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CYPRUS

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

No. 161.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th, 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 a 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.

Cyprus can be purchased in Nicosia, at the Store of Mr. Constantinos, and also of Mr. Michel Christou. Also, 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*.

PRINTING.

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

Omodos Fair.

The fair this year at Omodos was most successful, and from 8,000 to 9,000 persons were present on Monday. The day commenced as usual with the early service in the church, at which his Eminence the Bishop of Baffo officiated. After devotions were over, the crowd set to work their more sublunary affairs with right good will and trade was very brisk all the morning, offering a great contrast in that respect to Kyko. Long streets, of booths composed of branches of trees afforded shade and shelter to the numerous merchants and their wares of all descriptions. About the entrance to the church the sellers of boots and shoes modestly congregated; in the gateway itself three or four jewellers exhibited their native manufactures, while next to them came what in England would be styled the haberdashers and silk mercers, followed by the vendors of hardware and cutlery comprising amongst their other goods carpenters' and wood cutters' tools, mingled with which might be seen little bags of spices and sugar, while piles of soap and candles made from native wax, showed that they carried on also to some extent the business of chandlers and grocers. The would-be purchasers experienced great difficulty in getting about owing to the crowd and narrow ill-made streets, and when a native lady dallied long over her choice of dress or handkerchiefs loud was the outcry and indignant remarks made by the more impatient of her own sex awaiting their opportunity in the background, and who when their turn came were no wit less slow in choosing, and according to their nature turned over everything they did not want before selecting that which they did. In the open space above the town where the grain and agricultural implement

merchants had their market, business was carried on in a more decided and therefore quicker fashion; the farmers knew what they wanted and the price they were prepared to pay and a little haggling generally rendered them possessors of what they needed, and left them at liberty to attend their wives and daughters in their shopping; and we were amused spectators of many an amicable dispute between man and wife, the lady generally desirous of investing in the ornamental, the gentleman in the more useful article. We must confess that the lady usually had her own way, though to judge by the shrew with which her decision was received, it was invariably against the better judgment of her husband.

The articles on sale besides those already mentioned, were: wheat, barley, flour, fruits, vegetables, goat-bells and copper work of different kinds, native saddle-bags, quilts and ropes, raw cotton and hanks of silk, shawl jewelry of French and Birmingham manufacture, looking glasses, combs and brushes, razors and other articles too numerous to mention. From the amount of business transacted and the visible decrease towards the afternoon in the number of articles exposed for sale, the estimate, by men well qualified to judge, of £1,000, as the amount of money that changed hands on Monday alone, was certainly not an exaggerated one.

In our wanderings through the streets we came upon a house bearing an inscription which being interpreted meant "The Dilks Club;" we wonder whether Sir Charles Dilks is aware of the honor the inhabitants of Omodos have done him, though we greatly doubt whether he would recognise his name pronounced as they pronounce it, viz: "Dilky."

We were hospitably entertained by his Eminence the Bishop, and in the course of a long conversation which we had with him we understood from him that the people in his diocese are even suffering bitterly of the numerous robberies which are continually taking place. Although the prevalence of a game enough crime, yet something must surely be wrong somewhere, when a man called Christodulos Stoko of Hiletria in the district of Kelokedara had fifteen sheep stolen from him and sold in the neighborhood villages, without the perpetrator of the crime being brought to justice; and we were assured by the Bishop that similar crimes are of almost daily occurrence. His Eminence also stated that since the occupation, the numbers attending the Omodos fair have greatly increased, and that this year the attendance and the business transacted have been far in excess of anything he had previously seen; he also considered that this is greatly due to the better rule of the English and the impetus thereby given to trade; and that if a main road was constructed from Omodos to Mandria to meet the Limassol road, the attendance would be still larger and the community greatly benefited thereby. He indeed seemed to think, as far as we understood him, that the money for the road would be found forthcoming from the district, when required.

The Game Law.

Previous to the occupation game was killed indiscriminately and at all

seasons, and it threatened soon to become extinct in the Island; therefore it was an excellent idea on the part of government imposing a ten shilling tax on all would-be sportsmen and game dealers. For this measure to be effective it was absolutely necessary that the ordinance on this subject should be strictly carried out; but that this is not the case, it is now our object to point out. We should greatly like to see published a return of the number of cases of men had-up for shooting or selling without a licence, and killing game in the close season, specifying especially the number in each particular district; and we venture to say that the difference between some of the districts in proportion to their extent would be something remarkable; for while in some districts the administration of the game law is most efficient, in others it is most perfunctory. Anyone travelling through the various parts of the Island, especially those somewhat distant from the larger towns and villages cannot fail to remark the number of peasants engaged in the pursuit of game, carrying guns, who when called upon are unable to produce a licence. It is true that one has a right to demand their names and addresses; but in the case of natives this is never done, and if an Englishman attempts it, he is met with some unearthy pronunciation which as a rule he is incapable of transcribing on paper. But it is not to private or individual enterprise that the detection of infringements of the law should be left; the Zaptiehs surely have not so much to do that they cannot stop and inquire if the bearer of the gun in each instance has his proper licence, when they meet him on the road or in the fields; too often the delinquent is a friend or perhaps near relative of their own, which in many cases accounts for their neglect; but the knowledge that half the fine would be the reward of the informer, would doubtless quicken their sense of duty. Again there is not a house in any of the villages whose owner does not possess a gun or maybe two, and though he will declare it is for protection against thieves, we are well convinced from our own personal knowledge that poaching is the real object for which it is kept.

And if anyone will take the trouble to pay an occasional visit to the salt lakes at Larnaca and Limassol, or to the favourite resorts of the hare and partridge, he will soon find out the truth of our assertion. Some of the more respectable inhabitants also aid and abet the poacher in his destruction of game, by pure using it from him in the close season, but we are sure that we have only to point out the injury they thus inflict, to secure their heart co-operation in our efforts to uphold sport in Cyprus; more especi-

ally when they consider that the holders of game licences are morally the owners of all the game on the island, and that buying game from poachers is very much like buying stolen goods and that the receiver is as bad as the thief.

A game licence is nothing more than an understood contract between Government and the person holding the licence. The holder on his part contracts to pay the Government a sum of ten shillings; the Government in return contracts to allow him to shoot the game in the island, under certain restrictions as to close time, and to prevent any non-holder of a licence killing game; therefore if the licence holder fulfils his part of the contract it is only just to expect the Government to fulfil its. To enable them satisfactorily to do so, we would propose that the cost of a game licence should be, as now, ten shillings, or even more at the discretion of the Government; but that five shilling annual licences should be issued to everyone desirous of keeping a gun; and that no man should be allowed to have a gun unless he held one or other of these licences. That half of every fine inflicted for breaches of the game laws should go to the informer, whether civilian or Zaptieh, and that the latter should be instructed to look out for infringements of the law, and to patrol occasionally the grounds most affected by the native sportsmen.

Thus by some such regulations as these, and by a more uniform enforcement of the law, the Government would prove their desire to fulfil their part of the contract, and to prevent the murmurs which naturally arise from those who, forced to pay for their licence, at the same time see unlicensed sportsmen enjoying, free of expence, the amusement which they have paid for.

IN CHURCH IN CYPRUS

St. Sofia, Nicosia.

(Continued from No. 156.)

It must be with pleasure that in an almost perfectly Oriental capital like Nicosia, the European traveller comes upon so fine an old pile as St. Sophia's—a pile which looks as if it had been transported from some old shadowy city on the banks of the Rhine, and deposited here under the parching glare amid all the unsympathetic surroundings of the East. St. Sophia's has been attributed as a work to the Venetians, but I think without due reason. It is much more probably the work of the Lusignan dynasty, who were French by origin and of Gothic traditions. It is a purely Gothic church like its sister—or rather brother—one St. Nicolas at Famagusta, which report says was designed by the same architect. As I enter by the large central door under the gal-

the porch, and in slippers pressed up the aisles, the carpets on which I tread seem to reflect in their richness and design the beauty of the gloriously-stained windows, alas! now choked up with earth and plaster. A few Turkish slippers before them, touch with their foreheads the stones beneath which sleep the remains of the ancient kings of Cyprus. They will lift up a corner of the carpets and show you the incised effigies, now broken and shattered into various fragments, sculptured with folded hands—

—as though they would atone Life's faults by saying endless prayers in stone.

Long, cold and deserted looks the apse where once stood mid curving, and tapers and flowers all flushed with glorious hues which streamed through the richly-stained windows, the High Altar, on which reposed or else hung over in the Dove of Gold "that most worshipful sacrament of the Altar"—that fair white wafer before which more prayers and sighs have been breathed than ever before under any other created thing. But all is silent now. From no side chapel comes "the faint mutter of the mass—with the good thick stupefying scent of incense smoke"—while over all tinkles the silver sanctus bell.

Yet standing here, on the spot where the High Altar once stood, it is not difficult to call up the past. Suspended from the roof as though floating in mid-air hangs an image of our Saviour on the Cross. In these niches, through carved screens, mid imagery and dusky pictures, small altars gleam fair before which, on the stones, kneeling figures pray. Here in this deserted side chapel which holds now the "Kiblah," which points to the direction of Mecca, stands the image of "Our Lady" with the babe springing from her bosom smilingly towards us. Here, against the pillars, stand the confessional of wondrously carved wood against which fair penitents whisper their sins with their handkerchiefs against their faces,—and above all come the sound of the patter of feet and the clatter caused by the moving of chairs. Then there approaches a Priest who advances in his vestments, chalice and paten in hand, from a side altar. And now as the bright rays of the sun stream on the stones in a golden flood, through the large open western doors, there comes the sound of music from the gallery above while under a canopy of cloth of gold fringed with bells advances the Archbishop mitred and be-jewelled, surrounded by his clergy in all the pomp and ritual of Holy Church. The church is decked for morning prime and the tapers glitter fair.

But these visions vanish in a moment, and I am again in a deserted and ruined church, with bedaubed pillars, Turkish carpets, "Kiblah" and praying, silent, kneeling white-be-turbaned Turks, as I hear from the minarets outside the sound of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer "God is great, and Mahomet is the prophet of God." And then standing here—

—where the quire lie with their hallelujahs quenched like fire.

—the mind goes back to that night three hundred years ago, when the Turks broke into the city and swarmed over those walls, and the capital of Cyprus was given over to

—fire and sword, Red ruin and the breaking-up of laws.

I notice that some of the windows are completely plastered up, and I am informed by a gentleman who is with

me that this has been done within his memory. The reason, in some cases, was to conceal stained glass or fragments of stained glass on which were emblematic figures, and which the Moslems objected to as symbols of idolatry. Mr. Innes also writes me that, under the garb of a miff, within a little building near there exist the relics of the old cathedral library, which fell into the hands of the Turks when the city was taken. By the courtesy of a Turkish official, I had, under the Turkish régime, once been allowed to see these treasures, which comprised books bound in vellum and mostly printed. Mr. Innes mentioned a very interesting series of works on geography which he was allowed just time enough to peruse. Besides books the chamber contained other objects of curiosity, dating from the time of the siege of the city. The Turks, I am told, are under the impression that some of the books contain mention of the localities where a great deal of treasure was buried in order that it might not fall into the hands of the Turks; and I know for a fact that a few years since a quantity of old Venetian gold money was lighted upon when the street leading from the Baffo gate was being re-paved. At present it would be more than hopeless to expect the Government to do anything for the encouragement of archaeological research; but one cannot help thinking how greatly, in a country like this the labours of an enthusiastic archaeological society would be rewarded. But the question arises would they be allowed!

Latest News.

Constantinople Oct. 3rd.

Fresh differences between Turkey and Greece have arisen in respect of the frontier of Thessaly.

Constantinople, Oct. 3rd.

The Sultan, without consulting his Cabinet, has sent a special mission, composed of Ali Nizami Pasha as chief commissioner, Ali Fuad Be as second, and Ratib Pasha and Seffer Efendi, aides-de-camp of the Sultan. The commission embarked yesterday for Alexandria. Ali Nizami Pasha will institute an enquiry as to the causes of the recent military demonstration, and Ali Fuad Be besides having a political errand, will participate in the eventual negotiations between Egypt and the powers.

London, Oct. 3rd.

The resumption of the Anglo-French commercial treaty negotiations is postponed till Oct. 24th. Opinions in regard to the reason of this differ, but those attributed by the "Times" are generally held to be correct.

Cairo, Oct. 3rd.

To-morrow morning, the Council of Ministers will discuss the terms of the letter of H. E. Sherif Pasha to H. H. the Khedive in which the president of the council demands the convocation of the Chamber of the Notables.

It is stated that the Cabinets of England and France have formally notified to the Porte that the stay of H.

E. Ali Faid Pasha and his colleagues in Cairo must be of short duration.

London, Oct. 3rd.

Sir Stafford Northcote in a speech at Hull has vigorously attacked the policy of the Government. Active measures, he said, are necessary in Ireland to prevent the Land League annulling the Land Act altogether.

Cairo, Oct. 4th.

The Ottoman commissioners will arrive on Thursday by special steamer. Zulficar Pasha will proceed to Alexandria to meet them.

Constantinople, Oct. 4th.

The Porte has informed Lord Dufferin that the special commission sent to Egypt will very probably be way hostile to the Kurds.

Limassol News.

Limassol, 6th October, 1881.

The new iron steam pier was opened to-day by H. E. the High Commissioner. The pier, and new dock buildings in course of construction, were gracefully decorated with flags, armorial bearings and evergreens, and the ships in port were gaily decked out in all available bunting. A number of evergreens and flags led from the main road to the pier, and a company of the XXXV regiment with band was drawn up in the avenue to salute his Excellency on arrival. At the shore end of the pier a beautiful and lofty arch of evergreens had been erected, having on the outside the words "God save the Queen," and on the inside "Long life to Sir R. B. Hipp." His Excellency arrived at noon. A procession was formed headed by the band playing the national anthem. The High Commissioner and staff came next, followed by officials from the various towns of Cyprus, some notables of the island, and the general public. On arriving at the end of the pier His Excellency in a few words declared it open and the procession returned in the same order. On arrival at the shore end of the pier the Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Karidi, addressed His Excellency in Greek at considerable length pointing out the importance of the new work, and drawing a comparison between the difficulties hitherto experienced in loading and discharging ships with the very great facilities now obtained. The Mayor also addressed His Excellency on the increase of commerce and British rule. The High Commissioner replied briefly, when about 100 people of various nationalities, guests of His Excellency adjourned to a déjeuner provided in one of the large rooms of the new Government buildings. The room was beautifully decorated and the tables presented the appearance one might look for in Europe on such an occasion, but scarcely to be expected in Cyprus. At the proper moment the High Commissioner proposed the health of the Queen, which was responded to in the usual hearty way.

In proposing prosperity to the town of Limassol His Excellency drew attention to the increase in its trade. Its exports and imports for the year 1878 were £35,900 and in the year 1880 £143,377. Exports of wine had increased eleven per cent in 1879 and a further seventy per cent in 1880. The wine trade with Egypt and France had increased enormously. There had been none with France before the occupation. Last year it amounted to £12,000. The health of the troops during last two years had been splendid and hopes this will encourage foreign visitors to Limassol in winter and Troodes in summer. He announced impending reforms in the law courts and said that two judges of experience in oriental affairs would be sent out from England who would arrange circuits round the island. His Excellency also announced

the election of representatives by the people to the legislative Council and remarked that he looked for important results from the labours of elected members. Returning thanks for his toast he remarked that he was much indebted for the cordial assistance of all officials. He alluded to the attacks of the native press and ridiculed the idea of English officials being agents of any political party in England or wishing to offend or injure the Christian population. He said that whilst all English men recognise the ties of ~~land~~ and religion, the functions of the Government of Cyprus are to secure peace and prosperity to the inhabitants and not meddle with schemes for the transfer of the Island to another power, such schemes embarrassing that power and injuring the progress of the Island. His Excellency added as a proof of what he said that the Consul of the power he alluded to had been instructed by his government to discourage such schemes. The principles of English Government are liberty and justice alike to rich and poor and the abolition of improper privileges obtained by individuals under former weak Government.

The "Cyprus Turn-out".

We have received this week a certain number of letters relative to certain publications of third-rate quality emanating from a wretched scribbler whom we have been constantly accustomed in this journal to treat with the most profound contempt. We are somewhat surprised to find that some persons can devote the time to a starved literature which could, at the utmost, serve to make better known to those who might ignore it the moral condition of its author: *le style c'est l'homme*. Of what notice can anyone be worthy when he has desperately and vainly tried to make himself notorious by the most coarse scurrility of intemperate language; when he has grossly insulted the most inviolable feelings of the representatives of the Queen in this Island; he has tried to stir up the population against the Government; and from day to day he has prostrated himself at the feet of those whom he has insulted, and has insulted those whom he adulated the day before. When a man arrives at that epoch of life when his fate is fixed, and fails himself without resting-place of his own and without assured bread, and, notwithstanding, light-heartedly insults those who offer him the hospitality of their country, where he finds daily bread of which he was deprived in other countries which have delightedly seen such a guest leaving their shores—under such conditions one ought to examine himself if he has any decency left, and to use in his expressions and judgments that moderation which is suited to his case, and rather to re-seek the obscurity from which he has for a moment emerged, to remain there quietly without being able to again arise.

For the person in question this would have been the wise way to act; but he has thought that there still remained harm to be done. He has tried to break the perfect harmony which we have always stated to happily exist between the local element and the Englishmen resident on the Island. But experience

at the bar

