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# CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 171.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 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 2s. 9d. for 3 months; 7s. 6d. for 6 months; and 13s. 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 Store of Mr. Constantinides, and also of Mr. Michel Christofides, in Limassol at the office of Mr. Euthybulis; 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, 9th and 16th Nov.)

The earth continues to quake at Scio, and a considerable subsidence of the soils is reported to have taken place near Thymiana, a large village on the borders of the Kampos and the Mastiko-kharia, which was one of the chief sufferers from the catastrophe of April 3.

The latest official returns of the numbering of the goat flocks in the province of Angora, show a present total of 24,950 head, as against 97,200. Thus, in a single year, there is a diminution of 27,250 goats, or about 27 per cent. The immediate cause of a considerable reduction in the number of goats kept, was the shock given to the trade by increasing the goat-tax, which rendered it impossible to make profit out of a flock. Almost as soon as the additional tax was imposed, a number of the smaller flockmasters sold their stock to the butcher, and the subsequent revocation of the fiscal decree could not recall the dead goats to life, nor did it restore the confidence which the imposition of the tax has destroyed. Other circumstances have tended to precipitate the consequence of this unfortunate effort of fiscal legislation. The pastures last summer were eaten bare by the locusts, and the flockmasters lost many of their goats, and, fearful of losing all, realised by handing over the balance of their flocks to the butcher. Some small portion of the diminution may perhaps be due to the exportation of goats to South Africa; but this alone would not have been sufficient to make any appreciable impression on the stock. It is worth the consideration of the authorities whether it would not be worth while to make a sacrifice with a view to pro-

servicing this branch of industry. By a total remission of taxation for, say, five years on the mohair goat, a new impulsion would be given to the trade, and, at the end of the five years, the Porte would probably find that the flocks had so increased, that a tax of three piastres per head would recoup the Treasury for the revenue it had foregone in the interval.

We are requested to announce the return to Constantinople to practise his profession of Mr. E. W. J. Tinney, barrister-at-law (avocat anglais), late vice-president of the order of advocates in Egypt.

The Russian ambassador and M. Thoernel met the Ottoman delegates on Saturday, to confer with regard to the settlement of the Russian indemnity. The result of the conference left the impression that Russian diplomacy would not take any action to interfere with the settlement with the bondholders, if there appeared to be a reasonable prospect of arriving at a settlement of the Russian claims, and if the treaty rights of Russia are not prejudiced by the arrangement. The Russian delegates would not submit to any indefinite postponement of their own demands, but, at the same time, they do not appear to desire that the settlement with the bondholders should be retarded on their account. Russia has probably specific views, which have not yet been brought forward, but which will appear later on in the negotiations. Meanwhile, Turkish delegates have undertaken to furnish a detailed statement of the securities assigned to the delegates of the bondholders.

Volo was occupied on Monday the 14th inst. by the Greek Troops. The transfer was effected without contempments of any sort.

There is reason to fear that the last has not been heard of the difficulty with regard to the Larissa post-office. The Greek Government, bound by its own laws, is unable to meet the views of the Porte, and the question may not improbably take further development.

The *Vakit* states that the ambassadors of the Powers signatories of the Berlin treaty abstain from giving any opinion on any point connected with the Greek frontier, since it is a matter which has been already disposed of by the Convention of May 24. The incident arising from the application of the boundary line to the pass of Kritiri continues to be the subject of deliberation at the international delimitation commission, which holds its meetings every day under the presidency of Major Ardagh, the British delegate. The commission is believed to be drawing up a topographical plan of the locality regarding which the difference exists. The above-mentioned journal is of opinion that, notwithstanding the bearing of the members of the commission, who

seem inclined towards the Greek view of the question, the affair will not be definitively settled to the satisfaction of the Greek cabinet.

The proceedings at Berne, in connection with the enormous issue of counterfeit Turkish and Egyptian coins, discovered a few months ago, have not made much progress. The preliminary inquiry has shown that there is no evidence against Messrs. Marchand, Lattès, Bonayuto, Chatenoud, Higaud and Pirasset. No decision has yet been arrived at as to whether Messrs. Bellamy, Pingon, Lejeune, Filletaz, Mognetti, Ducret, Bovy, Romano, and Curiel, will be brought up for trial.

The official despatches received by the board of Health confirm the accounts already published of the alarming increase of mortality caused by the cholera epidemic in the Hedjaz. Whilst on the 3rd and 4th inst. the deaths from cholera had risen to 215 and 214, a further increase had been noted on the 5th, and up to noon on the following day, at the time of departure of the post from Djeddah, the number of deaths had amounted to 130. The official despatch adds that the pilgrims returning from Mecca have brought the disease to Djeddah, a circumstance which cannot fail to excite considerable alarm in Constantinople and elsewhere.

A postal service has just been organised in the province of Tripoli (Barbary) and the four principal places in its dependency. This service, which is to be very considerably extended, has its centre for the present in the town of Tripoli; whence the Ottoman post-office is in communication with Europe and Turkey by way of Malta, and directly with Turkey by means of the boats of the Mahsousse line, which carry the mails on the new line between Constantinople, Crete, and Tripoli. It is now proposed to establish telegraph lines between the chief towns of the province. But this project will not be carried out until the cable has been laid between Tripoli and Malta, for which the "irade" is at last, we understand, on the eve of appearing. Two years ago, the Porte might have had this cable, offered on the most liberal terms by the Eastern Telegraph Company. It was again pressed upon the Prime Minister last year by the chairman, M. Pender, M. P., but in vain. It needed the shock which recent events have given to the influence of Turkey in North Africa, to awaken the Porte to the necessity of having its own means of communication with its territory in that region.

## THE CHOLERA.

Nov. 12. — The official report of the cholera death-rate at Mecca, during the last days of October, was so satisfactory,

that we were led yesterday to indulge in the hope that the epidemic would promptly disappear. We regret to say that information of a later date is not calculated to confirm our hope, but rather to cause fresh and serious alarm. We hear that, during the first five days of this month, the epidemic again broke out with extraordinary virulence, and carried off close on 500 victims. It would appear that this recrudescence of mortality must have coincided with the return of the pilgrims from Mount Arafat. It is to be hoped that any official intelligence which may have reached the authorities will be published, whatever its nature, for cholera is an enemy that cannot be combated by secrecy. If danger there be, — and it would seem that it is both great and imminent, — it is of no use to close our ears and our eyes to it, but rather we should carefully watch and note its progress, in order to meet it by practical and resolute measures.

P.S. — The special telegram, which we have just received, more than confirms, unfortunately, the accuracy of private information upon which the foregoing observations were based. Nearly 500 deaths occurred in three days.

## CYPRUS.

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

(Continued from our last.)

Troodos, July 7th, 1881.

4. Mr. Corby's report gives the cause of the falling off in the imports in 1880, a falling off mainly attributable to our better harvest in 1880 having released us from the necessity of importing so much grain as in 1879, and consequently not to be regretted. If the value of the imported breadstuffs be deducted from the returns of both years, it will be found that the imports of 1880 have been greater than those of 1879.

5. There are two satisfactory facts mentioned in Mr. Corby's report, connected with the import trade of 1880, viz., that the imports from the United Kingdom to Cyprus continue steadily to increase, and further that the articles imported for the use of the inhabitants of Cyprus are markedly superior to those imported in previous years. To those who regard the statistics of trade not merely as a test of commercial activity, but rather as a test of the material progress and prosperity of a country, this latter fact is one that will appear highly satisfactory.

6. Generally speaking, then, it may be said that during both 1879 and 1880 the northern, southern, and western parts of Cyprus have done well, but that the central and eastern portions of the island, containing the plains where the great harvests of wheat, barley, and cotton are grown during good years, have yielded only middling crops. There is, however, no cause to fear a similar failure for 1881. The abundant rainfall of last winter induced the cultivators to plough and sow an amount of land which, I am told, has been rarely, if ever, equalled, and the grain harvest promises exceedingly well.

7. Besides the scarcity of water the Cypriot has however to fear the ravages of the locust. This insect has, for many years, been a scourge to Cyprus. Fifteen years ago the locusts were almost destroyed by the au-

ocratic measures of an energetic Pasha, but they have since that time been gradually increasing in numbers again. Early in 1879 a large number of traps were made at a considerable expense, on the system attributed to Mr. Richard Mattei, a landowner of Cyprus, and these were used during the spring of that year with partial success. In the following autumn, the Government, acting on the advice of those who had experience in this matter, encouraged the collection of locust eggs, and offered a considerable price for them. In this manner 30,000 okes (—37½ tons) were collected, but the spring of 1880 showed larger swarms than there had been in 1879. Large numbers were again destroyed by traps, but the increase was so marked that it was determined to have recourse to the Turkish law, under which every inhabitant was liable to contribute a kilé of locust eggs (—about 16 okes.) After consulting with the leading personages of the native communities, the quota to be contributed was fixed at 8 okes a head, and with a view to encourage the collection I sanctioned a discount of 1 oke being allowed on every quota that was brought in before the 1st November. This measure resulted in the collection of 189,000 okes (—236 tons,) and a vast amount of land having been ploughed in the winter, it was hoped that a further destruction of locust eggs would be thereby effected. It was therefore some disappointment to find that the locusts were apparently more numerous than in 1880, and although the measures taken for their destruction should more properly enter into the history of the year 1881, yet I may here mention that the destruction of live locusts has been proceeding on a large scale, and that the measures to be taken hereafter are now under consideration. When it is considered that locusts reproduce themselves fifty-fold every year it is evident that no cessation should occur in the measures taken for their annual destruction.

8. But although no great harvest, (that main source of the wealth of Cyprus) has occurred since the British occupation, yet the signs of material increase of prosperity among the people are not wanting. In almost every village house improvements are going on, showing that the owners can afford some outlay in the bettering of their dwellings, and, having personally visited every district in the island, and passed through most of the principal villages, I have invariably been met with expressions of general contentment and satisfaction. To those who are acquainted with Turkey, I imagine that no better proof can be given of the material prosperity of Cyprus than the fact of the large proportion of taxes that are paid in gold coin. It must be remembered that the normal state of the Levant is for gold to be at a premium, and that it is but rarely seen in country villages. The fact I am about to state will therefore be more readily appreciated, viz., that in the district of Papho, which has no town of any size, but consists of a number of country villages the inhabitants of which would mostly pay their taxes in small sums, the revenue collection of 1880, amounting to 20,538 £, was paid into the Treasury in the following metals:—

11,650 in gold.  
8,860 in silver.  
28 in copper.

#### Currency.

9. It will not here be out of place to make some remarks on the currency of the island, which is in a very satisfactory state. In my last annual report, I related the action that had been taken by this Government to regulate the currency, and I detailed the steps taken during the year 1879 to drive out the Turkish "Metallique," copper and caimé. In the month of March 1880 an Imperial Irade, altering the value of the "Metallique" coinage, caused a great financial panic in the dominions of the Porte. From this the people of Cyprus were, in a great measure, saved owing to the steps taken in 1879. The districts of Limassol and Papho alone retained "Metalliques," although in greatly reduced amount, but the fall in that currency after the issue of the Imperial Irade above mentioned had some effect in bringing it into disfavour, and it has now almost entirely disappeared from the district of Papho. It still remains in small quantities in the district of Limassol, although it passes at only half its nominal value. Its retention is owing to the influence of some of the merchants and money-lenders of the town of Limassol, who fear that the introduction of a reckoning of 180 piastres to the £ would make a reduction in the debts due to them, which were contracted at 133 to the £. The foreign banks have not succeeded in persuading them that such a result is purely imaginary, which is the more remarkable since the actual market value at which it is taken is now 266 to the

£. The export of this currency however continues at a slow, but steady, rate.

(To be continued.)

### The Right Hon. THE EARL OF KIMBERLEY to the OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

Downing Street, July 29, 1881.

Sir,

I have had under my consideration the legal and judicial system in Cyprus, and I will now explain to you the measures of reform which I think will be practicable at a reasonable cost to effect at once in that system.

2. I shall divide my remarks under two heads, namely, the laws to be administered to the inhabitants of Cyprus, and the Courts of Justice and Judges to be charged with the application of those laws; and I may premise that after very carefully examining all that has been written on this question since the British occupation, I have come to the conclusion that in dealing with the subject the following bases should be adopted (1) the maintenance, at all events for the present, of a duplicate system of law; and (2) the unification in principle of the courts.

3. It must be admitted that the Turkish Code which was in force in Cyprus upon our assumption of the administration of the island is by no means without its merits; but independently of the fact that it is also not free from defects, the non-existence of any translation of the civil portion of it into any western language, renders it in my judgment practically impossible to apply the Turkish law to non-Ottoman subjects.

4. As it would be impracticable to maintain in a community under British administration the various distinctions and personal privileges inseparable from a system of consular jurisdiction, such as prevails in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, Her Majesty's late Government decided that the foreign inhabitants (including British subjects) should be subject to the jurisdiction of European judges, administering justice according to the laws of England as modified by local legislation, in such classes of cases as would formerly have been dealt with, if at all, by consular jurisdiction, and I am of opinion that this system must for the present be retained.

5. On the other hand, as regards Ottoman subjects, whether Cypriot or other, I cannot recognise that there is any hardship in leaving them under a system of law, not in itself bad, and indeed I should consider it both hazardous and unfair suddenly to declare that the whole population shall be subject to the English law, which contains many peculiarities unsuited to a non-English community, and which moreover could not be translated into the languages of the people to be subjected to it. I am therefore, as at present advised, of opinion that the Cypriot population should continue in the main subject to the laws under which they have been accustomed to live, and with reference to which their business and family arrangements have been framed.

6. There are, however, two branches of law in which I think that unification should as soon as possible be effected. I refer to the criminal law and the law of evidence. With regard to the Criminal Law I have to observe that there already exist English models, namely, the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, the Jamaica Penal Codes, and Sir James Stephen's Criminal Code Bill, prepared for the consideration of the Imperial Parliament, which might form the bases of a Criminal Code for Cyprus applicable to all classes alike, and so condensed that its translation into the languages of the country would form no serious obstacle to its early promulgation. The law of evidence, as it existed in Cyprus before our occupation, has been materially improved both in substance and in practical application, but the Indian Evidence Act, of which Sir James Stephen was the principal author, and his own Digest of the English Law of Evidence, supply materials from which a uniform law of moderate compass and fit for general application in Cyprus might be compiled in the languages of the island.

7. The Ottoman land law as modified for Cyprus by local legislation subsequent to the British occupation must be applied in all cases.

8. With reference to the question of the laws of procedure, it appears to me that until it is thought requisite and practicable to frame a separate code of criminal procedure, the rules of criminal procedure embodied in the High Court of Justice ordinance may not only be retained for cases in which the persons accused are not Ottoman subjects, but, if as I understand it is the case, that the existing

rules of procedure in criminal cases before the Ottoman Courts are unwritten, should also be extended to cases in which Ottoman subjects are the accused parties, as it is, in my opinion, desirable that in Courts presided over by Englishmen so important a matter as criminal procedure should be regulated by written law.

9. With regard to civil procedure, the existing rules in the High Court Ordinance and the existing Ottoman code of commercial procedure might for the present continue to be used in non-Ottoman and Ottoman cases respectively; but it would be desirable and will probably be found to be practicable and to involve no hardship to either Ottomans or non-Ottomans, to adopt eventually for both classes one or other of these codes, with such modifications as experience may suggest.

10. The question of mixed civil cases between Ottomans and non-Ottomans is one of considerable difficulty. I am disposed to think that the existing practice should be so altered that unless the transactions of the parties clearly indicate a contrary intention, the Ottoman law or the law of England should be applied to the solution of the question at issue according as the defendant is or is not an Ottoman subject.

11. With regard to the unification of the Courts, the principle which I desire to see adopted is not to place those persons who are not Ottoman subjects under the jurisdiction of Cypriot judges, which would be impolitic if not unfair, but to extend to Ottomans what I conceive will not fail to be regarded as a boon in the present circumstances of Cyprus, namely, the services of English judges in the adjudication of their suits.

12. I am far from considering the substitution of English for Cypriot judges as in itself an arrangement to be regarded with satisfaction, and I look forward to the time when natives of the island will, by their training, character, and ability, be qualified, as in Malta, to occupy the highest positions in the Courts; but at present it appears to me that the island does not supply the material for a trained and competent judiciary, and that it will therefore be greatly to the advantage of the suitors that Englishmen should be appointed to preside over the proceedings of the Courts.

13. The scheme which I propose is briefly this, that there should be a High or Supreme Court consisting of two English judges, having a jurisdiction over all cases, Ottoman or non-Ottoman, either original or on appeal, and also a certain number of District Courts, with limited civil and criminal jurisdiction, each of which will be presided over by an English President, and include for Ottoman cases, two Cypriot members, one a Christian and the other a Moslem, but will consist for non-Ottoman cases of the President alone, unless the defendant or accused should elect to have the case tried by the full Court.

14. I should hope that by arranging for the District Courts to hold sittings in several places in their respective districts the number of such Courts might be limited to four. For instance, Kyrenia might be united for judicial purposes with Nicosia, and Papho with Limassol. Famagusta, though a poor and thinly peopled district, is so large in extent, including as it does the district of Carpas, that I do not suppose it could be attached to Larnaca, which, when the Commercial Court is abolished, will probably afford full work for a District Court.

15. The District Courts should hold their sittings in the four or five principal villages of the district, as country court judges do in England.

16. The limit to be fixed for the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the District Courts is a matter on which I do not feel that I have at present full means of judging; 50 £ in civil cases, and six months' imprisonment in criminal cases, would appear to be reasonable limits.

17. The original jurisdiction of the High or Supreme Court in all cases, except trials for capital offences, and its jurisdiction on appeal from the District Courts in cases decided by the Presidents alone, should be exercised by a single judge, but capital cases and appeals from decisions of the full District Courts should be tried before both the judges; there should also be an appeal from original decisions of a single judge to the full court in civil cases, and also in criminal cases on questions of law.

18. In the more important cases the Supreme Court should be assisted by assessors, who however would have no voice in the decision.

19. The Supreme Courts should hold periodical sittings in each of the provincial judicial centres, and should as far as possible decide cases, both original and on appeal, in the districts where they have arisen.

20. The President of the District Courts

should have power to conduct preliminary examinations in criminal cases, and commit for trial or discharge the accused, and it may be necessary or convenient to entrust the same power to other English officers in the districts. The Presidents of the District Courts should also have a summary jurisdiction over Ottomans and non-Ottomans, similar to that of justices in Petty Sessions in England. In course of time it may be desirable to confer a similar jurisdiction upon the Cypriot members of the district courts, either singly or sitting together.

21. The High or Supreme Court should be allowed to retain the services of a Kadi of eminence as adviser on questions of Mahomedan law.

22. Of the existing Ottoman courts the Court of Temyiz will be superseded by the High or Supreme Court, and the Daawi Courts by the new District Courts. The Commercial Court of Larnaca will be abolished, its jurisdiction being transferred to the Supreme Court or the District Courts, according as the matter in dispute exceeds or comes within the prescribed limits of the jurisdiction of the latter.

23. The jurisdiction of the Mussulman religious tribunal, the Mekemi Sheri should as far as possible be confined to the sphere assigned to it by Article I, of the Annex to the Convention of June 1878, or if it cannot be absolutely thus limited, should not extend to the persons or property of any but Mussulmans.

24. The changes of which I have sketched the outline will include the separation of the office of Legal Adviser from that of a judge of any court. The combination is obviously undesirable, and has already led to difficulties.

25. All connexion between the High Commissioner and the judicial functions of the Court should cease, though he will of course continue to exercise the prerogative of pardon on behalf of Her Majesty.

26. The District Commissioners will cease to review or take part in the proceedings of the District Courts, and I hope that when they are thus relieved, and when certain other alterations are effected by which the revenue and financial work thrown on them may be diminished, the post of Assistant District Commissioner may be abolished, a reduction which, coupled with the reduction in the number of Cypriot judges from about 30 to 8, will go far to supply the means of carrying out the scheme I have indicated without trenching further on the resources of the local treasury.

27. The question of Registrars for the Courts is an important one. The appointment of Englishmen to these offices would be too expensive. I incline to think that men of the Interpreter class would serve the purpose best, and in connexion with this subject I would suggest that you should consider whether there is any advantage in continuing to record the cases in Turkish to the extent to which it is done at present. In most cases the language of parties and witnesses is Greek. It may be necessary to translate what is said into colloquial Turkish for the information of the Moslem members of the Court, but if, as I conceive, the recording of the proceedings afterwards in literary Turkish serves no useful purpose, English should as a rule be the language of record, a translation being made if necessary into the language or languages of the parties concerned.

28. I incline to think that the scheme of Courts will not be satisfactory to the people or the Government, unless it is supplemented by some system of village justice in the petty cases, the village judges being either elected by the people or being the present Mudirs of villages, and their jurisdiction being confined to fines not exceeding, say, 6s. or imprisonment in lieu of fine, not exceeding three days, with an appeal to the District Court. I should hope that the village judges, sitting under the eyes of their fellow-villagers and having the possibility of such an appeal in view, would exercise their petty jurisdiction in a manner satisfactory to the people themselves.

29. The fees on proceedings in the Ottoman Courts appear at present to be very low, and it may be desirable to consider whether without injustice to the suitors they might not be revised with a view to meeting to some extent the increased charges on the revenue for judicial purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) KIMBERLEY.

The Officer Administering the Government.

Downing Street, 18th October 1881.

Sir,

With a view to carry into effect the suggestion in which you concurred when I had the honour of communicating with you on the affairs of Cyprus during your recent stay in England that it would be an advantage to you to have for a short time the assistance of a member of this Department, I have selected for this service Mr. E. Fairfield who, since the transfer of the Cyprus correspondence from the Foreign Office has taken a principal part in the business connected with the Island.

Mr. Fairfield will arrive in the Island at the beginning of November. His principal duty will be



