the general meeting of the Geographical Congress :—

The territory of the Isthmus of Corinth is comprised between the chain of the Géeranien Mountains—from 800 to 900 mètres high—on the north, and that of the Oniens Mountains—about 600 mètres high—on the south. These two chains form the isthmus, which presents itself "as a deep depression offering only a slight relief." The watershed traverses the isthmus obliquely from the north-east on the Gulf of Egina to south-west near the Acorinth. It is a plateau of which the highest part is 78 mètres, but not very broad: so that on the whole line the dense, solid matter which will be pierced by the canal is only 3½ kilomètres long, the remainder being through alluvial plains, sand, and pebbles. To the suth-west of the present port of Kalamaki at the foot of the ruins of the ancient city of the isthmus, a valley about 30 mètres broad winds obliquely from north-east to south-west through the central *massif* (dense strata). On the other side of this *massif* is another valley, which, following the *ligne de faite* for a short distance, and making a *détour* at the foot of the ruins of the ancient wall, opens out into the Bay of Corinth. In the first of these valleys is a perennial spring, which was evidently used by the ancients. In the other valley several wells furnish abundance of water. The central plateau is studded with groves of young pines (*Pinus Maritima*) and is constantly refreshed by the sea breeze blowing alternately from either side. At the narrowest point of the isthmus are found on a perfectly straight line on the two slopes of the plateau vestiges of the works carried out by the Emperor Nero in the second half of the 1st century of the Christian era. On the side of the Gulf of Egina one sees a vast depression, about 40 metres wide at the base, which advances to within 1,500 mètres of the coast. The earth removed to form this depression has been deposited on either side forming parapets plainly visible; the trench or depression presents several lines of attack in the rock (mounting to the height of 59 mètres), but at each of these lines of attack the trench is only a few mètres deep. On the opposite slope the vestiges of the trench are visible to within two kilomètres of the sea, but on this side likewise the works have been of small importance. Between the last vestiges on either side we find in a straight line a succession of square wells, dug to depths varying, from three to 16 mètres, the vertical sides of which (cut 18 centuries ago) have remained almost intact. Two vast cisterns in a perfect state of preservation exist on the plateau in the vicinity of the wells. The cisterns may be utilised in the new works. To complete this description of the ground I may add that the isthmus has retained along its whole length the ruins of the great wall destined for the defence of the Peloponnesus against the invasions from the north, and shows to the south of this wall the remains of the great cities built by the ancients. Since I obtained the concession for the opening of the canal, I have sent to the spot to select the best line, and to make a detailed survey of the ground, M. Gerster, chief engineer of the Canal Français, and who had already surveyed the Isthmus of Darien with a view of constructing the inter-oceanic canal (Panama.)

This engineer, having under his orders subordinates and assistants for his operation, has surveyed the whole isthmus between the two mountain chains bounding it north and south and has had borings carried out. Three traces have been specially studied and lovelled. The first coincides with the line chosen by the engineers of Nero; it is 6,342 mètres long, in plan, and rises to a height (at its highest point) of 78 mètres above the level of the sea. A second trace follows the two valleys which surround the "massif." This trace is 6,740 mètres in plan, and 73 mètres at its highest point. The third trace, further south, starting from Kechrives, on the Gulf of Egina, follows a valley nearly parallel to that of the second trace, it then repeatedly crosses winding gorges, and follows the valley of the River Leoka, on the opposite slope, and after having continued along the course of the river for a short distance, reaches the sea south of the new city of Corinth. This trace is about 11 kilomètres long. The surveys have given the following results: The first trace, 6,430,000 cubic mètres; the second trace 9,186,000 cubic mètres. The second and third lines have numerous curves of a "minimum" radius of 2,000 mètres, while the so-called "trace of Nero," has the inestimable advantage of forming a straight line. The superiority of this latter trace shows itself in two other ways. First, the composition of the solid matter to be cut through, which in this trace consists of friable grit and of calcareous rock, substances which are comparatively easily excavated, and naturally form strong and durable embankments, while the second and third lines would traverse much harder "grit" of sufficient tenuity to form building materials for the ancients, as is proved by the numerous quarries in the neighbourhood of these traces. Another advantage of the first trace consists in the disposition of the slopes which favours it, inasmuch as the cana, would be then protected against the floods in the ravines along the slopes, while the two other lines would catch these waters. Moreover, this first line could utilise these valleys for an economical system of depositing the earth excavated in forming the canal. I may add that for the purposes of navigation, the first trace will be immensely superior, as it is without a single curve, and forms a rapid and easy line of transit accross the isthmus. At the mouths of the canal on the gulfs we find also, at a very short distance, out from the shore, deep and calm water. It is, therefore, this trace —already chosen by Nero that we propose to adopt. The depth of the canal and its width in section will be much the same as in the Suez Canal-viz., about 8 mètres deep and 22 mètres wide. The navigation at present is very active, both in the Gulf of Corinth, and in that of Egina, despite the difficulties and inconveniences arising from the very existence of the isthmus, which at present necessitates the overland transport of merchandise and passengers. The statistical "data" of the last few years enable us to establish a yearly average of 446 steamers, which enter the two ports of the isthmus, not taking into account innumerable sailing craft. The conditions of the coasts and the winds prevailing in the Gulf of Corinth are peculiarly favourable, according to the description given by the most competent persons; we may therefore be sure of not being contradicted by facts if we say from this time that the majority of the vessels which are at present obliged to double Cape Matapan will be glad to pass by the canal of Corinth, once this new line of communication is opened.

*(To be completed in our next issue.)*

## SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

October

9th S.S. Marie Fanny French, 218 tons from Alexandrette and Smirna, cargo of wheat.

" 'Esmi Chapkain' Ottoman 25 tons from Famagusta, in ballast.

10th 'Evangelistria' Greek brig 299 tons from Alexandria, in ballast.

11th 'Karaconchi' Cypriot 41 tons from Damiata, in ballast.

" S.S. 'Urano' Austrian 1319 tons from Constantinople and Limassol, mails and general cargo.

12th 'Abdy' Jerusalem schooner 85 tons from Port Said, in ballast.

" S. S. 'Austria' Austrian 1216 tons from Beyrout, mails and general cargo.

13th 'Michail' Greek brig 188 tons from Alexandria, in ballast.

" 'Salami' Ottoman 39 tons from Damiata, in ballast.

15th S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons from Limassol and Alexandria, mails and general cargo.

Cleared Outwards.

October

9st S.S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons for Limassol, and Alexandrian, mails etc.

11 h. S. S 'Marie Fanny' French 218 tons for Castellamare, wheat.

" 'Urano' Austrian 1319 tons for Beyrout mails &c.

12th S. S. 'Austria' Austria 1216 tons for Constantinople, mails etc.

14th 'Kassed Kenin, Ottoman 90 tons for Alayas, in ballast.

" 'Mahrouca' 60 tons Ottoman for Alexandria, brkcis"

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

By the 'Urano' from Constantinople and Limassol, Mr. Joly and sister and 12 deck pas., sengers.

By S. S. 'Austria' from Beyrout, Mr. A u man and 39 deck passengers.

By S. S. 'Elpitha', Captain Cook, Captain Baker, Mr. Jacoxides and three deck passengers.


THE EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

**NOTICE.**

The above Company's Telegraph Station at Zii (Cape Carrubiere) will be open to the public from 1st October.

Larnaca, 29th September, 1881.

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# ADVERTISEMENTS.

## NOTICE.

The House in the quarter of Trypiotis, formerly the Anglo-EgyptianBank, is to be let. For full particulars, please apply to the proprietor, HAGDI GEORGE CHRISTOFIDIS.
Nicosia, September 22nd, 1881.

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