

which had peculiar interest was
Daily Post THE GREEK DINNER 24/12/98
 celebrating the emancipation of Crete. The talk was that it was a surprise to everybody; that people of course were prepared to find Dr. John Watson, eloquent and interesting, but that they were quite surprised to find that upon that rather uncommon occasion Alderman Bowring came out as a speaker of much greater power and effect than he has ever shown himself; that the truth was that the cause inspired everybody; that there was another truth shown, and one which Englishmen would do well to learn, and that was that the Greek gentlemen, all quiet men, never supposed to agitate themselves in public matters, and certainly never having had any practice in public orations, delivered speeches quite remarkable for intellectual power and for oratorical finish; that, of course, from want of practice they failed in elocution; that what they said had to be followed with careful ears, but that those who heard it felt how

FAR ABOVE ALL ORDINARY LOCAL SPEAKING in England were the speeches which these gentlemen made; that Mr. Pallis, who took the chair, was remarkable for his courtly ways and his thoughtful manner and his elegant diction; and that Mr. Michaelides delivered a really magnificent speech, bringing in all the principles and the history of the modern Greek struggle, and especially associating it with much that we in this country are proud of; that all through the enthusiasm about

MR. GLADSTONE

was delightful to the English guests, and evidently came from very full Greek hearts; that this was not all; that the name of

GEORGE CANNING

was equally honoured, so that it was not a question of English parties; that there is something very significant to Englishmen in such a discrimination among our politicians; that some, indeed, said that

LORD SALISBURY

might have received more compliments; but that Lord Salisbury's position in the matter was so dubious that this was not to be wondered at; and it is undoubtedly true that he has an unfortunate knack of doing what he does with such an appearance of want of sympathy that he does not get credit even for what he does; that, moreover, the freeing of Crete really seemed to be at the last the result of the accident of British soldiers being killed; but that the principal and instructive thing is that the greatest of our statesmen were properly singled out by this audience; that there are sheep and goats among our statesmen; that Canning and Gladstone—men of different parties—are not among the goats; that it would have been absurd at such a meeting to have eulogised Lord Beaconsfield or Lord Liverpool; and that intelligent English politicians appreciate this fact, and know what it means, and ought to let it have its effect in their choice of men whom they follow, and in their dictation as far as possible of the policy which they would like to see carried out; that one of the most interesting things at the dinner was the unusually

LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG MEN;

that there was quite a contingent of these ranging from eighteen to twenty-four in age, whose interest in the whole matter under discussion was most keen and delightful to witness; that they not only know all about the history of the Greek struggle, but they thoroughly appreciated all the English references, and the characters of our English statesmen as brought under review; that it was quite pleasant to see their intelligent zeal, and how they picked up and almost anticipated all the points of the speakers; and that it was noticeable, too, that when the "Marseillaise" was suddenly sung in honour of the French, all those young men joined heartily in, and knew the French words, and were thus able to sing it.

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NEWS NOTES AND QUERIES.

The Greek banquet on Wednesday night closed too late to allow comment yesterday. But a word should be said of the most charming hospitality extended by the Greek community to their British friends, and of the interesting speeches in which the liberation of Crete was celebrated. Doubt is sometimes expressed as to whether the modern Greek is a genuine descendant of the early sons of Hellas. Mr. Pallis, the chairman of the banquet, is a living answer to such doubts, for his head might have been modelled by Nature after the heads of the black-bearded kings on many an early Greek vase. Mr. Pallis contributed the most moving eloquence of the evening in his beautifully subdued references to Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Michaelides's speech was a peculiarly fine literary effort, worthy of one of that able band of writers and story-tellers who are making a new literature for modern Greece. Mr. Ralli's little speech in proposing the Press was a capital performance; indeed, it was the most satisfactory speech on the subject which one of his hearers, at any rate, had heard for many a long day. Mr. James Samuelson and Dr. Watson of the English speakers divided the oratorical honours. Mr. Samuelson had likened Crete to the Scotch Highlands before roads were made, and Dr. Watson patriotically defended his countrymen in their aversion from macadam and suchlike civilising agents, thus differing from the grateful poet who wrote:—

If you'd seen these roads before they were made,
 You'd have thrown up your hands and blessed
 General Wade.

General Wade, of course, was the maker of the main roads which contributed so largely to the final pacification of the Highlands.