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Nicosia Cyprus
1908

CYPRUS

UNDER
BRITISH RULE

BY

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Introduction

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Γραμματεία Πανεπιστημίου

CYPRUS

UNDER BRITISH RULE

INTRODUCTION

Little is known about the Island of Cyprus, and much less about the different questions which, though of vital importance to the people of that unfortunate country, have not drawn the attention either of the British public or of the members of the British Parliament. Cyprus is far from England, and under the present circumstances it is considered of such small importance that no attention, or only an occasional one is paid to the complaints and demands of the Cypriots. It is not herein intended to write the history of the Island, or to go into a detailed account of the complaining discontent of its people, but simply to say a few words on the origin of the present Cypriots, the vicissitudes of their national life, their religion, their language, and the present condition of the Island

under British Rule, treating as shortly as possible the principal Cypriot ^{ερωτησεις} question—the source of all complaints, the obstacle to all progress and prosperity—the question of the heavy tribute paid to Turkey.



SITUATION OF CYPRUS

The Island of Cyprus is situated in the Mediterranean with Asia Minor to the north and Syria to the east at distances of 60 and 41 miles respectively. The port of Larnaca on the southern coast is 258 miles from Port-Said and 1,117 miles from Valetta in Malta.

The area of the Island is 3,584 square miles. It is the third largest Island in the Mediterranean being only exceeded in size by Sicily and Sardinia. Its greatest length from Cape Drepano to Cape S' Andrea is about 140 miles and its greatest breadth from north to south is about 60 miles.

The highest mountain is Mount Troodos, 6,406 feet above the sea level. The slopes of this mountain covered with pine trees form one of the loveliest and healthiest spots on earth and serve as the summer residence of the High Commissioner and other officials and of the English troops consisting of about 80 men. The village of Platres and other villages situate near

Troodos serve as the summer residence of the Islanders and specially of the citizens of Limassol.

ORIGIN OF THE CYPRIOTS

All writers who have treated the question of the origin of the Cypriots agree that Cypriots and Greeks belong to the same parent stock, that they came from the same motherland—Phrygia, whence the Dorians and Ionians emigrated, the Dorians reaching Greece and the Ionians the coast of Asia Minor, Lycia, the Greek Islands, and Cyprus. The tenth Chapter of Genesis speaks of “The sons of Javan, Elishah, and Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim”. This ethnological record is attributed to Moses, and is understood as meaning that the people of Elishah (Hellas), of Tarshish, Kittim (Cyprus), and Dodanim (Rhodes) are Ionians. The earliest inscriptions found in Cyprus show that the language of the Cypriots was the same as that of the Greeks. The only difference is that the characters used in Cyprus were different from those used in Greece. The Cypriot inscriptions are written in Cypriot characters, whilst those of Greece are in Phœnician characters. This shows that, though Cypriots and Greeks spoke the same language, the Cypriots could write it, whilst the Greeks had to be taught the art of writing by the Phœnicians. The Cyprian letters are very similar to the Lycian letters, and the greater part of them is quite identical, so that archæologists have supposed Cyprian inscriptions to be Lycian. Thus, as Sir

Hamilton Lang says in his valuable book on Cyprus, «By his language and his writing we can follow the footsteps of the Cyprian Javanian emigrant back to Phrygia, the parent home of the Cyprian, Lycian, and Ionian wanderers.»

HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

The historical facts known about Cyprus begin with the conquest of the Island by Thotmes III. From that time to the period in which the events of the Trojan war are placed the Island was under Egyptian and Phœnician influence. At the time when the Trojan war is said to have occurred new colonists from Greece settled in Cyprus, who, having the same origin and the same language as the Cypriots, were fused with them and gave vitality and strength to the native Cyprian element. Then began a new life for Cyprus, prosperity increased every day, and the Island became an important maritime power. Afterwards it fell into the power of the Assyrians, but soon again recovered prosperity and power. At about the 4th century B.C. the Island was very prosperous and powerful. It is the period of the most glorious pages of Cypriot history—the dynastic epoch of the brave King Evagoras and his successors. Cyprus was another Athens, and its art was purely Greek. The Island took part in the wars of Alexander the Great, formed part of the dominions of his successors, then became a Roman province, and in 804 A.D. was conquered by the Turks. That date to the year 958 A.D. when the Turks were expelled, in-

clusively marks the darkest pages of Cypriot history. Thousands of lives were sacrificed, the public buildings were ruined and very heavy taxes were imposed. From 958 A.D. the Island formed part of the Byzantine Empire, and was governed by a Duke, when, whilst acting as such, Isaac Comnenus proclaimed himself Emperor of Cyprus. In May, 1191 A.D., the Island was conquered by Richard Cœur-de-Lion, and was sold to the Templars, who returned it to Richard. He then sold it to Guy de Lusignan and it remained under the Lusignans for about three centuries. Then it was taken by the Genoese, retaken by the Lusignans, and subsequently passed to the Venetians through Caterina Cornaro, wife of Jacques II, last King of the line of Lusignans, who survived her husband and son and in 1487 abdicated in favour of Venice. The Island remained under the power of the Venetians until 1570 when it was conquered by the Turks.

The Turkish troops landed in Cyprus in July, and it is a curious coincidence that in the month of July occurred some of the most important events that has witnessed this Island. On the 1st of July 1570 A.D. Mustafa Pasha landed at Limassol and massacred the inhabitants. On the 9th of July 1821 A.D. the Archbishop of Cyprus, the Bishops, Abbots and many clergymen and notables were put to death; and on the 12th July, 1878 A.D. in the presence of Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay the glorious British flag was hoisted on the ramparts of Nicosia, near Papho Gate. The joy of the

Christian population was beyond description; we were present at the event, and we can never forget the general satisfaction and excitement; at the moment we are writing these lines the occurrence is vividly recalled before our eyes, and we feel the same emotion now, after four and twenty years, as if we were just returning from the joyful ceremony.

The Turks landed, as we have said, first at Limassol; and after having massacred great numbers of men, women and children, and pillaged and ruined the town of Limassol, they left with their fleet and landed at Larnaca, where they treated the town and the inhabitants in the same way as in Limassol. Then they proceeded to Nicosia, which they besieged and which fell in their power, after a gallant defence, on the 9th September 1570. Twenty thousand persons were massacred, 250 monasteries and churches were pillaged and burnt, and two thousand beautiful girls and boys were sold as slaves. Innumerable booties fell into the hands of the Turks, and a large amount of them, with one thousand of the most beautiful slaves, were embarked for Constantinople.

Amongst these slaves was included a heroic and noble Cypriot girl, Maria Synklitiki, who, preferring death to dishonour, put fire to the gunpowder store and the ship which was carrying her was exploded; the fire was communicated to the other two ships carrying the slaves and treasures and all three sunk in the Cypriot waters, in the eastern shores of the Island.

The fort of Kyrenia was easily taken, and on the 18th

September the Turks began the siege of Famagusta. The town, defended by its heroic commander Marcantonio Bragadino resisted till the 1st August, 1571. But the food and ammunition were exhausted and the gallant officer surrendered the town, after entering into a treaty with Mustafa Pasha under which it was stipulated that the garrison would leave carrying their arms, accoutrements, their guns and the horses of their generals, and that they would be transported with Turkish ships to Crete, which at the time was occupied by Venice.

Mustafa Pasha did not keep the stipulations of the treaty; he showed all the cruelty of his barbarous soul by putting to death at once the other officers and by causing the nose and ears of the gallant general Bragadino to be cut, and by obliging him for eight days to carry big baskets full of earth for the repair of the walls. After these martyrical tortures the blood-thirsty tigers tied the noble general on a stave and flayed him alive. Of the garrison those that were embarked were carried as slaves to Constantinople and the others that remained behind were massacred. Famagusta met with the fate of Nicosia; the churches were robbed and burnt, the whole town pillaged and many of the inhabitants put to death.

The revenues of Cyprus were first allotted to the Vizier but soon a large part of them was allotted to the Validé or Sultan's mother. The Island must have had at the time of the Turkish conquest a much larger population than the present one, because soon after

the conquest and the horrible massacres of so many thousands of adult Cypriots, a census was taken of the male inhabitants between the ages of 14 and 50, amongst whom were distributed the taxes, and they numbered 85,000; the persons between these two ages now are under 60,000.

Cyprus was farmed to a Pasha or Mousselim for 2,500,000 piastres or about £21,000.

The Pasha or Mousselim who farmed the Island wanted to make as much money as he could and the inhabitants were heavily taxed.

The usual tax was 40 piastres per capita. In 1764 A.D. the Mousselim Osman attempted to raise the tax to 47 piastres.

The Bishops sent a deputation to Constantinople to complain to the central government, and as no news were received from them, the Archbishop Paissios with the other Bishops decided to go to Constantinople and complain in person against the extortions of the Governor; they were arrested and brought back to Nicosia. In the meantime the deputation succeeded in obtaining a firman ordering Osman to desist from taking more than the usual amount; in the middle of October the bearer of the Imperial firman arrived in Cyprus; and the 25th of October was fixed for reading publicly the said firman. Whilst the Bishops with the Turkish Ulemas and the Christian and Turkish notables were gathered in a room of the Konac, the floor gave way, and many were wounded; it was spread out that this was an attempt by Osman

to kill those gathered there, and this caused general indignation; the people were gathered in great numbers, killed Osman and 18 of his suite, put fire to the Konac, and pillaged the Treasury.

The Christian and Moslem notables met at once and reported that the fault lied with Osman; a new Governor was sent and after inquiries found that what was reported was true; it was, however, decided that the price of blood of those killed should be paid, the Konac rebuilt, and the monies taken from the Treasury repaid, both by the Christians and Moslems. Many of the Moslems in the villages resisted this payment, and they revolted under the leadership of one Halil Agha, who was the keeper of the Kyrenia fort; the revolt was however put down in September 1766 A.D. and Halil Agha with two hundred of his followers put to death.

The inhabitants were also greatly oppressed in 1783 A.D. by the Governor of the Island Hadji Baki Agha; both Christians and Moslems applied to Constantinople and succeeded in having the Governor removed. From that time to the year 1821 A.D. we see the Christian clergy and community having great influence in the Island with the local government. This lasted till 1821 A.D. when the war of the Greek Independence began; the Sultan ordered the disarmament of the Cypriots; the Imperial Order was couched in the following terms:

«Though having examined our annals, we have never found, from the time that this Island passed to

our dominion, the Christians of that place to be incriminated in anything against our government, but on the contrary, the Turks having revolted on some occasion, they joined our victorious armies, and eagerly contributed to the defeat and subjugation of the revolters. Still for the carrying out of our general order concerning of all the Christians of the Empire, we order that to be done in this Island also.»

The disarming of the Christians was performed without the least resistance; the Governor of the Island Koutsouk Mehmed or Pepcy Mehmed Pasha wishing to enrich himself submitted to the Porte a catalogue of the names of 486 persons, including the Archbishop, the three Bishops, the Abbots of all the Monasteries and of all the wealthy clergymen and laymen of the Island, whom he accused as having an understanding with the insurgents of Greece; the Porte ordered the massacre of all and the confiscation of their properties; the Governor, in June, arrested some of the notables and kept them in prison; on the 9th of July, Saturday, the gates of Nicosia were closed and the square of the Konac presented a miserable and horrible spectacle; there were executed the three Bishops—the Bishop of Papho Chrysanthos, the Bishop of Citium Meletios and the Bishop of Kyrenia Laurentios. Shortly afterwards the Archbishop of Cyprus the martyr Kyprianos was hanged on the mulberry tree, which could be still seen a few years ago in the square of the Konac, and on the opposite plane tree were hanged his Archdeacon and his Secretary; on

the same day three of the notables were executed and the next day the Abbots of the Monasteries and many other citizens were put to death; the massacre continued for ten days and many wealthy persons from different parts of the Island were brought in and executed. Of the wealthy Cypriots only those who fled away were saved; the property of those who were killed or who fled away was confiscated; the inmoveable property was sold to the Turks at nominal prices.

In 1837 A.D. the yearly taxation of the Island was fixed at 3,179,082 piastres with 480,000 piastres salary of the Governor and 120,000 piastres salary of the military Commander with some other sums amounting in all to about 4,000,000 piastres or about £33,000.

The Archbishops of Cyprus after the martyr Kyprianos are the following:

IOAKIM	1821—1824
DAMASKINOS	1824—1827
PANARETOS	1827—1840
IOANNIKIOS	1840—1849
KYRILLOS	1849—1854
MAKARIOS	1854—1865
SOPHRONIOS	1865—1900

The system of farming the Island was abolished in 1838, and after the Hatti Sherif of Kioulhané of 1839, by Sultan Abdoul Medjid, the Turkish rule became less oppressive in the Island; the Christian element began to thrive again, and at the time of the English occupation the Christians were the most important and wealthy community of the Island, and almost the

whole of the immoveable property which had passed into the hands of the Turks in 1821, had already returned again into the hands of the Christians.

The English Occupation took place in July, 1878. Accommodation for guests was not satisfactory at that time and we had the pleasure of giving hospitality for several weeks to Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay and other officers in our late father's house. The gallant Admiral, whom we had the pleasure of seeing in 1880 at his charming country residence at Fulmer place, Slough, where we spent on several occasions many pleasant hours in his company and in the company of his noble lady, kept a kind remembrance of the few weeks he had passed under our roof.

Of the English Occupation we shall speak at some length in a separate chapter.

ADOPTION OF CHRISTIANITY

The Cypriots were early taught the Christian religion by Barnabas, who was a Cypriot, and it was by Cypriots, of whom the first was Barnabas, that the Greeks were converted to the Christian faith. Amongst the disciples who were scattered during the persecution which was roused by the preaching of Stephen, «Were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spoke unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus». Saint Paul, who taught the Athenians the new religion, was the friend and co-worker of Barnabas, and it was Barnabas who brought him to the Apostles, who were mistrusting

the new convert. From the earliest years of Christianity to the present time the Cypriots have kept the religion which was taught them by the Apostles, and from those early days to the present time Cypriots and Greeks have been the faithful children of the same Church, the Orthodox, or, as it is called by some, the Greek Church.

With reference to the preaching of the Gospel in Cyprus and the adoption of Christianity we reproduce here the following information from the valuable book on the Church of Cyprus by the late Filippo Yeorghiou. (1)

«About sixty years before Christ, Cyprus was under the Roman dominion, governed by a pro-consul established at Paphos.(2) At that time two religions prevailed among its numerous inhabitants, idolatry among the heathen Greeks, the most ancient inhabitants of the Island; and the Mosaic law among the Jews, who three hundred years before had established themselves in the Island, having been carried captive from Jerusalem by the King of Egypt, Ptolemœus Lagus (320 B.C.). From that time, the latter having

(1) *“Historical Information about the Church of Cyprus”*. This book contains much valuable information on the Church of Cyprus and on the history of the Island. It was translated by us into English in 1880, when we were staying in London, with the assistance of our venerable friend the Rev. James H. Wanklyn but the translation was never published because we failed to find a publisher willing to undertake its publication.

(2) Acts of the Apostles XIII. 6,7.

grown numerous, filled the Island with Jews' synagogues.

Before the Gospel had been preached in the Island «Joses, who by the Apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of Consolation) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus» being then at Jerusalem became a disciple of Jesus Christ and lived with him and the other disciples, and «Having land sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the Apostles' feet». (1) There were also other disciples of the Apostles, who «scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord. Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus to seek Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch.» And having remained

(1) Acts of the Apostles IV. 36, 37.

there for a whole year, they preached to many people and there first the disciples were called Christians. Afterwards both of them returned to Jerusalem, taking to the Elders who were there, a contribution of money, which the Christians of Antioch collected and sent for the relief of the Church of Jerusalem.(1) Having discharged this commission they went back to Antioch, taking with them John also who was surnamed Mark, a nephew and disciple of Barnabas, and son of a certain Christian woman called Mary, who had a house at Jerusalem where the Apostles often assembled. (2)

Then both of them having been chosen by the Holy Ghost and having been ordained by the inspired Elders of the church at Antioch, passed to Seleucia, thence they sailed to Cyprus, and having gone to Salamis, preached the word of the Lord in the synagogues of the Jews. Having passed through the Island as far as Paphos, they were invited there by the pro-consul, Sergius Paulus who desired to hear from them the Word of God; but whilst the Apostles were preaching to him, a false prophet, a Jew, called Barjesus, (whose name by interpretation was Elyhas,) withstood the Apostles' preaching, seeking to turn away the pro-consul from the faith. «Then Saul, (who also is called Paul) filled with the Holy Ghost set his eyes on him, accursed him and condemned him to

(1) Acts of the Apostles XI. 19—30.

(2) *ibid.* XII. 12.

complete blindness. And the pro-consul having seen that miracle immediately believed. (1)

From that time the Christian faith was firmly established among the heathen inhabitants of the Island. Both the Apostles by the Will of the Holy Ghost, then went to teach other nations, and having preached the Gospel in many towns of Asia, returned to Antioch, where they remained for a long time with the other disciples. Then, certain men came from Judea and preached to the Christians of Antioch, saying, «Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved». A discussion then arose between them and the Apostles Paul and Barnabas. As they could not agree it was decided that two Apostles should go to Jerusalem and bring the question before the Apostles and the Elders.

The Apostles and the Elders assembled at Jerusalem (49. A.D.) and held the first ecclesiastical Synod, where the question of the circumcision of those who believed was discussed, and it was decided by all «that no further burden than it was necessary should be imposed and that they should abstain from things offered as sacrifice, from blood, from things strangled and from fornication». And having written a synodical letter to the brethren of Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia, containing that decision of the Synod they sent it to Antioch by Paul and Barnabas. (2)

(1) Acts of Apostles XIII. 1—12.

(2) Acts of Apostles XV. 37.

After a short residence at Antioch, Paul and Barnabas were on the point of setting out to visit again the towns where they preached the Word of the Lord; when a discussion arose between them about John Mark who had separated from them at Paphylia; Barnabas wished to take him again with them, but Paul did not. For that reason they separated, Paul passed through Syria and Cilicia confirming the churches and Barnabas sailed again for Cyprus for the same purpose, with his nephew John Mark as Saint Luke relates. (1)

From that time the Acts of the Apostles continuing to relate all concerning the Apostle Paul, are silent about Barnabas. From «his acts», which bear the name of John Mark as their writer but which more probably were written later from memoirs of the Church of Cyprus or from verbal tradition, we learn that returning from Paphos the Apostles Barnabas and Paul near cape Crommyon found Timon and Ariston or Aristion who were heathen ministers and who after being taught the faith of Christ, followed them. Afterwards at the village Lambado or Lambadon they found Heracleon, whom Paul named Heraclides. The two Apostles ordained him the first Bishop in the Island, and at the same time assigned to him the church which met in the cave near Tamassus.

On his second arrival in Cyprus, Barnabas whilst he passed through the Island with his fellow traveller

(1) Acts of the Apostles XV. 37.

Mark, having come to Salamis and having met there Heraclidis, urged him to preach the Word of the Lord with zeal, and to establish churches and appoint ministers in them. Then having ordained these and others, the Apostle shortly afterwards having been taken by the Jews of Salamis, suffered martyrdom, being stoned to death, as the monk Alexander relates in his panegyric of the Apostle Barnabas. His nephew and fellow traveller Mark, buried his holy body with a copy of the Gospel of Saint Matthew in a certain cave near Salamis, where, according to the testimony of Theodosius Anagnostis, four hundred years later it was found unhurt, by the Archbishop of Constantia, Anthemius, as we shall relate elsewhere in these pages.»

LANGUAGE

The language spoken by the Cypriots is modern Greek—as it is spoken in Greece, much more pure than that of the Greek Islands and of many parts of free Greece.

CYPRIOTS AND GREEKS

Thus we see that the Cypriots and the Greeks have the same origin, the same religion, and the same language, and there is no cause for surprise that the cession of the Island to Greece would be considered by all as a natural event, and as a fair solution of the Cypriot question.

The Cypriot Press is unanimous in considering the cession of the Island to Greece as the best solution of

the Cypriot Question. The *Phoni tis Kyprou*, of Nicosia, writes:

“Such is the wish of the whole Island, such her most ardent desire. We are Greeks ; our history proclaims it, our customs and habits, our traditions, our origin, and our language pure and limpid like the waters of our pine-covered Olympus, prove it.”

The *Ethnos*, of Larnaca, writes:

“The proposed solution, as the only fair and wise one, is in accordance with the feelings and the wishes of the Cypriot people. Union with mother Greece was and is the ardent desire of the Greek inhabitants of the Island, who form four-fifths of the whole population, and this wish they have enthusiastically and solemnly expressed more than once since a Christian flag has waved over the towers of the Island”.

The *Evagoras* and *Kyprios* of Nicosia, the *Salpinx* and *Alithia* of Limassol and all the other greek papers of the Island speak in like terms, considering the cession of the Island to Greece as the fairest and most natural solution of the Cypriot question.

THE CHURCH OF CYPRUS

The ancient Orthodox Church of Cyprus is independent or autocephalus. Some attempts were made by the Patriarchs of Antioch to bring the Church of Cyprus under their dependency, but the Prelates of Cyprus have always jealously guarded the ancient privileges of our Church and the question was decided at the council of Ephesus in 430 A.D. Three of the Cypriot Bishops appeared before the said council to defend the ancient privileges of the Cypriot Church, the Bishops Rheginus, Zeno and Evagrius. The

council after hearing what was said, unhesitatingly being convinced of the rights of the Cypriot Bishops, issued an order prohibiting the Patriarch of Antioch from all intervention and acknowledging the liberty and independence of the Church of Cyprus.

The decision of the holy Council of Ephesus runs as follows:—Rheginus, most beloved of God, and a Bishop as ourselves and with him Zeno and Evagrius, most beloved of God, and Bishops of the country of the Cypriots have made known to us an innovation against the Ecclesiastical Laws and the canons of the holy Apostles and affecting the liberty of all. And as common sufferings want strong remedies, because they cause greater injury, and specially if neither custom has supported the claim of the Bishop of the town of the Antiochians, to celebrate ordinations in Cyprus, as by memorials and addresses the most devout men who have made their appearance before the Holy Synod have explained, the heads of the holy Churches of Cyprus shall be uncontrolled and unconstrained, according to the Laws of the Holy Fathers and the ancient custom, in the ordination of the most devout Bishops. The same right also shall be preserved in the other administrations and provinces everywhere so that none of the Bishops most beloved of God, shall seize another province, which has not been from the very beginning under that of himself or at least that of his predecessor, but if any one has already seized one, and by force has brought it under him, he shall give it back; in order that the canons of

the Fathers may not be violated and arrogance of mundane authority may not creep in, under cover of sacred functions, and that we may not lose liberty unawares while our Lord Jesus Christ, the Deliverer of all men, granted us such liberty by his own blood. For these reasons it is decided by the Holy and Œcumenical Council, that in every province shall be preserved pure and inviolate, the rights which belong to it from the very beginning, according to the old prevailing custom, each Bishop having permission to take a copy of these acts for his own security. And if any one shall bring any regulation conflicting with the things laid down now, it is decided by the entire Holy and Œcumenical Synod that it shall be of no force».

By this decision, a stop was put to all pretensions of Antioch, and the Canonical Right of the Cypriot Church, which existed by ancient custom, to elect and ordain freely its own Bishops, without the interference of any foreign Bishop, was officially acknowledged.

Another attempt to subordinate the Church of Cyprus was made in 485 A.D. by Peter Knafeus, Patriarch of Antioch. Complaints were made by the Archbishop Anthemius to Emperor Zeno to whom was offered a copy of the Gospel of Saint Matthew written by the Apostle Barnabas and found with his sacred remains near Constantia (Famagusta). The Emperor referred the case to the Œcumenical Patriarch Acacius to discuss it synodically in the presence of the

representatives of the Patriarch of Antioch and settle it. The Archbishop Anthemius had no difficulty in proving the rights of the Cypriot Church and the Patriarch Acacius by a synodical letter ordered the Church of Cyprus to remain free from all interference of the Patriarchs of Antioch, and the Emperor ordered, by royal command, the Bishop of Antioch to abstain from troubling Cyprus and its Bishops any more. Emperor Zeno granted also royal privileges to the Archbishop of Cyprus—to wear a purple mantle during the sacred celebrations, to hold a sceptre instead of a pastoral staff, to sign with vermillion and to be dignified with the name of autocephalus.

There are four Episcopal Sees in Cyprus. That of Archbishop, and of the Bishops of Papho, Citium and Kyrenia.

The Archbishop of Cyprus is addressed by all *Makariotatos* (Beatitude) like the Patriarchs after whom he comes fifth in rank. He is styled *His Beatitude the Archbishop of New Justiniani and of all Cyprus*; his jurisdiction extends over the civil District of Famagusta and parts of those of Nicosia and Larnaca; the Bishop of Papho who comes first after the Archbishop is styled the *Right Reverend the Metropolitan Bishop of Papho most Honourable and Exarch of Arsinoe and Romæon*; his jurisdiction extends over the civil District of Papho. The Bishop of Citium who comes next in rank is styled the *Right Reverend the Metropolitan Bishop of Citium and President of Amathus, the New Town of Limassol*

and Curium: his jurisdiction extends over the civil Districts of Larnaca and Limassol. The last in rank is the Bishop of Kyrenia who is styled *the Right Reverend the Metropolitan Bishop of Kyrenia and President of Solea*.

In Cyprus there are several Monasteries of which the principal is the Holy Monastery of Kykko, founded in 1081 A.D., in the reign of Alexius Comnenus who gave it a picture of the virgin Mary, ascribed to the brush of St. Luke, which is still preserved by the pious monks.

The Church of Cyprus has enjoyed important privileges which were recognized by the Turks since the conquest of the Island and always acknowledged whenever a new Archbishop was elected by an Imperial Berat.

The last Berat was granted to the late Archbishop of Cyprus Sophronius in 1865 A.D. We consider this document very interesting and we give here a translation of it:

BERAT

«As, on account of the intelligence of the death of the monk Macarius, Archbishop of the Island of Cyprus and elsewhere, which was lately announced, it has been necessary that another be elected in his place, and by unanimous decision and approbation, the monk Sophronius, bearing our present royal Berat (may the Head of the Christian nation be strengthened!) has been elected Archbishop, (long may his appointment last!); about that, being informed by general petition on the part of the representatives of the Greek

Turkish subjects of the Island, elected for that purpose, who announced it in a suppliant manner, and also being informed by decision of the council of the same Island, after we had examined the archives, the dignity of the Archbishopric of this Island and elsewhere, in the name of him who is deceased, was actually found written and registered on the same who died, and having received the necessary notes and information, that the usual present of 100,000 piastres has been paid in cash at the due place, and according to our Firman from the first we give our present royal Berat and order:

I. That the aforementioned monk, Sophronius, shall administer the aforementioned archbishopric of the Island of Cyprus and elsewhere according to the ancient custom.

II. That those under his jurisdiction in different places, metropolitans, bishops, abbots, priests, nuns, and other christians, according to the custom which has prevailed from the very beginning, and their religious duty shall acknowledge him as Archbishop and shall not appear wanting in their duty of submission.

III. That he be by none hindered in the dignity of his archbishopric and none interfere with, or trouble him.

IV. That none without supreme authority shall take away from them, (the archbishops) the churches and monasteries which from the very beginning have been in their possession.

V. That no one shall interfere within their province whilst they remain within their own limits, and have the permission of the Government and my high Firman.

VI. That without sealed petition of the actual archbishops no appointment of metropolitan or bishop be made of any one; nor the authority and exercise of his rights be allowed to any.

VII. That when a Christian wishes to marry or to be divorced according to their religious canons, the Archbishop or his representatives, appointed by a high order of Ours or by a simple letter of his, shall officiate and none else shall interfere or take part.

VIII. Whatever disposition of his property (as by way of an offering) any of the monks or other Christians dying, according to their religious customs, shall make to the poor people of the churches or to the Archbishop, shall be accepted, Christian witnesses being admitted by the tribunal, according to their religious customs.

IX. Those who are subject to the archbishopric viz:—Metropolitans, Bishops, Abbots, priests, and other monks, and others of the same kind, that shall have been found guilty and transgressing their religious customs, shall be punished according to their religious customs, without the punishment fixed by the penal laws being increased or changed, in order that they may repent and confess, that they will no more commit such fault, and no other person shall take part in such things.

X. If any one of the priests, or even of the representatives of the Archbishop celebrate marriage contrary to their religious customs without his permission or approbation, he shall be punished by the Courts of law.

XI. When, according to their religious canons, it is required to depose and replace properly, Metropolitans, Bishops, priests, monks, and Abbots, the aforementioned Archbishop shall religiously depose them, and in order to put in their places, worthy monks, and to appoint them Metropolitans or Bishops, he must refer to our capital, informing us of that by petition; and when the usual and fixed presents have been paid to the Treasury, the patents of acknowledgment for the occupation of their dignity shall be handed

to them and also the necessary sacred orders.

XII. The aforementioned Archbishop when he has to receive, according to the customs from the very beginning, and in virtue of his Berat, archiepiscopal revenues from anywhere, from Metropolitans, Bishops, monks, Abbots, and other Christians, the Cadis in office shall assist him and so act that they shall be paid to his representatives, sent on purpose for their collection provided with a sacred order of ours or with a letter of his own.

XIII. The alms money, which have been given from the very beginning by the Christians, and the canonical dues for the services of sanctification in monasteries and for marriages, as well as the other accidental revenues of the archbishopric, according to the ancient custom and the meaning of his Berat shall be given to the aforementioned Archbishop, without any hindrance.

XIV. If any monks, fond of the cares of this life, wander, against their religious regulations into places of their own liking, belonging to the limits of his archbishopric, these the Archbishop shall send back to the monasteries where they lived.

XV. When they have to pass dangerous places, in order to pass easily they may change their dress; and in cases of necessity for the safety of their life and avoidance of danger if they bear arms they shall not be troubled by the police and other authorities.

XVI. No one shall make a Christian to be a Mussulman, when he himself does not wish it.

XVII. When any one of the Bishops under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Cyprus, for the time being, wishes to come to our capital for arrangement of his own affairs, that shall be by the aforementioned Archbishop, and none shall prevent him.

XVIII. When any one of the Bishops, owing cano-

nical dues, has no money to pay them, and instead of money, shall give woven articles and cloth which shall be reckoned instead of their canonical dues, his men and agents, who convey them, shall not be troubled on the way by the officer and overlooker of the different stations and custom house wharfages, or by any one else for payment of any dues or custom duty.

XIX. With respect to all the fruits of vineyards which the Archbishop shall cultivate for his own maintenance and those which the Christians from the very beginning give, under the name of alms, in wine, oil, honey, and other fruits, according to the ancient custom, the officers of the custom house and gates, and their inspecting clerks and others, shall not trouble with any demands those who convey them.

XX. All the property belonging to the churches, whatsoever, belongs to the archbishopric, consisting of vineyards, gardems, farms, fields, pastures, fairs, holy wells, mills, sheep, and the ecclesiastical things all these are under the dominion and rule of the aforementioned Archbishop, and none shall interfere with them.

XXI. When on the part of Pashas, Cadis, and other officials, a complaint is raised, and comes against a Metropolitan or Bishop, reporting his bad conduct and behaviour, in order that he may be deposed or exiled this shall not be executed before the truth of the thing is known; and even if by any means a high Firman is already issued, it shall have no validity.

XXII. And if by any intrigue a sacred order has been issued by Our Royalty, and has reached its destination, that it may not be executed, they shall write to the capital reporting the affair, and so it will be stopped.

XXIII. If any Christians during their life, bequeath to the Archbishop, Metropolitans, and Bishops, any

little things, and shall do it according to their religious customs, openly and by fixed intention, after their death these things shall be taken from the heirs by the action of the Government Courts of law.

XXIV. When the canonical and other usual dues, many or little, according to the condition of every church are taken through the Metropolitans or Bishops or by the agents appointed by them, they shall be prevented by none.

XXV. When between two Christians a dispute happens about marriage or divorce or other affairs, by the consent of the interested parties, he shall reconcile them.

XXVI. When according to their religious customs they administer an oath, or punish by excommunication (as they call that punishment), no interference or trouble shall be caused on the part of the judicial authorities, and no damage or harm of any kind shall be caused to them.

XXVII. Without the consent and permission of the Archbishop and the Metropolitans, the priests under their jurisdiction shall solemnize no marriages against their religious rules, or any fixed canon.

XXVIII. When the Metropolitans, Bishops, nuns, and other monks, die without heirs, if they have either cash or effects, or horses, or any ecclesiastical things, the Archbishop shall have them, and none of the authorities shall interfere.

XXIX. If any of those who have power and position whoever they are, against their religious ordinances persist in demanding that such a woman shall be given to such a man, this shall not be done by force.

XXX. Such offensive propositions as requests that one priest shall be deposed from his ecclesiastical place in order that it may be given to another, shall

not have effect.

XXXI. When, for punishment and correction of a Christian, he sends an excommunication, as it is called, viz:—the letters of punishment, none shall interfere.

XXXII. When any of the aforementioned, who are married against their religious rules, as it is forbidden them religiously to enter the church, dies, the judicial and political authorities and those who are eminent in power, whoever they are, they shall not force the priests with persistently saying, *remove the dead*.

XXXIII. When the aforementioned Archbishop religiously punishes those of the Bishops and priests who persist with obstinacy in not paying the usual canonical dues, shaves their hair, and deposes them, and appoints others in their places, none shall prevent him.

XXXIV. When any Christians leave by will the third part of their wealth to the churches, monasteries, and the Archbishop, by the action of the Government it shall be taken from the heirs.

XXXV. When by the Government the arrest of a priest is thought necessary and is decided, or of some monk or nun, this arrest shall be effected through the aforementioned Archbishop.

XXXVI. When any of the monastic order, having no employment in any church or monastery, are wandering from place to place, and cause scandals, these, according to the above mentioned manner, the aforementioned Archbishop shall punish and prevent.

XXXVII. If, when the Archbishop annually examining the accounts of the treasurers of the churches and monasteries at the end of the year of their office, they are proved debtors, and through the action of the Government they shall be obliged to pay, and if he

deposes such defaulters, appointing to their places, according to their religious customs, other fit and able persons, he shall be prevented by none.

XXXVIII. That none of the monks, who by our high patents already possess dignities and carry out the duties of Metropolitans or Bishops, shall be damaged or troubled by the political authorities.

XXXIX. That when one of these dies, our necessary Royal Berat shall be given to the candidate according to the Royal Orders existing from the very beginning.

XL. The Archbishops of Cyprus for the time being, being without crimes, shall not be deposed, and succeeded by others through favouritism.

XLI. The petition of the Archbishops be acceptable. In matters that concern their religion whatever they shall refer and make known, shall be listened to in a friendly manner.

XLII. If there are any desirous to become Archbishops no attention at all must be paid to them. Because it is meet that the Bishops must know, and be devoted to their religious duties, having full power for their exercise, and acting according to our high royal order decreed from the very beginning, they shall be for ever uninfluenced and uncontrolled.

XLIII. That none of the Government and other authorities shall prevent the aforementioned Archbishop from holding his sceptre in his hand, and moreover as for the horse or mule that he mounts, no trouble shall be caused to him.

XLIV. That against the will of the aforementioned Archbishop none shall be allowed to oppress him, on the ground that we by constraint shall lend ourselves as servants to his purposes.

XLV. For the direction of the affairs which concern their religion, and also for the immediate pos-

session and direction of their property, none, in any way shall prevent them, nor interfere; but he shall remain uncontrolled and uninfluenced.

Know all men these presents.

Let all respect Our sacred Council.

Written in the beginning of the month Sheval.

In the year one thousand two hundred eighty second.

POPULATION

According to the first census taken after the English Occupation the population of the Island was returned at 185,630, of which 140,172 were Christians and 45,458 Mahommedans. In 1891 the population was returned at 209,290, of which 161,247 were Christians and 48,044 Mahommedans. During the decade the Christian population increased by 21,075 souls, or 15 per cent, whilst the Mahommedan population increased by 2,586, or 5 per cent. In 1901 the population was returned at 237,022, of which 185,595 were Christians, 51,309 Mahommedans, and 118 Jews. The increase during the last decade has been 24,353 or 15.25 per cent for the Christian population, and 3,383 or 6.94 per cent for the Mahommedan population.

The Christian population is made up as follows:

Greeks belonging to the Orthodox Church 182,739

Christians belonging to other religions 2,856*

185,595

(*) Of the Christians belonging to other religions than the Orthodox the more numerous are the Catholics and Maronites numbering 831 and 1130 respectively. They form thriving and industrious Communities and they have always lived with the Greeks on the most friendly and brotherly terms.

The Greeks of the Island not only form a large majority, about four fifths of the whole population, and are fast advancing in number, but have also in their hands almost the whole of the land, wealth, commerce and liberal professions.

The solution, therefore, of the Cypriot question by the cession of the Island to Greece which is ardently wished by the Cypriots and approved by a large party of noble-hearted men in Great Britain, is the most natural solution of the Cypriot question.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Island is quite healthy and lovely. There is no better place in the World than Nicosia and Kyrenia for winter, and Troodos for summer residence. Delicate persons could not choose a better place than the Island of Cyprus for health resort, and we have no doubt that European visitors, who by thousands visit Egypt, would prefer Cyprus if they would only spend a few days in the Island and see what beautiful and healthy climate we have. English officials are so satisfied with the climate of Cyprus that they often decline higher posts in other Colonies being reluctant to abandon a Country where the climate is so beautiful and so healthy.

The following extract from the report for 1901 of the High Commissioner of Cyprus shows that we are perfectly justified in stating that Cyprus has a beautiful climate and is the best health resort in the Mediterranean: *

«The temperature varies from the bracing cold of 40° to 60° F. in winter to the heat of the summer sun in the plains when the air temperature reaches 100°, the absolute maximum for the year having been 105°.

The climate is exceedingly good, and the southern or Troodos range of mountains affords an excellent summer sanatorium, the temperature in the house being there about 70°. The camp on Troodos, at an elevation of some 6,000 feet, was used in this way by some of the troops who suffered in the Soudan Campaign with marked advantage. During five months of the year the top of the Troodos range is covered with snow, and a sanatorium might be established in its bright and clear air, which in winter would equal the health resorts in Switzerland. As a summer resort, Troodos affords a better climate than can be found anywhere else on the shores of the Mediterranean. The temperature of the plains in winter is pleasant and bracing, with a bright and warm sun.»

The Honourable Member for Islington, Sir Albert Rollit who has lately visited the Island, has also mentioned the beautiful climate of the Island in his speech in the House of Commons on the 26th May. We quote from the speech of the Honourable gentleman, reprinted from the Parliamentary Debates, of which he had the kindness of sending us a copy:

«If steamer communication with Egypt were more direct, more frequent, and more regular, he was quite satisfied that it would prove of the greatest service both to this Country and Cyprus, which had constituted an excellent sanatorium for our troops from the Soudan and which might also become a popular health resort for our army and civilians in Egypt whose Khedive had visited it. There was no place better suited for such purposes on the shores of the Mediterranean».

We sincerely hope that the beauty of the climate of Cyprus and of the healthiness of the Island will be widely known in England, and that Cyprus will soon become one of the most popular health resorts for English people.

THE ENGLISH OCCUPATION

The English Occupation began in 1878. On the 4th June in that year, a convention was signed between Great Britain and Turkey, by which it was, amongst other things, agreed that his Imperial Majesty the Sultan assigns the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England. This convention, which is called a «Convention of Defensive Alliance between Great Britain and Turkey» is as follows :

«Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, being mutually animated with the sincere desire of extending and strengthening the relations of friendship happily existing between their two Empires, have resolved upon the conclusion of a Convention of Defensive Alliance with the object of securing for the future the territories in Asia of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

Their Majesties have accordingly chosen and named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, the Right Honourable Austen Henry Layard, Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Sublime Porte;

And His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, His Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Imperial Majesty;

Who, after having exchanged their full powers, found in due and good form, have agreed upon the following articles :

ARTICLE I.

If Batoum, Ardahan, Kars, or any of them shall be retained by Russia, and if any attempt shall be made at any future time by Russia to take possession of any further territories of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in Asia, as fixed by the Definitive Treaty of Peace, England engages to join His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in defending them by force of arms.

In return, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan promises to England to introduce necessary reforms, to be agreed upon later between the two Powers, into the Government, and for the protection of the Christian and other subjects of the Porte in these territories; and in order to enable England to make necessary provision for executing her engagement, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan further consents to assign the Island of Cyprus to be occupied and administered by England.

ARTICLE II.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratification thereof shall be exchanged, within the space of one month, or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at Constantinople, the fourth day of June in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight».

(Sd) A. H. LAYARD

(Sd) SAFVET

On the 1st of July, 1878, the following Annex to the above Convention was agreed to, under which

England undertook to pay to the Porte whatever was the average excess of revenue over expenditure during the last five years before the English Occupation.

ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION OF DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE
BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY SIGNED
4 JUNE, 1878.

The Right Honourable Sir A. H. Layard, G.C.B., and His Highness Safvet Pasha, now the Grand Vizier of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, have agreed to the following Annex to the Convention signed by them as Plenipotentiaries of their respective Governments on the 4th June, 1878:

. A N N E X .

«It is understood between the two High Contracting Parties that England agrees to the following conditions relating to her occupation and administration of the Island of Cyprus:

I. That a Mussulman religious Tribunal (Méhkémei Sheri) shall continue to exist in the Island, which will take exclusive cognizance of religious matters, and of no others, concerning the Mussulman population of the Island.

II. That a Mussulman resident in the Island shall be named by the Board of Pious Foundations in Turkey (Evkaf) to superintend, in conjunction with a Delegate to be appointed by the British Authorities, the administration of the property, funds, and lands belonging to mosques, cemeteries, Mussulman Schools, and other religious establishments existing in Cyprus.

III. That England will pay to the Porte whatever is the present excess of revenue over expenditure in the Island; this excess to be calculated upon and determined by the average of the last five years,

stated to be 22,936 purses, to be duly verified hereafter, and to the exclusion of the produce of State and Crown lands let or sold during that period.

IV. That the Sublime Porte may freely sell and lease lands and other property in Cyprus belonging to the Ottoman Crown and State (Arazi Miriyé Houmayoun) the produce of which does not form part of the revenue of the Island referred to in Article III.

V. That the English Government, through their competent authorities may purchase compulsorily at a fair price, land required for public improvements, or for other public purposes, and land which is not cultivated.

VI. That, if Russia restores to Turkey Kars and the other conquests made by her in Armenia during the last war, the Island of Cyprus will be evacuated by England, and the Convention of the 4th June, 1878, will be at an end.

Done at Constantinople, the 1st day of July, 1878.

(Sd) A. H. LAYARD

(Sd) SAFVET

The rights reserved to the Ottoman Crown under Clause IV. of the above Annex were commuted for a fixed annual payment of £5,000 as shown by the following agreement :

AGREEMENT SIGNED BY SIR A. H. LAYARD & AL.

KARATHEODORY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1879.

«All property, revenues and rights reserved to the Ottoman Crown and Government in the said Article IV. of the Annex to the Convention of the 4th June, including all revenue derived from Tapous, Mahloul and Intikal are commuted hereby for a fixed annual payment of £5,000 to be made by Her Brittanic Ma-

jesty's Government to that of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan every year during the British Occupation of Cyprus, to be calculated from the beginning of next financial year.»

The Island was occupied on the 28th June and on the 12th July, in the presence of Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, commanding the Channel Squadron, and Mr Walter Baring and Sami Pasha, the bearers respectively of Her Majesty's Commission and the Imperial Ottoman Firman, the British flag was hoisted at Nicosia. Sir Garnet Wolseley, the first High Commissioner of Cyprus, landed at Larnaca on the 22nd July, took over the administration of the Island and issued the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
SIR GARNET JOSEPH WOLSELEY G.C.M.G., K.C.B. &
HER MAJESTY'S HIGH COMMISSIONER IN THE
ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

Whereas Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, has agreed with His Imperial Majesty, the Sultan of Turkey, by a Convention formally signed and confirmed at Constantinople, that the Island of Cyprus be occupied and be governed in the name of Her Majesty, and whereas Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint me, Sir Garnet Joseph Wolseley, Her High Commissioner in the Island of Cyprus in order to govern it in the name of Her Majesty;

Now therefore I proclaim by these presents and make known to all inhabitants of Cyprus that from now I have undertaken the administration and government

of the Island in the name of Her Majesty and Her Majesty commands me to assure the inhabitants of Cyprus that She is warmly interested in their happiness and that She proposes to order the acceptance of such measures as may be deemed the most suitable for the advancement and development of the commerce and agriculture of the Country and give to the people the benefits of freedom, justice and security.

In accordance with the gracious desire of Her Majesty the Island will be governed without distinction of race or religion; justice will be equally administered to all; every person will equally enjoy the equitable and impartial protection of the Law; and no measure will be neglected contributing to the moral and material progress of the welfare of the people.

It is the express desire of the Queen that, in the administration of public affairs, the reasonable wishes of the inhabitants be considered having regard to the observance of their ancient rights, morals and customs, and so far as they agree with a just and good government and with those principles of civilization and liberty which an Administrator in the name of Her Majesty should always and every-where observe.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The occupation of the Island by England caused great satisfaction to the Christian element in the Island, because it put a definite end to Turkish misrule, and the promises given by Sir Garnet Wolseley in the name of Her Majesty the Queen filled every heart with joy, because it was expected that they would be fulfilled and that an era of prosperity and wealth would begin for the Island. Little did the Cy-

priots think at the time that, after twenty-four years of British rule, the Island would reach the extreme stage of poverty, that the population would fall into extreme penury and starvation, and that many Cypriots would be obliged to leave the Island for search of the bread which the Island cannot give them. According to the local press 3,000 persons have already left the Island this year, and many more will be obliged to leave to avoid starvation.

The Greeks of the Island, forming the large majority of the population, hailed the English Occupation with heartfelt joy and with tears thanked the Almighty God, because they considered the English Occupation as the precursor of the long cherished liberty and felt confident that the noble and generous English nation would, as soon as circumstances would allow it, hand over the Island to Greece as they have done with the Ionian Islands. If, as it has been often stated, the Island is of no use to England the most natural solution of the Cypriot question would be the handing over of the Island to Greece, and this solution would give general satisfaction to the large majority of the inhabitants of Cyprus.

THE TURKISH TRIBUTE

The source of all evils, the heavy millstone round our neck,—as described by the honourable Sir Albert Rollit in his speech in the House of Commons on the 26th May, 1902,—which stopped all progress in the Island and which has prevented the

carrying out of such measures as would promote the welfare of the Island is the annual Tribute paid to Turkey. Under the Convention of 1878 England undertook to pay to the Porte the excess of Revenue over Expenditure calculated and determined by the average of the last five years preceding the English Occupation.

England, in her hurry to secure the occupation of Cyprus, has not paid the required attention with regard to this question and the amount now paid as Tribute is far in excess to what has been the real excess of Revenue over Expenditure during the above mentioned period of five years. This is clearly shown in the Pan-Cypriot Memorial of 1895, and in our speech in the Legislative Council, as our readers will see, and we consider it needless to state here the same arguments and explanations.

The annual charges payable to Turkey are: £87, 686, with 4,166,220 okes of Salt in kind; £113. 11. 3d in respect of certain Light Dues and £5,000 in respect of the produce of the State Lands—making £92,799. 11. 3d payable in money besides the Salt in kind.

As explained elsewhere in these pages the amount which should be paid is much lower; but whatever it is we contend that Cyprus has no obligation to pay it and that England should pay from the Imperial Treasury the obligations and liabilities it undertook for Imperial purposes. Cyprus is occupied by England for Imperial purposes, and the Imperial Treasury should pay the Tribute.

The *Times* of London, in one of its issues of September, 1888, commenting on an article which we published in its columns at the time, in which we submitted that the payment of the Tribute should be made by England, supports this view, as is shown by the following extract :

«As far as local Revenue and Expenditure are concerned, Cyprus is perfectly well able to pay its way and even to afford a considerable surplus. If this surplus were not absorbed by the British Exchequer nor applied to the remission of taxation it might very well be devoted to the judicious development of the resources of the Island in some of the various ways suggested by M^r Chacalli, a native of Cyprus and the editor of a local newspaper. (1)

There is something eminently unsatisfactory in the practice which has hitherto prevailed, of making the grant-in-aid dependent for its amount on the fluctuating exigencies of local administration and finance. If it is just that this country should bear a portion of the burden imposed by the Turkish tribute, it would surely be better for all parties concerned that the amount should be fixed and invariable. There is, moreover, not a little to be said for fixing the amount in a liberal spirit. We occupy Cyprus for our own purposes, and so long as the purposes are held to be adequate, we ought to be prepared to bear our fair share of the burden. If such a permanent settlement were made in place of the present makeshift arrangement, any surplus which was secured by economical administration and good finance could be locally applied either to the reduction of taxation or to the develop-

(1) We were at that time editing the "Kypros" an Anglo-Greek paper.

ment of the industrial and agricultural resources of the Island. At present all the proceeds of economical administration and good finance are applied to the reduction of the grant-in-aid, and thus benefit only the British exchequer. In such circumstances, though we may keep the peace of the Island and administer impartial justice to its inhabitants, we cannot hope to restore it to its ancient prosperity and fertility».

In 1887 meetings were held in the different towns of Cyprus to protest against the payment of the Tribute and the heavy taxation which was ruining the Country. The meetings were held on the 17th December, 1887, at Limassol, on the 21st December at Larnaca, on the 27th December at Nicosia and Kyrenia, on the 1st January, 1888, at Paphos and on the 18th January at Famagusta. Resolutions were passed in these meetings strongly protesting against the injustice done to the Island and we publish here the resolution passed in the meeting of Nicosia; the resolutions passed in the meetings of the other towns were to the same effect.

RESOLUTION OF NICOSIA

That the Legislation of the Country regarding taxation specially oppressive to the production, is heavy, disproportionate to its resources and tends daily to make its condition worse; and the Country is very little benefited by such excessive taxation because half of the amount of the revenue is applied to the service of the Tribute paid to Turkey; and of the balance an important part is expended upon the extravagant administration of the Island. Therefore a general revision of the

whole system of taxation is deemed necessary and especially the commutation of the tithes.

That the Country shares but little, in fact we can say not at all, in certain instances, in the management of its administration, and it is deemed necessary that the Legislative Council be granted wider powers, and that the Administrative Councils be thus reformed so that the local element be not always in minority.

That the public safety is insecure. To remedy this the revision of the organization of the Police and of certain statutes of the Criminal Law is deemed necessary.

Nothing, however, was done by the Government to alleviate the burdens of the people, and on the 20th April 1889 the following Memorial was signed by the elected members of the Legislative Council, and by the Bishops and specially elected representatives of the people. A deputation was also elected to take the Memorial to London and lay before the Central Government the grievances of the people.

MEMORIAL OF 1889.

To Her Most Excellent and Gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain in Council &c. &c. &c.

We, the respectfully undersigned representatives of the Christian inhabitants of the Island of Cyprus, some forming the elected representation in the Legislative Council, and some being specially elected by the people at the meetings and general assemblies held throughout the Island, the resolutions of which have been duly transmitted to Your Majesty's Government, have the honour to lay most respectfully at the foot of the throne of Your Most Gracious Majesty, whom God save, this our humble petition, by which we im-

plore Your Majesty's mercy upon the people in accordance with their demands which have been publicly manifested.

When ten years ago the administration of the Island was entrusted to the Government of Your Most Excellent Majesty, Cyprus hailed this political change, but also did not hesitate to point out by Pan-Cypriot Memorials the necessity of reforms, able to secure a state of things suitable to the material and moral development of a people, whose fate was entrusted to the most well-governed and civilized nation.

Your Most Gracious Majesty was pleased, in Your perpetual solicitude on behalf of Your subjects, to grant our Island also certain reforms, for which we are grateful to Your Majesty, but the after time fully convinced all of us that the reforms which had been given could not meet that desire of Your Majesty which dictated them, and the Island continues, especially from a financial point of view, to advance towards certain ruin, and we, therefore, dare implore again Your Majesty's high succour.

This Country has been submitted to the payment of taxes disproportionate to its resources and means, and day after day it becomes more certain in our opinion that this taxation is contributing to the greater and greater impoverishment of the Island, and is exhausting its vigour, as it is reckoned that each individual pays a yearly tax equal to about the one-fifth of his proportionate income by way of production. The taxation which, it is confessed, was already heavy and oppressive under the previous Government, has been increased much more under the present Government, which during the last five years, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885 & 1886, recovered the sum of £914,835, that is an average yearly sum of £182,967, whilst during the five years that preceded the English

Occupation, that is from 1873 to the end of 1877, the previous Government recovered the sum of 83,950,051 piastres, which is equal to £736,405, reckoned at 114 piastres each, that is an average yearly sum of £147,281; but even this last sum is greater than the real one, because we must necessarily deduct from it arrears which were definitely remitted, and also about 50 per cent for the difference caused by Kaimé (paper money) during the two last years of 1876 and 1877, because 100 piastres paid in Kaimé into the Treasury by the tax-payer used to cost on an average only 50 piastres. Nor ought one to suppose that this increase in the taxation has been occasioned by a proportionate increase in the production, because we can be convinced of the contrary, if we come to consider the sums respectively collected by the two Governments, by way of Tithes, during the aforesaid two periods of five years; thus the Tithes, which were farmed under the previous Government, brought to the public Treasury a net sum of about £301,000, whilst the present Government has recovered by way of Tithes, within a proportionate period of five years, £285,875 to which, if we add about £20,000 for the Tithes on grapes which have been abolished since 1884, we have a total sum of £306,000, from which we have to deduct about £50,000 for the expenses of assessment and collection; so that the net revenue collected by the English Government, by way of Tithes, does not exceed the sum of £256,000, in spite of the fact that the products are often over-assessed by the March Councils. This shows that whilst the production and profit of the Island have since considerably diminished, the taxation now imposed is much increased, and this fact explains the extreme financial exhaustion to which we have been reduced.

But to this disproportionate and oppressive taxation, a great part of which is yearly taken out of the Country by the Tribute, which is annually paid to the Porte

by virtue of the Annex of the Convention, we must also add the disadvantage of an exportation against a greater importation, the latter exceeding the former by a yearly sum of about £50,000 although the Island is an agricultural Country and has no industry or maritime commerce and the culminating point of the misfortune is that the sale of its principal products is, since some time, effected under unfortunate conditions, on account of the exceptional fall in their value, owing to the recent imposition of very heavy duties in the foreign markets of consumption.

These and certain natural causes have brought on the financial exhaustion of the Country, which has been consequently followed by the extreme depreciation of the landed property in general. Necessity, then, and duty compel the petitioners respectfully to beseech from Your Most Gracious Majesty some measures capable of checking the gradual ruin towards which we so assuredly advance; a contributive as well as exclusive measure for that purpose we consider to be the fixing for a certain period of years of a sum of about £140,000, to be paid annually by the Island to the Government, for, any taxation greater than this becomes impossible without ruin. The favourable adoption of this measure will not only relieve the Country, but will also better facilitate an understanding with the Cypriot Government, for the substitution of others for those taxes which are onerous, and do not agree with the principles of the liberal English nation, and this without any detriment to the public Treasury. By the taxation that is now paid by the Island, the English Government collects a much greater sum than that required for the administration of the Country, and, still, it becomes necessary every year for the English Parliament to vote a sum of money, which is characterised as a grant-in-aid for the Island.

This grant-in-aid which is voted by the English Parliament and paid by the English Exchequer, as well as the surplus of the receipts of the Island over the Expenditure of its administration, is applied for an object which does not concern either the moral or material promotion of the Country, and this is done without any obligation previously undertaken by the Country. We mean the yearly Tribute which is paid to the Porte, and has been imposed upon us by the Annex to the Convention of the 4th June, 1878.

We do not propose here to interfere with a question which has been regulated by the two contracting Governments for their high mutual objects, but it becomes necessary that we should beseech Your Majesty's Government to be pleased to find out some way for diminishing the loss which is occasioned both to the Treasury of Cyprus and to Your Majesty's Exchequer by the yearly payment of the deficit, and thus mitigate the very heavy consequences of the aforesaid Convention. The solution of this question rests, of course, with the enlightened competency of Your Majesty's Government; but if we were allowed to express our humble opinion on the subject, we would submit that the Tribute now yearly paid should be converted into a payment of a lump sum obtained by a loan raised in the name of the Island, and guaranteed by the British Government, so that the Country should have to pay for interest and sinking fund a sum not exceeding the half of the yearly Tribute now paid. Such a conversion and reduction in the public expenditure of the Island, effected with the consent of the Government without any injury to the public service and to the indispensable improvements which are hoped for, would allow the taxation of the Country to be reduced to a sum not much greater than the above referred to.

The question being about economies we must at

once declare that we respectfully hope that economies will be effected, but that so far as the judicial branch is concerned, it, in its present state, is insusceptible of any change, in its financial part, without serious injury being caused to its working; for it is the only improved Government branch which meets its high purpose and it requires rather a more important improvement in future.

Your most Gracious Majesty was pleased to listen to the humble prayer of the Cypriot people, which was submitted by their Memorials since the English Occupation, and to assent to the establishment of an elected Legislative Council; but in order that the granted privilege may meet more fully the high desire of Your Majesty, and the requirements of the Country, we dare beseech Your Majesty to be pleased to consent to some modifications in the High Order by which this institution was established in our Country; as such modifications we particularly dare beseech that Your Majesty alone should have the power of *veto* in the decisions of the Legislative Council, that no duty or fee should be imposed without the consent of this Council, and that there should be removed that obstacle which does not permit the members of the Council to submit laws modifying taxation be they without detriment to the public Treasury.

Moreover, we consider that the appointment in the Executive Council of two native members elected by the Government will afford to the High Ruler of the Island a great assistance in the carrying out of the duties of the said Council.

The Middle Education of the Country deserves also the tender solicitude of the Government, and therefore we, the respectfully undersigned, implore it with confidence.

After the modification of the taxation it is the agri-

cultural question that occupies the most important place. It is known that the Island, owing to its being an agricultural place, suffers immediately the large class on behalf of which we invoke Your Majesty's concern is in distress. A suitable measure for that purpose we consider to be the establishment of a special agricultural department, authorised to recommend those measures by which it is possible to effect the promotion of this exclusive source of wealth of our Country. This department, by working conscientiously, would become the cause of an important benefit, not only to the Country, but also to the Government, which expects all its resources from the agricultural class. Such a department would give the hope that it might contribute to the flowing of foreign capital into the Country, by pointing out drafts of laws amending the complicate Law respecting mortgages in such a way as to facilitate the establishment of an Agricultural Bank, which establishment becomes day after day indispensable. The removal of the monopoly of Tobacco and its free plantation will be one of the most important cares of this department, because not only a considerable sum of money is taken out of this unfortunate Country on account of the monopoly, but also the Country is deprived of the advantages of planting Tobacco; whilst every tax that is now recovered thereby by the Government would easily be covered by the substitution of a tax on certain articles of import, and by doubling the Tithes on Tobacco. These and similar other works, such as irrigation and other works, would easily free the Country from the difficult position to which it has been reduced.

The police—which is one of the important branches of the Executive power, and one to which important duties are confided—will, of course, occupy the attention of Your Majesty's Government for a more regu-

lar and safe working of its branches throughout the Island.

In Cyprus there is an independent Church, which is the Eastern Orthodox Church, and whose relations with the State, ever since the conquest of the Island have been regulated by Sultanic Firmans, ratified each time on the election of a new Bishop.

Since the English Occupation these relations remain uncertain, and therefore we think it just that it should be allowed that they may be regulated by a special law in accordance with the circumstances.

If Your Majesty be graciously pleased to listen to our humble prayers, the law-abiding and peaceable people of the Island gratefully hope that they will be able to follow the other peoples of the mighty British Empire in the career of progress and civilization, which is secured to them by the most glorious reign of Your Most Gracious Majesty, Whom God save.

Nicosia, Cyprus, 8/20 April 1889.

The deputation consisting of His Beatitude, the late Archbishop of Cyprus Sofronius, and of Messrs Th. Peristiany, P. Constantinides and A. Liassides left Cyprus on the 18th May, 1889 for London.

The deputation arrived safely in London, and the English Press honestly admitted that our complaints were reasonable and justified, and that justice should be done to Cyprus. The *Evening News Post* of the 22nd June, 1889, wrote :

We observe that yesterday Lord Knutsford received a deputation representing the Christian inhabitants of Cyprus praying for a reduction of the taxation pressing upon them. Their chief grievance was the excessive amount of the Turkish Tribute amounting to £87,800

for revenue: £5,000 in compensation for State lands; and 11,790,402 lbs of salt. We readily admit that the amount is excessive and that it weighs too heavily upon the people. The revenue of the Island amounted last year to £143,443 and to pay £92,000 of this to the Porte is unreasonable and suicidal. But the Tribute just stated is not actually paid to the Sultan. It is retained by England, as part payment of the loss sustained by this Country and France in paying the deficiency on the guaranteed loan of 1855. In plain language the Cypriots are sacrificed in order that the interest on the Turkish loan may be met. This may be a very pleasant arrangement for England, but it is very unfair to Cyprus. That Island has an immense future before it, if only it were allowed fair play. By fair play we mean the power to spend on the Island the revenue raised in the Island.

The *Times* of London, in its issue of the 21st August, 1889, wrote:

It is disheartening to hear from official information that «almost every shilling of revenue that has been collected this year has been, I will not say by force, but by constant pressure. Even with those of the richest men it has been necessary almost to proceed to the extremity of selling their movable property before they paid.» It is the opinion of Mr. Thompson, Commissioner of Papho, that if things go on as at present all the land in the Country will within no long period fall into the hands of a few large proprietors at a merely nominal price who with the former peasant proprietors will be reduced almost to a condition of serfdom and most of them will probably seek an asylum in the mainland, where there are already many Cypriot families settled. Of course,

in these circumstances there is discontent; and the Cypriot Deputies including the Archbishop of Cyprus have visited London to lay their grievances before Lord Knutsford.

They complain that while the wealth of the Island is considerably less than it was, the taxation heavy under Turkish rule, has been considerably increased; that the Tribute of £50,000 payable to the Porte is a dead loss to Cyprus; that the over-burdened Islanders pay on an average about one fifth of their income in taxation and that it would be expedient to name a certain sum as the maximum to be raised within the Island. As to some points of detail Sir Henry Bulwer controverts these statements. But he admits not a little of the substance of their complaints when he remarks:

«I should be inclined to say looking to local conditions and to the circumstances of the people and having regard to the insufficiency of capital and the want of money in the Island at the present time and to the uncertainty of the seasons at all times that the amount of revenue obtained is a large amount compared with the present means of the Country».

Unfortunately these and similar other expressions of sympathy were the only result of the work of the deputation, and our expectations that something would be done by civilized England, for a poor and helpless people under its rule and prodection, were totally disappointed. The unjust payment of the Tribute, and the heavy taxation continue exhausting the Country and throwing it every day into greater poverty. No steps to relieve us of the payment of the Tribute, no measures to alleviate the burdens of the

people, no public works to develop the resources of the Country. Even the Military Exemption Tax and the Trade Tax, the abolition of which was recommended by Sir Robert Biddulph in his despatch of the 7th June, 1880, are still collected with the greatest severity by the Government from people who are starving!

For some time it was hoped that the Colonial Office would do something for the Island and the Cypriots were anxiously awaiting to see justice done. They were cruelly dissatisfied, and in the spring of 1895 large meetings were held in all the towns of the Island, and strong protests made against the injustice done to them.

The largest meeting was held at Nicosia on the 28th April, and the following resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION.

The Greek inhabitants of the District of Nicosia and Kyrenia looking with terror at the impending ruin of their Country, having met in a meeting decide as follows:

(a) *That immediate care should be taken to relieve them from the heavy taxation which leads them to certain ruin.*

(b) *That they protest against any future payment of the Tribute which was unjustly imposed upon them.*

(c) *That in the case of any political change, as they have done a thousand times before, they declare again in meeting that they have one desire only, the fulfilment*

of which they await for centuries, the union with Greece, firmly decided to resist any other solution in case England intends to abandon the Island.

(d) That they appoint a Committee consisting of His Beatitude the Archbishop of Cyprus Sofronius, the Right Reverend the Abbot of Kykko Yerasimos and of Mssrs P. Constantinides, A. Liassides, G. Chacalli, &c. in order to communicate with the Committees of the other Districts and draw up and submit a Memorial to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen in accordance with this resolution and to continue to work for the realization of these wishes of the people.

The Committee has drawn up at the Holy Monastery of Kykko and submitted to Her Majesty's Government the following Pan-Cypriot Memorial, in which are explained at length the just demands of the Cypriots.

THE PAN-CYPRIOT MEMORIAL OF 1895.

ASPIRATIONS OF THE ISLANDERS.

From the first days of the auspicious English Occupation, the Greek inhabitants of the Island have expressed the deep desire, cherished for centuries, for their national independence. They have not failed to express this desire in all the memorials which were subsequently submitted, having declared that they would base the fulfilment of a right so greatly lawful also on the favour of the generous English nation. And on this opportunity the Greek inhabitants forming the four fifths of the whole population of the Island, from end to end have declared

that they have one desire only, the union with their mother Greece, being decided to resist, even by force, any other solution of the Cypriot question. And they have no doubt that the Government of Her August Majesty, which on many occasions has taken the initiative for the freedom of the oppressed people, will not accept any other solution of the question.

With this confident hope, and until the fulfilment of their aspirations, the people of Cyprus, in accepting the English protection, consider absolutely necessary to solicit also the immediate remedy of their present difficult condition.

TAXATION

The English Government having occupied the Island, and having declared throughout the world that it would render it a model of good administration, has found in force a system of taxation which was characterized as oppressive and unjust, both by its Consuls before the Occupation and by Lord Kimberley, late Colonial Secretary. Nevertheless, contrary to all these promises, not only no measures were taken for improving such a system, and for relieving the people of Cyprus, but this system has been made perfect by being made more oppressive by the imposition of fines, for enforcing and hastening the collection of taxes; and we do not hesitate to add that taxation has been increased by the imposition of new taxes, and by the collection of other taxes, which

under the Turkish Government were nominal; and such severity is exercised on the collection of taxes that the necessary household utensils and roofs of houses are not exempted from sale.

The following table shows that the Cypriot people have paid in taxes from the English Occupation to the end of the financial year 1894—1895 a sum of £2,938, 090 or £172,829 per annum:

1878—79	£139,586	1886—87	£187,044
1879—80	» 148,361	1887—88	» 145,443
1880—81	» 156,095	1888—89	» 149,362
1881—82	» 163,733	1889—90	» 174,499
1882—83	» 189,335	1890—91	» 194,935
1883—84	» 194,051	1891—92	» 217,161
1884—85	» 172,072	1892—93	» 189,933
1885—86	» 172,334	1893—94	» 177,053
1894—95		£167,093	

Here we ought to examine how much this Country was paying under the previous Turkish Government for an equal period of years, in order to make the comparison more exact, but we are sorry to have been unable to obtain, even from the Government of Cyprus, other information on the subject than that contained in the Parliamentary Paper under No. 4 of the year 1880 which is called «PAYMENT TO THE PORTE OUT OF THE REVENUES OF CYPRUS». This Paper shows, the revenue and the expenditure of the Island during only the last five years which preceded the English Occupation. We are, therefore, obliged to take under consideration this, though we have no means of checking its accuracy.

Before proceeding to a comparison we must observe:

(a) That in the accounts there is included a sum of 4,341,744 piastres or £36,242 for an extra and temporary tax, which was imposed as an additional tithe tax at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ in the years 1874 and 1875, as it is admitted in a report of the ex-High Commissioner, Sir Henry Bulwer, under date 15th May, 1889, and No. 31.

(b) In the said table it is not taken into consideration the profit which arose for the tax-payers from the payment of their taxes in caimé (paper money) for the two years 1876 and 1877 viz: £96,014. The said High Commissioner in the above mentioned report under No. 31 admits the principle that a sum should be deducted for the said difference but he calculates the amount at 4,785,841 piastres or £39,940 without explaining how this account was made up. According to us it is beyond doubt that the amount mentioned by him is not correct because, during the years 1876 and 1877, all the taxes, of which payment was allowed in caimé, were paid in caimé, as it is also shown from the report of the ex-High Commissioner Sir Robert Biddulph, under date 15th January, 1880. Not only this, but also all the arrears of previous years were paid in caimé. The amount of taxes collected by the Sublime Porte in the years 1876 and 1877, amounted to 36,071,925 out of which, in deducting the amount paid for indirect taxes in gold, 4,805,484 piastres, there remains a sum of 25,266,441 piastres, which were paid in caimé, on an average, at the rate of 200 piastres the Turkish pound or 220 piastres the English pound. The amount thus paid gives £114,847 instead of £210,861, which are mentioned as paid in the said Table.

According to the said Table, under the previous Government, for a period of five years the sum of 83,950,051 piastres was paid or £701,025. Out of these we must deduct £36,242, the additional tithe for the years 1874 and 1875, about £96,014 for the difference of caimé, making a total of £132,256, so that the amount really paid amounts to only £568,769 or £113,754 per annum.

From this it is shown that Cyprus under the previous Government was paying yearly £113,754, whilst under the English Government pays yearly on an average £172,829. So that the Island has been imposed a larger yearly taxation of £59,075.

The fact that a larger amount is now collected from the Cypriot people than before is undisputed. Of the arguments put forward by the Government, the only one which appears to have some foundation is the increase of the revenue from Customs Duties and Excise. In the above mentioned report under No. 31 the ex-High Commissioner has endeavoured to show that the revenue from Customs Duties and Excise has increased, since the English Occupation, by £30,000 per annum.

Even if we admit this amount as correct, we find again that Cyprus is paying £20,000 more than under the previous Government, but we do not admit that the allegation with regard to the increase of Customs Duties and Excise can be put forward in order to reduce the amount of £59,000, which is mentioned above as being paid in excess to the amount which was paid under the previous Government.

(a) Because the Government is collecting Customs Duties which were not paid under the previous Go-

vernment, and this is the importation duty which is imposed on all goods coming from Turkish waters, and which can be put at about £10,000 per annum. So that in the amount of £30,000, a sum of £10,000 is included, arising from the payment of this additional tax on the importation. (b) because in this amount is included the additional tax which was imposed since 1884 on Wine, Spirits, Raisins and Tobacco, amounting to about £600 per annum.

There remains therefore a sum of £15,400 which can be considered as an increase from the revenue of Customs. But the payment of this amount also by the Cypriots is a taxation equally oppressive as the payment of the direct taxes.

EXTRA TAXATION.

To the amount of £59,075 which the Island pays in excess to what it paid under the previous Government must be added the extra taxes which were imposed by the English Occupation. These are :

(a) The Locust Tax imposed in the year 1881 and amounting on an average to about £8,360. (b) The Field Watchmen Tax imposed in 1890 and amounting to £8,338 per annum.

The following Table shows in detail the sums collected from the above extra taxes :

TABLE OF LOCUST TAXES.

year 1881—82	£ 6,026	year 1886—87	£ 9,920
„ 1882—83	„ 11,034	„ 1887—88	„ 6,642
„ 1883—84	„ 10,811	„ 1888—89	„ 8,123
„ 1884—85	„ 9,473	„ 1889—90	„ 10,554
„ 1885—86	„ 8,909	„ 1890—91	„ 11,051

year 1891—92	£ 9,158	year 1893—94	£ 4,497
„ 1892—93	„ 5,640	„ 1894—95	„ 4,908

TABLE OF FIELD-WATCHMEN TAXES

year 1891—92	£ 2,492	year 1893—94	£ 9,332
„ 1892—93	„ 11 770	„ 1894—95	„ 9,759

Therefore the whole amount which the Cypriots pay in excess including the extra taxes amounts to £75,773, without adding important sums which under Legislation are paid for road making and irrigation works.

It is to be noted here that though the Government protecting part of its revenues, enjoys the benefits of the Locust and Field-Watchmen Taxes, and of the expenditure for irrigation works, does not in any way participate in the burdens which are imposed on the inhabitants through these taxes.

THE HEAVY & DISPROPORTIONATE TAXATION.

Cyprus, as it is known, is a country absolutely agricultural of which the inhabitants have almost as only means of living the production of the soil and animal breeding on a small scale. We calculate that the whole present yearly production on an average does not exceed £800,000. Certainly the two thirds of the amount represent the principal production of the Country, namely the Cereals, the Wine, Carobs, Oil and Cotton. The two first kinds of produce, which are the most important, require such a large expenditure that it is a question if they leave a profit representing the labour even of the agriculturist, who tills the soil with his own hands assisted by his family. Speci-

ally during the last two years, on account of the under-value of the produce not only the necessary expenditure for the production is not covered but even there remains some loss. The last three kinds of produce require a small expenditure and they leave some profit to the producer.

Therefore a country in which the gross production hardly amounts to £800,000, and it is such as it has been described, when it pays about one fourth in taxes, that country is not only heavily and disproportionately taxed, but it is also advancing to its ruin from day to day, not to say that it is already ruined.

DISPOSAL OF REVENUE.

After this it must be immediately examined how the sums collected from taxes have been disposed, and what direct benefits have accrued to this Country from the heavy taxation to which it has been subjected.

(a) From the time of the Occupation to the end of the financial year 1894—95 it has been expended for the administration of the Country, as it is shown by the following Table, the sum of £1,970,850 or £105,932 per annum:

year 1878—79	£ 110,170	year 1886—87	£ 110,679
„ 1879—80	„ 117,445	„ 1887—88	„ 113,325
„ 1880—81	„ 119,417	„ 1888—89	„ 109,963
„ 1881—82	„ 157,673	„ 1889—90	„ 106,338
„ 1882—83	„ 120,636	„ 1890—91	„ 107,589
„ 1883—84	„ 111,684	„ 1891—92	„ 112,742
„ 1884—85	„ 112,085	„ 1892—93	„ 117,393
„ 1885—86	„ 111,301	„ 1893—94	„ 117,654
year 1894—95		£ 114,756	

(b) The balance from the public revenue £56,897 per annum has been taken out of the Island in order to be applied to the payment of the Tax called the Turkish Tribute.

In the expenditure of the administration there are included some sums which we can say that they are expended for the direct wants of the Country. These are:

(a) The item for public works which has been reduced for the last twelve years to £8,000 or £10,000 per annum ;

(b) The item for public instruction since 1881 amounting to a yearly sum of about £2,260 ;

(c) The item for Hospitals and Medical Department amounting to about £4,000 per annum.

Thus the sums disposed for the Country have not exceeded since many years the yearly sum of £15,000 or hardly 9 % on the total amount of the taxation of the Island.

THE TURKISH TRIBUTE.

It is known that the payment of the so called Turkish Tribute was imposed on the Country without its knowledge and that the acceptance of the payment of such a sum was made by the English Government on account of the hurried circumstances, under which the Island was occupied, otherwise the Constitutional Government of Great Britain could not have accepted, that a very poor Island should pay a very important sum, without any purpose and without the least benefit for the tax-paying population, whose fortunes were put under the sceptre of Her Majesty the Queen. That the hurried circumstances have for-

ced the English Government to accept this obligation is also shown from the fact that, whilst Sir Robert Biddulph in settling the question of the payment at Constantinople expressly agreed to pay in metallique piastres, and afterwards as High Commissioner insisted on doing so, the Government, without taking in the least into consideration the interests of the Cypriot people, accepted that payment should be effected in gold, which caused to this Country a yearly loss of £45,000. That the hurried circumstances imposed the acceptance of this it is also shown from the fact that no proper care was taken to verify the amount which really the Sublime Porte collected during the last five years which preceded the English Occupation, as it is shown above.

We believe that it is beyond discussion that the payment of this Tax is unjust and ruinous to the Country. This is admitted by the Administration of the Island, this is declared by the Government in England, this has principally exhausted the Country, this has led the people of the Island to despair.

We, therefore, solicit the Government of the August Queen, to seriously consider this vital question, and to take immediate steps, because the people are in want of immediate relief from the present taxation. And we beg to assure the Government that the people are intending, if this condition continues, to resist the payment of taxes, because they are persuaded that in acting otherwise they will reach their complete ruin, and they will prefer to see their ruin completed by force than tacitly to acquiesce to

it, because they consider that, in acting in the way suggested above, they are justly fighting for self-preservation.

ECONOMIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLAND.

As regards the administration there is no doubt that it is usual for the English nation to have a very costly administration, and this is done in Cyprus also, but it is to be pitied that this was not taken into consideration when the payment of the Tribute was settled with Turkey. On account of the condition of the Country the administration is sumptuous and costly, and we consider that many economies are possible in different branches of the administration in order to leave a sum which to be disposed for the real wants of the Country and for its benefit.

MEANS FOR REMEDYING THE PRESENT CONDITION.

We, therefore, consider it absolutely necessary that the Government of Her Majesty the Queen should take the necessary steps for remedying and improving the above condition of the Country; and for this purpose the respectfully undersigned consider as the best means the following :

(a) Reduction of taxation. It has already been shown that the Country cannot without being ruined continue to pay the present heavy taxes. And we believe that, if the Government does not favourably receive our solicitations on this subject, it will see very shortly that the collection of taxes is impossible, because very little moveable property has been left in the hands of the agriculturists which has to be sold

by forced sale to cover the taxes, and the immoveable property has to-day but a nominal value, and there are no purchasers for it.

(b) Partial commutation of the system of taxation. There are taxes the commutation of which is required by the interests of the Country, and which can be made without loss to the Government. For instance the system of taxation on Tobacco has led to the complete abandonment of the cultivation of Tobacco, and to the exportation of an important sum of money for the importation of foreign Tobacco. The plantation of Tobacco in the Island was extensive in many Districts and it was one of the profitable kinds of produce. And we see no reason why the Government should insist in the present prohibitive legislation and not submit or accept a law modifying the existing legislation and facilitating the cultivation of Tobacco to the profit of the Country.

(c) Every possible assistance for the improvement of all branches of agriculture and agricultural industry. It is already certain that the cultivation of Cereals and of the Vine leaves only a loss to the agriculturist and from all appearances there is no hope of amelioration. It is therefore necessary that serious consideration should be made, to replace these by the cultivation of more profitable kinds of produce, to improve the different kinds of produce by the importation of better seeds, to apply more appropriate and new methods of cultivation, to execute hydraulic and irrigation works, to establish agricultural stations in different parts of the Island and to work on a larger scale for the re-afforestation of the denuded parts of the Island.

For executing these works it is necessary that a professional and experienced Agriculturist should be appointed permanently in the Island, and that the necessary means should be granted for the execution of these works.

The agricultural industry, and especially the wine industry, should meet the serious consideration of the Government, in so much as the latter is seriously threatened, and its condition was made known to the Government since last year by a special Memorial of Wine-growers.

(d) By increase and amelioration of the very imperfect means of internal and external communication. It is not necessary for us to show that a sure way for the improvement of a country is also the execution of quick and improved means of communication, specially in the more central and productive Districts, of which the produce without these means cannot easily and profitably be transported for exportation. If such works were executed in the Island, the Government would have more means at its disposal for increasing and improving road-making in the far off Districts also.

We consider also necessary the secure and quick communication of the Island with other Countries, without which much of the produce of the Island including fruit cannot be bought with security in the interior by external commerce, but is either sold at low prices or destroyed, whilst on the other hand the production could largely increase if its transport and exportation were assisted.

(e) Sufficient grant for public instruction in the Island. We cannot pass over in silence the question of

public instruction and not mention that the Government grants are insufficient, though the inhabitants are also making sacrifices which are above their means. Therefore we consider the sums now granted as disproportionate, both with regard to the population of the Island, and to the love of learning of the inhabitants, and the wants of education must be increased; and we beg to solicit that a more generous grant should be allowed, not only for elementary education, but also for middle education, which has begun to bring forth glorious results by the auspicious establishment of the Pan-Cypriot Gymnasium of Nicosia.

(f) Improved re-organization of Police. It is known that the condition of public security in the Island is not at all satisfactory, though the Country pays a large expenditure, and the life, honour and the property of the inhabitants is every day in a precarious condition. Nevertheless, one of the principal duties of every Government is also that of public security. From what we see the system of the establishment of Police has been proved defective, because up to the present the Government of the Island has refused to listen to the suggestions of the representatives of the people in the Legislative Council, with regard to the way of electing the men, and with regard to their quality, and to their low pay. We consider it as highly conducive to the better formation of this body, if also the men were taken from the Island Communities in proportion to their respective population, and if the Local Commandants of Police and other Officers were taken at a lower expenditure, from natives who know better the Country and the persons living in it.

These are chiefly the things which require immediate measures, on the part of the Government, in order to prevent the threatened ruin. And the means through which it will be possible to remedy all these are : the abolition of the Tribute ; And the possible economies in the Administration, out of which the Island will obtain the necessary monetary means for this purpose.

PARTICIPATION OF THE CYPRIOTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

And on this opportunity the undersigned must submit to the Central Government, that we consider it right, that the native element should not be put aside in the Administration of the affairs of the Island; and we must mention with regard to this, that, though it was suggested before, that natives could in virtue of the Royal Instructions of 1878 be called as members of the Executive Council in local affairs, only once or twice since the Occupation this has been done. Nevertheless it would be highly desirable, for the sake of the interests both of the Country and the Government, if in the discussions of the Executive Council took part, definitely and permanently, also three native members appointed by the Government in proportion to the population of the two Communities of the Island.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS.

With regard to these questions, of the participation of the inhabitants in the Administration of the affairs



and of the Government of the Country, we dare submit that it is possible to apply also for the Administrative Councils of the Island the already admitted general principle, that they must consist of members elected in proportion to the population of the two native elements, which are entitled to be represented in them.

CYPRIOI LEGAL MEN AS PRESIDENTS OF DISTRICT COURTS.

We beg to be allowed to say that, up to the present, it has been totally put aside the opinion expressed some time ago by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that when opportunities occurred native legal men should be appointed as Presidents of the District Courts of the three Districts of Paphos, Famagusta and Kyrenia, and we hope that, when the opportunity occurs again, this decision will be put into execution.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIVES TO HIGHER POSTS.

In general we hope that the Central Government will find it just to appoint natives, not only to the posts above referred to, but also to other higher posts. We dare say that the Island has sufficient number of men who can serve with ability, fidelity and devotion both to their Country and to the Government of this Island.

In concluding, the undersigned, having fulfilled the duty imposed upon us, and having expressed the desires and the demands of the Island we shall consider

ourselves happy, if the British Government, granting a greater and more favourable attention to what has been reported in this Memorial, will give justice in their magnanimity to the suffering Cypriot people, thus gaining their gratitude and their blessings.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Drawn in the Holy Monastery of Kykko,
Nicosia, 26th July, 1895.

The British Government again shut their ears to our complaints and just demands, and the Island continued to suffer a gross injustice from a great and civilized nation, which ought to treat the poor Island and its inhabitants with more humanity.

Excess of Revenue over Expenditure Under the Turkish Government.

As shewn in a Parliamentary Paper published in 1880 (Cyprus No. 4) the receipts according to the account of the Sublime Porte, during the five years that preceded the English Occupation, were as follows :

1873	1874	1875	1876
8,658,182	22,972,284	22,247,660	15,443,443
	1877		
	14,628,482		

Gross receipts as above shown in

Metallique piastres	83,950,051
Deduct expenses, extra taxes	19,645,105
	<hr/> 64,304,946

Say for one year Metallique piastres	12,860,889.
Deduct :	
Mean cost of troops	833,610
Mean of Defter Khané	<u>905,427</u>
	<u>1,739,037</u>
Excess of Revenue over expenditure . . .	11,121,952
or £92,680.	

In admitting the account of the Sublime Porte as correct, we find that the gross receipts for the five years which preceded the English Occupation are 83,950,051 piastres, and reckoning the English pound at the rate of 120 piastres, we find it to be equal to £699,583. In the Pan-Cypriot Memorial of 1895, the amount is stated to be £701,025, the English pound being wrongly reckoned at the rate of 114 piastres.

If we deduct from this sum of £699,583, as explained in the Pan-Cypriot Memorial, £36,242, the amount of the additional tithes for the years 1874 and 1875, and £96,014 for the difference of Caimé (paper money) for the years 1876 and 1877, making a total of £132,256, we find a balance of £567,327, or gross receipts £113,481 per annum. If from the amount of 11,121,952 piastres or £92,680, shown by the Sublime Porte as being the excess of Revenue over Expenditure, we deduct $\frac{1}{5}$ th of the amount of £132,256, the difference as shown above, for additional tithes and difference of caimé or £26,464, we find the excess of Revenue over Expenditure to be £66,216. This is the excess of Revenue over Expenditure, and not the amount of £92,799. 13. 3. c.p.; which is paid to the Sublime Porte or rather applied to the service of the

Turkish Loan of 1855. This excess of revenue over expenditure remained because the Turkish Administration of the Island did not cost more than £30,000 per annum. If the Turkish administration were as expensive as the present administration of the Island, there would be no excess of revenue over expenditure and the Island would not have to pay any thing to the Sublime Porte or rather to the French and British holders of Turkish bonds.

Legislative Council of Cyprus.

The Legislative Council of Cyprus is constituted by the Order of the Queen in Council dated the 30th November, 1882. The Council consists of the High Commissioner and of eighteen members, of whom twelve are elective and six non-elective. Under the Royal Instructions of the 30th November, 1882, the non-elective members are *the persons for the time being lawfully discharging the duties of the offices of Chief Secretary to the Government of Cyprus, Queen's Advocate, and Receiver General, or, so long as there is no Receiver General, of Auditor and Accountant General, and such other holders of public offices in the Island not exceeding three in number at any one time, as We may from time to time appoint by any Instruction or Warrant under Our Sign Manual and Signet, or through one of our Principal Secretaries of State.*

Of the twelve elected members nine are elected by the Christians and three by the Mahometans. The Island is divided into three electoral Districts, each

District returning four Members, three by the Christians and one by the Mahometans. Members of the Legislative Council are elected for a period of five years. The last election took place in October, 1901.

Under the Order in Council constituting the Legislative Council *No vote, resolution or Law for the appropriation of any part of the public Revenue or for the imposition of any tax or impost shall be proposed except by the High Commissioner or by his direction. All questions proposed for debate in the Council shall be decided by the majority of the votes of the Members present, and, if upon any question the votes are equal, the High Commissioner, if presiding, shall have a casting vote, and if a non-elective Member be presiding, such non-elective Member shall have a casting vote in addition to his own original vote.*

The several sums required for the under-mentioned services shall be permanently charged on the Consolidated Revenue of the Island and shall be payable to Her Majesty, Her heirs or successors, with the advice of Her or Their Privy Council :

£92,686 being a sum equal to the sums payable under the Annex, dated the 1st July, 1878, to the Convention of Defensive Alliance between Great Britain and Turkey, signed on the 4th of June, 1878, and under an agreement respecting Cyprus lands signed by the Representatives of Great Britain and Turkey on the 3rd February, 1879.

£4,000 for the High Commissioner's salary.

600 for the High Commissioner's establishment.

13,000 for salaries of Judges, Magistrates, Village Judges and officers of Law Courts, and for

the allowances and expenses of the said Courts.

5,000 for salaries of public offices the holders of which are non-elective Members of the Legislative Council.

It is quite clear that the rights of the Legislative Council are very limited and that justice requires that the Order in Council constituting the Legislative Council should be amended and wider rights be given to the Legislative Council.

The representatives of the Cypriot people must have the right of disposing so much of the revenue of the Island as is required for its wants, and of abolishing or commuting the oppressive and odious taxes, which are an unsurmountable obstacle to the welfare and development of the Country and to every progress of its inhabitants.

We hope that His Majesty the King, Who takes a paternal interest for all people living under His august sceptre, will not overlook the much wronged Cypriots and that He will bestow on the people, who were given such golden promises in the name of His Mother of blessed memory, the political rights given to all civilized people, and that under His protection the Cypriots will again see the happy days of old and the Island will become a model of good administration and a paradise in the East.

The Tribute in the Legislative Council.

The first resolution in the Legislative Council for

the Tribute was proposed by M^r Z. D. Pierides.

On the 17th April, 1885, Mr. Pierides proposed the following resolution :

«That this Council respectfully requests the President H.E. the High Commissioner to lay before Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies the wishes of this Council for relieving the Island of its heavy burden, the Tribute paid to the Sublime Porte, which absorbs to a very considerable extent the resources of the Island and which is a perpetual and unsurmountable obstacle to its progress and prosperity».

Mehmed Ali Effendi expressed his hope that if this Tribute were reduced it would be for the purpose of lightening taxation and for carrying out useful works. M^r Swettenham (now Sir James Swettenham, Governor of British Guiana) expressed his sympathy with the wishes of the people in their desire for relief from the burden and the resolution was unanimously carried.

In 1886 the question of the Tribute was touched in the Reply of the Council to the Opening Speech of the High Commissioner : «In conclusion, we think it a duty incumbent upon us to repeat the unanimous prayer of the whole population for the reduction by any possible means of the Tribute now paid to the Sublime Porte, which so long as it remains intact will continue to absorb the vital powers of the Island».

In the same year M^r Rossos proposed the following resolution which was carried :

«Whereas by a convention with the Sublime Porte the British Government has undertaken the obligation to pay to the Porte as a Tribute for Cyprus the sum

of £92,686. Whereas the people of Cyprus have not been a contracting party in this Convention and the British Government has taken possession and is occupying the Island in a military way for military purposes, advantageous to itself. Whereas the continuance of such a Tribute exhausts continually the vital forces of the Country, and leads to its destruction; This Council is of opinion that if the British Government do not find any way for relieving the Cypriot people of the insupportable burden of the Tribute of £92,686 paid to the Sublime Porte justice requires that England should pay the said sum out of her own Treasury.»

On the 2nd May, 1892, a resolution to the effect that the Tribute should be paid by the English Treasury was proposed by us and unanimously carried. Sir Walter Sendall, High Commissioner, said that he would forward the resolution to the Government of Her Majesty and that he could not express an opinion, but that personally he would be happy to see the wish of the council realized.

Unfortunately again nothing was done and no justice given. The Legislative Council continued to protest as is shown from the following extracts from the Replies to the Speech of the High Commissioner in 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1901:—

REPLY OF 1896.

«In conclusion, the Council begs that Your Excellency will convey to the Right Honourable Mr Chamberlain, the Secretary of State, whose sympathy for the Island, more than once expressed, is fully and gratefully appreciated, the opinion of the members that so

long as the Country is burdened by the Tribute, so long as no serious efforts are made for the development of its resources, and so long as it is not allowed to participate in its own administration, its condition will continue to decline.»

REPLY OF 1897.

«What most particularly attracted our attention have been the two paragraphs in which reference is made to the results of nineteen years of British Occupation. The reflections embodied in these passages recall to our memory the unfeigned joy with which the people of Cyprus hailed the hoisting of the British flag, the hopes of a brilliant future induced in our minds by the change and the moments when official promises informed us that this Island of Cyprus would shortly be transformed into a second paradise. Nineteen years have passed, and not only have these hopes failed of realization, but the Island is oppressed by misfortune, and financial annihilation appears to be the certain fate with which we are threatened.

It is a fact that does not admit of dispute—a fact acknowledged by the British public itself—that the occupation of Cyprus by Great Britain was effected solely with the view of accomplishing her political aims, indifferent if the sacrifice of a people were thereby involved—a people whose wishes were neither regarded or consulted—and a people who, from their origin, might have been deemed as especially worthy of consideration in this respect. In the Convention itself by which the future of the Island was decided, its financial doom was decreed in most emphatic terms. The sum of £92,000, for which he receives no shadow of return, and which ought to be paid by those who have taken the Island for their own objects, is annually wrung from the toil and sweat of the Cypriot in defiance of every principle of freedom

that rules in England, or animates the present age, and contrary to the principles of every fiscal system. This act of the English Government renders the governed disaffected towards their rulers, and in the history of the world this deed will ever be referred to in words of reproach and reprobation. The British Government, well versed as it is in finance, was convinced soon after the occupation of the insufficiency of the Country's resources to meet its obligations, and at the same time to maintain a British administration; and not only has it proved an inflexible collector of existing imposts, but, going back for inspiration to the obsolete records of the Ottoman Administration, has revived claims on account of items long forgotten, of which the collection was never intended by that Administration, and for the recovery of which the same severity is adopted, and, as though, with these additions, the results were insufficient to meet the obligations imposed upon the Country, by an exercise of the greatest ingenuity and art, an augmentation of taxation has been effected to the extent of at least one third, the great proportion of which has been introduced under the names of duties and fees. Names and epithets do not exhaust the Country but stern facts testify that the sum now annually extracted from the pockets of the tax-payers is greater by one-third than that formerly raised.

Such being the state of affairs, this Council regards it as its imperative duty to impress upon the British Government the absolute and urgent necessity of devising means for removing the burden of injustice under which, for nineteen years, Cyprus has been groaning, a burden that has, apparently, for its justification only the maxim that *might is right*. It is a mere act of justice for which this Council and the people of Cyprus ask and the fulfilment of this act is all the more imposed upon the liberal minded Go-

vernment of Great Britain if it be considered how much circumstances have, in the meantime, changed. Thus, and only thus, can the Country on the one hand attain the object of freeing itself from the present burden of heavy and disproportionate taxation, and on the other the development of the resources of the land and the acquirement of genuine prosperity.»

REPLY OF 1898.

«This Council learns with pleasure that the expressions of loyalty and affection of the inhabitants of Cyprus on the occasion of the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria have come home to Her Majesty's heart. They take advantage of the present opportunity to declare that the Country hailed with joy the occasion of coming under Her Majesty's rule and that it has never ceased to look forward to the improvement in its lot, but the Country regrets that the most important of its complaints, that regarding the burdens which have been imposed under the Convention and those which have been added on to the people of Cyprus in consequence of the change of Government, have been continuously disregarded, although the Government is well aware that this evil will reduce the Island to complete financial exhaustion and will lead the people to desperation, the consequences of which it is impossible to foresee. These effects are increasing every year and gradually exhausting the Country—they place the Government in an unsatisfactory position by compelling it to resort to the most oppressive and not seldom abnormal measures in collecting a taxation disproportionate to the resources of the people and thereby arouse feelings of disaffection.»

REPLY OF 1899.

«Before touching on the various matters dealt with in Your Excellency's Opening Speech, the Council desires to express its regret that no reference is made therein to that question, the most vital of all for the Island—the burdens imposed under the Convention and added on the people of Cyprus by reason of the change of administration. The Council entertains no doubt that the Government is equally convinced with it that, so long as this sum is paid by the Country, all endeavours to enhance its prosperity must fail. The payment of a sum so disproportionate to the resources of the Country is necessarily the cause of many evils. It inspires the Country with distrust towards the Government which, in order to meet their obligation is compelled to exhaust the finances of the Country and to resort to measures which are not only harsh but sometimes illegal. A Country which is financially exhausted cannot progress.»

REPLY OF 1901.

«In commencing the work of this session under the ægis of His Majesty King Edward, Whom may God preserve, this Council expresses a wish that His Majesty's reign may be as glorious and beneficial to mankind as that of His August and glorious Mother and feels confident that among His Majesty's concerns will be the relief of this Country from its present burdens and the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Cypriots for general progress.»

During the session of this year the following resolution was proposed by us in the Legislative Council:

The Legislative Council is of opinion that after 24 entire years of English occupation, and contrary to the

express promises given by the British Government at the time of the occupation of the Island that Cyprus would be rendered by them the Paradise of the East, the Island has been reduced, from a financial point of view to a worse condition than under the previous Government, and the people of Cyprus are in penury and starvation.

That the Legislative Council should be granted wider rights, and also the power to apply the necessary sums from the general revenue of the Island to the wants of the Country, and to commute taxation by way of affording relief to the tax-payers even if such commutation may cause a loss to the public Treasury.

That the sum of money undertaken to be paid by England, by virtue of a treaty should be paid by the English Treasury, and not from the revenue of the Island.

That the payment thereof from the revenue of the Island has exhausted the resources of the Country, has prevented all progress, and has plunged the Island into great poverty.

That the Island being entirely exhausted is unable to continue the said payment any longer, and that it is the duty of the Council to request His Majesty's Government, to take careful measures so that a stop should be put to the very great injustice, which is done to unfortunate people, who expected and confidently expect justice from the great and noble English nation.

The debate on this resolution lasted four days. We give here a translation of our speech, as reported in the local Press, in which we deal with several questions, and which contains some information on

Cyprus affairs, which we hope will prove interesting to our readers.

OUR SPEECH IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CHACALLI.—Twenty four entire years have passed, Sir, since the English Occupation, and though so many years have passed since the glorious English flag has been hoisted in the Island, Cyprus is in a deplorable condition. I shall examine what was the condition of the Island before the English Occupation, what were its obligations, what its financial condition and what the burdens of the Cypriot people. I am sorry I cannot say that to-day the financial condition of the Island is more flourishing, and the burdens of taxation of the people lighter than before. If I said so, I would tell a downright untruth, because its financial condition is to-day worse, and the burdens of taxation heavier than under the previous Government. The people of Cyprus are now in penury and starvation, and its future appears desperate and dark.

Before the English Occupation a yearly sum of £113,000 was collected and, after the necessary sums for the administration of the Island and the wants of the country were deducted, the balance was sent to Constantinople. It is true that the amount was fixed as amounting to £132,000, but the account was made on a mistaken basis, and this was clearly proved by the Pan-Cypriot Memorial of 1895. The Treaty of the 4th June, 1878, followed, under which Cyprus was ceded to England, to be occupied and administered by

her, and it was agreed that England would pay to Turkey the average excess of revenue over expenditure during the last five years preceding the English Occupation. This sum was later on fixed at 11,121,952 piastres. This amount was fixed, the revenue and expenditure of the five years only that preceded the English Occupation having been taken into consideration. I do not wish to examine how far it was just to take into consideration only five years, in which were included the year 1874, which was exceptionally good, and the year 1875, which was not much inferior to the year 1874; but I believe that if the ten years, which preceded the English Occupation, were taken into consideration, the result would have been much different, and the amount much smaller; there is no doubt that England, in her anxiety to occupy Cyprus, shut her eyes, and overlooked questions of secondary importance; Cyprus was considered at the time as a military and naval station of the greatest importance, and England did not care to pay much attention to the question whether some thousands of pounds more or less would be paid. The occupation of the Island was celebrated in England as a fact of the highest importance, and Cyprus was considered as one of the most brilliant diamonds of the English Crown. Anyhow the amount was fixed at eleven million piastres, but I believe that these eleven million piastres do not represent the amount which is now paid to Turkey. If the difference between the silver, and the metallique and paper (caimé) piastre were

taken into consideration, the amount would be much reduced. During the years 1876, 1877 and 1878 the taxes were paid in paper money (caimé), and Sir Robert Biddulph, ex-High Commissioner of Cyprus, says in one of his reports that one could buy during those years 200 piastres caimé for one Turkish pound.

Another question which England has overlooked was the expenditure for the administration of the Island. England ought to take into consideration that the administration of the Island could not be carried on for £30,000 per annum, and that the officials under the British administration ought and must be paid well. All civilized countries pay their officials regularly and well, and whenever this is not done the officials live on briberies and extortions. I do not wish to dwell further on this point, because it is a question which regards England and not Cyprus; England has occupied Cyprus for military purposes, and whatever is the amount which has to be paid to Turkey, it does not regard us. We have not undertaken any obligation, and we are not bound to pay any thing.

It has been alleged, Sir, that Cyprus used to pay Tribute to Turkey before the occupation, and that it would have to continue to pay whether the English Occupation had taken place or not; I most emphatically protest against this allegation, and say that Cyprus never paid any Tribute before the English Occupation. From Cyprus it was only received the excess of revenue over expenditure, and if there were

now any such excess England or Turkey might take it. As things stand now, we have no such excess to send out of the Island, and the revenue is hardly sufficient for the wants of the Country. The payment of the Tribute by Cyprus is a great wrong, it is a wrong which does no credit to England and is contrary to the just and liberal principles of the noble and generous English Nation. It is an oppressive burden which must be taken off from our shoulders in order to enable us to save ourselves.

This monstrous wrong has drawn the attention of the Administrators of the Island from the early days of the occupation and Sir Robert Biddulph in June, 1880, writing to Lord Granville said that *it is obvious that it is unreasonable to suppose that the revenue will at present admit of such an enormous subsidy as we are paying to Turkey, and that it is hard on a country which has a revenue that is double its expenditure, to be compelled to postpone necessary public works and to continue a number of taxes which press heavily on the people.*

Unfortunately these remarks were not listened to by the Central Government. The English Treasury has shown inexcusable avariciousness for Cyprus. In its tender care for protecting the English taxpayer, not only did not reduce the taxation of Cyprus, but on the contrary, tried to increase it. This is shown by the correspondence between the Colonial Office with the Treasury; Lord Kimberley was of opinion that taxation had reached the extreme limits. Enu-

merating the 24 kinds of existing imposts the noble Lord adds that any alteration in the future must tend to the alleviation of the people and not to the increase of taxation.

There is no doubt, Sir, that taxation is heavy and disproportionate to the resources of the country, and the fact only that Cyprus now pays yearly £200,000 instead of £113,000, it was paying before the English Occupation, is sufficient to show how far the burdens of the people have become heavier. It cannot be said that the increase of the revenue is due to an increase of production. The production unfortunately has diminished instead of increasing, and the increase of revenue is due to the strict collection of taxes and to the imposition of heavy taxation. It may be said that there are also other countries where taxation is equal to that of Cyprus, and perhaps higher. But in those countries cultivation is made by improved machinery, and there are industries, commerce, capital and so many other things of which Cyprus is deprived.

There was a time, Sir, when Cyprus was much happier; it is said that in the XIV century Cyprus was rivalling in wealth Constantinople and Venice, which at the time were in all the glory of wealth. Its harbours were full of ships of all nations; in its markets all the languages of the world were spoken by people of every tribe. The merchants of Cyprus were rivalling princes in wealth; it is said that a Cypriot merchant having given in marriage his

daughter gave her as dowry more precious jewels than those possessed by the Queen of France. But now Cyprus has no harbours and landing is difficult in winter time; I beg your pardon, Sir, I have forgotten the harbour of Kyrenia. It is the only gift, which is no gift, that is due to England in the shape of harbour works since the English Occupation; and this harbour, which is not larger than a tank, cannot afford shelter but to very small craft; and it is a such a masterpiece of art that the small craft in it are much less safe than out of it, and, if I am not mistaken, many small ships got wrecked in this harbour.

Ships appear in our shores as comets in the sky. Our market is deserted by people and dead; Well-to-do Cypriots to-day sell their family jewels in order to give bread to their starving children. The financial condition of Cyprus is really deplorable. And England occupied Cyprus for the purpose of rendering it a Paradise of the East and a model of good administration for Turkey!

There are in the Mediterranean three Islands once belonging to the Ottoman Empire: Cyprus, Crete and Samos, and the taxation *per capita* in these three Islands is worth of observation. I have a comparative list due to Sir White which was sent to the noble Marquis of Salisbury. According to this list, the Cypriot pays £1.6.4. the Samian £0.18.6. and the Cretan £0.13.11., that is to say the Cypriot pays twice as much as the Cretan.

Against the injustice of the Tribute we have many times protested and through the Press, and by meetings, memorials, and by deputation to England, and by resolutions in this Council, and in one word we have not neglected any means through which we could put forward our just claims. The English Press, which has been always prominent in defending the oppressed has many times raised its voice for Cyprus. The *Times* of London in 1888 wrote that Cyprus was occupied for military purposes and that England ought to pay the greatest part of the Tribute.(1) On the 20th April, 1889, a memorial was signed by the Archbishop and the representatives of the Cypriot people and it was decided to send to London a deputation from Cyprus. This deputation, headed by the late Archbishop, went to London and explained at full the complaints of the people and this gave the opportunity to the English Press to write again in favour of Cyprus. The *Evening News* wrote that *it is unjust and ruinous that Cyprus should pay £92,000 annually to the Porte and that the Island has a large future before it, if justice is given to her and justice requires that she should be allowed to expend the revenues of the Island in the Island.*(2) The *Times* also after the arrival of the deputation in London wrote to the same effect.(3)

(1) See p. 44.

(2) See p. 53.

(3) See p. 54.

Sir Henry Bulwer, ex-High Commissioner of Cyprus, also admits in one of his reports that the amount collected is disproportionate to the resources of the country.

Sir Hamilton Lang, an eminent economist, now General Manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, who lived once in Cyprus and knew Cyprus and the Cypriots has written an important article about Cyprus in *Macmillan's Magazine*; The noble Briton says that *the production has not increased, that the value of the land has diminished and that taxation is heavier than under the Turkish Government* and he calls the Tribute an oppressive and monstrous burden imposed on the Cypriot people.

The Legislative Council has many times voted resolutions against this Tribute, and in all the addresses in reply to the Speech of His Excellency the High Commissioner mentioned always this Tribute. On the 2nd May, 1892, the Legislative Council, on my motion, has passed a resolution in which it was said that the Tribute should be paid by England and not by Cyprus. The resolution was unanimously passed and the High Commissioner, Sir Walter Sendall, after the resolution was passed said that he would be happy to see the wish of the Council realized.

Unfortunately the evil continued without any remedy: In 1895 meetings were again held in which the inhabitants again protested against the Tribute. The Pan-Cypriot Memorial of the 26th July, 1895, was then drawn up in the Sacred Monastery of Kykko, and in

this memorial were explained again the just complaints and claims of the people; and I beg the Government to take into serious consideration the just claims of the Cypriot people, as explained in the said memorial, which must be listened to by the British Government. And now unfortunately things are not better but I hope that the Government seeing to what condition has been reduced the Island will take immediate measures to remedy this evil.

The question as to who should pay this Tribute was many times discussed; in 1893 the honourable Mr Leyton asked in the House of Commons whether Cyprus undertook to pay the Tribute, and if the consent of its people was obtained, and the Secretary of State answered that the Cypriot people were never consulted on this question. We were never consulted, we never consented and I consider that we have no obligation whatever to pay this Tribute.

Several ways were suggested for reducing the amount of the Tribute: it was suggested that a lump sum should be paid and, if England insisted diplomatically, it may be that this could be done by a loan at a small interest which would certainly reduce the yearly payable sum. It is well known that Turkey does not receive a farthing of this Tribute, which is applied to the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the guaranteed Loan, by France and England, of 1855, but that Loan expired in 1900 and there remains a balance of £3,000,000. The interest of the said loan is 4 % and I believe that England could

come to an understanding with Turkey and issue a new loan at a lower interest; thus the amount required for the service of the loan could be considerably reduced and the difference could be applied to the reduction of the amount of the Tribute.

It has been said that France would object to this because a large part of the Turkish Bonds are held by Frenchmen; but I do not believe that there is great difficulty because the part held by Frenchmen is very small. The proportion of the Bonds held by Frenchmen is shown from the answer of the honourable the Secretary of State, M^r Goschen to the honourable M^r Leyton. M^r Goschen said that during the preceding eleven years £950,000 were sent from Cyprus to England and out of these £30,000 were sent to France. And when M^r Leyton expressed his surprise at this, M^r Goschen said *my honourable friend is surprised at the smallness of the amount, but this is the amount sent to France.*

The Loan has expired and Turkey is entitled whenever it likes to issue a new loan; and England can easily come to an understanding with Turkey and do this.

We claim justice, Sir, from the great and noble English nation. We claim to be relieved from an obligation which we have never undertaken. We claim the right to expend the monies of the Island for the wants of the Island. We claim that the Legislative Council be entitled to vote the necessary sums that are required for the wants of the country.

The honourable Member for Warrington Mr Pierpoint speaking lately in the House of Commons said that England gave us a Legislative Council which has not been very useful to the country. There is no doubt, and I fully agree with the honourable Member, that as long as the rights of the Legislative Council are those of to-day, our position in the Council is not of great importance. As long as we have no right to dispose of a single pound for the wants of the Island, I do not see in what way we can be useful to our country. The only thing we can do is to solicit, to claim and protest, but neither our solicitations nor our claims or protests are listened to. If we were listened to, if the Island were relieved of the Tribute a great change would come over the country. We could lighten the burdens of the people and commute some taxes which are very oppressive. We could abolish the Locust Tax, because it is unjust that we should have so much revenue and not spend a single pound for Locust destruction. And, as if the so heavy and oppressive taxation were not sufficient, Sir, the Island has paid during the last twenty years £158,440 for locust tax; We could commute the Tithes which oppress heavily the people and prevent the progress of agriculture. The difficulty is not so great and I believe that this could be easily done. I have seen in a report that the grain locally consumed amounts to 1,600,000 Kilés of Wheat and to an equal amount of Barley; if the Tithes were taken at the exportation as it is done with the carobs, the Govern-

ment would lose the Tithes amounting to 160,000 Kilés of Wheat and 160,000 Kilés of Barley. That is to say, there would be a loss to the public revenue of about £25,000; but for the collection of the Tithes an expenditure of £8,000 is required and on deducting this sum the loss is reduced to £17,000. If we had the right of making this commutation, we could give some compensation by a small addition on the duties of some imported goods, the Government would lose a small amount and thus the commutation could be easily made; and I believe that the loss to the revenue would be temporary only because agriculture would be encouraged and the amount of production would be increased, on which the Government would receive the Tithes at the exportation. You have heard and you will always continue to hear many complaints, Sir, about the difficulties made by the Memours (Tithe Officials) in allowing thrashing floors to be removed, because really much damage is caused to the agriculturist when he is obliged to have his thrashing floor exposed for many days to the danger of the wind, of the birds and of the rain. All these evils will be removed by the commutation of the system of tithes, agriculture will be encouraged and naturally the production will increase.

I shall now go back to the early days of the Occupation.

On the 28th June, 1878, the English Occupation took place and on the 22nd July Sir Garnet Wolseley in taking possession of the Island issued, in the name

of her late Majesty the Queen, the following proclamation which I shall read. The proclamation contains the promises given by him in the name of the late Queen Victoria and is as follows:—

Now therefore, &c. (See p.p. 40 and 41.)

We come now, Sir, we the representatives of the Cypriot people and ask: Have these promises been fulfilled? Can the Government say to us that no measure has been neglected for the moral and material development of the Country? Can the Government tell us that they have neglected no measure for the development and protection of commerce and agriculture? No, Sir; the Government cannot say such a thing, because the people are financially exhausted and after 24 years of English Occupation Cyprus is in penury and starvation.

In 1895, when things were not in such a deplorable condition as to-day the *Manchester Guardian* wrote: *There is a national estate for Mr. Chamberlain to improve it if he can; as it is, it is a stigma to our administration and a shame to our nation.*

There is no doubt, Sir, that the present condition of Cyprus does no credit to the English nation.

From the early days of the Occupation it was known that the Island was subject to droughts; the best way to remedy this evil was the reafforestation of the Island; but in order to do this, money was wanted and the monies of Cyprus were not expended for its wants, because they were wanted for the payment of the Tribute. It is true that the reaffores-

tation of the Island required, according to M. Madon, a sum of £600,000, but perhaps this calculation was excessive and it is possible that we could do the work at a lower cost. For this the Director of Agriculture will give us his valuable opinion. And I believe that it is necessary that a sum should be spent yearly for the reafforestation of the Island.

Another question which has been not a little neglected is the construction of irrigation works. A step has been taken towards the right direction, but this is not sufficient and it is necessary to construct irrigation works all over the Island, in order to render agriculture less dependent on rain. The Government seems disposed to proceed to the construction of such works, but it wants that the interest of the loan for such works should be secured by a further taxation on the land. You have not been able, Sir, to contain your anger when my honourable friend Mr Theodotou proposed the rejection of the Irrigation Bill. But it must not be forgotten that we are the representatives of a heavily taxed people, and that our position is very difficult. It is difficult for us to decide to increase the already very heavy taxation even by a trifle; but it is easy to construct irrigation works, if the Government shows more justice and leaves aside the narrow mind with which they regard the affairs of Cyprus.

The landowner who does not want to spend for the improvement of his property is called a non-progressive man; but what can be said for the Govern-

ment, which does not want to spend for the improvement of the Island, which does not want to proceed to the construction of irrigation works and asks for further taxation? The Government takes into consideration the amount which it will take from the sale of the stored water and does not take anything else into consideration. The Government should, however, take into consideration that the construction of such works would benefit and increase the revenues of the Island. The irrigated lands would give more produce and consequently the Government will receive more tithes. By an abundant production the Cypriot will have a surplus of monies, and will import more goods on which the Government will receive importation duty. The value of the irrigated lands will increase and when the revaluation of the immovable property takes place the Government will receive a higher land tax. I consider that the Government should take all these into consideration and allow the balance of the amount required for interest and sinking fund of the loan for irrigation works to be taken from the general revenues of the Island.

Another question to which the attention of the Government should be turned is the sinking of artesian wells; no experiment has been made in order that it may be shown whether there are subterranean waters. Animal breeding would be a very good resource for the Island, but no animal breeding can thrive without water and every effort should be made to bring to the surface as much water as possible.

Much has been said in the House of Commons about communication between Cyprus and Egypt, and it appears that the honourable Members are favourably disposed and that the Right Honourable the Secretary of State will be persuaded to allow to the local Administration the necessary expenditure for a regular weekly communication. Much has been said about the beautiful climate of Cyprus and it was stated that many would visit it, if there were good communication. There is no doubt that if there were such good communication by quick and comfortable steamers many visitors would visit Cyprus. Egypt, which has not the beautiful climate of Cyprus, attracts many visitors and many thousands of pounds are spent there; and there can be no doubt that a quick and comfortable communication would encourage the establishment of good hotels and the coming of many visitors. The communication by the Austrian Lloyd steamers was not considered either quick enough or comfortable; and nevertheless, Sir, the Austrian steamers were preferable to the boats through which it is intended to secure communication between Cyprus and Egypt. And I do not consider that the Bell boats are such as to encourage the coming of visitors to Cyprus.

Another question, Sir, which could encourage the coming of visitors to Cyprus is the establishment of a Museum; I observe that the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary has stated in the House of Commons that he has allowed the disposal of a sum for

establishing a Museum in Cyprus, but we know nothing about this in the Island.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—The Bill has not been prepared on account of the sudden transfer of the King's Advocate to Ceylon; but I hope to be able to print it within the next week.

CHACALLI.—It has been many times alleged, Sir, that Cyprus is useless and a burden to England. I am not the competent person to say how far this is correct; but, if it is useless, let it be disposed in accordance with the wish and the aspirations of the great majority of the inhabitants; and, if it is useful, let it be administered, assisted and improved in accordance with the distinct promise which was given during the early days of the Occupation. As long as England occupies the Island it is her duty not to neglect any measure for securing its welfare.

Before finishing I shall say two words on the statements of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, which have caused great sensation in the Island. I believe that, what has been said about the antiquities, has been misunderstood and uncorrectly reported in the *Times*. We have never missed an opportunity to show that we are proud for our antiquities, and we are ready to submit to any sacrifice in order to protect them. And if the Honourable the Secretary of State has said that we have no wish to protect our antiquities, he has wronged us very much, because this is not correct.

Another question which has caused much emotion

in the Island is the cession of Cyprus to Greece. It has been spread throughout the Island that the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary has stated in the House of Commons that, if the Greek inhabitants were asked whether they consent to the cession of the Island to Greece, they would not unanimously consent to this. I believe that the words of the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary have been misunderstood, but I must declare that in the whole Island there is not a single Greek Cypriot who would not willingly consent to this, and who would not consider as the greatest happiness the cession of the Island to Greece. I repeat, Sir, that my opinion is that the words of the Colonial Secretary have been misunderstood, because I do not admit that an educated and liberal man like the Colonial Secretary could make such a declaration. He could not have forgotten the words of the immortal Gladstone who said that few are the people who are so depraved in feeling as to prefer servitude to liberty. The Greek inhabitants of Cyprus are not a people with depraved feelings, but a noble people worthy of a better future.

In concluding, Sir, I wish that the just demands of the Cypriot people may be accepted and that under the reign of the beloved King Edward, the great and generous traditions of the English nation towards Hellenism be continued.

FRANCOUDI.—This important question is occupying the Council these four days, and as each member is

going to give his vote it is necessary to express his opinion and justify his vote. This question has been brought many times before the Council and repeatedly similar resolutions have been voted about the so called Tribute. Specially I remember that two honourable members, who are now also sitting in the Council, have proposed that the Tribute should be paid by the English Government. I mean M^r Rossos, and M^r Chacalli who is sitting on my left, and who this year also has moved a resolution. It is not necessary to enter into details and repeat what the others have said. But I say this only, that, as long as this Tribute exists, this Country will never prosper. This *millstone*, as it has been called in the House of Commons, will be always heavy. I do not, therefore, see the reason why the resolution should not meet the approbation of the Honourable Moslem members, since it is only about the Tribute, and the extension of the rights of the Legislative Council. There has been a time, at which the honourable Moslem members have voted a similar resolution, and the official members did not raise any objection; and, if I am not mistaken, no session has passed without this question being raised in the Council; but notwithstanding our protests the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary says that we accepted the Tribute. This mistake, which the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary has made in the House of Commons, causes us great surprise; but this is not all; he has unaccurately spoken about the question of antiquities and about the wishes

of the Greek Cypriots for the union of the Island with Greece. If the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary had not stated such unaccuracies, certainly the introducer of the resolution, in moving his motion, would not have made the statements which have displeased the Mussulman element and our Moslem colleagues. If the statements of the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary were not contradicted in this Council, the English people would remain in a great error. Therefore the resolution which has been so eloquently introduced by the mover is necessary and I shall support it with my vote.

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 CHACALLI.—In closing the discussion on this resolution, Sir, I shall endeavour to occupy as little time of the Council as possible; but I must declare that a discussion on a resolution, similar to the one before us, is no loss of time. It is a most important question, and though we have many times protested against this unjust tax, I consider that it is our duty to continue to protest and not cease to do so until this question is solved to the interests of the Country. I have asked from the Honourable the Chief Secretary some figures which he has not been able to give me. But I observe that according to the Pan-Cypriot Memorial of 1895, the total revenue of the five years that preceded the English Occupation amounted to £568,799. So that the yearly revenue during the said period amounted to £113,754. According to the same Memorial the difference of paper money is calculated

at £96,014 and the difference of additional tithes for the years 1874 and 1875, at £36,242. I shall beg the Honourable the Chief Secretary to declare whether these figures are right and if they are not to show me where is the mistake.(1) And now before I proceed further I shall say a few words with regard to the trouble which the honourable Moslem members have experienced. I admit that Government officials are free to have whatever opinion they like, but they are not allowed to raise such scandals.(2)

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—The information is that it is denied that Government officials have mixed themselves in this question; it has been said that one of the officials of the Evkaf has simply taken part in the discussion.

CHACALLI.—Has this official been reprimanded?

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—I do not as yet know the exact circumstances of the case, but what I know is that they have asked whether the Reply to the Opening Speech met with the approval of the Moslem Community, in which reply it is stated that the Tribute should be paid by England. As regards the whole

(1) The Chief Secretary has not disputed the correctness of this statement.

(2) The Moslem inhabitants of the Island have always lived with the Christians on the most friendly and brotherly terms and have always worked with us for the interests and the welfare of the Island; It is strongly suspected that the agitation was due to intrigue and that the local Government had a finger in the pie.

question a report under my instructions is prepared by independent officials.

CHACALLI.—The Council will be glad to see the report and the Government should take the necessary steps to prevent in future the scandals between the two races. But there is a suspicion that the Government encourages the scandals between the two races. It is rumoured that some Moslems have been allowed to come to Your Excellency and protest against the conduct of the Moslem members of the Council, and that amongst them there were Government officials. And it is further rumoured that Your Excellency, instead of reprimanding them, has made some statements, certainly innocent, but which gave cause to an aggravation of the scandal.

I do not wish to continue on this question, but I must say that the words of Your Excellency have been misrepresented and unpleasant things have taken place. And it would be a good thing if it were made known to the people that Your Excellency has not made the statements which it is rumoured that you have made.

Now I return to the resolution; I have heard with regret the honourable Moslem Members say that they are going to vote against the resolution. The honourable Member for Nicosia has said that the resolution has two aspects but, as it has been explained both by the Right Reverend Member and myself, the only object of the resolution is that the Country be relieved of a payment on account of which

the necessary public works cannot be constructed. And a natural consequence of this relief will be also the commutation or reduction of taxation to the alleviation of the people. The resolution is very plain and clear and no other meaning is concealed in it. I believe that my honourable friends know quite well, that if we wish to express other feelings by a resolution nothing prevents us from doing so; but in this resolution there is nothing more but a solicitation that the Island be relieved of a burden which it is unable to bear. This question has been brought many times before the Council in resolutions, and in the Replies to the Opening Speech of the High Commissioner. A resolution has been passed, some time ago, by which it was stated that the Tribute should be paid by England and for this resolution we all gave our vote without the Moslem or the official Members refusing it. In the Reply every year the question of the Tribute is treated, and in the years 1897 and 1898, the question was treated at length and all the Members agreed. Therefore there is no reason why we should not vote for this resolution also; and I see no reason why the official members should not vote for it. They have already voted for a similar resolution and Sir Walter Sendall expressed the wish to see the desire of the council realized.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—But the resolution was couched in other terms.

CHACALLI.—Must I understand that if the resolution were couched in the same terms as in 1892, it

would be accepted? in such case I would be willing to amend it; our only object is to be relieved of the Tribute.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—Sir Walter Sendall has expressed the wish to have the amount of the Tribute, in order to spend it for the benefit of the Island.

CHACALLI.—But he allowed the official members to give their vote for the resolution.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—I believe that the Moslem members objected at that time.

CHACALLI.—Your Excellency is mistaken. I beg your Excellency to look at the Minutes. The resolution was submitted on the 2nd May, 1892, and was unanimously passed. I have not been able to understand whether the resolution, if amended as in 1892, would be accepted by the Government.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—It is difficult for me to say so. As the Honourable the Chief Secretary has said, the wish of the Government is to see the liabilities of Cyprus reduced. But in submitting such a solicitation all depends on the phraseology. Besides this, the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary, has already expressed an opinion and it does not become that other officials should express a different opinion.

CHACALLI.—I understand the difficulty of the position of the Government. But in 1892, though the Colonial Secretary had already expressed the same opinion, Sir Walter Sendall allowed the official members to accept the resolution.

HIGH COMMISSIONER.—All depends on the phraseology.

CHACALLI.—But I have already declared that I am prepared to accept the phraseology of 1892.

CHIEF SECRETARY.—Are you ready to withdraw also all that has been said?

CHACALLI.—I am prepared to withdraw the whole resolution and propose in its stead the resolution of 1892, but of what I have said I will not withdraw a single word. I shall not insist any more, because I know that whether the resolution is passed or not, the result will be the same; the resolution was moved for the purpose of raising a discussion and making known the views of the members. All the members of the Council, whether Christian or Moslem, have declared that they find that it is just that all that is collected from the country should be spent for the country, and that the Council should be allowed to dispose of whatever it considers necessary for the wants of the country. The honourable the Chief Secretary has also declared that he would be very glad to see the monies of the Island spent for its wants.

Now I shall say two words on the question whether the English tax-payer has lost or profited by the Occupation. It is known that this money is not paid to Turkey, but is applied to the service of the Loan of 1855, which was guaranteed by France and England. From the occupation to this day more than one million and half has been collected which has been applied to the service of the guaranteed loan and without the Cypriot Tribute this amount would have been paid by England and France. The honour-

able the Registrar General seems not to admit this.

REGISTRAR GENERAL.—I admit that I have not studied the question but I believe that, if England and France had not received the Tribute, they would have secured their claim in another way.

CHACALLI.—The statement of the Right Honourable Sir William Harcourt Chancellor of the Exchequer, is that if this amount were not secured from Cyprus it would have to be paid by England and France. The Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary made the same statement in 1895 that the service of the Loan was made by this Tribute and that for this service neither France nor England paid.

The whole amount required for the service is £154,000 and part of it is paid from the Egyptian and part from the Cypriot Tribute. From the time of the English Occupation the enormous sum of £2,210,000 has been paid. If we deduct the English grants-in-aid amounting to about £600,000, we find that about £1,600,000 have been exported from the Island. The result is that the Island has been exhausted by this unbearable burden.

It is consoling that this wrong is admitted by many and it is very consoling to the Cypriots to hear that there are noble hearts in England feeling sorry for the injustice which is done to this Country. The honourable Mr Leighton, M.P, said in 1893 in the House of Commons that *the Cypriots are right in complaining and they must be relieved of this unbearable burden. Truly and honestly the Tribute is English*

and must be borne by England. Lord Brassey, writing about Cyprus says that this Tribute must be paid by England, that the Island must be relieved of this burden, and that its condition is unworthy of a great nation and humiliating. I cannot omit to mention the names of the honourable Members for Warrington and Islington M^r Pierpoint and Sir Albert Rollit who many times spoke in defence of Cyprus in the House of Commons.

I now come to the question if it has been done for Cyprus all that could and should have been done. Sir Henry Bulwer writing in 1895, said that there was never any deficit in Cyprus but on account of the Tribute he could not do what should be done. The injustice done to Cyprus was also admitted by Sir Walter Sendall who stated that the payment of the Tribute was the cause of preventing the progress of the Country. Therefore the Cypriot Administration had from the beginning its hands tied and could not do what it ought for the Island. And he was adding that *the annual withdrawal of a large portion of the revenue for the benefit of the Imperial Treasury at Constantinople leaves the Government of the Island without a margin which could be employed in promoting reproductive undertakings, and thus postpones indefinitely the period of its emancipation from a state of dependence upon external aid.* I cannot conclude these remarks without mentioning that the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary has also admitted that it has not been done for Cyprus what should

have been done. Speaking in the House of Commons the Colonial Secretary said words to the following effect :

We are flattered to believe that whenever a country passes from a Government such as the Turkish Government to a Government such as the English Government necessarily an improvement takes place. Having examined the facts I have come to the conclusion that Cyprus has profited in many and different ways and that every impartial Cypriot would prefer rather to remain under England than to be returned to Turkey. But I sincerely confess that we have not done all that we could, all that we ought to have done.

I thank the honourable gentleman for his sincerity.

Now, Sir, I shall say a few words in answer to the honourable the Chief Secretary. I confess that I was expecting more sincerity from his chivalry. I was expecting him to say: *Cypriots, you are right in complaining; we have not done our duty in Cyprus; we have not done what we promised when we occupied the Island. You are right in saying that taxation is heavy and disproportionate to the resources of the Island. An Island having a production of £800,000 cannot pay £200,000 per annum. Instead of this he attempted to say that taxation has been reduced and that taxes to the amount of £29,000 were remitted and only £6,000 imposed in their stead, that is to say that there was a profit of £23,000 to the Cypriot people; if I deduct this amount from the amount of £113,000 that the Island was paying before the English Occupation. I*

shall find that there remains a sum of £90,000 only, that is to say that the taxation of the Country amounts to £90,000 per annum. But then whence does the balance of the £200,000, which are yearly collected from the Island, come? He has not entered into details and I shall do the same, but if he casts a look at the Estimates, he will see many taxes which did not exist under Turkey. I see an item of £1,200 from fines; I see £6,000 from stamps, an amount that Turkey did not collect for twenty years. In the Report of the deputation there is a long list of taxes imposed since the English Occupation, but I do not consider it necessary to read it. But I cannot omit to mention the £4,970 for wharfages which did not exist under Turkey. But this question I shall leave to be dealt with by my honourable friend M^r Rossos on the discussion of his resolution. I cannot also forget the Locust Tax, though the honourable the Chief Secretary has attempted to persuade us that it existed also before the Occupation. The kileh of locusts eggs was occasionally imposed; it was not regularly collected because there were not always locusts in the Island. It was collected only from well-to-do people, and that for some time only; and when the invention of the late Richard Mattei was applied the cost was borne by the Turkish Government, without any additional taxation. I do not wish to mention again the tax of communication with the exterior, the coasting tax, and many others covered by the Locust Tax.

The honourable the Chief Secretary has said that

England takes only the surplus; but if we have a surplus how is it that we have borrowed £60,000 for the first irrigation works? How is it that a loan of £300,000 is contracted for a harbour and railway line and a further loan of £300,000 is required for continuing the irrigation works? When we are not allowed to spend our monies, and we are forced to contract loans, how can it be said that the surplus is taken? It is not the surplus that England takes but the monies which are absolutely necessary to the Country for its different wants.

Another point which I wish to mention is what my honourable friend Mr Theodotou has said with regard to the official Members of the Legislative Council; he has said that the Government, with the six official Members and a small minority of elected Members, has always secured the majority, and injustice is done to the majority of the representatives of the people; I believe that in a representative body there ought not to be such a large number of official Members; because in the way that the Council is constituted the majority does not always represent the views of the people.

I remember, Sir, that at the inauguration of the Irrigation Works of Acheritou you have declared that you are the *best Cypriot*. I hope you will prove by facts that you are the best Cypriot and that you love Cyprus. And you will prove it if you relieve the Island of this great burden.

I am defending, Sir, a clear and just case and I

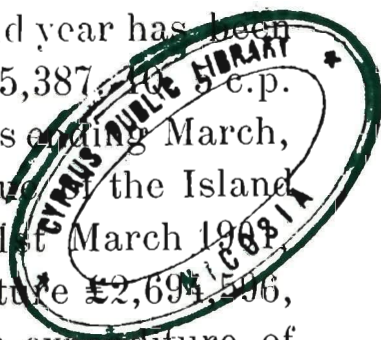
hope that the Supreme Court which will try the case of Cyprus—the English House of Commons—will find that the Cypriots are right. I have full confidence in the love of justice of the noble English nation and I consider it my duty never to cease to protest and work until justice is given to us.

All the Christian elected Members of the Council voted in favour of the resolution; the Moslem Members, though agreeing on all points with their Christian colleagues voted against the resolution as also did all the official Members of the Council. The reasons why our Moslem colleagues and the official Members voted against the resolution are sufficiently explained in the few words we have exchanged with His Excellency the High Commissioner during the debate in the council.

The votes being equally divided His Excellency the High Commissioner gave the casting vote against the resolution and the *best Cypriot* had not a word of sympathy to say for the Cypriots! Poor and unfortunate Cypriots!

REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

According to the Report of the High Commissioner for 1900—1901 the revenue of the said year has been £215,268, and the expenditure £135,387. 10 s. c.p. The average revenue of the five years ending March, 1901, has been £201,004. The Revenue of the Island since the British Occupation to the 31st March 1901, has been £4,111,244, and the expenditure £2,694,596, leaving an excess of revenue over expenditure of £1,416,648. If this amount were not disposed for the payment of the Tribute the Island would be now in a



flourishing condition with harbours, railways, irrigation works and relieved of the odious and oppressive taxes of Tithes, Locust Tax and of various other odious taxes; but unfortunately the monies which should have been spent for the wants of the Island have been unjustly applied to the payment of the liabilities of England towards Turkey, for which the Island is not in any way liable. We hope that this wrong will not continue any longer and that the Island will be allowed to dispose of its own revenue for the development of its natural resources and for the construction of the necessary public works, which form a crying want for the country and the absence of which does no credit to the British Government.

EDUCATION

The Education Law at present in force is No. 18 of 1895. The Law is condensed in a few lines in the *Handbook of Cyprus* compiled by two distinguished English scholars—our amiable Chief Justice, Sir Joseph Hutchinson and M^r Cobham, Commissioner of Larnaca—and containing much useful information about Cyprus.

We reproduce here these few lines :

«There is a *Board of Education for Moslem Schools*, composed of the Chief Secretary, the Chief Cadi, the Mufti, one person appointed by the Delegates of Evkaf, and six Moslems elected by the District Committees. This Board deals only with matters connected with Moslem schools.

There is a *Board of Education for Christian Schools*,

composed of the Chief Secretary, the Archbishop, three persons chosen by the Greek Orthodox Members of the Legislative Council from among their own body, and six elected members of the Greek Orthodox community elected by the District Committees. This Board deals only with matters connected with Greek Christian Schools.

The Inspector of Schools has the right to be present at all meetings of the Boards, but takes no part in the decision of questions.

These Boards lay down the course of instruction to be followed in the schools, recommend the Government grants to be allowed, decide complaints which the District Committees have not been able to settle, hear appeals against decisions of District Committees, make regulations as to the duties of teachers and the circumstances under which they may be dismissed by the District Committees, and determine the villages in which elementary schools shall be established and the number of teachers for each school.

In each of the six Districts there is a *District Committee for Moslem Schools* and a *District Committee for Christian Schools*; and in every village in which an elementary school is established under the Education Law there is a *Village Committee of Education*. The village committee appoints and dismisses the teachers of elementary schools and fixes their salaries, apportions the amount of the village contribution among the churches or mosques and the inhabitants of the village; and brings to the notice of the district committee matters connected with education in the village. The district committee reports to the Board of Education on matters connected with education in the District, hears complaints as to the management of schools; hears appeals from the village committee on the apportionment of the village contribution; and (if the village committee does not do so) appoints and

dismisses teachers and fixes their salaries and the sum to be contributed by the village.

The teachers' salary is made up of (1) a fixed salary, and (2) the Government grant-in-aid; the grant-in-aid is fixed according to the condition and progress of the school as ascertained by inspections, and on consideration of the recommendation of the district committee.

The present Education Law does not apply to the elementary Schools in the town; but those schools receive grants-in-aid.»

There are in Cyprus 413 schools with 20,621 scholars. Out of these 269 are Christian Schools and 144 Moslem Schools. With the exception of the Gymnasium and five Greek High Schools and one Moslem High School all the others are elementary Schools. The Government grant to all the Schools of the Island is £4,264. 7. 8. The grant is very low and many solicitations have been made to the Government for an increase but to no purpose. We are perfectly entitled to bitterly complain against the Government for the cruel parsimony shown to the wants of the country which is extended also to Education. It is curious to note that this parsimony is shown by the British Government only in Cyprus. In the British Guiana which according to the last census in 1891 has a population of 278,328 there are 212 schools, with 27,512 scholars, receiving Government grants to the amount of £21,663. In Barbados whose population in 1900 was estimated at 195,000, and whose revenue amounted to £185,475 only, there are 152 schools

with 13,795 scholars receiving Government grants to the amount of £16,727. In Cyprus the British Government will not give more than £4,264 whilst it ought to give at least the amount allowed in Barbados i.e. £16,727. If we leave the British Colonies and turn to Crete where now rules our beloved Prince George we see that the Government spends £12,000 for elementary education and £8,000 for middle education.

It cannot be said that the parsimony shown to the poor people who passed under British rule for Imperial purposes and who were given such golden promises at the time of the occupation, does any credit to England and to the English nation. We confidently expect that there will be many noble sons of England who will take up the defence of this poor country which is so much wronged by one of the noblest and most civilized nation in the world.

We cannot conclude our remarks without adding that the appointment of two Englishmen as Inspectors of Education has caused general indignation in the Island both among Christian and Moslems. Meetings were held to protest against this appointment and the Legislative Council has disallowed the item for the salary of the two Inspectors.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Courts of Justice in Cyprus as constituted by the *Cyprus Courts of Justice Order, 1882*, are as follows:

The Supreme Court consisting of two judges, the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge.

The Assize Courts for each of the six Districts consisting of one or both judges of the Supreme Court and the judges or some of the judges of the District Court.

A District Court for each of the six Districts constituted of a President and two Ordinary Judges, one Christian and one Moslem.

A Magisterial Court for each of the six Districts constituted of the President of the District Court sitting alone or the two Ordinary Judges sitting together without the President.

Village Judges with limited civil jurisdiction only, not exceeding £5.

Of the *Mahkemeh-i-sheri* or religious Moslem tribunal whose jurisdiction is limited to the cognizance of religious matters only concerning Moslems.

The Supreme Court is a Court of civil and criminal appeal. It is the general opinion in the Island that one more judge should be added, such judge to be a native of the Island. This suggestion was made on several occasions and the addition of such a judge would be so useful that we feel confident that the suggestion will be acted upon. It is also the general opinion that the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court should not act as President of the district court of Kyrenia or of any other Court, in the absence on leave of the Presidents of such district courts, because in such case the inconvenience of the same

judge hearing a case in the first instance and afterwards hearing the same case on appeal cannot be avoided, and we hope that this practice will be discontinued. It is true that some other judge might be appointed to sit as Puisne judge in such cases, but there are several instances in which this was not done, and the same judge heard the case both in the Court below and in the Supreme Court.

The Assize Courts when disposing of the gravest classes of crimes consist of the native judges with the President of the District Court and the Judges of the Supreme Court. When disposing of crimes of a less grave character two of the English judges with the native judges are sufficient.

The District Courts have unlimited civil jurisdiction and limited criminal jurisdiction. The President with the two native judges or with one of them form a quorum.

The District Courts hear criminal appeals from Magisterial Courts, and in cases tried by the two native judges sitting as Magistrates there is the inconvenience of the majority of the Court consisting of the same judges who convicted the appellant as Magistrates. This inconvenience could be obviated if the native judges were allowed to act separately as Magistrates. If this were done, on an appeal the District Court might consist, in the case that the appellant was convicted by one of the native judges, by the President and the other native judge, and in the case he was convicted by the President, by both

the native judges with the President. Besides obviating the inconvenience referred to above, the system of allowing the native judges to sit separately as Magistrates would greatly facilitate the work of the Courts, and would be a great saving of time, because the native judges acting separately as Magistrates can expedite double the work they despatch in sitting together and losing, without any reason at all, so much valuable time.

It might be argued that in cases where the litigants do not belong to the same religion it is better to have one judge from each religion ; but the argument cannot stand because, in the case of village judges, litigants belonging to different religions are tried every day by one judge, either Christian or Moslem, and there was never any complaint made that any judge, either Christian or Moslem, has been influenced by any considerations of creed. Besides it might be arranged that the President should hear all cases where the litigants belong to different religions or at least when one of the litigants applies to have the case tried by the President.

It is rumoured that it is intended to increase the jurisdiction of the village judges. We do not consider that this should be done, at least at present, and before legally trained persons are appointed as Village Judges.

With regard to the Presidents of the District Courts we consider that the system which has, specially of late, prevailed of leaving the District Courts

without President for a long period causes great inconvenience and leaves the work of such district courts much behind. The district court of Kyrenia has been left without President for eight whole months, and the district court of Papho for four months. This was a great mistake and we hope that steps will be taken to prevent this inconvenience of occurring again.

The question of appointing natives as Presidents of the District Courts, at least to those of Kyrenia, Papho and Famagusta, as suggested by the Colonial Secretary many years ago, is one that should be seriously considered by the Government. One of the principal objections put forward at the time against the suggestion of the Colonial Secretary by the local Government was that there were not sufficiently trained legal men, who could fill the post of President, but this objection has ceased long ago to hold good because now there are many well trained legal men amongst the Cypriots who could discharge the duties of President of a District Court to the greatest satisfaction.

Another question which should be seriously considered by the Government is the selection of the persons appointed as Ordinary Judges of the District courts. The salaries of these judges which are: £216 per annum for the judges of Nicosia; £200 for those of Larnaca and Limassol; £175 for those of Famagusta and Papho and £150 for those of Kyrenia, are exceedingly low, and it is a remarkable and curious

thing that the native judges of Cyprus are the worse paid officials of the Government. Persons holding posts by far less important and less responsible receive much higher salaries. The result of the low pay of the judges is that well trained legal men decline to accept the post, and this is very regrettable because these posts should be filled by the best and most well trained advocates, as it is done in all civilized countries.

The Law in force in Cyprus is the *Ottoman Law* as it was in force in Cyprus at the time of the English Occupation and as altered from time to time by Cyprus Statute Law.

For foreigners the English Law as altered by Statute Law is applied except when the parties have agreed, or the Court finds that they intended that their rights should be regulated by Ottoman Law, or when an Ottoman Law, in force at the time of the Occupation, enacts that all persons, whether of Ottoman nationality, or not, shall be subject to its provisions, or when the claim in dispute consists of rights of immoveable property.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCILS

OR

MEDJLISS IDAREHS

The duties and powers of the Administrative Councils are defined in the *Law of Vilayets* Art. 14, 34 and 48 (Leg. Ott. Vol. II p.p. 275, 279 and 281) and in the *Law of the Administration of Vilayets* art. 77,

78, 90 and 92 (Leg. Ott. Vol. III p.p. 27, 28, 30 and 31).

In Cyprus there are six District Administrative Councils or Caza Idarehs for each of the six Districts and they consist of the Commissioner, the Bishop of the District and four elected members.

There is also the Central Administrative council which is constituted as the Medjliss Idareh of a Sandjak, that having been the position of the Island at the time of the Occupation; it consists of the High Commissioner, the Chief Secretary, the Receiver General, the Cadi, the Mufti, the Archbishop, the Muhasebedji of Evkaf and four elected members.

Under the previous Government the duties and powers of these councils were very important but under the British Government, though these powers and duties were not abolished by legislation the most important of these have become obsolete either because they are now performed by other bodies, such as the Legislative Council &c. or because there is no longer any necessity for their exercise.

The principal duties and powers of the District Councils now are :

The assessing of the value of titheable produce for taking tithe in money under the Tithe Ordinance of 1882.

The issuing of warrants under the *Tithe and Tax Collection Ordinance 1882*. Ordinance XIV—Articles 1, 3 and 4.

The audit of Municipal accounts under the *Municipal*

Councils Ordinance, 1882. Ordinance VI. Part XIV.

The valuations of lands under the *Public Lands (Leases) Ordinance of 1882* Ordinance XI., 1882—Articles 12 & 13—and under the *Limassol Roads Law of 1895* Law VI—Articles 6 & 11. and

The deciding about licenses to be issued to owners of public-houses, the appointing of Emlak commissions, the appointing of Mukhtars, hearing appeals from assessments of Temettu &c.

The Central Administrative Council hears appeals from the District councils. They also certify the accounts of the Evkaf sent to Constantinople and investigate disputed accounts between the Evkaf Department and the Mutevellis.

According to Article 33 of the *Law of Villayets* the Administrative Council or Medjliss Idareh of the Sandjak is presided by the Mutessarif and consists of the Cadi of the chief town of the Sandjak, the Mufti the spiritual chiefs of the non-mussulman population, the Muhasebedji of the Sandjak, the Mektoubji or Chief Secretary and of four elected members, two Mussulman and two non-Mussulman.

According to Article 47 of the same Law the Medjliss Idareh of the caza is presided by the Caimakam (Commissioner) and consists of the Cadi, the Mufti, the religious leaders of non-Mussulman communities the Secretary of the caza and three elected members.

The question of the warrants issued by the Medjliss Idarehs of the cazas for seizure and sale of moveable property, for taxes due, is a very important one.

Article 1 of the *Tithe and Tax Collection Ordinance*, 1882, says :

Where any amount shall have been duly assessed upon any person in respect of any tithe, tax or excise duty and such person shall fail to pay such amount or any part thereof within 10 days after the same has become payable by him and after service upon him of a written or printed demand calling upon him to pay the sum due and unpaid, the Medjliss Idareh of the Caza within which such tithe, tax or duty is payable shall on receipt of a certificate under the hand of the Commissioner of the District or Principal Officer of Customs within the District that such sum is properly due and unpaid as aforesaid issue their warrant to any officer legally authorised to collect the tithe or tax in respect of which any such sum is payable, commanding such officer to demand immediate payment of the sum due, and in default of payment to levy the same by the seizure and sale of the moveable property of the person by whom such sum is payable in manner hereinafter mentioned.

In the margin of the said Article we read the following :

Medjliss Idareh may issue warrant for seizure and sale of moveables in default of payment. These few words explain sufficiently the spirit of the Law ; the issuing of such warrants is facultative for the Medjliss Idareh and not imperative. They may issue warrants ; they are not bound to issue such warrants. And certainly the legislators who enacted the Law

intended nothing else but give the Medjliss Idareh the right of issuing these warrants or refusing them; if, as it has some years ago been contended by the Government, the Legislators meant to oblige the members of the Medjliss Idareh to sign all warrants presented by the Commissioner there was no necessity of entrusting the Medjliss Idareh with the power of issuing such warrants. They would simply say that the Commissioner shall issue such warrants to the Tax Collectors.

The question whether members of the Medjliss Idareh are bound to sign all warrants presented to them has been the subject of an action in the District Court of Papho. The members of the Medjliss Idareh of that District refused to sign some warrants presented to them by the Commissioner and an action was brought against the Members under Law VII. 1890, claiming an order of Mandamus. The District Court, wrongly, according to our opinion, granted the order; but an appeal was lodged against it and no further proceedings were taken because the Crown Advocate expressed the opinion, as we are informed, that the judgment of the District Court could not have any chance of standing in the Supreme Court. The Government following the advice of the Crown Advocate gave notice to the members of the Medjliss Idareh that they need not trouble any further about the judgment of the District Court of Papho.

In speaking of the warrants issued by the Medjliss Idarehs we cannot pass over in silence the illegal

way with which the Government collects the taxes in Cyprus. In the *Instructions relating to the measures to be applied regarding the distribution and collection of the legal payments to the Royal Treasury that is to say taxes and military contributions* the way in which taxes must be collected is well defined. According to Article 4 the payments are made in ten instalments beginning from March and ending in December; and according to Article 7 if a tax-payer fails to pay three instalments he is ordered to pay five instalments at once, and if he does not pay again, then the whole amount of the taxes is claimed from him. The Law has provided that the taxes should be paid by instalments in order to facilitate the payment, but contrary to the explicit provisions of the Law no payment by instalments is claimed from the tax-payers, but they are called upon to pay in a lump sum the whole amount of all taxes due. We hope that this illegal course will be discontinued, and that the Tax Collectors will be instructed to collect the taxes by instalments in accordance with the provisions of the Law; and we believe that the Members of the Medjliss Idarehs, before issuing any warrants, should be satisfied that the provisions of the Law have been complied with.

In speaking about the illegal practices of the Government of Cyprus we must also mention the illegal practice of refusing the agriculturists leave to remove their produce from their thrashing floor before they pay all taxes due to the Government. This

illegal and arbitrary practice of the Government has been strongly condemned by the Magisterial Court of Limassol in a case tried shortly ago. The learned judges in delivering judgment said : *We consider as illegal and arbitrary every demand of a Memour or Nazir for the payment of taxes in order to issue the necessary permission for removing the produce from the thrashing floor.* We offer our sincere congratulations to the learned judges who from their chair have given a sound lesson to our Administrators who, notwithstanding the repeated protests of the representatives of the people, continue such illegal practices.

The question of the reorganization of the Administrative Councils is one of the questions discussed in the Pan-Cypriot Memorial of 1895, in which the Memorialists say that the general principle should apply and that the members should be elected in proportion to the population of the two native elements, which are entitled to be represented in them i.e. the Moslem and Christian population.

This question was brought to the notice of the Colonial Office long before this—in 1884—by a Bill submitted by the late Bishop of Citium Kyprianos, which was published and submitted to the Colonial Office. The general principle applied to the other representative bodies, according to the view of the Colonial Office, can be applied in this body also, as it is shewn by a despatch of the Earl of Derby to Sir Robert Biddulph: *The second clause of the Bishop's*

Bill raises the question of apportioning the representative element in the Councils according to the numbers of the Mussulmans and Christians in each District. I am not prepared to resist the justice of the application of this principle, if it is pressed by the Christian element in the Legislature.

The elections of members of the Medjliss Idareh are regulated by the Regulations of the 2nd Zilhidjé 1292—5 January, 1876 (Leg. Ott. Vol. V. p. 85.)

LOCUST TAX

&

COMMUNICATION WITH EGYPT

Under Ordinance XII of 1881 it was decreed under article I. that *There shall be charged, collected and paid for the year 1881 and for each succeeding year until the expenses incurred in carrying into effect the purposes of the "Locust Destruction Ordinance, 1881" have been defrayed, the several rates, duties and taxes mentioned in the several schedules to this Ordinance marked respectively A.B.C.D. and E.*

This Ordinance was passed by the Legislative Council as constituted by the Order of the Queen in Council of the 14th September, 1878. In the said Legislative Council the Cypriots were not represented, otherwise we do not believe that this unjust Law would ever be passed. But the Law is made still more oppressive and odious because contrary to the express provision of the Ordinance that the amount shall be collected *until the expenses incurred in car-*

rying into effect the purposes of the "Locust Destruction Ordinance, 1881", have been defrayed the Government has collected £25,145 in excess to the amount spent for Locust Destruction.

According to an account kindly supplied by the Chief Secretary to Government, Captain Arthur Young, the sum of £158,440 was collected from 1881 to 1901 and the sum of £133,295 spent for Locust Destruction. This Tax is quite unjust and unjustified. The Island has on an average a revenue of £200,000 and it is a great injustice not to spend from the general revenue of the Island but impose upon the heavily taxed Cypriot a special taxation for the destruction of locusts. And the Government of Cyprus which seems to have decided the complete destruction of the Country is doing its best to make permanent this odious tax and uninterrupted its collection.

The yearly amount collected from this tax amounts to about £8,000. Under the Ordinance only the amount required for locust destruction should be collected and as the locusts are almost quite exterminated, only a yearly sum of about £2,000 is required. Thus if the monies collected for locust destruction were applied by the local Government for this purpose only, the tax need not be collected for at least ten years. But the Government of Cyprus applies these monies to many other purposes. Thus some years ago, when the town of Limassol was greatly damaged by the floods and some relief was required

for the poor of that town, the Government of Cyprus, with blamable parsimony, refused to give a farthing from the general revenue and thus obliged the Legislative Council to vote a sum of £2,000 from this fund. A small sum is yearly required for improving the breed of horses and other animals and the Government refuses to spend from the general revenue and obliges us to give the amount required from the Locust Destruction Fund. Honourable Members in the House of Commons, during the debate of the 26th May, 1902, expressed an opinion that communication with Egypt and Syria should be secured by quick and comfortable boats. But the Government would not give a shilling for this purpose and obliged the Legislative Council to vote for three years a yearly sum of £2,000 for communication with Egypt and coasting service. And as the amount was ridiculously low the services of Bell's steamers were secured, which are transport boats, and of *Thyra* for the coasting service, a boat of 42 tons ! This cruel and unjust conduct of the Government is quite exasperating and we strongly protest against such an unjust and inconsiderate policy. I cannot conclude my remarks on this subject without mentioning the following telegram which I have just received from the Chief Secretary from Troodos :

CHACALLI

Nicosia

Looking to spread of cholera in Egypt will you authorise Government to purchase Thyra at £1,500 from

Locust Destruction Fund to be used round Island for quarantine purposes and to prevent illicit landings? Chief Medical Officer strongly advises it.

(Sd) CHIEF SECRETARY.

I had already declared in Council that I shall not give my vote for the expenditure of a single pound from the Locust Destruction Fund for any other purpose than locust destruction and I sent the following reply :

CHIEF SECRETARY

T r o o d o s

I decline authorisation for any sum from Locust Destruction Fund and protest against any expenditure from said fund, but authorise any amount from general revenue.

CHACALLI.

We have the cholera at our doors, we have a yearly revenue of £200,000 and the British Government wants monies from special taxation in order to protect the Country from cholera ! how must we characterize this conduct of the Government ? The Island is under the protection of England, the strongest maritime power, and of the innumerable British fleet not a single boat is sent, or asked for, to guard our coasts but we must pay from special taxation for buying a small boat of 42 tons to guard the coasts of Cyprus ! O Justice, art thou no more known to the sons of England ?

THE TITHES ON CEREALS

This Tax is the most unjust and oppressive in the Island. If an agriculturist produces 100 Kilehs of grain the Government will take one tenth—ten Kilehs; but the agriculturist in order to produce these 100 Kilehs has fed a pair of bullocks during the whole year round, has paid a land tax, has cultivated the land, has sown it with seed, and has laboured during the whole year round. Nothing of this is taken into consideration; the agriculturist must pay one tenth of his produce and this is not the only injustice done. If he owes taxes he is not allowed to remove his produce from the thrashing floor unless he pays his taxes, and, if he has no money to pay, he is obliged to leave his produce exposed in the thrashing floor and damaged by the rain, the wind, the birds &c.

In the report of the Cyprus deputation of the 10th July, 1889, addressed to the Colonial Office we find the following account which will give some idea to what percentage amounts the tenth part of the produce taken by the Government :

An agriculturist cultivates on an average 50 donums of land and he has to bear the following expenses :

Food for a pair of bullocks for 7 months at ten piastres per diem— (for the other 5 months he might feed them without any expense on the fields.)

Expenses for thrashing, 50 donums at 22 1/2 c.p.	1,125
Implements	100
Seed Barley for 30 donums, 50 Kilehs at 12 c.p.	600
Seed Wheat for 20 donums, 18 Kilehs at 25 c.p.	450
	<hr/> 4,375

In ordinary years the yield would be 12 Kilehs of Barley and 5 Kilehs of Wheat per donum. We should then have :

30 donums sown with Barley at 12 Kilehs=360 Kilehs at 10 c.piastrs	3,600
20 donums sown with Wheat at 5 Kilehs=100 Kilehs at 24 c. piastres	2,400
	<hr/> 6,000
Deducting the Tithe 10 %	600
	<hr/> 5,400
If we deduct the expenses as above	4,375

We find a balance of 1,025 c.p.

The payment of 600 piastres by an agriculturist whose net profits are 1,025 amounts to an income tax of 50 %. What would John Bull say if such an income tax were imposed on him? Has the British Government ever imposed in England an income tax of 120 pence in the pound? A stop must be put to this

unjustice; the tithes on Cereals must be abolished. As it will be seen in our speech in the Legislative Council we suggested that the tithes should be taken only on exportation. The loss to the Revenue would be only £17,000 per annum but some of this loss might be covered by a small addition on Salt and Tobacco. The Government should take into serious consideration the question of abolishing this tax because, as we have said, it is the most unjust and oppressive tax for the poor Cypriot agriculturist.

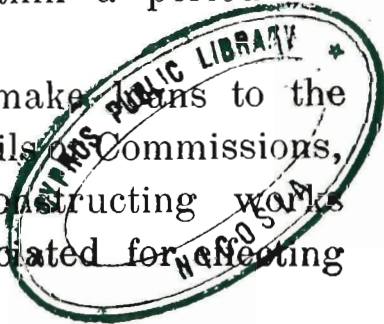
THE LOAN COMMISSION

The Loan Commission is constituted by Law XIII. of 1897.

The Loan Commissioners are: the High Commissioner, the Chief Secretary, the Receiver General and the Director of Agriculture, who are official members of the Commission, and of four unofficial members taken from the elected members of the Legislative Council (Art. 2.).

The funds of the Loan Commission amount to about £20,000 and they were taken mostly from the Agricultural Bank Fund and the Locust Fund (Art.3.) The rate of interest on loans must not exceed 5% and all loans must be repaid within a period not exceeding thirty years (Art. 7.).

The Loan Commissioners can make loans to the Government or to Municipal Councils or Commissions, or to Village Communities for constructing works of public utility or to persons associated for effecting



improvements of agricultural land or to individuals for facilitating the construction of wells (Art. 7.).

The High Commissioner can disallow any loan decided by the Loan Commissioners (Art. 8.).

The Loans are secured by mortgage of immoveable property or of rates, fees or duties payable to Municipal authorities (Art 10.).

Of the funds in the hands of the Loan Commissioners a sum of £1,000 is set aside for granting loans to individuals for agricultural improvements or agricultural operations (Art. 17.).

The Loan Commissioners can advance funds to the Receiver General for the purchase of seed corn to be lent on customary terms to cultivators (Art. 16.). The Loan Commissioners may pay a sum not exceeding two-thirds of the interest actually recovered to the Agricultural Fund to be applied as the High Commissioner shall direct for the advancement and development of Agriculture (Art. 18.).

The Loan Commissioners may, subject to the approval of the High Commissioner, borrow money at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent per annum and the repayment of the principal and interest of the monies so borrowed shall form a first charge on the Fund (Art. 19.).

The funds in the hands of the Loan Commissioners are quite unadequate and are almost wholly applied for seed corn advances to the agriculturists. The Loan Commissioners are authorised by the Law to borrow money at 3 % and we believe that an amount

of £100,000 to £200,000 might easily be invested by the Loan Commissioners if they could borrow such an amount. The Loan Commission has already a capital of £20,000; the management of the monies is under the Government control and the loans advanced by the Loan Commission are so well secured that we believe that the Commission can easily borrow any amount either from some Bank or by the issue of bonds.

If such an amount be borrowed at the rate quoted above the Loan Commissioners would have a substantial yearly profit to devote for the improvement of agriculture after paying 3 % interest on the money borrowed. Such a loan would be greatly beneficial to the interests of the Country and would make the absence of an Agricultural Bank less keenly felt. But we believe that instead of borrowing money at 3 % we are entitled to solicit the British Government to let the Loan Commissioners have the £200,000 which have been accumulated from surpluses of the Tribute since the British Occupation and which are in the hands of the British Government, during all the time that the question of the disposal of these monies is pending. It is known that the Tribute has been fixed at about £92,000 including £5,000 for Crown Property, and that about £83,000 of this sum are applied for the service of the Loan of 1855 guaranteed by England and France. The service of the Loan requires a yearly amount of £154,000 but part of it is taken from the Tribute of Egypt. There remains a yearly

balance of about £9,000 which Britain tenders to Turkey and which Turkey refuses claiming the whole amount of £92,000. England refuses to part with any money before satisfying the service of the Loan guaranteed by herself and France and, as the question has not been settled, the monies remain in the hands of the British Government. Great Britain has no obligation to pay any interest for these monies or give out the monies on interest and as the monies have come from the sweat and toil of the Cypriot we see no reason why pending the solution of the question these monies should not be given to the Cypriots to be applied so usefully and advantageously for the Country by the Loan Commissioners.

It is very regrettable that until quite lately none in the Island was aware that these monies remained in the hands of the British Government, otherwise some attempt might have been made long ago to obtain these monies for the useful purpose referred to above. We hope that every effort will be made to persuade the British Government to allow the Loan Commissioners to have the use of these monies, at least as long as Turkey refuses to accept them, and that Mr Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will not hesitate to place these monies in the hands of the Loan Commissioners.

With regard to the transactions of the Loan Commission we beg to remark that the Loan Commissioners under the Law have no right to charge a higher interest than 5 % per annum and that they are acting

illegally by making the poor agriculturist pay an exorbitant interest on the seed corn advances. The corn is advanced in November and repaid within six months and the agriculturist pays by way of interest $\frac{1}{4}$ of a kileh on every kileh lent, that is to say the agriculturist pays 25 % per cent for six months or 50 % per annum. That is an interest which might make Shylock himself turn green with envy and which the most hardened usurer would not dare to charge. It is true that the advances are repaid in kind and that prices fluctuate, but, whether the prices go up, or down the agriculturist has to pay his 25 % for the six months in kind, and, if the prices are the same at the time of repayment he will pay 50 % per annum, and if higher he will pay an interest exceeding the rate quoted above. The Loan Commissioners are neither speculators nor usurers and we suggest that it is equitable that the value of the corn at the time of issuing these advances should be taken as basis and interest at the rate of 5 % per annum added and, if the repayment is to be made in kind, the corn should be accepted at the current price at the time of repayment.

In case of increase of the funds of the Loan Commissioners, in either of the ways suggested above, the provisions of Article 17 of the Law should be amended so as to allow the Loan Commissioners to dispose of a higher amount than £1,000 for loans to individuals.

IRRIGATION WORKS

In a country like Cyprus entirely depending on agriculture and frequently suffering from droughts the question of water is of the greatest importance and the construction of irrigation works in different parts of the Island absolutely necessary. This view is shared by the High Commissioner who in his Report for the year 1900—1901 says: *Water is the first necessity for every Cyprus industry and without going to the extent of maintaining with the ancient Greek philosopher Thales, that “water is the ground of all things”, there can be no doubt that the development of every industry in Cyprus depends on an increase in the quantity of water which can be obtained.*

The importance of the construction of irrigation works was well understood by the Right Honourable Mr Chamberlain, Colonial Secretary, who took the initiative in the question of irrigation and to whom we are very grateful for this. The Irrigation Works of Acheritou in the Messaoria plain are in the words of the High Commissioner *the first large public Works which have been constructed since the British Occupation.* They were completed last year and inaugurated in March by His Excellency the High Commissioner. *They bring as he says under irrigation and drainage some hundred square miles of land, and will prove of vast benefit to the Island.* These works were constructed from the funds of the Irrigation Loan of £60,000 sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament. The Loan was granted at an interest of 3% with 1% for sinking

fund. The Irrigation Works have proved a success in Cyprus and they are much appreciated; this appreciation is well expressed in the following words of the Members of the Legislative Council in their reply to the Opening Address of the High Commissioner to the Council last year :

Every Cypriot speaks with enthusiasm of the irrigation Works, and there is but one opinion with regard to them, namely that the benefits derived therefrom should be extended to the whole Island. The important works that have already been executed show that the evils arising from the want of rain, which is noticeable in Cyprus in the months of March and April almost every year, and is attended by such grievous consequences for the country, could be remedied. To seek such remedy by all means is a duty mutually incumbent on the Government and the people, and such remedy will be one of the most important means of promoting the prosperity of the country.

In thanking His Majesty's Government for their foresight in inaugurating such really beneficial works in the Island the Council considers itself in duty bound to call upon them to propose other measures securing to the whole Island the invaluable boon of irrigation, and, in doing so, the Government will find the Council ever ready to assist them in the attainment of this end.

The gratitude of the country towards the Right Honourable Mr. Chamberlain, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his initiative in the question of irrigation is deeply inscribed in the

heart of every Cypriot, and this Council has no doubt that he will continue a work, the first experiments of which have been attended by complete success, and the extension of which to the whole Island will prove to be the greatest boon.

Both the local Government and the Elected Members of the Legislative Council are agreed on the point that irrigation works should be constructed in different parts of the Island. But the local Government wants to enact by Law that in case the revenue from the irrigation works is not sufficient to cover the interest and sinking fund of the Loan *The sums required to meet the interest on and the sinking fund to repay the principal of any loan made to the Government of Cyprus for the purpose of constructing the Irrigation Works in question (hereinafter referred to as the Irrigation Loan)* shall be a charge upon the lands within the area affected by the works. In plain words the Government wants to make the Cypriot agriculturists pay by additional taxation, in case the revenue is not sufficient to cover the interest and sinking fund, the whole of the loan advanced for Irrigation Works. In this way the Government without spending a shilling from the general revenues of the Island will have the following advantages :

The Revenue from the sale of water and sale or rent of drained land.

The Tithes on the produce of the irrigated lands which will be at least three times larger than if the lands were not irrigated.

At the time of the revaluation of the immoveable properties a higher Verghi Kimat or land tax, because the lands under irrigation will be more valuable than they are now.

We believe that the Government will have the same advantages without such a provision in the Law because the revenue from the sale of water will be sufficient to cover that amount required for interest and sinking fund of the loan which will be advanced; but supposing that the revenue is not sufficient to pay all this for a few years is it right and fair to charge the already too heavily charged agriculturists with additional taxation? We, at least, do not think so and we believe that the Government must not insist on this point but proceed to the construction of the Irrigation Works, even if there is the risk that a small yearly amount will be required from the general revenue of the Island, because there are many and great advantages and any temporary loss will be repaid by a hundredfold profit in future years. The droughts greatly affect the general revenue of the Island because not only the tithes on cereals and other produce yield a much lower amount than in years free of droughts, but also many of the principal sources of revenue are affected by such droughts. Thus many of the sheep and goats die and the Government loses the tax on such sheep and goats. A much smaller quantity of goods is imported and the Government loses the Custom duties on the goods which would be imported if there was an abundant harvest

and consequently abundance of money in the Island.

The revenue of the Island is on an average £200,000 per annum and the expenditure £134,000 leaving a surplus of £66,000. Is it not a monstrous injustice not to allow the Island to dispose of at least part of this surplus for the construction of works which are absolutely necessary for the welfare of the Island? But leaving apart the question of this gross injustice and considering England as a farmer who wants to make the largest possible profit from a farm under his lease we find again that it is to the interest of such farmer to spend the necessary amount for the improvement of the property when such expenditure will largely be repaid by the increase of the revenue of the property. The Irrigation Works on this Island-farm will greatly increase its revenues and it is to the interest of England—the farmer—to spend and reap large profits by such expenditure. It is rather curious how these facts have escaped the attention of the British Administrators of the Island; but the facts are so clear and undisputable that we confidently believe that the Irrigation Works will not be any further delayed and that with the construction of these works the Island will be restored to its former prosperity and wealth and will become the *Makaria Kypros*, the *Opima Cyprus* of old times.

HARBOUR & RAILWAY

These works will be constructed with monies raised from a loan sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament

for the account of the Island. We would have nothing to say against the loan if the interest and sinking fund were paid from the revenues of these works, and in case these were insufficient to pay the said interest and sinking fund, if the balance were taken from the general revenue of the Island. Unfortunately this is not so, and the monies from the *Locust Destruction Fund* which have been applied to so many purposes having nothing to do with locust destruction, will again be unjustly applied for paying any deficiency in the amount required for interest and sinking fund. People who boast in England of the work done in Cyprus, and of the chivalry and generosity of England towards the Cypriots, should know the real facts of the case and the cruel and exasperating policy of British Administration in Cyprus in order to understand how much right and justified are the Cypriots in bitterly complaining against the far from paternal British Administration.

Two laws were passed by the Legislative Council dealing with the question of construction of a Harbour and Railway in Cyprus—Law VII of 1898 and Law XVII, 1900.

It is curious to note the way in which this new addition to the burdens of the Cypriot is justified; Law VII of 1898 begins as follows :

Whereas it is desirable that a Railway should be constructed connecting the town of Nicosia with the towns of Larnaca and Famagusta.

And whereas it is also desirable that the Harbour of

Famagusta should be dredged and generally improved.

And whereas considerable outlay and expense will be incurred in carrying out the above schemes, and it is necessary to provide the means of payment of a portion of the interest payable upon the capital outlay or loan in connection therewith, and a portion of a sinking fund to be established for the gradual repayment of such capital outlay of loan.

Be it therefore enacted &c.

Under Law XXII of 1900 amending Law VII of 1898 the following provision is enacted :

The High Commissioner in Council may from time to time, and as occasion may require, order that a sum of money be appropriated out of the funds collected under the authority of "the Locust Destruction Expenses Ordinance, 1881", and known as "the Locust Destruction Fund" for the following purposes :

(a) for liquidating in part the interest upon the capital outlay and money advanced for the construction and maintenance of a Railway connecting the town of Nicosia with the towns of Larnaca and Famagusta or with either of the said towns; for liquidating any deficit which may arise on the working expenses of the said Railway and for contributing to a sinking fund to be established for the gradual repayment of the capital outlay and money advanced as aforesaid,

(b) for liquidating in part the interest upon the capital outlay and money advanced for the construction of a Harbour at Famagusta and also for contributing to a sinking fund to be established for the gradual repay-

ment of the capital outlay and money advanced as aforesaid.

In an Island having an average revenue of £200,000 per annum and an expenditure of £134,000 that is to say a yearly surplus of £66,000, such provisions are simply monstrous and cannot but raise indignation and discontent throughout the Island. The course followed by the British Administration in coming before the Legislative Council and saying: *You want regular communication with Egypt, coasting service, improvement of breed of animals, irrigation works, a harbour and railway but you can have none of these unless you raise monies from special taxation* is so cruel and unjust, that it will raise great indignation in the heart of every impartial and honest Briton. We want these facts to be known as widely as possible in England with the hope that a stop will be put to this inconsiderate and exasperating policy; friends of Cyprus, friends of justice should lay before the British public the real facts of the case of Cyprus if they want to help this unfortunate Country; it is unfair to the Cypriots and very misleading to come before the British public and say that the Cypriots have every reason to be satisfied with the British Administration, and must congratulate themselves for having such a paternal Government; the British Administration of Cyprus is far from being paternal and unworthy of a great and civilized nation.

The town of Famagusta, where the harbour is to be constructed, in ancient times had a population of

over 100,000 souls. Now, according to the last Census, Famagusta has a population of 871 and the adjoining town of Varoshia of 2,823. With the construction of harbour and railway the population will largely increase and there is every reason to believe that Famagusta will soon become an important town with a brisk and flourishing commerce.

The town of Nicosia, the capital of the Island will also largely profit by the construction of these works. Nicosia under the Lusignans had 250 Churches and Monasteries and a very large population; it is still the most important town of the Island, but the population has been reduced to 14,481 souls. The adjoining villages of Kaimakli, Baliouriotissa and Ayi Omologitades which may be considered as forming part of Nicosia have a population of 1549, 402, and 504. The position of Nicosia, situate in the most central part of the Island, its beautiful and healthy climate and its delicious water will help it to largely increase in importance and it will soon become one of the most beautiful and important towns in the East. The importance of the position of the town of Nicosia will be better understood when we explain that it occupies the centre of an immense valley extending from Morphou in the west, to Famagusta in the east, i.e. running the whole breadth of the Island and fertilised by the slime descending from the two ranges of mountains between which it lies. M. Albert Gaudry, in his valuable book on the geology of the Island, gives in a few words a lively descrip-

tion of this valley :

«On peut se représenter Chypre comme formée essentiellement d'une plaine comprise entre deux grands systèmes de montagnes. Dans son milieu, cette plaine voit s'élever la capitale, Nicosie. Elle s'étend sans interruption depuis le rivage occidental jusqu'au rivage oriental; à l'ouest, elle prend le nom de plaine de Morphou; dans sa partie orientale, on l'appelle plaine de la Mesaorée; sa partie médiane emprunte sa désignation à la ville de Nicosie. Les montagnes qui bordent la grande plaine centrale sont: au nord, la chaîne de Cérines, au sud, l'important massif des monts Olympes (actuellement nommé Troodos)».(1)

Nicosia is a sight worth seeing in the spring; it presents a beautiful sight with the lemon and orange trees of its extensive gardens covered with blossoms, and with the air everywhere perfumed by the fragrant flowers; then Nicosia looks like a beautiful bride in all the glory of its bridal robes, and by far excels every other town in the East.

(1) Cyprus may be described as consisting essentially of a valley lying between two great ranges of mountains; in its centre the valley sees rising the town of Nicosia, the capital; it extends without interruption from the western seaside to the eastern seaside; in the west it is called valley of Morphou; in the east it is called valley of Mesaoria; the valley lying in the middle takes its name after the town of Nicosia. The mountains bordering the great central valley are: in the north, the Kyrenia range; in the south, the imposing massive mountains of Olympus (now called Troodos).

Though antiquarians might consider us barbarians without any respect for antiquities we frankly consider that the fortifications round Nicosia must be pulled down. As fortifications they are of no value whatever; as antiquities they cannot be considered very valuable because they are rather modern, having been built in 1567 by the Venetians who pulled down the old fortifications, which were much more extensive, and built those existing now. They are rather ugly things, large walls greatly preventing the circulation of air, diminishing the beauty of the town and having no reason of existence whatever. We hope that very soon no traces of these ugly walls will remain.

With the construction of the Harbour of Famagusta we hope that the question of Cyprus being made a free port will be seriously considered by the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary. This question was raised long ago and the principal objection was that Cyprus had no harbour; this objection after the construction of the Harbour of Famagusta will no longer exist, and we hope, with Lord Brassey to see *Cyprus a free port, the Hong-Kong and Singapore of Eastern Mediterranean*.

We also hope that the construction of the Harbour and Railway will begin very soon in order to afford work and bread to thousands of persons who, on account of the failure of the crops, are dying of starvation.

ANTIQUITIES

Though Cyprus has been robbed of many precious antiquities, it still keeps in its soil very precious objects, which would cause great commotion and raise great interest in the antiquarian world if brought to light. General di Cesnola who was acting as Consul of the United States of America made extensive excavations and brought to light many precious objects which unfortunately were allowed to leave the Island. They were sold to the Metropolitan Museum of New York for a large amount of money. General di Cesnola was not the only person who exported antiquities from the Island; others have done so after the English Occupation and it is not to the credit of the British Administration of Cyprus that no measures were taken to stop this disgraceful course.

The Law in force in Cyprus regarding antiquities is the Ottoman Law contained in the Imperial Ottoman Regulations of March 1874 (Leg. Ott. Vol. III p. 162). Under that Law one-third of the objects found belongs to the government, one-third to the finder and one-third to the owner of the soil. Many objects which have fallen to the share of the Government are stored in a house in Nicosia and no suitable Museum has been provided to the present day, the Government having always refused to spend a penny for the establishment of a Museum in Cyprus.

We are grateful to the honourable Member for Chorley, Lord Balcarres who on the 26th May, 1902, expressed the hope that the antiquities of the Island

should be kept in it. The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies seems to have been left in the dark with regard to the question of the antiquities of Cyprus; the Right Honourable gentleman is reported to have made the following statement :

Some of my honourable friends are much interested in the antiquities of Cyprus. From time to time we have pressed upon the Council and the inhabitants of Cyprus the importance to themselves of preserving to themselves those interesting memorials of their past. But they have failed to accept any suggestion we have made, and many curiosities of the Island have been in greater danger of being lost to civilization than if they had been transported, however irregularly, to some European Country. But we are fully aware of the desirableness of altering this state of things as far as the inhabitants themselves will support us in doing it. We have authorised a grant for a Museum, and the introduction of a new law which should give to the authorities the power of purchasing all the antiquities which may be discovered in the Island, whereas up to the present they have only had power to obtain one-third. Therefore we have moved in the direction desired by my noble friend.

We do not think the Colonial Secretary was right in blaming the Cypriots for not taking any interest in their antiquities; the Cypriots have always protested against the exportation of antiquities from the Island and the Legislative Council of Cyprus, fully

understanding the importance of keeping in the Island the antiquities and preserving their interesting memorials of their past, passed in 1896 the *Law to regulate and place upon a better footing the Cyprus Museum* in which it was provided that the exportation of antiquities from the Island is strictly prohibited; this Law was unfortunately disallowed by Her Majesty and the antiquities were left unprotected.

How much the Cypriots feel the necessity of preserving the antiquities of Cyprus in the Island and how strongly they protest against the exportation of the antiquities from the Island is shown from the following paragraph in this year's Reply of the Legislative Council to the Opening Speech of His Excellency the High Commissioner :

With respect to Cyprus antiquities of universal fame, the Council desires to remark that the Cypriots will be for ever irreconcilable to the despoliation thereof which has been carried on from the time of the English Occupation to these days, for which the Cypriots consider the Government to be chiefly responsible, because they, under their very eyes, have suffered the glorious temples and tombs of the ancestors of the Cypriots to be despoiled of their most precious objects. The Council is very glad to see that the Government has well perceived the very great interest which is taken by the Cypriots in their antiquities, which, of course, is not unconnected with their noble descent, and the Council anxiously awaits the efficient measures that will be submitted for the purpose which will be favoured by the

Council with all its attention, in the conviction that such measures, when passed by the Council, will, now that the feelings of the Cypriots have been sufficiently understood, receive the necessary sanction as soon as possible.

A Bill about antiquities was introduced this year, unfortunately in the last days of the sitting of the Council, when there was no time for its discussion. We hope that the Bill will be discussed as soon as the sittings of the Council begin and that His Majesty will not disallow it when passed in the Legislative Council. We see no reason why we should not be allowed to pass a law for keeping the antiquities in the Island, and we strongly protest against any allegation that we are indifferent about our antiquities.

Many archæological institutions carry on extensive excavations in Greece for the interests of science and many precious objects are every day brought to light, but these objects are not exported from Greece nor was ever any attempt on the part of those institutions of appropriating any of the antiquities found.

Excavations were recently made in Crete also by Mr Arthur Evans and other archæologists and many priceless antiquities have been brought to light. We are informed by the special correspondent of the *Times* in Crete that the *Candia Museum*, enriched with a unique collection of frescoes, sculptures, vases and other works of art, is now one of the most interesting in Europe. This is due to the refusal of the Cretan Government to allow any antiquity to be exported

from the Island. The request of Mr Evans *for permission to remove a few duplicate vases and other objects to Oxford has not even met with a reply from the Cretan Government.* But the Administration of Cyprus, of which, according to some honourable gentlemen, Britons should be proud has allowed many antiquities to be exported from the Island, and dealings in antiquities are every day made under the nose of the Government, as if they were dealings in barley, wheat or manufactured goods. The Legislative Council will pass the Antiquities Law and we confidently hope that His Majesty the King, respecting the lawful wishes of the Cypriots to keep in the Island the precious memorials of their ancestors, will not disallow it.

In the meantime no excavations should be allowed by the Government to be made by any person or institution unless this is done on the strict condition that any antiquities found will belong to the Cypriots. Any attempt by the Government to grant authority to any person or institution with the right of taking two-thirds or one-third or any part of the antiquities found, and export them from the Island, will raise general indignation and be strongly objected to, both by the Council and the inhabitants of the Island.

In the Bill which was introduced in the Council this year the munificent sum of £250 (!) per annum is with prodigal generosity to be provided by the Government! but even this parsimonious generosity of the Government is only phenomenal because the

amount will be paid by the Cypriots by additional taxation, as is shown by Clause 43 of the said Bill which is as follows :

There shall be paid to the said fund from the Wine and Spirit Duties imposed by the Law No. XVIII of the year 1901, a sum of £250 yearly for the purposes of this Law and the said sum of £250 shall be paid from the said Duties in addition to the annual sums authorised to be raised by the said Law !

This is the way the Cypriots are treated and they must congratulate themselves that they are under a generous and paternal Government! but leaving this question apart how with this sum of £250 we are going to build a Museum, buy the private collections in the Island, make excavations in order to bring to light so many precious objects, buy the share of the owners in the objects found, or secure for the Museum any other antiquities in the hands of private individuals is a mystery which we fail to understand; but we confidently hope that the unadequacy of the sum will be fully recognized by the honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and that an adequate sum from the general revenues will be allowed in order to render possible the carrying out of the provisions of the new law.

In the meantime we should like some more care about the objects accidentally found; and we believe that some more suitable place than the grain store of Nicosia might be found for keeping the beautiful marble statue of the Cyprian Goddess found lately at

Galini. The statue belongs to the Hellenistic period and represents the beautiful Goddess *anodyomenin* (rising from the foam). It is well preserved and it is a beautiful work of art well worth of some more care.

FEELINGS OF THE CYPRIOTS FOR THE ENGLISH NATION

The Cypriots, in the same way as their brothers in Greece, feel the greatest sympathy towards the noble English nation which they rightly consider as the greatest friend and protector of Greece. On the approach of the festivities for the coronation of Their Majesties the Cypriot press was unanimous in expressing great sympathy for the English nation and in recommending that the festivities should be celebrated as brilliantly as possible. The following article entitled *The Coronation Festivities* published by us in Greek in the columns of the *Phoni tis Kyprou*, one of the leading papers of the Island, will give some idea of the feelings of the Cypriots and of the expressions of the press :

«Within a few days His Majesty the beloved King of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India Edward the VII. and Her Majesty the beloved Queen Alexandra will put on their head the glorious and brilliant English Crown ; and it is the duty of all people who live under Their august sceptre to celebrate the auspicious event of the coronation of Their Majesties and to offer warm prayers to the Almighty for the happiness of all the Royal House.

The glorious King of England can justly be proud because he reigns over a State greater of which the earth has never seen. Neither Alexander the Great has ever been able to form so vast a State, nor Rome which had conquered the world, nor Napoleon the Great who conquered almost the whole of Europe. Now the sun never sets on the British Empire and it is difficult to enumerate the countries beyond the seas of the glorious King. A State greatly civilizing, it has always tried to secure the moral and material welfare of the inhabitants of every country, over which has floated its glorious flag. It is true that our Island has not obtained the benefits which it was entitled to expect from the noble and generous English nation, but our affairs are not known in England and we can confidently hope that, if we work where we must and in the way we must, this great nation will give justice to our Island.

Humanity cannot forget that the great and noble English nation has taken the initiative for the abolition of slavery. The name of William Wilberforce, of this undefatigable worker for one of the noblest purposes for which man has ever worked will remain always immortal. It was horrible and inhumane the commerce of human flesh and martyrical the sufferings of the poor slaves; and it is worth of gratitude the noble nation which first voted laws for the abolition of slavery and liberation of the slaves. The year 1807 will be always written with golden letters by history, because in that historical year was voted the law for the abolition of slavery and was abolished an institution which for many years was a shame to humanity. In that historical year Lord Grey submitted a Bill for the abolition of slavery; the bill was passed by both Houses and received the royal assent. The example of England was followed by other Countries, the American Republics, Denmark, Holland, France and other Countries; but the measure

was not yet complete and through the commerce of human flesh was abolished the existing slaves were not liberated, because there were existing the rights of their masters. In the equally historical year 1833, on the proposition of the Colonial Secretary M^r Stanley, the law for the liberation of the slaves was passed; and in order to make possible the application of the law and to give freedom to all the slaves throughout the British Empire the House of Commons voted £20,000,000.

We, as Greeks, cannot forget the great benefactions of the English nation. We cannot forget the immortal names of the Great bard of Great Albion Lord Byron, of George Canning, Sir Edward Codrington and other noble sons of Great Britain.

We cannot forget the name of the Grand Old Man who has been the most brilliant star of this prosaic century and whose great heart was sympathizing the oppressed people and his great and superior mind was always working for liberty and justice.

We shall never forget the benefactions of the English nation in the reign of Queen Victoria who has been a great Woman and a great Queen, a model of virtue, kindness, mercy and wisdom. For 64 whole years has the Queen of blessed memory reigned and in Her glorious reign England has made miracles of progress and of moral and material development.

In the reign of the Queen of blessed memory, there was a Greek people living under Her august sceptre but never forgetting its national aspirations, the same aspirations which has never ceased and will never cease to cherish the Greek people of Cyprus. That people was getting prosperous and rich but was not satisfied. The immortal Gladstone was sent to examine the complaints of the people and his report stated that the people wanted one thing only, the cession of its country to Greece. And shortly after-

wards, on the occasion of the accession to the throne of the beloved King George the Ionian Islands were ceded to Greece.

In the reign of the Queen of blessed memory and with the protection of England the fertile Thessaly and part of Epirus were ceded to Greece. And lately with the protection of England the martyrical Crete was proclaimed a principality with Ruler our beloved Prince George.

These benefactions we never forget and we must never forget.

For us, as Greeks, there is one more reason why we should brilliantly celebrate the auspicious event of the coronation. The beloved Queen Alexandra is the sister of the beloved King George who, if he does not reign over Cyprus, reigns over the hearts of the four fifths of its inhabitants and reigns over that Country which has been the cradle of learning and civilization, who reigns over the beautiful Greece towards which Cyprus looks always with ardent wishes confidently awaiting the day when a free daughter will throw itself in the arms of a loving and beloved mother.

When the time comes the great and noble English nation will not disregard the national aspirations of the Cypriots and continuing the great benefactions towards Greece will do for Cyprus what it has done for the Ionian Islands.

Let us therefore brilliantly celebrate the happy event of the coronation of their beloved Majesties.

GOD SAVE THE KING AND THE QUEEN».

Though great poverty exists in the Island the Cypriots have celebrated the coronation festivities as brilliantly as they could and Te Deums were celebrated all over the Island and every Cypriot has

prayed with all his heart for a long and happy life for the beloved King and Queen.

The following telegram was sent to Their Majesties by the nine Greek Members of the Legislative Council of Cyprus :

Their Majesties

KING EDWARD AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA

L o n d o n

The Greek inhabitants of Cyprus having offered to the Almighty in Te Deums deep prayers on the auspicious coronation of Your Majesties for the strengthening of Your reign for the benefit of humanity, with deep respect submit hearty congratulations and express permanent wishes for the union of Cyprus with mother Greece feeling confident that Your Majesties will follow the precedent of Your immortal Mother in the Ionian Islands and continue the liberal traditions of the English nation.

May our wishes be fulfilled and may we live to see the happy day !

ENGLAND & GREECE

Greece has been the cradle of civilization and learning and from Greece civilization has spread all over the world. The works of our fathers form to the present time and will always form the delight of every educated man, to whatever nation he belongs, and will, as long as the world exists, continue to be admired and read with interest by every elevated mind. The Grecian influence has been beneficial to

the whole world and in the words of Lord Macaulay from the Athenian genius have sprung, directly or indirectly, all the noblest creations of the human intellect; from hence were the vast accomplishments and the brilliant fancy of Cicero; the withering fire of Juvenal; the plastic imagination of Dante; the humour of Cervantes; the comprehension of Bacon; the wit of Butler; the supreme and universal excellence of Shakespeare; all the triumphs of truth and genius over prejudice and power, in every country and in every age, have been triumphs of Athens. Whenever a few great minds have made a stand against violence and fraud, in the cause of liberty and reason, there has been her spirit in the midst of them.

Wherever the Greeks colonists settled they brought with them civilization and learning and the mission of Greece—a mission nobly and effectually carried out—has been to civilize the world.

The mission of Greece is, as our eminent Patriarch Photios said, continued by England whose flag is gloriously waiving all over the world. Unknown and savage Countries are every day civilized under the beneficial English influence and the work of the English nation is duly appreciated and admired by all civilized nations. In this mission of civilization Greece is destined to be the principal co-worker of England and its most faithful and devoted ally and it is to the interest of England and civilization in general that Greece should be protected and assisted in order to reach the required power and strength and become

a very useful and important ally. There is no reason why Greece should not become an important maritime power and the friendship and protection of England will be sufficient for Greece to enable it to develop itself into a great and important Power.

The Greeks have always shown that they are not an ungrateful people and they have always expressed their heartfelt sorrow at the reverses of England and sincerely rejoiced at the successes of the English arms. These two nations are destined to work hand in hand in the noble mission of civilization and stand by each other in all future events and we sincerely hope that this will be thoroughly understood throughout England and that all English statesmen, to whatever party they may belong, will never fail to protect and assist their best friends and allies.

The occasion of the coronation of our beloved King Edward has given an opportunity for the expression of the sincere feelings of the Greeks. The following telegram was sent from the President of the Greek Vouli or Parliament to the President of the House of Commons :

The Hellenic Parliament, whose feelings I am interpreting, rejoices with all the Hellenes for the celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward and of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and prays that it may prove glorious and long the reign of the crowned beloved King, who is continuing the most noble traditions of the glorious Royal House of the great English nation to which the Greek people are connected with

ties of gratitude handed down from their fathers.

Our brothers of Crete have not forgotten what they owe to England and the following telegram from the Cretan Government to His Majesty sufficiently gives expression to their feelings and gratitude :

The Cretan Government, faithfully interpreting the feelings of the Cretan people and participating of the joy of the noble English nation on the auspicious event of this day which is connected with the glorious reign of Your Majesty, feels itself bound on this solemn day to submit to Your Majesty's Throne the innermost gratitude for what has been done for Crete and offer ardent prayers to the Almighty to preserve Your Majesty for a very long time and to give You strength and power for the glory and welfare of the generous English nation and for the confident hope of those people who rely on Your strong protection for their liberty and their national restoration.

In a Te Deum which was celebrated at Alexandria His Beatitude the Greek Patriarch Photios, who is justly considered as one of the most eminent Greek Prelates and is one of the glories of our Clergy, spoke at length of the virtues of the noble English nation—in the words of the eminent Prelate «of this great and liberal nation which does not seek the glory of conquests but of civilization and of the welfare of the people and fulfils to-day in the world the mission which Hellenism has fulfilled in other times having conquered but at the same time having civilized the world. The English nation which has

received from Greece the first seeds of civilization has returned the gift through many benefactions towards the Greek nation which it continues now also and which it will not cease to bestow in the future».

The Greek Patriarch after having explained that justly the Greek nation rejoices with the English nation for the coronation of His Majesty King Edward, with whom the Royal House of Greece is so closely connected with all ties of kinship expressed the confident hope that *English friendship and protection will render more auspicious the future of Hellenism and supported by this friendship and protection Greece will soon complete its national restoration.* The Patriarch has also sent to His Majesty the King the following telegram :

God who has restored to health Your Majesty may also grant You a reign long in health, great in peace, glorious in progress, usefull to the Great British nation and to the whole world. Thus I have to-day prayed to Divine Providence on the event of Your auspicious coronation with all the Orthodox Christians in Egypt in a solemn Te Deum celebrated for this purpose and in this prayer I beg Your Majesty to accept the congratulatory compliments and blessings of the Most Holy Apostolic Church of Alexandria.

(Sd) Patriarch PHOTIOS.

May the Almighty God grant health and long life to His Gracious Majesty the King and may we always see the English and Greek nations powerful and glorious working hand in hand for the good of humanity and civilization !

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS

We confidently believe that the Island will reach again its former wealth and prosperity ; a Country with such lovely and healthy climate, with a soil so fertile that notwithstanding the primitive modes of cultivation it gives a rich crop, and situated so close to Egypt, Syria and Asia Minor where its produce and its manufactured goods can find a ready market at a very low cost of transport cannot but prosper under a civilized Government if only that Government will do its duty.

According to the authority of ancient writers the population of Cyprus was estimated at 3,000,000 ; it is rather difficult to check the accuracy of this statement but it is quite possible that these figures are not exaggerated ; we are told by Niphilinus that in the reign of Trajan, in 117 A.D. the Jews massacred 240,000 Cypriots :

Πολλὰ ἔδρασαν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ὅμοια καὶ ἐν Κύπρῳ, ἡγουμένου σφίσιν Ἀρτεμίωνος, καὶ ἀπώλοντο μυριάδες τέσσαρες καὶ εἴκοσι καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐδενὶ Ἰουδαίῳ ἐπιβῆναι αὐτῆς ἔξεστιν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀνέμῳ τις βιασθεὶς εἰς τὴν νῆσον ἐμπέσῃ θανατοῦται. (1)

(1) The Jews have committed in Cyprus also many similar deeds, under the leadership of Artemion and twenty-four myriads were destroyed, and therefore no Jew is allowed to land on it and if any one forced by the winds is thrown in the Island he is killed.

We are also told that in consequence of this cruel massacre it was enacted that no Jew should be allowed to live in Cyprus ; in fact many of the Jews were killed and others were obliged to leave ; but though so many thousands of Christian and Jews were massacred and many thousands of Jews were obliged to leave, the Island continued to be very thickly populated and all these facts show that Cyprus must have had a very large population.

As to the wealth of the Island and the fertility of the soil we shall quote from two valuable books on Cyprus by an eminent French scientist M. Albert Gaudry. In his *Géologie de l' Ile de Chypre* in page 229 we read :

Chypre fut célèbre chez les anciens Grecs par ses richesses. A l' époque de la puissance romaine, son opulence amena sa perte : *Chypre, fameuse par ses trésors, écrit Festus, (1) tenta la pauvreté du peuple romain . . . Telle fut la pénurie de Rome et telle la réputation des richesses de Chypre, qu'une loi ordonna la confiscation de cette île . . . Caton emporta les biens des Chypriotes*". Chypre recouvra au moyen âge sa prospérité. Lorsque le roi Richard battit Isaac Com-

(1) Sextus Rufus Festus, *Breviarum rerum gestarum populi Romani*: "Cyprus, famosa divitiis, paupertatem populi Romani ut occuparetur sollicitavit. . . Tanta fuit penuria ærarii Romani et tam ingens fama Cypriorum ut lege data Cyprus confiscari juberetur. . . Cato Cyprias opes navibus evexit".

nène, souverain de cette île, il acquit une quantité de bijoux, de vases ciselés. d'armures de prix. "L'imagination des contemporains, dit M. de Mas Latrie, ne voyait rien de comparable à ces monceaux d'or et de pierreries que les trésors du roi Crésus". Cette richesse, qui se perpétua si longtemps à travers de continuelles vicissitudes dans les gouvernements, malgré des guerres, des pestes, des tremblements de terre, dut sans doute dépendre du sol, car les trésors que le sol produit peuvent seuls braver le pouvoir destructeur de l'homme et du temps.» (1)

With regard to the abundance of every thing, in ancient times in the Island, and to the fertility of the

(1) "Cyprus has been famous with the ancient Greeks for its wealth; at the time of the rise of the Roman Empire its wealth caused its ruin: *Cyprus, famous for its treasures*, writes Festus, *tempted the poverty of the Roman people . . . Such was the poverty of Rome and such the reputation of the wealth of Cyprus that a law was enacted deciding the confiscation of the Island. Cato took away the riches of the Cypriots.*" Cyprus recovered in the middle ages its posterity. When King Richard vanquished Isaac Comnenus, king of the said Island he acquired many jewels, chased vessels, and rich armours. *The imagination of the contemporaries* says M. de Mas Latrie, *could not see any thing which could be compared to these heaps of gold and precious stones than the treasures of Cræsus.*" This wealth which has been perpetuated so long through continuous vicissitudes in the governments, and notwithstanding the wars, the plagues, the earthquakes, must without doubt have been due to the soil, because the treasures that the soil produces are the only ones which can resist the destructive power of man and time."

soil, we read in M. Albert Gaudry's valuable book *Recherches Scientifiques en Orient* in p.p. 80 and 81 :

«Cyprus, which has been one of the most flourishing countries is now one of the most abandoned. The time is gone by, long ago, when one could say with Ammianus Marcellinus *Tanta autem tamque multiplici fertilitate abundat rerum omnium ut nullius externi indigens adminiculi a fundamento ipso carinæ ad supremus usque carbasos ædificet onerarians navem, omnibusque armamentis instructam mari committat.*» (1)

Cyprus was not inferior in fertility to any of the Islands of the Mediterranean :

Κατ' ἀρετὴν δ' οὐδεμιᾶς τῶν νήσων λείπεται· καὶ γὰρ εὖοινός ἐστι καὶ εὐέλαιος, σίτω τε αὐτάρκει χρῆται. (2)

According to Ælianus its fertility is equal to that of Egypt itself :

Καὶ λέγουσὶ γε Κύπριοι εὖγεων οἰκεῖν χῶρον, καὶ ταῖς Αἰγυπτίων ἀρούραις τολμῶσιν ἀντικρίνειν τὰς σφετέρας. (3)

Neighbouring the cradle of the human race, close

(1) It has an abundance so extreme of everything, that, without needing any external help, it can construct a ship of transport, furnish all her pieces from the base of her keel to the top of her sails, and launch her into the sea provided with all her equipment.

(2) In goodness it is inferior to none of the Islands ; in fact it is fertile in wine and oil and it produces sufficient wheat for home consumption.

(3) The Cypriots say that they inhabit a privileged country and they say that their fields are equal to those of Egypt.

to Sidon and Tyre this Island must have been cultivated from the early times and its wealth caused it to be dedicated to Astarte, and later on, when the Greek element supplanted the Phœnician, to Venus :

Insulam (Cyprum) veteribus divitiis abundantem et ab hoc Veneri sacram. (1)

M. Gaudry, in speaking of the fertility of the soil, tells us in p.p. 78 and 96 that the cultivation of every kind of produce has prospered and explains the reason of the great and inexhausted fertility of the soil of Cyprus :

«J' ajouterai que Chypre, située au centre des pays du Levant, entre l' Asie Mineure, la Syrie et l' Egypte, doit participer à leurs diverses natures, et en effet, toute culture importante du Levant, si ce n' est peut être celle du riz et du café, y réussit actuellement ou du moins y prospéra dans les temps passés.

Non seulement cette île, par suite de sa composition minéralogique, de son orographie et de sa position géographique, renferme un sol très varié mais encore la terre y est d' une extrême fécondité. La terre végétale de l' île atteint en plusieurs parties 7 mètres d' épaisseur ; chaque année, les torrents des montagnes descendent dans les plaines et y déposent comme le Nil un limon fécondant.

Les anciens Chypriotes auraient pu adorer les tor-

(1) Florus lib. III cap. IX. The Island (Cyprus) for the abundance of its wealth was consecrated to Venus.

rents de leur île comme les Egyptiens avaient adoré le Nil, la divinité bienfaisante de leurs champs ; ces torrents, ainsi que le Nil en Egypte, suppléent aux pluies trop rares et à l'arrosement constant des rivières.» (1)

The fertility of the soil of the Island has not failed to impress the several Administrators of Cyprus, as seen from the following extracts: Sir Henry Bulwer writing in 1892 says : *The soil of Cyprus, which for three thousand years has been a cereal-producing Country, is as fertile and inexhausted as ever.* Sir W. Haynes Smith writing this year says : *It is a marvel how, with the mere scratching of the surface by the ancient plough, the land has for thousands of years continued*

(1) I shall add that Cyprus, situated in the centre of the Levant, between Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt must participate in their different natures, and in fact, every important cultivation of the Levant, with the exception perhaps of rice and coffee, is succeeding now or at least it has prospered in the past.

Not only this Island, on account of its mineralogical composition, its orography, and its geographical situation, contains a very varied soil, but also the soil is of extreme fertility. The mould (vegetable earth) of the Island attains in many places 7 metres of thickness; every year, the torrents from the mountains descend in the plains and depose, as does the Nile, a fertilizing slime.

The ancient Cypriots might have adored the torrents of their Island, as the Egyptians had adored the Nile, the bountiful divinity of their fields; these torrents, in the same way as the Nile in Egypt, supply the place of the rare rains and of the constant watering of the rivers.

to give its increase, and the yield must improve when the land is more deeply tilled and the soil turned over. This marvel is explained by M. Gaudry, but there is another marvel which none can explain—how a civilized country like England has had under its administration for four and twenty years a country with so many natural resources, and has not done any thing to develop them and restore the Island to its former prosperity. We cannot believe that, after the attention of the British Government and of the British nation is drawn on the injustice done to Cyprus, the Island will continue to be administered with the same narrow-minded, egotistical and cruel policy. And we feel confident that the future policy of England will show that it is justly considered as the nation whose principles are justice and liberty. We are therefore justified in prophesying that ere long the Island will be prosperous and wealthy, the paradise of the East, with a population fastly approaching in numbers the million.

The return of the Island to Turkey cannot be entertained for a single moment; and, as long as England considers it convenient to keep the Island the Cypriots will prefer to be under England than under any other foreign power; but England must do for the Cypriots what it undertook and promised to do at the time of the Occupation, what any civilized nation would do for a people it took under its protection. A good suggestion as to what should be done for Cyprus was made some years ago by Lord Brassey who wrote:

England must pay the Tribute, abolish all the oppressive taxes and render Cyprus a free port, the Hong-Kong and Singapore of Eastern Mediterranean. It is quite possible that Cyprus with such an administration can indirectly pay to this Country more than it will spend for it. But, anyhow, it is not necessary for one to submit his own solution in order to find that the present condition is unworthy of a great State and very humiliating.

Certainly the present condition is unworthy of a great nation and we sincerely hope that the Right Honourable the Colonial Secretary M^r Chamberlain who has with so much sincerity confessed that England has not done in Cyprus what it would and should have done, will do all that is necessary for restoring the Island to its former prosperity and wealth. We are grateful to the Colonial Secretary for his expressions of sympathy, and for his good intentions for the welfare of the Island, and we hope that he will, as a practical man, do all that has been omitted up to the present, for the honour and glory of England and for the glory of his own name which will be blessed by all Cypriots.

We are also grateful and we offer our best thanks to all the honourable Members of the House of Commons who had the kindness to raise their voice in defence of the interests of our Country, and we hope that they will continue the noble work of defending a poor and much wronged people. We beg also to express our gratitude to our friend M^r Charles

Hancock, barrister-at-law, who has always taken a warm interest in the affairs of Cyprus and has so often raised his voice in the British Press in defence of our dear Country.

CONCLUSION

We do not consider that we have exhausted all that could be said about the Island, and there is certainly much more to be said about Cyprus and its affairs; but this pamphlet has been already much longer than it was intended and we cannot make it longer; we must therefore stop here claiming the indulgence of our readers for the imperfections of our work, which we have written in a language which is not our own; and we hope that our humble efforts to make the affairs of the Island better known and raise the interest of the English nation about our dear Country will emulate others to prepare some more complete work on the just demands of the Cypriots and the crying wants of the Country. The ardent patriotism of the Cypriots cannot but overcome all difficulties, and, whatever amount of labour may be required, it will be amply rewarded by the glorious results it will produce. We must not be disheartened if our efforts do not meet with immediate success, but go on working until we attain the desired result bearing always in mind the dictum *God helps those that will help themselves*.

We cannot conclude our remarks without expressing the confident hope that this inconsiderate and

exasperating policy towards the Island will be abandoned, and that we shall be more fairly dealt with. We claim justice from the English nation and we feel confident that if England intends to keep the Island it will show itself more humane to the people of this Country. But if the Island is of no use to England let it hand it over to the nation with which the Cypriots are so closely connected by the ties of origin, traditions, religion, language and national aspirations and hopes. It is to the interest of England to make Greece a great and powerful Power, a strong and devoted ally, and we feel confident that this point will not be overlooked by British statesmen.

We sincerely hope that in the reign of our beloved King Edward the Island will be handed over to Greece, as it has been done with the Ionian Islands, in the reign of His august Mother of blessed memory, and that as long as the Island remains under His rule, it will be ruled in accordance with the wishes of His noble heart.

May it be so!



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