

Neapolis University

HEPHAESTUS Repository

<http://hephaestus.nup.ac.cy>

Archive Cypriot Newspaper Materials

Cyprus

1881-11-12

ἡ Cyprius: an independent newspaper no 169

Library of Neapolis University Pafos

<http://hdl.handle.net/11728/8924>

Downloaded from HEPHAESTUS Repository, Neapolis University institutional repository

CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 169.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 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 3s. 9d. for 3 months; 7s. 6d. for 6 months; and 15s. for 12 months, postage paid throughout the Island. For all countries included in the International Postal Treaty, it is 4s. for 3 months; 8s. for 6 months; and 16s. for 12 months.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

PRINTING.

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

"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. Euthybut; and in Larnaca at the Office of the Newspaper.

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

TURKEY.

(From the *Levant Herald*, 2th Nov.)

A Havas telegram from Athens, of yesterday's date, states that the decree for the dissolution of the Chamber will be issued on the 9th instant, and the elections will take place on January 8. According to the Turkish papers, Dervish Pasha has announced to the Porte the complete pacification of Upper Albania.

The movements of the Kurdish tribes are causing some embarrassment to the Governments of the Sultan and the Shah. The Persian Government not unnaturally entertains resentment towards the Kurds who revolted last year. To avoid the effects of this resentment, the Persian Kurds cross the border, and, having no fixed abode, prove troublesome to the Turkish authorities in the localities where they encamp. Nevertheless, the Turkish are unwilling to drive them back into Persian territory. These perplexing circumstances have led to a diplomatic interchange of views between the two Governments, which might easily have assumed an acrimonious form, but for the excellent temper displayed on either side. It is hoped that the conciliatory feeling mutually manifested will bring the difficulty to a speedy adjustment.

The Turko-Greek question still finds work for diplomacy, and the discussion on the disputed line of frontier near Kritiri, which had been postponed until Major Ardagh's arrival, formed the subject of deliberation at the meetings held on Friday and Saturday by the representatives of the Powers. All the commissioners at present in Constantinople were invited to be present at the meetings.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Charles Wilson,

and Mr. Arthur Nicholson, arrived on Sunday the 30th. ult. from Syria.

Considerable agitation prevails at Aleppo in consequence of the drastic measures taken by Djemil Pasha to rouse the judicial body from its lethargy. The victims of his much called-for severity naturally give vent to their indignation, and, besides telegrams, a petition, signed by 150 persons, some of whom belong to the notables of the city, has been sent to the Ministry of the Interior to protest against being disturbed by the *vali* in their pleasant fashions of idleness and corruption.

The Reverend J. E. Pierce, an American missionary, residing at Baghotedjik, in the district of Ismidt, was stopped, robbed, and maltreated by a band of Circassians with blackened faces in May last, on his return from a journey, in company with one attendant. As soon as the American legation brought the matter to the attention of the Porte, an active pursuit was set on foot, which resulted in the capture of seven Circassians suspected of forming part of the band, who were imprisoned at Ismidt, where they underwent a preliminary examination. Their trial commenced here on Saturday, Oct. 22, and continued till Monday, when two of the prisoners who were identified by Mr. Pierce, were sentenced to penal servitude for five years and the rest were discharged, as there was not sufficient evidence to identify and convict them.

Agreed as to the capital of the debt, the delegates and the Ottoman commissioners are now endeavouring to bring up the ceded revenues to an amount which will secure an interest of 1 per cent per annum on the reduced capital, and provide also for a sinking fund of half per cent. The deficit is about £t. 350,000 of which £100,000 is to be covered by special application of the tobacco tithes, the collection of which would, in such case, be entrusted to the new administration of the Six Hypothecated Contributions. There now lacks a sum of £t. 250,000, which the Ottoman commissioners were of opinion might be made up by the improved administration. But the delegates required something more tangible than this and the Ottoman commissioners promised that they would refer to the Council of Ministers and report on Monday. Some questions were asked by the delegates respecting the Cyprus rent, to which the Ottoman commissioners replied that the Porte was in negotiation with the British and French Governments with regard to their guarantee of the Loan of 1855, and that it was probable that an arrangement would be made which would leave the Cyprus rent available for the bondholders. In the contrary event, the commissioners would replace the amount of the rental by an equivalent. All the members of the commission did not attend yesterday, Oct. 27th.

A telegram of the 31st from Athens announces that Mr. Stephen Scouloudhi has definitively constituted a

Steam Navigation Company, called the "Lloyd Hellénique," with a capital of forty millions of francs. Mr. Scouloudhi has been aided in the creation of this undertaking by the co-operation of several first class financial establishments, among which are mentioned the Comptoir d'Escompte of Paris, the Bank of Constantinople, and Messrs. Camondo & Co.

"OUR RIDE THROUGH ASIA MINOR."

To the number of adventurous lady travellers in wild and difficult countries is now to be added the name of Mrs. Scott-Stevenson. She has a gay intrepidity and a capacity for running into dangers equal to the best of them; and in keenness of observation and a pretty, picturesque, womanly talent in description, she may vie with any of the rambling sisterhood. Whether the profession of ladies-errant is one for its own sake to be commended may be an open question; but there can be no doubt that its practice has tended to the entertainment of the public and the increase of lively books of travel. For one thing her readers have to be grateful to Mrs. Scott-Stevenson; avowing that she has no literary pretensions whatever, she confides to us in her Preface the secret that, fearful of her husband's severe criticism, she sent off her manuscript to the publisher without his knowledge, "and thus made remonstrance ineffectual." What "Andrew" may have had to say to this act of rebellion we cannot guess, but the result is distinctly to the reader's profit. As one of the Civil Commissioners in Cyprus, Captain Scott-Stevenson would probably not have cared to become responsible for all his wife's opinions on the people and government of Asia Minor. We are not the less glad to have them as the spontaneous and unbiased impressions of an intelligent woman. The only people who, it seems to us, have any reason to complain of delicate English ladies travelling through the wilds of Asia Minor are the Turks. They have already, according to Mrs. Scott-Stevenson's testimony, quite enough to bear of the burden of Government—badgered by foreign consuls, bullied by Greeks, Armenians, and Jews, plundered by Circassians, in dire straits for want of money, and engaged in solving, under every kind of difficulty, that problem of life which is to prove whether they are worthy to survive. Amidst these trials, not the least is that to which the unfortunate Ottomites are exposed through what must appear to them the intemperate rage for travel which has seized English ladies, who insist on exploring the roughest parts of their dominions and who have to be protected somehow against the dangers incurred in such adventures. We should scarcely be disposed to warrant the entire safety of a young Osmanli and his lady who should be possessed with a desire for riding through the English counties. How much greater, then, is the responsibility which is thrown on the ill-paid and neglected officials of the Porte in having to safeguard an English captain and his wife through the untrodden mountains and the decaying cities of Karamania, exposed to the enterprises of the half-starved Circassian, the savage Turkoman, the greedy Greek, and the sulky Armenian!

It must have been with a profound sense of relief that the Turkish *valis*, *caimacams*, and headmen of villages heard of the safe return of Mrs. Scott-Stevenson and her husband to Kyrenia, in Cyprus. Their journey was sufficiently full of adventure. In addition to the usual troubles of English travellers in the East, from incompetent guides, roguish muleteers, and treacherous and cowardly *zaptiehs*; the abiding horror of *backshish*; the dirt, the smells, and the bad food; too pop-

ulous sleeping-places and too little water for ablution: Mrs. Scott-Stevenson encountered more than one serious peril to life on the road. Once she and her husband were nearly betrayed into a robber's den among the mountains. Once they were attacked by a couple of bandits, whom Captain Scott-Stevenson put to flight single-handed. Once our authoress had to sit for five hours alone on the mountain-side, with a smashed *araba* and its inanimate driver, while her husband went off for succour. Then there were disputes with murderous looking Tcherkesses and insolent Armenians; Captain Stevenson having on one occasion to exercise the art of Mr. James Mace on the persons of some twenty of the latter, whom he sent flying, it is satisfactory to learn, in different directions. On the whole, our travellers had quite as rough a time of it as any "clever and cultivated lady," to whom the tour is recommended, could desire. The districts of Asia Minor they traversed, entering by Aintab, and skirting Armenia, thence to Adana, and again north to Kaisariyeh, and returning through Koniah to Chelindreh—is one of the wildest in Asia Minor, and perhaps less known to Europeans than many regions of Central Africa. Once the seat of a renowned civilization, famous for its wealth and prosperity; full of populous cities, among the most eminent on earth for art and learning; the home of an active, progressive, and powerful race—this is now one of the most barbarous and ill-governed portions of the Turkish domain: which is saying a great deal. Kaisariyeh and Koniah stand but to mock the memories of Casarea and Iconium. Whatever it may have been in St. Paul's time, the Tarsus of to-day is a very mean city. The Cydnus, down which Cleopatra's barge went with the purple sails, no longer flows by the city. The picture which Mrs. Scott-Stevenson draws is one of uniform decay and desolation, very saddening in its monotony. Everything here announces the quick coming of an assured doom; nor from the "hastening ill" is there any sign of relief or hope of escape. Yet the country is a fair one, whose beauties Mrs. Scott-Stevenson is never tired of extolling. The mountain ranges of the Taurus contain some of the grandest scenery in the world. Vast tracts in the interior still retain their ancient fertility, and might become once more as fruitful, under good government, as ever they were. From the sentence that in this paradise "man only is vile," Mrs. Scott-Stevenson makes but one exception, which some people will be surprised to hear is the Turk. While testifying, as all travellers have testified, to the defects, abuses, and crimes of the Turkish Government—faults which, under the present system, are increasing and not decreasing—our authoress has nothing but good to say of the Turks as a people. She found them invariably courteous, kindly, and hospitable. Although travelling often without a guard in parts of the country where a European is rarely seen, and European ladies never, she declares that from the Moslem population she never heard a rude or angry word, though compelled to speak strongly against "the terrible misgovernment of the rulers, their selfish indifference to the welfare of the country, and their utter want of honesty in the management of public affairs." Although giving expression to the somewhat absolute opinion that there is "not one honest or capable leader in the whole country," Mrs. Scott-Stevenson draws a picture of the Turkish population of Asia Minor—who are, after all, the greatest sufferers by Turkish misgovernment—which contrasts very strongly with that of any other race in that region. She gives vent to an opinion which will astonish the adherents of the "unspeakable Turk" theory, though it will surprise none who are acquainted with the present state of Turkey—that "the Christians throughout Asia Minor are a great deal stronger than the

Turks, and they are the tyrannical race." The officials have no peace because of the incessant demands made upon them by the Christians—demands which are enforced by the European Consuls. If there is any hesitation in attending to the most trivial complaints, complaints mostly by one Christian race against another, it is set down as an "atrocious." One case is reported by our traveller of how an "atrocious" was manufactured in her own presence. A respectable Turk, for merely looking at her intently in the street of a Turkish village, was seized hold of by the retainers of a rich Greek citizen and locked up in his house; Captain Stevenson being urged by the Greek to make a complaint to the Governor and get the man punished. It turned out that the Turk's only crime was his asking in the hearing of the crowd whether the lady was the Effendi's wife or his daughter, which was construed into an insult and an act of fanaticism. Of all the races she came into contact with in her journey, Mrs. Scott-Stevenson was least pleased with the Armenians. She disliked their manners, their costumes, their religion, their noses—the last being a feature highly accentuated among these people: it is large and broad and flat, and not handsome. Mrs. Scott-Stevenson may in this not be without prejudice; for she records that her own slim figure was by no means admired by the Armenian ladies, who are large of bone and of flesh. In one house her hostess could not conceal her surprise at her visitor's appearance, asking bluntly "if all English ladies were as ugly." The Armenians are pronounced to be cunning, greedy, stingy, and wholly unscrupulous. In religion an Armenian "pauses to think how he can worship the Almighty with at once the greatest outward show and the utmost saving to his pocket." A legend is quoted of how once the devil came to Kaisariyeh, and "walked about the bazaar, delighted with its bustle and prosperity, and expressed himself highly gratified with his visit. Suddenly he put his hand to his head and found his fez had been stolen; on further search his purse was gone; and when he went to put on his shoes he found that they too had disappeared. There upon he declared that the Armenians were too much for him, and decamped by the first *araba* he could find." They have no great love for the English, the Armenians, though they fear the Russians more. Another unamiable race are the Circassians, who are, however, open thieves and murderers almost of necessity. Their hand is against all other men, and every other man's hand is against them—a hard fate for which they are to be pitied, as well as the Turks who have to put up with them, considering how they have been treated and the dog's life they lead. Of the nomad Turkoman tribes who feed their flocks on the great central table-land north of the Taurus our travellers formed an unexpectedly agreeable impression. They have many of the virtues of a pastoral people, and are without the vices of their congeners in the cradle of their race in Central Asia; being honest, industrious, and peaceful.

Mrs. Scott-Stevenson must be commended for having given to the public a very pleasant and entertaining book about a people and a country who are destined to play an important part in the future history of the world, of particular interest to England and to Englishmen.

(From the *St. James's Gazette*.)

CYPRUS.

OUR BAD BARGAIN IN THE LEVANT

The telegraph informs us that on Saturday last the new public works in Larnaca were "inaugurated," and the High Commissioner made a short speech on the occasion. At the same time Lord Kimberley has sent a financial officer to Cyprus in order to report upon and to rearrange the minor expenditure of the island. It is time something was done; but this proceeding has, we are informed, no very large aim, and will not touch the greater matters of finance which have made Cyprus hopelessly insolvent. It is also said that a body of experts, known as the Colonial Defence Commission, have reported to the Secretary of State concerning the value of Cyprus as a "piece of arms" in a sense quite contrary to that which Lord Beaconsfield was wont to assert. When the author of "Tapered" realised the idea of his romance, he declared at the Guildhall that Cyprus was useful in order to prevent Russian armies from advancing "through the passes of Asia Minor and through Persia" to attack our Indian frontier. People with large maps showed Lord Beaconsfield soon afterwards that Russia had a safe base of operations eight hundred miles nearer to India upon the Caspian Sea, and no more was heard of Lord Beaconsfield's geographical

view of the matter. Now Lord Salisbury has started a new theory.—He bids the Conservatives of Newcastle the other day to look at the difficulties of the Egyptian problem, and "ventured to say," that "the people of this country will have cause to appreciate more fully the wisdom of the policy which has given them a hold upon Cyprus."

Cyprus is costing England nearly £80,000 a year. That is a large sum to pay for the tenure of an island the advantages of which only the partisans of those who took it can perceive. But in regarding the actual position of affairs in Cyprus there are certain conditions which appear to be accepted by both parties in the State. There is clearly no disposition on the side of the Government to annul the Anglo-Turkish Convention. The restoration of the island to the Porte is not in question. All the suggestions for the transfer of Cyprus to the Hellenic kingdom are equally wide of the mark. The British Government have no power to cede an island which is not theirs. In the history of diplomacy no bargain was ever made more cleverly than that by which we are held to Cyprus. The British Plenipotentiaries at Berlin desired speed and secrecy in the negotiation, and these are ingredients which have to be paid for. The Grand Vizier insisted that the Convention should record that Cyprus remained part of the Ottoman Empire, and he fought hard to put in the actual sum of the surplus revenue which Turkey was then draining from Cyprus, the payment of which is the cause of the present embarrassment. His Highness had his way indirectly in this matter, and the yearly tribute payable to the Sultan is more than £80,000. In August Parliament voted £78,000 in aid of the revenues of Cyprus. Lord Kimberley's balance-sheet for this year will certainly show a deficit perhaps of large amount. Meanwhile we have news from Cyprus as to its progress under British management. Early in the current month, Sir Robert Biddulph "inaugurated" the new pier at Limassol, which figured in this year's estimates. The British people ought to be told something of these doings, for there can be no doubt that they will pay a very considerable part of the cost of this pier. In proposing "Prosperity to Limassol," Sir Robert Biddulph handled the statistics of the port. The total trade of Limassol appears to have increased from £85,904 in 1878 to £140,439 in 1879 and £143,577 in 1880. Of course these figures display the results of British expenditure. The British public will be rejoiced to learn upon the authority of the High Commissioner that the military health of Cyprus has improved. They have paid for this too, and have not received value for their money. The improvement is really due to a more intelligent choice of camping grounds for the troops, to acclimatization of the slender garrison, to better shelter, and a more prudent dietary. It is acknowledged that the planting of eucalyptus was a failure. In February, Lord Kimberley was led to approve an outlay of £5,000 in tree-planting. Soon afterwards it was found that stray goats were the chartered libertines of Cyprus, whose wanderings no Government dares repress. The outlay was countermanded. The High Commissioner has lately announced "impending reforms," but these do not appear likely to operate by way of reduction of the deficit. We have officers in Cyprus who, in recent reports to the Colonial Office, have mentioned "the sanitation of towns" as urgently needed. The word is ominous in association with the barren exchequer of a bankrupt island.

We have no intention to cavil over the administration of Cyprus. We are not much moved by the local agitation in Cyprus, which looks as if it were fostered by foreign intriguers for personal ends. It is hardly just to say, as one of our contemporaries has said, that our agents were spending £80,000 a year on works of secondary importance. It is quite unfair to give this name to piers, custom-houses, and public offices. As we have the wretched island, we must make the best of it, though the best is very bad. The Turk has got us bound hand and seal to a very bad bargain. We see how it was that the Sultan's officers realized the surplus which we have to send out from the Consolidated Fund. They did no tree-planting or pier-building; they cared nothing for "the sanitation of towns" or for the education of the people. We are told that the Turks of Cyprus like the change, because formerly "the revenues of their pious foundations were absorbed by the Turkish officials. That was how the Sultan's officers made up the 23,000 'purses' at which the Colonial Office, walking in the ways of honesty, is assessed. It is hard upon Lord Kimberley. The Foreign Office slipped out of this bad business, and Sir Charles Dike said "he could not but hope that when Cyprus was transferred to the Colonial Office many of the difficulties would disappear." They have not disappeared; they are just now in full bloom, and the Colonial Office must look forward to some new presentation of the affairs of Cyprus. The *Times* said the other day that the connection between England and Cyprus will be severed, "when

England tires of the burdens which Cyprus imposes on her." We are inclined to think the fatigue will arrive before the discovery is made of any suitable method of relief. Mr. Gladstone's fertile mind has discovered an indirect way; and, by suggestion from the Treasury, Lord Granville has laid an onerous charge upon the tribute for our share of the guaranteed interest upon the Turkish Crimean Loan, amounting to about £40,000 a year, or half the annual payment we have to make to the Sultan. There are those who think this a proceeding of questionable advantage. We are partners with France in that guarantee. She has to pay the Porte another £40,000. It may be said, if we substantially impose that charge upon a part of the Ottoman Empire, why should not France relieve her account by some such hypothecation? Besides, it is argued that the claim tends to consolidate the financial arrangement as to Cyprus. If the Colonial Office were to tempt the Porte with ready money for the redemption of the tribute and the purchase of the sovereignty of the island, and were at the same time to reduce the scale of government to suitable dimensions, the probability of England tiring of the burden might be lessened if not removed, and we should then be free to deal with Cyprus as the political circumstances of the Levant might suggest. But it is impossible to deny that any transaction in Turkish territory is just now a matter of peculiar delicacy and of some danger.

(From the *Pall Mall Gazette*.)

CYPRUS.

Larnaca, Saturday, 12th November, 1881

For some time past there have been frequent allusions in the despatches from the Home Government and in parliamentary speeches to an introduction of reforms in Cyprus. Lately Lord Kimberley announced that an expert would be sent to enquire into the wants of the Island. We welcome the arrival of Mr. Edward Fairfield, Asst. private Secretary to the Secretary of State for the Colonies who has been charged with this mission. We presume that our financial condition will primarily engage the attention of Mr. Fairfield; but as Lord Kimberley has stated that the appointed commissioner would be conversant with colonial practice and regulations, we hope that all questions connected with the new organization of the country under the rule of the Colonial Office will be carefully considered, and that Mr. Fairfield's visit of investigation will result in some tangible benefits to Cyprus. Just now, committees have been formed in the principal towns of the Island for the purpose of submitting to the High Commissioner a statement of the wishes and requirements of the country; and, we may suppose that, forming a portion of the inhabitants, they may be able to set forth—practically—their wants. There is no doubt that the present condition of affairs in Cyprus demands reform. The committees have, we believe, not yet formulated their requests which will be finally drawn-up at a general meeting of all the members to be held at Nicosia. The whole subject of our affairs has been so amply discussed by the Press; has been so thoroughly considered in despatches; that to persons possessed of ordinary common sense it will seem incomprehensible if a reasonable solution is not arrived at. Before all, it is the wish of the portion of the inhabitants holding moderate views, who work, who possess, who have the capability of thinking, and who have earnestly at heart a desire for the welfare of their country, and a wish to see swept aside alike the obstruction of officialism and pretensions of all kinds not in accord with the real interests of the Island.

THE CYPRUS GAZETTE.

The following are the principal appointments notified and items contained in Number 73 of "The Cyprus Gazette" published under date of the 8th. inst.:

Referring to Art. II of the Annex to the Convention of 4th June, 1873, His Excellency the High Commissioner is pleased to notify that M. B. Seager, Esq., has been appointed to act as British Delegate to superintend, in conjunction with Shekerzadeh Esseid Ahmed Khouloussi Effendi (the Delegate named by the board of Evcaf in Turkey) the administration of the property, funds and lands belonging to mosques, cemeteries, Musulman schools and other religious Establishments existing in Cyprus.

Mr. Herbert P. Tayler, M. R. C. S. E. &c to the Medical Department. Dated 5th August, 1881.

Mr. Angus Munro to be Topographical Draughtsman in the Survey Department. Dated 8th August, 1881.

Major the Honourable Edward John Chetwynd, from Second in Command and Paymaster, Cyprus Police, to act as Assistant Commissioner, Nicosia *vice* Capt. W. S. Baker, resigned. Dated 1st September, 1881.

Captain Edward William Dulo-Crocker to be Second in Command in addition to his existing duties, *vice* Major the Honourable E. J. Chetwynd, resigned. Dated 1st September, 1881.

Mr. Charles Edward Cullen will act as Paymaster, in addition to his existing duties, *vice* Major the Honourable E. J. Chetwynd, resigned. Dated 1st September, 1881.

On and after the 22nd of November next the red light at present shewn at the Harbour of Limassol will be moved to the outer end of the New Pier at that Port, 560 feet from shore. The light will be exhibited from a lamp-post 25 feet above the Sea, and should be visible, in clear weather, from a distance of six miles. Position as given, Lat 34 deg. 39 min. 30 sec., N., Long. 33 deg. 2 min. 45 sec., E.

Marriage.

SPARROW—DANIEL. On the 10th instant at the English Church, Larnaca, by the Reverend Josiah Spencer, B. A., Chaplain of Cyprus, Francis HICKLIN, eldest son of the late FRANCIS Henry Sparrow Esquire of Wolverhampton, to Julia, daughter of the late DR. EDWIN DANIEL of Stone, Staffordshire, England.

Local Notes.

The *Vakit* believes that the negotiations between the Sublime Porte and the French and British Governments with regard to the tribute of Cyprus are progressing satisfactorily. These negotiations were at first begun with England alone, but as France was equally interested in the guaranteed loan, for the payment of the interests upon which a portion of that tribute has hitherto been kept back by the British Government, the Sublime Porte proposed that she should also take part in the negotiations. The Turkish paper states that they will be brought to a conclusion at an early date.

Mr R. W. Thompson, C. B. Permanent under Secretary for War, arrived in Larnaca by the Austrian-Lloyd steamer on Tuesday. The visit to Cyprus of Mr. Thompson, who was accompanied by his son Mr. H. L. Thompson to this from Limassol, is, we believe, purely unofficial.

We are informed that the total amount of Locusts' Eggs collected up to the end of last month was 709,387 oves. Of this quantity

216,176 okes were collected during October and 493,211 okes previously. The expenditure up to October 31st. was £6082. The increase in the collection last month as compared with those of previous months is of course due to the fact that the price per oke offered by Government has been raised to 3 piastres. As we have before said, when a million okes have been destroyed, it may be considered that something has been done to check in Cyprus the ravages of this curse of all Eastern countries. When the locusts take to wing we shall hope to see the authorities energetically using the trap means of destruction, in which agriculturists and others most interested in the matter have great faith.

A sum of £100 has been granted by Government to the Larnaka municipality in order to repair the quays.

The sentence of the Temyiz Court in the appeal case Philipson v. Georgiadi has not yet been delivered. We hear it stated that the matter has been removed to the High Court of Justice, the privilege accorded to His Excellency by a provision of the Ordinance having been availed of; but in any case we cannot conceive that such a course as been adopted before the judgment of the Temyiz Court has been pronounced. The Temyiz court has been appealed to by Mr. Philipson himself for its decision.

Lt. Gilmore, commandant of police in this district, will shortly proceed to England on temporary leave of absence. Lt. Powell was to have performed the duties of the post while Mr Gilmore is away, but we now understand that they will be undertaken by the asst commissioner.

Rain has fallen in some quantity in the Island during the past week, but the down-fall has not been sufficient for agricultural purposes and the peasants are becoming anxious.

We hope shortly to receive Mrs. Scott-Stevenson's new book "Our Ride through Asia Minor" and be able to pronounce our own full verdict upon it. In the meantime we print a laudatory review of the "St. James's Gazette," a journal by no means disposed to be lavish in praise—indeed one with a tendency to sacrifice just criticism to a display of scathing literary skill. Sufficient, we think, may be gathered from the review, to perceive that the descriptive powers which rendered "Our Home in Cyprus" such pleasant and profitable reading have been happily employed in the production of the present volume which will doubtless be widely read.

According to a telegram from Malta H.M. S. "Superb" left there for Cyprus on the 2nd inst.

Kyrenia News.

8th Nov. 1881.

A severe gale blew here from the 6th till to-day (the 8th.) which reached a height on the night of the 7th. Three ships were washed ashore, one of which is a complete wreck. The cargoes consisted principally of sheep and goats more than half of which have been drowned. On Monday morning Captain Scott-Stevenson, the Commissioner, made a most gallant attempt to save the living freight in the hold of one of the vessels. He swam alone with the breakers and succeeded in attaching a rope to the deck, with the help of which 15 valuable Angora sheeps were saved. Captain Stevenson was in imminent danger and was once washed off the ship and under the stern, but he regained his hold and did not leave the wreck till most of the cargo was saved. He reached the shore covered with blood and much bruised, but remained to direct a gang of convicts who were sent from the Fort to pull out of reach of the waves all merchandise floating about. This is the second time Captain Scott-Stevenson has by his personal efforts assisted the merchants of this town in saving their goods from wrecked ships, and yesterday afternoon all the principal inhabitants called at his office to tender him grateful thanks for his endeavours in their behalf.

The visitors who have arrived here from England consist of Miss Scott-Stevenson; Mrs. Herbert-Stepney, Hill Street House, Rutland Gate; Miss Stockman; Miss Harkness, Somersetshire; Colonel Macdonald, St. Martin's Abbey, Scotland; A. Mackenzie and Mr. Macdonald.

A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND.

(Continued from our last.)

XIV.

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion, the city of the great King." Nothing now remains of what was once the city of David. An accumulation of from thirty to forty feet of debris covers all her palaces and courts. But although the surface of the mount has somewhat changed, its general form and character are the same. On the southern brow of Zion stands the Coenaculum. This is said to be the room where the apostles assembled on the day of pentecost, and where Christ washed the feet of his disciples. The room is a very ancient one. It is in charge of mohammedans. Christians are permitted to visit it without restraint, and on maundy Thursday monks of the Latin church here celebrate the washing of feet, the superior imitating Christ's example of humility by washing the feet of his brethren. Mass is also celebrated at certain times.

Just outside the present walls of Zion is a small black dome which covers the sepulchre of David. Surrounding this interesting spot are many buildings forming a kind of Khan. These are occupied by one moslem family numbering, I am told, about two hundred souls.

Travellers arriving at Jerusalem after the gates are closed would have to content themselves with the roadside as couch, a rock as pillow, and to go supperless to sleep, were it not for the good man at the head of the aforementioned large family, who has made his group of houses a hospice for all such travellers, without distinction of creed. They get a supper and a bed, and the old patriarch's blessing, all for nothing.

Almost directly over the tomb of David there is an "upper chamber" called the room of the last supper. Here for the last time on earth Christ met all His disciples together, and instituted the most solemn of all christian celebrations. It is a quaint old chamber, and just such a place, one can easily imagine, as would be chosen for the sacred meal. Under it are the rock-hewn sepulchres of some of the Jewish kings of Jerusalem, among them being that of David. This also is in the hands of the mohammedans, and is so revered by them that not even those of their own faith are allowed to enter. I am told that only three people living have penetrated into the tomb. These are said to be the Prince of Wales, Sir Moses Montefiore, and the daughter of a well-known American traveller. The latter disguised herself as a mohammedan, and when the guard was asleep, or had left his post, she entered, took a rapid sketch of the tomb, and left again without being detected. We, like thousands of other travellers who visit the spot, are compelled to content ourselves with the knowledge that the mortal remains of the great King David rest under the place upon which we stand. No historic fact in the sacred volume is more plainly stated than that King David and most of his successors to the throne of Juda were buried on Mount Zion. Nehemiah describes the position of the tombs (III 15-16). "The pool referred to is most probably the lower pool, Birket el-Sultan, in the valley of Hinnom. Peter speaks of David's sepulchre as being known in his day.

Our next visit is to the wonderful excavations known as the quarries of Solomon. Entering a small hole cut through the living rock upon which stands that portion of the city wall near the Damascus gate, we pass under the lower portion of the city right along the temple grounds, where is a large hole up which were hauled the stones for the building of the Temple. Many large blocks lie scattered about this mammoth cave. Several huge ones have not been quite severed from the rock.

(To be continued)

EGYPT.

THE FAIR OF TANTAH.

(Continued from our last.)

From the edge of the canal to the summit of the farthest hill, one's eye meets nothing but an unbroken mass of temporary dwellings. Nor are there wanting inmates for all these habitations. Their presence is soon disagreeably manifested to us by a powerful odour, for these people, whatever other virtues they possess, are very wanting in that of cleanliness. Dense crowds of people of all ages are standing or squatting about in every imaginable costume, mingled with camels, oxen, donkeys, and horses, in apparently inextricable

confusion. Of course, to attempt to pass without assistance through this mass of humanity would be hopeless, but, fortunately, when a few minutes before sunset we start on our rambles the thoughtful care of our friends has provided us with two stalwart Arabs, who act the part of janissaries. These march in front, and by dint of shouting, pushing, and elbowing their fellow citizens, contrive to leave us a clear space in which to walk. Our protectors are armed with stout sticks, with which they strike out right and left, and enforce their observations upon the heads of the passers by. To such an extent is this carried, that we are obliged now and then to interfere to check the excessive zeal of these self-constituted authorities. What amuses one is to see the easy, good-humoured way in which the crowd submits to be thus hustled and beaten, merely uttering the customary Arab observation "Malesch!" when a more than usually severe blow falls upon one of them. As we pursue our rambles through interminable bazaars, streets and lanes, the mosques and minarets are lighted up with the last ruddy glow of the setting sun, and no sooner is the short Egyptian twilight at an end, than suddenly we see around us myriads of glittering lamps lighted as if by magic. After threading our way by the quaintly built, Arab houses, whose upper storeys overhang half the roadway, we come to the commercial quarter, where carpets, rugs and Arab work of all kinds is being sold, amidst loud shouts and vehement gesticulations. Some of these merchants show great acuteness in driving bargain, and one old gentleman, whose prices we attempt to beat down, points out that in a twelve-months' time the English flag will be flying from the citadel at Cairo, and everything will then be twice as dear. Suddenly, on turning a corner, we find ourselves opposite the portals of a magnificent mosque, whose striped walls and Arabic tracery are thrown out in strong relief against the sky by the blazing torches and braziers of flaming coal borne by an approaching procession. There is beating of drums, gongs, and a blowing of trumpets as a huge crowd of worshippers pass up to the gate of the building. Here there is somewhat of a scramble for admission, but order is speedily restored by the Arab doorkeepers, who freely deal out blows upon the heads of the believers. These walk four abreast with silken banners of every hue, some with the Mahomedan crescent embroidered on them. Many of the faithful are most becomingly attired. Amongst them there are sheikhs, who ride on snowy steeds, and are dressed in all the colours of the rainbow. There are sheikhs in crimson, sheikhs in amber, sheikhs in green, sheikhs in brown, accompanied by numerous followers, and as they march past, with the light falling on their swarthy complexions, varied costumes, and many-coloured flags, the whole scene seems but a reproduction of a chapter from the "Arabian Nights," with all the Oriental accessories, and insensibly takes one out of the prosaic realities of the nineteenth century.

After a while, we quit the city, and get out in the suburbs, where to all appearance an immense army is bivouacking. Here, where we are refreshed by a cool breeze which rustles amongst the palm trees, a variety of curious sights present themselves. In one corner, Ibrahim or Mehemet is displaying his skill as a "haw," or juggler, by the light of a petroleum lamp, to a crowd of admirers. In another, Hassan, seated cross-legged on the ground, is relating stories to an audience that, by the tokens of approbation they give, appears to find them of a most diverting character. Next, we come across refreshment booths benches of which are squatted for hours together Arabs of the better on the class, smoking and drinking coffee, as if that were the aim and end of their existence. Amongst the entertainments provided, the chief is, of course, that of the "Ghawazees," or dancing girls. Their performance takes place in big oblong tents, open to everyone, and provided with divans round the sides for the accommodation of the spectators. In most of the tents there are two of these girls, who are said to belong to a distinct tribe, and who usually dance during the whole night. They are all young, and generally pretty, with a tawny complexion and magnificent eyes, the effect of which is heightened by the application of "kohl," and they have besides remarkably small hands and feet. The dress consists of a shirt with wide sleeves, open in front, with a short skirt and continuations. They all have ornaments—mostly made of gold coins strung together—around their necks and wrists, and have often a large ring of the same material through the nose and others in their ears. The dancing, which goes on

to the sound of very monotonous Arab music is always the same, and consists chiefly of a rapid vibratory motion of the hips, from side to side, whilst the body is kept perfectly motionless. This is followed by more demonstrative movements, which must be seen to be appreciated. An occasional subscription of a piastre a head suffices to defray the cost of the entertainment. Besides the "Ghawazees," there are great numbers of other women who visit the fair in the hope of obtaining husbands, and for various purposes, and these usually live apart in tents by themselves, and throw aside much of the restraint commonly observed by Egyptian women in regard to the other sex.

It would be wrong, however, to suppose that it is pleasure or piety only that attract these crowds of visitors to Tantah. On the contrary, a very large proportion of them make it an opportunity for trade, and a good business is done in European and native wares. Itinerant vendors of fancy articles meet us at every step, and one part of the fair is devoted to the sale of horses, mules and donkeys, which are brought here in great numbers for that purpose, and the vendors do business with a degree of acuteness not exceeded amongst *habitués* of the turf at home. Slave dealing was formerly an important feature on these occasions, though it is now no longer openly permitted. We have met but two of the police the whole night, and yet what strikes us as remarkable is the perfect order and good humour that prevail amongst all whom we meet, and the civility and courtesy with which our little party of unbelievers is everywhere treated—a fact all the more singular, when one reflects that religious fanaticism is one of the strongest passions of these people and that Europeans just now are said to be not in much favour.

(From the Levant Herald.)

Latest News.

The Franco-Italian Treaty of Commerce has been signed.

The Sultan has promised to withhold troops from Tripoli and to replace the Governor General Hassim Pasha.

Telegrams from Sofia state that in consequence of a misunderstanding between Mr. Hivovs and Prince Alexander, the latter of whom has dismissed the Russian officers, the former has resigned.

Mr. Albert Grey Governor General of Algeria, has resigned his position.

Mr. Gallay, who has occupied lately the post of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated in Parliament that King Humbert has taken the initiative in regard of the Vienna visit. He added that Austro-Hungary has nothing to ask from Italy, nor to fear from it.

Nassif Pasha has been dismissed from the Governorship of Tripoli. Rassim Pasha, former Governor of Jazina has been appointed in his place.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

VESSELS INWARDS DURING THE WEEK AT LARNACA.

- November, 8th S. S. 'Saturno' Austrian 1380 tons from Constantinople and Limassol. General cargo, Mails.
- 11th. S. S. 'Ceres' Austrian 1341 tons from Alexandria and Coast of Syria. General cargo and Mails.
- 11th S. S. 'Elpitha' British 462 tons from Alexandria and Limassol Mails and General cargo.

Outwards.

- November, 7th. S. S. 'Hassin' Ottoman troopship for Beyrout.
- 8th S. S. 'Saturno' Austrian for Syria Alexandria. General cargo; and Mails.
- 10th. 'Michali' Ottoman brig 173 tons for Messina in ballast.
- 11th. S. S. 'Ceres' Austrian for Constantinople General cargo and mails.
- 11th. 'Evangelistria' Greek brig for Marseilles via Garpas, barley.

Passengers arrived by S. S. Saturno from Cypre and Limassol, Messrs Thompson and son, Telva, Fwat, Wasp, Mihaili, Bulmer, Capt. Ireland, Col. Dammrosq, Mr. Bridgman, Bishop of Kition, Sutherland and 40 deck passengers.

By S. S. Ceres from Beyrout, Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, Miss Thornton, Mrs. Christian, Mr. Freize, Ferrico Bey, Roli and friend, one priest and 38 deck passengers.

Passengers arrived by S. S. 'Elpitha' from Alexandria and Limassol Mr. Curtis, Mr. Pierides, Col. Gordon, Young Esq., Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Mantovani and ten deck passengers.

