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Admiralty, July 29, 1878.

A DESPATCH has been received by the Secretary of the Admiralty from Vice-Admiral Lord John Hay, C.B., Commanding Channel Squadron:—

TRANSFER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS TO THE BRITISH CROWN.

*Nicosia, Cyprus,
July 14, 1878.*

SIR,

BE pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's ship "Salamis" arrived at Larnaka with Samih Pasha, the Commissioner appointed by His Majesty the Sultan to conduct the transfer of the government of the Island of Cyprus to the British Crown, together with Mr. Baring, who was the bearer of the firman from the Sultan, giving authority to the then existing Government and the people of the island for this measure to be carried into execution.

My instructions directed me, after communication with the Turkish Governor, to proceed myself with the firman to the Pasha. I, however, found ample reasons to adopt a different course, which I trust will be approved.

2. I directed Mr. Baring to proceed on the 11th to Nicosia, the capital, 28 miles inland, accompanied by Samih Pasha, and requested him to negotiate regarding the preliminary proceedings, giving him discretionary power as to presenting the firman himself, or confiding it to Samih Pasha.

I also directed my Flag Captain, Captain Harry H. Rawson, to accompany them with the view of affording me the necessary information regarding provision for the possible necessity of occupying the capital with a force landed from the fleet.

Captain Rawson returned at midnight on the 11th bringing Mr. Baring's report, of which copy is appended.

I trust their lordships will perceive the intelligence and sagacity displayed by Mr. Baring, whose measures were, up to this moment, crowned with complete success.

3. Meanwhile I had stationed "Black Prince" off the Island, between Larnaka and Kyrenia, "Bittern" at Kyrenia, "Raleigh" from Kyrenia to Paphos, and "Pallas" from Larnaka to Paphos, with suitable instructions to protect the coast.

4. Captain Rawson at once proceeded to Nicosia with a detachment of Marines, Royal Marine Light Infantry and Royal Marine Artillery,

under the command of Captain Kelly, Royal Marine Artillery, as per list appended, to carry thence the flag and to act as a guard of honour over it.

5. At daylight, 12th, I went to Nicosia, arriving at 10 A.M., being received by a mounted escort outside the town. The day being Friday the further official proceedings were deferred until after the hour of Mussulman worship. At 2.30 P.M. I proceeded to the Governor's official residence (konak), and found present Samih Pasha, Pessim Pasha (Governor, pro tem.) and all the notables, Mussulman and Christian, and the heads of departments of administration. I explained the position of affairs to the assembly, in observation of which the appended notes are a brief but accurate statement.

I had the advantage of Mr. Baring's interpretation into Turkish, this being the only language generally understood by those present.

Some discussion took place upon various details of administration, but principally of a character which, although of great importance, may be discreetly left to be dealt with by my successor.

My observations were well received by the assembly, much gave great satisfaction, and the rest respectfully accepted.

At the conclusion, Pessim Pasha formally handed over to me the government of the Island, as representing Her Britannic Majesty Queen Victoria.

6. I have omitted to state that the Marine Detachment passed me in the street on my way to the konak, and I observed that they were accompanied by an immense multitude amidst enthusiastic cheering.

7. From the meeting of the notables, I proceeded to the gate of the town, where stands the flagstaff, and is situated the barracks of the Marines.

A large concourse of people had assembled, the detachment was drawn up opposite the flagstaff, Captain Rawson hoisted the Union Jack, and the flag was saluted.

I then formally announced to the people that I had taken over the administration of the government of Cyprus in the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. I may observe that the only word that seemed to be understood was "Victoria," which was echoed by the multitude amidst tremendous cheering.

Mr. Baring afterwards formally repeated in Turkish, but the presence of the flag seemed to be thoroughly understood by all.