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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 138.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9th, 1881.

PRICE THREE PENCE

"CYPRUS"

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The charge for subscriptions is 5s. 9d. for 3 months; 7s. 6d. for 6 months; and 15s. for 12 months, postage paid throughout the Island. For all countries included in the International Postal Treaty, it is 4s. for 3 months; 5s. for 6 months, and 10s. for 12 months.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The scale of charges for advertisements is low, and may be had on application at the office. Subscriptions and Advertisements are in all cases payable in advance.

"Cyprus" can be purchased in Nicosia, at the Stores of Mr. Constantinides, and also of Mr. Michel Christofides; in Limassol at the office of Mr. G. Rossides, 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.

Latest News:

The English revenue during the first quarter of the year amounts to £ 27,875,000, shewing an increase of £ 750,000 as compared with the revenue of the corresponding period of 1879.

The revenue of the year amounts to £ 84,062,500 showing an increasing on the previous budget year of £ 2,750,000.

The official correspondence on the Russian operations in Asia has been published. Lord Dufferin, alarmed by the ambiguous replies of Mr. de Giers, asked for a clear explanation of the Russian intentions respecting Merv. According to a despatch from Lord Dufferin the Czar authorised Mr. de Giers to state that there was no question of an advance on Merv, but the Czar hoped that England would enable Russian policy to continue in this policy of abstention and moderation by preventing English officers making excursions to the oases and exciting the Turcomans against the Russians.

The Ambassadors have signed a protocol recommending the acceptance by Greece of the frontier proposed by the Porte.

The latest news is that Greece insists on the cession of Prevesa.

In exchanging its notes the Bank of France pays three quarters in gold and one quarter in silver.

A Tunisian tribe has violated the Algerian territory and a fight with French troops has taken place. The papers urge the Cabinet to chastise the Bey.

According to a telegram from Rome of the 1st inst. the life of General Garibaldi was despaired off.

It is reported that the other morning a man was arrested outside the Elysée, who stated that he wished to speak to M. Grévy, who, he said, was a countryman of his. The man was taken to the police-station and searched, when a loaded six-chambered revolver was found on him. Inquiries are being made as to his sanity.

The Roumanian Principality has been raised to a kingdom. The Senate and

Chamber of Deputies at Bucharest on Saturday unanimously passed a vote proclaiming Prince Charles as King of Roumania. The members went on Sunday in a body to the palace, where the Prince signed the Act authorizing the change. Great festivities and illuminations have taken place in all the towns of Roumania in celebration of the event. At Berlin the proclamation of the new kingdom is said to be viewed with much satisfaction, but at Pesth, a *Daily News* telegram says, the event is commented upon in rather an unfriendly manner, notwithstanding the polite official declarations. Belgium was the first State which officially recognized the kingdom of Roumania. Greece has since also acknowledged the new kingdom.

The Russian loan of 900,000 roubles, which was granted to Servia as compensation for the losses sustained by the principality during the last war, has been cancelled by the Emperor Alexander III.

EGYPT.

(From "The Egyptian Gazette".)

The appointment of Mr. Sienkiewicz, French Consul General at Beyroot, to the post of Agent and Consul General of France in Egypt is officially confirmed.

Mons. Sienkiewicz will proceed to France to see Mons. Bathélemy St. Hilaire, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, before assuming his post in Egypt.

The 'Courier Egyptien' contradicts the news published by an Alexandria journal that Monsieur de Blignières would shortly proceed on leave of absence. Our own information leads us to confirm the contradiction of our Cairo contemporary.

In reference to the statements which have appeared in some of our contemporaries, we are in a position to state that Mons. de Lesseps has not yet obtained the concession for the sweet water canal to Port Said. He, however, purposes applying for it.

As to the railway to Port Said, no concession has been granted for the excellent reason that Mons. de Lesseps has not made any application for such a concession and we doubt very much if he contemplates, at present, at least, asking for one.

Mr. Fitzgerald, the Director General of State Accounts, will leave on 18th inst. for England on a three months' leave of absence.

On 30th ulto. the funeral of the celebrated French painter, Paul Lenoir took place at Cairo. It was attended by a large number of the leading members of a Cairo society as well as by many artists at the time in that city.

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have sent a memorial on slavery in the Soudan to Mr. Gladstone. The document, which is somewhat long, contains a sketch of the history of the slave trade in Egypt since the time of Mehemet Ali, confirming in almost every particular the facts published in 'The Egyptian Gazette' of 9th March, tending to show that her Majesty's Government have a long standing right to insist upon the extinction of the trade, and that the measures as yet adopted for that purpose have been in effectual and delusive. The memorial is signed by a number of influential persons and it is significant that public attention in England is now being directed to the Slave Trade in Egypt. Slavery as a domestic institution must be abolished. The reply "Non possumus" is not believed in. It would be advisable for the subject to be dealt with at once, before public feeling in England and Europe is further roused.

According to present arrangements, Mr. Malet will arrive in Alexandria on Tuesday next 5th inst. in order to attend the meeting of The Alexandria Amateur Athletic Club on the following day.

CYPRUS.

The question which Mr. Rylands will ask on Monday night with regard to the relations of France with Tunis, calls Parliamentary attention to a matter which needs elucidation. So long as the diplomatic struggle that has been going on between France and Italy in this little known North African State was confined to those who might be supposed to have an immediate interest in it, people in this country could be content to look on and cling to the hope that nothing would arise seriously to disturb the peace of the Mediterranean. The question, however, wears a somewhat different light if reasons can be shown for believing that one of the parties to this dispute has been supported by the purchased sanction of Great Britain. It is on an assertion which rests on evidence not lightly to be explained away—that Mr. Rylands bases his question. The known jealousy of France with regard to her interests in Syria could not but be touched, it has always been held, by the practical transference of Cyprus to the British Crown. Why that jealousy was not manifested in a more open manner when the transference took place seemed a matter certainly requiring to be accounted for. There is now as we have already intimated, reason to believe that the consent of France to waive her objections to the occupation of Cyprus by England was secured by granting her full leave to pursue her designs upon Tunis uninterfered with by the British Government. That such an understanding between Lord Salisbury and M. Waddington was within the range of probability needs no demonstration. When the Berlin Congress was held, arrangements of this kind were in the air, and no one could wonder if the statesman who seized upon Cyprus as the price of unavoidable concession on one hand should pay a price for non-interference on the other. The bargain was all the more easy owing to the fact that both Cyprus, which was partially ceded to England by Turkey, and Tunis, which is now claimed to have been practically surrendered to French domination, were both portions of the Empire which Lord Beaconsfield had undertaken to protect. It is true that Tunis unlike Cyprus, is only under the nominal authority of the Porte, for although subjugated by the Turks in 1574 the Tunisians have always maintained an almost complete autonomy, the power of the Sultan extending to little more than the right of exacting tribute and of confirming the Bey in his office. Still the fact is indisputable that Tunis was and is technically a part of the Turkish Empire—a fact of which the possibility of a reference of the dispute over the Enfidá estate to the Sheik-ul-Islam at Constantinople serves as a useful reminder. If the link between Tunis and Constantinople has of late become almost shadowy, that is only because in a decaying Empire, as in a decaying organism, it is in the outlying portions of the system that the failure of circulation is first felt.

A policy which seeks to further the interests of the Empire—supposing for the sake of argument that the acquisition of Cyprus could in any respect further them—by disposing of other people's property, stands sufficiently self-condemned, and to allude to it in any more direct terms of censure than we have employed would be simply slaying the slain. The fact, however, that we have come to be in a measure mixed up with matter which is causing some degree of irritation between two Powers, with both of which we are on friendly terms, cannot but quicken our interest in the questions at stake. The main issue, let it be said fairly, is one with which this country has little if anything to do. Is through any means by which the peace of Europe was not imperilled France should one day be found extending the coast line of her African possessions eastward to Cape Bon, no one in this country would feel that any injury whatever had been done to British interests. It is as little our business to support the feeble and corrupt Government of the Bey as it is our business to restrain French enterprise or thwart Italian sentiment. It is well that this position of indifference should be emphasised for two reasons. In the first place, it serves to show the absolute

emptiness of the policy which led to what we may call the Cyprio-Tunisian arrangement. In the next place, it enables us, having been drawn into a dispute which threatened to become dangerous to the good understanding existing between two friendly Powers, to bring an influence to bear which will tend to blow aside a complicated web of local intrigue, and to secure a better settlement than might otherwise have been arrived at. The action of the Government in respect of the Enfidá case has, there can be little doubt, already gone a long way towards placing the whole business on a more satisfactory footing than it seemed likely to occupy a few months since...

(From the "Daily News")

FRANCE.

It is now stated that the number of persons who perished in the fire at Nice was sixty-two, of whom thirty-six were Frenchmen (twenty five of them natives of the province) twenty Italians, four English, one German, and one of unknown nationality. Three were boys under twelve, nine youths between twelve and twenty-one, four girls, and twenty-four male and eighteen female adults. The Mayor has closed the subscriptions for the sufferers, 300,000 f.—which is more than sufficient—having already been contributed. The surplus, to be swelled by 20,000 f. raised in Paris, will go to the poor of the town. It is also stated that the number of people in the theatre at the time of the catastrophe did not exceed 150. Mr. David Kennedy, of Edinburgh, the well-known Scottish vocalist, has lost three members of his family, a son and two daughters by the catastrophe. They were studying at Nice, and were in the theatre at the time of the explosion.

The Nice Opera House was built by Victor Emmanuel's father. The corridors and staircases were dark, narrow and twisting. To reach the stalls it was necessary to pass beneath the orchestra by a narrow vault. Two adults could not descend abreast from the upper galleries, from which there was a single available door of egress. The unavailable one had been provided to facilitate escape from fire, but had not been opened for years. Being thick and solid, the attempts made by the audience to force it were ineffectual. The words "Porte en cas d'incendie" were painted on it, and have survived the fire.

RUSSIA.

An Imperial decree was published in St. Petersburg on 31st March ordering, with a view to the restoration of complete security in the capital, the creation of a temporary Council, elected by the whole population in the proportion of one representative for each of the 228 districts in which the city is divided. It is understood that the Council will decide by a majority of votes upon all questions submitted to it by the Town Commandant, and that its resolutions will be carried out on receiving the Emperor's sanction.

Latest Telegrams.

London, 5th April.

Greece has sent a circular to its representatives abroad in which the government repeat and justify their refusal of the Turkish propositions.

Mr. Childers stated that twelve thousand troops in future will be stationed in Natal and the Transvaal.

Mr. Bradlaugh has resigned but seeks re-election.

Lord Beaconsfield's state is very grave. A serious riot has taken place at Clogher in Ireland. The police fired on the mob killing and wounding several.

Skirmishing between the border tribes of Tunis and the French troops continues and

it is reported that two army corps will be mobilised to reinforce Algeria. Complications are feared.

The victims and destruction caused by an earthquake at Chio yesterday are appalling.

London, 7th April.

The earthquake at Chio commenced at 2 p. m. on Sunday and destroyed nearly the whole town of Chio and many villages. The shocks continued Monday and Tuesday. The four large villages of Sarkios, Callimasia, Sasilonico and Ververato are levelled to the ground. The loss of life is variously estimated from three to ten thousand. Food and other supplies are being sent from all quarters.

King George reviewed his troops on Tuesday.

Great excitement exists in Italy owing to the Tunisian affair. It is stated that Italy and England are in accord on the question.

Lord Beaconsfield is better.

A riot has taken place at Baltimore during which the police fired killing and wounding several of the rioters.

London 9th April.

The Powers have presented a decisive collective note to Greece notifying new frontier which comprises meridional Thessaly, and a small portion of Epirus. Prevesa to be dismantled. The powers have consented to guarantee the execution cession of territory promised by Porte. Athens journal considered to be the organ of Tricoupis in a warlike article declares it impossible to accept frontiers indicated.

Ten thousand French troops disembarked at Bona. The Bey of Tunis has appealed to the powers against violation of Tunisian frontiers by French.

The Duke of Argyll has resigned owing to divergence of opinion on the Irish land Bill. Lord Beaconsfield continues to improve. Parliament adjourned until 25th inst.

BIRTH.

On the 4th inst., at Larnaca, the wife of C. A. HADFIELD, Esq., 98th Regt., and Cyprus Military Police, of a daughter.

"CYPRUS"

Larnaca, Saturday, April 9th, 1881.

We have more than once explained the idea that persons wishing to obtain information on the Island of Cyprus must not instruct themselves by having recourse to the Blue books published by the Government. Our view of thinking is confirmed by the reports touching the formation and maintenance of the Police force in Cyprus. In fact the report dated January 1880 published in the Blue book for the year 1879 referring to the police represented it in such rosy colours that the author of the report in question goes so far as to assert that: "From what I have seen in travelling about through the Island, I have every reason to believe that the men are well liked by the people, and do their work efficiently, and I am not aware of any complaint having been made against them." As to the conduct of the men composing the force the report expresses itself thus: "The conduct of the men, taken as a whole has been very fair; at the commencement there was a good deal of crime, as the men did not understand strict discipline and obedience, but of late has much improved in consequence of having been able to get rid of bad characters; also at first there was a good deal of drunkenness amongst the Christian portion of the force, but very few now remain as they were found to be generally both inefficient and insubordinate." He who admits the

preceding lines believes really that we possess in Cyprus a police force which attains marvellously its object, the first of all the social interests, namely the security of life and property, as in every civilized society the public service the most elementary and most essential is that securing protection to life and property and which bears the name of police. In England the administration preoccupies itself especially as having a smaller number of permanent policemen, but commissions men of goodwill and offering all the required guarantees in case of necessity, and also in critical moments a special constabulary is created as at the time when Fenianism caused such terror in England; but whether there be a question of the ordinary police force or of these extraordinary constables, the administration neglects nothing to render the police and its agents respectable, and the police is an administrative force or an assistant in carrying out the laws, and this principle is so strictly observed that it is forbidden for any policeman and even the highest police officer to vote at the municipal or legislative elections; and what characterises the constitution of the corps in England is that its origin is quite local, although the Government reserves itself the right of superintending by means of three inspectors named by the Queen and their reports are laid before Parliament.

But the direction of the police rests not the less in the hands of *Police Committees* which are named at the meetings of the justices of the peace than in the hands of the *Watch Committees* which consist of members of the Municipality presided over by the Mayor.

We have thought it necessary to give these explanations because there are rumours afloat of transforming the Cyprus Military Police into a civil body and questions are put as what would be the benefit of such a change. The answer finds itself in what we have said as to the police in England. If the Government wishes to have at Cyprus an efficient police and whose good condition must not only finds itself in the official reports it will have not to go far to find its model it has only to follow the example offered by the English police force whose constitution and organization causes the whole world to admire. In other words it must localize the service of the police, because in this matter as in all others the best appreciators of the wants and requirements of the locality are the local constituted bodies. But we express this opinion without much hope that it will be adopted because we know that the inveterate propensity of our administrators is to act not in an English manner or other manner indicated by reason but always without deviation *à la Turque*. This preoccupation is also the rule for the formation of the police in Cyprus, and the results are those, contrary to all reports, which cause now such alarm to the inhabitants of the Island. In fact instead of "having of late much improved in consequence of having been able to get rid of bad characters," as the report states, the policemen of Cyprus have so deteriorated that they are recognised in the greatest crimes and of being a continual menace even to the inhabitants of the country. The examples are so numerous that we cannot recite them; but we will only refer to those who have been lately condemned for attempting the life of a villager at Kellia, and the last sad instance of those under examination on suspicion of having committed the last dreadful murder which has caused all Larnaca to shudder. It is a case of congratu-

lating the Government on the excellence of their agents. But we are in duty bound to say that all the evils result from the propensity which we have already mentioned and the preference to everything Turkish.

The author of the report we have referred to admits in the lines quoted "that at first there was a good deal of drunkenness amongst the Christian portion of the force, but very few now remain as they were found to be generally both inefficient and insubordinate." There is nothing of truth in the statement we quote but that the Christian element were even kept away from the force, under pretext of drunkenness and insubordination, but the element preferred gives us to day those brilliant results that it menaces and attempts the lives of those whose duty it is to protect. And the reality of the circumstance is that the Christians were so discouraged from taking any part in the police that it was not allowed them to obtain any rank whatsoever and seeing themselves so unjustly treated they preferred leaving the force, and it is quite false that the Turks only offer the guarantees for public security, and whatever it is every one is obliged to incline before the statistical fact that the Turks comprise but one-fourth of the population of the Island, and nevertheless 95 per cent of the prisoners are Turks and five per cent Christian prisoners; and this is applicable to all the prisons in the Island. Here we have an indication that we can dispense with making other commentaries on the marked preference in constituting the police force of Cyprus, and it seems only sufficient to establish that the Government takes the protectors of public security from among the minority of the population which furnishes the prisons with criminals in the proportion stated.

With a like system and such a *personal* the excellence of the superior officers who command the Cyprus Military police is inefficacious in producing such good results we have a right to expect from them, and as we do not wish to live always on illusions we will adjourn the hope of reforming the evils in question to the *Greek Kalends* for the greater honor of a Government which manifested it had the intention of making Cyprus a *bright spot in the East*.

IN CHURCH IN CYPRUS.

II.—THE GREEK CHURCH AT LIVADIA.

(Continued from No. 129.)

The first visit I paid Papa Georgis was not quite a distinct success. Mule and mud were together too much for me. I arrived at Livadia too late to be present at the service, and was perforce compelled to make another pilgrimage to the little village which helps to supply Larnaca with vegetables and bread, and is noted for the excellence of its dried figs. Everything is favourable to the second trip. The sky overhead is cloudless; and I am fortunate enough to obtain a companion with whom to hold sweet commune by the way.

To say that persons who do not rise early deprive themselves of a pleasant part of the day would be to make a sufficiently trite remark; but it is especially true where Cyprus is the place concerned. It is when, as Swinburne sings—

Dawn skims the sea with flying feet of gold,
With sudden feet that graze the gradual sea
—that our climate is most enjoyable. The inhalation of the fresh air at 6 o'clock in the morning produces the effect which is said to accompany the imbibition of delicious, sparkling, exhilarating Zoedone—it is refreshing, stimulating and invigorating. A clearness, freshness and serenity of atmosphere lends to a corresponding clearness, freshness and serenity of brain. There are many men who

would not feel happy for the rest of the day did they not bestow three-quarters-of-an-hour on bringing to perfection an elaborate toilet, the slightest detail of which if omitted is a source of worry to them. I have no fault to find with these; I hardly consider their behaviour in regard to the matter a weakness. But it is a mistake to allow the time thus spent to interfere with the matutinal exercise. The "tub" may be taken first thing, and then a constitutional indulged in; the completion of dressing being left till after. And that is the way to enjoy life in Cyprus.

The Larnakians—most of them—appear to regard locomotion on foot very much in the same light as do the Mexicans or Wild Indians of the boundless West. It is rare indeed they are seen in the suburbs of the town on pleasure bent; and they prefer disporting themselves of an evening in the Larnaca road, meeting each other *ad nauseam* with in many cases ill-concealed contempt, and ill-grudged and worse-bred signs of recognition. If, however, it is wished to extend walks further afield, a pleasant stroll may be had across country out towards Livadia. It was gratifying to my friend and I to find ourselves, if not like Maud Müller—

"Breast-high amidst the shocks of corn"

—at least amidst grain of very tolerable altitude and good personal appearance, which, seeing that the operation was being carried on by picturesquely-dressed peasant women in close propinquity, might consider itself "shocked." Then, in whatever light they may be regarded from an agricultural point of view, the flowers of the field add to the colour of the scene. The hills are streaked with red and gold after a manner by no means disagreeable to eyes accustomed only to white, mud-tint and blue, with effect heightened by the glaring rays of a parching and relentless sun. We are not long in arriving at Sta. Paraskevi which with its white tower of not inelegant if not of very original design has stood out a conspicuous feature in the landscape from the out-set.

The edifice is of the type common to Greek churches in Cyprus—at least such as are erected on the plains. Round about Troodos and throughout the wooded districts, I am informed there may be found, snugly stowed away in nooks and corners, pretty churches of grey stone which, overgrown with lichen moss and bright patches of purple and other coloured efflorescence more nearly recall the little village places of worship at home which dwell so pleasantly in the memories of most of us. Built of stone the exterior has been white-washed till the whole presents an appearance of having been dug-out of chalk. The roof is arched, with abutting embrasures, and on the southern side is the usual cloister. Over the entrance at the western end is a curious escutcheon—a coat of arms with three birds. The tower resembles a sort of light-house of three stories with a railed gallery round the top similar to that of the monument on Fish St. Hill; and a handsome weather-cock surmounts all. Our examination of the outside concluded we make bold to enter. A small boy—presumably a budding "papa"—with long, lank hair cut after a fashion conducive neither to cleanliness nor comfort, and the sight of which would send Mr. Truefitt into fits, shews us round, or rather keeps his eye upon us in the absence of Father Georgi. Sta. Paraskevi has seats for some 60 or 70 persons in the body of the church. Most of these surround the walls and closely resemble coffins set on end with a shelf added. I have had experience of church pews—high, broad and low; but for real, downright discomfort, commend me to those at Livadia. An attempt to rest ourselves resulted only in a good deal of physical inconvenience, owing to the narrowness of the "shelves"; and my friend who is versed in such matters is of the opinion that a monk's *miserere* stall must have been a rocking-chair as compared with one of these. At the west-end there is a rather elaborately-carved gallery, the front of which is surrounded by trellis work so dense that not only are the rustic swains who cast sheep's eyes at the feminine worshippers relegated to this part of the building unable to see anything, but the "goddesses" themselves are barely able to peer through. The illustrations on the walls are precisely of the usual primitive character. Some of them are covered up, among which is one of Sta. Paraskevi to whom the building is dedicated. Before this a lamp is burning. One or two of the smaller pictures are of such apparent antiquity that it is impossible to say what they are intended to represent. At the eastern end, of-course, and on a raised platform stands the Holy

Table. It is a simple structure, very much like a tall office writing-desk of the old-fashioned sort, with a flat top around which is a little wooden rail. Although I observe as a feature of the Greek ritual in the celebration of public worship that the Holy Table is separated by a partition and curtain from the rest of the church, yet the Table itself does not appear to be regarded in the same light of sanctity as the altar of the Roman church. At the present moment it is occupied by vestments and two or three books. In a niche in the wall are sundry funny bottles—I will not say suspicious bottles, for I know Papa Georgi's character too well and respect him more highly than that, besides which I know they contain oil—which educes from my friend an irreverent reference to the late Tavistock Square scandal.

And now I approach a part of my task which I would willingly leave to other and more competent hands. In discussing the deliverances of ecclesiastical personages whom I do not understand, I may lay myself open to the charge of being one of those who rush in where angels fear to tread. I cheerfully confess that I failed to grasp exactly the whole scope of the service at which we remained to assist—but it was owing to my somewhat abridged knowledge of Greek. Then is there incense used, and there floats on the air an endless repetition of *Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison*, wafted from two desks placed at either side of the screen, where are situate boys and men who perform the service to the best of their abilities I suppose, from somewhat rough and primitive-looking lecterns. Now and then the veil which divides us from the Holy Table was removed, when there appeared for a moment the likeness of our friend Papa Georgi "clad in white samite, mystic, wonderful." Then there follow two processions round the church. These appear to afford a certain amount of amusement to sundry boys who, attired in a kind of "Dolly Varden" costume and carrying candles and banners, look as though they had but lately stepped out of some Byzantine picture—a likeness heightened perhaps by their fact that the garbs would be the better for a visit to the wash.

On the whole the scene is picturesque. It is not gorgeous, stately, like the ritual of Rome; and in comparison with that, there indeed appears a something of aesthetic fitness wanting. But I share in the opinion of my friend. He thinks the service has been much like the ceremonial of the early Christian church—by which he does not mean, I opine, of the early Christians, but of the primitive organization which existed before chivalry had influenced ecclesiastical ritual to invest it with a poetry it erstwhile lacked.

And now service is over, and we turn our faces homewards. Shirley Brooks was wont to say that everybody felt good after having been to church, so I suppose we do also which adds to the enjoyment of our walk home. And as we pass through Old Larnaca we have an opportunity of mentally comparing the bright-bedizened worshippers we have just left with the more sombre-clad congregation which emerges from the celebration of the last mass at the church of Our Lady of Grace.

Local Notes.

Since the arrival of the mail the news has been circulated that the English Government has the intention of ceding Cyprus to Greece. This news is based on telegrams and correspondence forwarded from London to the German Press. It is also stated that Mr. Gladstone is willing to make this cession, that Lord Derby and other members of the House of Peers are of the same opinion and that the Reform Club has also expressed opinions to the same effect.

We hear that a meeting for the purpose is announced for to-day to consider the subject.

In the actual state of affairs this promise of a change in Cyprus is welcomed by the population as one on which more reliance can be placed, and as a solution of the unsatisfactory condition of the Island. However we must add that a similar rumour was circulated last October, and Lord Granville was interrogated by the British Ambassador at Rome as to its truth and received as a reply that there was no foundation for it. Since the news has been circulated a telegram has been received from Alexandria contradicting the authenticity of the statement.

The meeting announced above has just taken place, it was numerously attended and several speeches were made; the proposition to cede Cyprus to Greece was unanimously carried.

We read in the Greek papers that Mr. Caravias late Greek Consul for the Island of Cyprus has been appointed Consul-General at Tunis.

Last Wednesday was the anniversary of an eventful day in the annals of modern Greece, or strictly speaking it was the 60th year after the Greek revolution which finally led to the independence of Greece after a glorious struggle, in which so many men of other nationalities sacrificed their lives for the Greek cause.

Strange to say the anniversary has fallen this year at the most critical moment, as at any time the flames of war which have so long been muffled up may suddenly break out with much greater force than at the time of the revolution.

The day was celebrated in Larnaca though distant from the Greek Kingdom in a manner worthy of the occasion. At 10 o'clock in the morning there was a *Te Deum* at the Church of St. Lazarus which was attended by the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Greek Consul in full uniform, and all the Greek element as well as the Hellenic subjects. Following the service in the Church was the reception at the Greek Consulate which was numerously attended.

Owing to the outbreak of small-pox in Caramania all vessels arriving here from that coast are to undergo fourteen days quarantine.

In anticipation of the gathering in of the harvest, and owing to the want of labourers a vessel has arrived here from Beyrout with 32 men on board.

Every year a large number of men arrive here, who replace the want of proper machines for reaping. The use of such machines has not yet been generally introduced into Cyprus, and there are only about three or four of them which are still undergoing a period of trial in the island.

Last Saturday afternoon the Assist Commissioner went into the District on a tour of inspection, and returned on Monday evening.

On Monday at an early hour the collection of the Census forms commenced and we hear that the work was carried out with very little difficulty. In the villages where the people are not able to write the priest undertook to fill up the schedules, and we hear there was no little excitement in one village at his demanding a small fee for his services.

Mr. Rylands M. P. intends on an early day after the Easter recess to bring under the notice of Parliament the expenditure and taxation of Cyprus and the present state of its administration.

One of the murderers of the butcher at Larnaca who was condemned to 15 years imprisonment by the Temyiz Court at Nicosia, has made his escape from prison but we hear he has been recaptured.

The preliminary enquiry before the Daavi Court as to the author of the recent murder outside the Turkish quarter of the town is still going on. A large amount of evidence has been taken which causes suspicion to fall on two *zaptiehs*, and one *ex-zaptieh*.

The enquiry is expected to last some time longer before any definite decision can be arrived at, and a reward of £20 is offered by Government to anyone giving evidence which leads to the apprehension and conviction of the murderer.

We mentioned a few days ago that the locusts have made their appearance in different parts of the Island; we learn that the Government is specially occupied in destroying them in the neighbourhood of the village of Athieno, where they exist in large numbers, but people complain that other parts are neglected where the locusts are causing injury.

Since our remarks on the prospects of the harvest last week the weather has been threatening but no rain has fallen, which is greatly to be regretted as from all reports it is very necessary for wholly securing the crops.

It has been decided by Mr. Tysér, the Assistant Judicial Commissioner that the High Court of Justice has no jurisdiction in the action brought by Messrs. Henry S. King & Co. v. the Municipality of Larnaca, so it will be tried before the Daavi Court.

The S. S. *Arcadia* left Alexandria this morning for Cyprus, and she is expected here to-morrow.

An application made by Mr. Roche who until lately acted for the Messrs. Mucci in their suit against the Government—that the appeals should be stayed until the costs had been paid was dismissed. The Government finding that Mr. Roche had no *locus standi* in the appeals at present.

We understand that Mr. Roche contemplates bringing an action against the Messrs. Mucci for the amount of his fees for carrying on their action against the Government.

H. E. the High Commissioner has been kindly pleased to present to the Museum at Larnaca two of the gold coins (*solidi aurei*) recently found at Morphou.

One bears the busts of Constantine III and IV. (A. D. 654-669), the latter easily recognised by his flowing beard, which gave him the familiar surname of *Pogonatus*.

On the other are the same heads, but the reverse bears also the figures of Heraclius and Tiberius, sons of Constantine III, who received from their father the title of *Cæsar* in A. D. 659, and from that date figures on his coinage.

THE CYPRUS GAZETTE.

(Published by Authority.)

April 2nd, 1881.

We notice in *The Cyprus Gazette* No. 68, Lieut. Sinclair, R. E., is appointed Private Secretary to the High Commissioner, and Clerk to the Executive and Legislative Councils, and that C. A. King-Harman, Esq., is to act as Assistant to the Chief Secretary until further orders.

Fresh meat is allowed to be imported from prohibited ports under certain regulations.

The following *Bye Law* passed and rates fixed by the Municipality of Limassol are approved of by His Excellency the High Commissioner:—

OLD AND NEW MARKET, RENT OF STALLS.—Highest Bids offered by tenants to be accepted by the Municipality.

	LICENSÉ RATES.			
	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	4th Class
Butchers	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Carpenters	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Commission Agents	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Fishmongers	0 10	0 0	0 0	0 0
House Proprietors	5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0
Masons	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Restaurants	1 10	0 15	0 8	0 0
Tobacconists	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0

Nicosia April 8th, 1881.

While willing with you to give all due credit to the authorities for their energy and zeal in adopting measures against the possible introduction of plague; I cannot refrain from endorsing your remarks as to the necessity of not overlooking the seeds of disease that are lying broadcast all around us. No one, for instance, can walk through the Bazaar of Nicosia and not have both eyes and nose offended with the rubbish lying about in all directions, and which has remained untouched for months past, and it is hardly too much to say that the germs of Typhus will take root rapidly in such a carefully prepared soil with the unusually hot weather that is beginning to be felt so early.

Kyrenia News.

April 2nd, 1881

Mr. Lemonides, who was once practising as a lawyer at Nicosia, has been appointed Interpreter to the Police Force at Kyrenia.

In consequence of the Census the Municipality has named and numbered the streets of Kyrenia.

It is surprising how our town has improved of late in every respect. This is entirely due to the indefatigable energy displayed by the Commissioner who is striving to render this town a proper place of habitation. It is hoped that the elite of Nicosia will come here in Summer for sea-bathing, in such a case the residents will find no ground to complain of the lovely and monotonous life which prevails on this side of the island.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

In your No. 136 you give an extract from a Blue book for 1879, in which it is said that a tax of 2/ per head had been suggested on goats with a view to discourage their keep. Is it possible that this suggestion has not yet

been put into "practice?" If not, it is quite hopeless to expect any improvement in the forests and therefore any increase in the rainfall or to suppose that landowners will make any attempts to plant while the shepherds are allowed to roam uncheckered over the Island with their thousands of goats which really become a worse plague than the locusts inasmuch as these latter can be destroyed while the former seem to be almost religiously tolerated. It is well known that of all domestic animals goats are the most prolific and that unfortunately, when they are at liberty, they destroy every thing within their reach. So seriously has this been felt that in some parts of France, their maintenance has been positively forbidden, in others a severe fine is inflicted for keeping "even one" without special permission and again a tax of 5 francs per head is levied for the purpose of discouraging their increase. A wise and unlightened Despotism, if it could be always secured would be undoubtedly the best form of Government, and in a matter in which I may say that all are agreed I cannot imagine why summary measures should not at once be taken to suppress an universally acknowledged nuisance. Allow me then to suggest that their importation should be forbidden and that the paltry tax of 2 1/2 piastres chargeable as import duty be replaced by a tax of one shilling on all the full grown animals, allowing that their number is not overstated at 25,000, the Island treasury would at once receive the welcome addition of £ 2500 which would be well applied in commencing some of the irrigation works, that have been so long promised and would be hailed with delight by all the landowners in the Island.

I am Sir, etc.
SUFFERER.

Occasional Notes.

An ordinary cardboard handkerchief box was received on 23rd ult. at the Post Office at the House of Commons, addressed to the Home Secretary, and bearing the Manchester postmark. The box was given to Mr. Denning, who opened it in the presence of Mr. Williamson, and found it to contain a very old and rusty pistol, "charged with something two inches long." Fastened round the pistol was a piece of paper, inscribed: "The first instalment of the Arms Act. From an admirer of your policy."

At the Epsom petty sessions on 21st ult., before the Earl of Egmont and a full bench, Sir Garnet Wolseley was summoned for keeping two dogs at his residence, The Grange, Great Bookham, without having taken out licenses. Sir Garnet did not appear, nor was he represented; but the clerk to the magistrates said that he had received a letter stating that Sir Garnet was prevented from attending by important business at the War Office. Lord Egmont said that as Sir Garnet had not put in an appearance, or sent any one to represent him, he would have to pay a fine of 5s.

The official figures representing the results of the recent census have been published, and show that the population of Hungary, with Croatia, is now 15,610,729, of whom 7,695,732 are males and 7,914,997 females. Ten years ago the inhabitants numbered 15,417,327, so that the increase in the decennial period is 193,402. In Hungary Proper—that is, without Croatia—the increase is only 138,760, or less than one per cent on the ten years. These figures (the Pesth correspondent of the *Standard* says) have caused much sensation, and have inspired the greatest apprehensions with regard to the future. Of the small increase nearly the whole falls to the towns, and scarcely anything to the counties or agricultural districts.

The Empress of Austria has concluded her visit to England. Her Majesty lunched with the Duke of Westminster at Chester last Saturday, afterwards visited Sir Watkin Wynn, and gave a farewell dinner at Combermere in the evening. On Monday the Empress arrived in London, and visited the Queen in the afternoon at Buckingham palace, and was received by her Majesty, Princess Beatrice, the Duchess of Connaught and Prince Leopold in the Grand Hall. The Empress left for the Continent in the evening, and arrived at Paris at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning. The Austrian Ambassador received her at the Northern station, and conducted her to the Hôtel Bristol. Her Majesty left on 1st inst. for Vienna, by way of Strasburg and Munich.

Prince Rudolph of Austria arrived at Jaffa in the "Miramar" on the 23th ult. at night. Next morning he went to Jerusalem. No salutes were fired from the citadel. The Crown Prince, entering Jerusalem as a pilgrim, walked to the Holy Sepulchre church, where the Latin Patriarch welcomed him.

