

LIBERATION OF
CRETE.
LIVERPOOL CELEBRATION.
BANQUET AT THE ADELPHI.
ENTHUSIASTIC SPEECHES.

The members of the Greek community resident in Liverpool were joined by compatriots from a distance last night at a successful banquet, held at the Adelphi Hotel, to celebrate the liberation of Crete and the landing and proclamation of Prince George of Greece as Governor in the island. The attendance was considerable, filling the ballroom, where the banquet was held. The Cretan flag, entwined with the flags of Greece and England, were arranged as a trophy around a portrait of Prince George, which occupied the place of honour, and the Greek national anthem was received with enthusiasm. The menu card also bore a portrait of Prince George. Kyrie Al. Pallas presided, and among those present were: Signor Cavalier Bagnotti (Italian Consul-General), Kyrie N. Roher (French Consul), Kyrie B. A. Malandrin, vice-chairman (Greek Consul), Sir Edward Russell, the Rev. Dr. Watson, the Rev. E. N. Hoare, Mr. James Samuelson, the Rev. Arch. Zervos (chaplain of the Greek community in Liverpool), Kyrie G. C. Peki, Alderman W. B. Bowring, J.P., Professor Lodge, Mr. Edward Athin (commander of the Greek Cross, London), the Rev. C. F. Aked, Mr. George Wynne, Kyrie L. Calvocoressi, Mr. E. K. Mouspatis, J.P., Kyrie C. G. Ralli, Kyrie Sp. Akratopoulos, Mr. James Boyle (American Consul), Kyrie C. Demetriades, Signor Santor Jurado (Venezuelan Consul), Mr. A. G. Jeans, Kyrie G. Marchetti, Alderman B. S. Johnson, J.P. (Booth), Kyrie C. Michallides, Colonel Biggs, Kyrie P. C. Ralli, Kyrie C. Michallides, Mr. W. H. Pickett, Kyrie N. Papayanni, Major Haywood, Kyrie J. Parnandis, Mr. Richard Bennett, Kyrie Ch. Vlasco, Mr. E. Sanaay, Kyrie A. Benachi, Kyrie P. Papapoti, Dr. Robertson, Kyrie A. Sargiada, Mr. G. Hackling, Kyrie G. Mouspatis, Mr. H. Farris, Kyrie E. A. Ralli, Kyrie P. Nigroponte, Mr. J. F. Ellison, Kyrie C. S. Akratopoulos, Kyrie A. Scrinis, Kyrie A. D. Charenti, Mr. T. H. Jackson, Kyrie O. Anandou, Kyrie S. Demetriadi, jun., Kyrie A. Petropoulos, Kyrie L. Vounouras, Kyrie N. Chavlaras, Kyrie D. Camara, Kyrie O. Nompous, Kyrie A. Chalcoudyia, Kyrie A. S. Akratopoulos, jun., Kyrie J. D. Charenti, Kyrie J. Isagouia, Kyrie P. Panchas, Kyrie A. G. Ralli, Kyrie C. Michallides, jun., Kyrie A. A. Pallas, and the Rev. Dr. Hatherley (archbishop of the Patriarch of Constantinople).

The Chairman proposed the toast of "The Queen and Members of the Royal Family," remarking that it would be received with the greatest respect by all who were present. The admirable qualities of the Queen of England, and her spotless life and home, endeared her to her people, and made her the object of universal affection. (Applause.)

The toast having been loyally honoured, the Chairman gave that of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, and the members of the Royal Family, which was received with an outburst of enthusiasm. He remarked that it was well known that the expedition of Colonel Vassos and his troops in Crete was despatched by the King of the Hellenes. That was the humble beginning of the very enjoyable performance of turning the Turks out of Crete. But for the king's action the Cretan insurrection, like so many of its predecessors, would have been drowned in blood. It was a thousand pities that the great Powers had not seen their way to allow that union of Crete with Greece, which was in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants of the island, and with everything that was just and fair. (Applause.) There was now every prospect that the people of Crete would enjoy some degree of happiness. They rejoined that a son of the King of Greece had been sent to that island, and that his first words had been words of good sense and of goodwill, showing that he was there determined to set rightly and justly both to Christian and Moslem alike. (Applause.)

The next toast was that of "The memory of Mr. W. E. Gladstone," which was also given from the chair, the president observing that Mr. Gladstone was the greatest friend of Greece. (Applause.) Greece was in his last thoughts, and one of the last things he wrote was written on behalf of Greece. Had Mr. Gladstone retained his health and vigour a little longer he might have effected the liberation of Crete without the misery of two long and weary years. He might have broken down all obstacles that stood in the way of speedy justice being done. The only recollection to mar the prospect of a better future for Crete was the recollection that Mr. Gladstone was not alive to witness it. (Applause.) The toast was then drunk in silence.

The next toast, "Prosperity to Liberated Crete and the Health of Prince George, its First Ruler," was proposed by Mr. James Samuelson, chairman of the Liverpool Greek committee, who, on rising, said he thought that to many of them there might seem to be a hiatus in the toast, no reference being made to the relations of the island with the mother country. His old friend the late M. Tricoupis had more than once told him that it had been one of the chief aims of his statesmanship to bring about the union of Crete with Greece, and he (the speaker) regretted that the eminent statesman was not alive to witness the first step towards the consummation of his hopes. That, too, had been the aspiration of almost every Greek of Crete and of Greece since the latter country was liberated from the Turkish yoke at the beginning of the century. It would be unprofitable, however, to travel back into the past history of Crete. It did not concern them whether or not Jupiter was born and died there, and their only interest in the labyrinth of Daedalus was the fact that a large cave with tortuous passages was still to be found in Crete, which was believed to be the original labyrinth. If that were so, he thought the representatives of the Great Powers must have strayed into it and groped about for a policy until Admiral Nosi and his colleagues gave them the clue that terminated their wanderings. After one or two brief references to past history and the War of Liberation, the speaker said that when an account of the last-named came to be written the materials would be found in three Blue-books, just published by the Foreign Office, and it was from a perusal of these, coupled with information which he had received from their chairman, who, as they knew, had recently returned from Crete, that he had been enabled to form what he believed was a tolerably correct view of the state of affairs in the island. He regretted that he had not had the opportunity of visiting the country himself as he had in the past visited several of the States of South-eastern Europe. One of the most important subjects to be considered was the relations of the Christians and Moslems. After referring to a conversation he had had with the late Earl of Derby before his first visit to Bulgaria, regarding the terms which existed between the two religious communities in that country, Mr. Samuelson predicted that the Turkish rule in the island being terminated, Christian and Moslem Cretans would soon live at peace with one another, and in support of that view he read an extract from one of the despatches of Sir Alfred Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury. He also drew attention to an appeal from the Christian Bishop of Rethymno in Crete addressed to the Moslems of the island praying them to live in amity with their Christian neighbours. The reply, evidently dictated from Constantinople, proved to his (Mr. Samuelson's) mind that the bishop's contention was correct, namely, that the feud had been embittered, if not instigated, by non-Cretan Musulmans—the Turks, in fact. Continuing the speaker dealt with the deplorable condition of the island, which he attributed to Musulman rule, Crete having been admittedly the worst governed of all the Turkish provinces. There was only one road to the island, and that had been recently constructed for relief work; the rest were mere tracks, showing the way from one place to another. There were no vehicles of any description either for men or merchandise; everything had to be conveyed on mules; and there were no fairs. Add to this backward condition of the island the misery entailed by the insurrections and oppression of recent years, and a still deeper depth was reached. In the Blue-books just published there are to be found in the despatches which they contain such expressions as "raids, ambushes, murders, cattle-lifting, and desecration of cemeteries." Everywhere houses were demolished, 1120 in the province of Candia alone; crops were destroyed, either maliciously, or in the case of the grape harvest, owing to the want of sulphur to check the grape disease (oidium). But the most ruinous of all the fiendish work of the Turks (followed, it is true, by retaliation on the part of the Christians), was the cutting down and burning of the olive trees, the chief source of the wealth of the island, or rather its indispensable property. No wonder that the more peacefully disposed of the inhabitants were driven to despair, and that the chief peace-maker and benefactor of the island—Sir Alfred Biliotti, our Consul-General—decried in one of his despatches that ruin threatened the entire population, and that it was "no longer a political question, but one of humanity." This was the dark aspect of the picture, and dark enough it was; but it had also its hopeful features. For example, notwithstanding the disadvantages of Ottoman rule, there had been annually, in peaceful times, nearly half a million tons of shipping entering the ports of Crete. It was true that whilst Turkey secured one-third, and Austro-Hungary the same proportion of the whole tonnage, Greece only participated to the extent of one-eighth; but it was to be hoped now that they had a Greek ruler and an independent native Government the ratio would be reversed

and the whole tonnage increased. The chief exports from the island found their way to neighbouring countries, such as Egypt and Asia Minor. Of those sent to Greece the value was insignificant. And of the imports into Crete only one-fourteenth in value came from the mother country, whilst we ourselves send one-third or about £200,000 worth, the bulk of which consists of textiles from Manchester and other manufacturing towns. It would appear, therefore, that even in a commercial sense this country is directly interested in the prosperity of the island. Looking, then, at the present condition and future capabilities of Crete, the question, said Mr. Samuelson, was how his hearers could best serve the country's interests. One recommendation was that they should carry on the work of the Liverpool committee, which had been suspended at the conclusion of the war. There never was a time when it could be of greater service, for now that the Turks had been expelled from the island the Liverpool Greeks could extend help in any form they liked, without incurring the suspicion of being actuated by political motives. How that end could be accomplished was a matter for deliberation, and the details could not then be considered. Another suggestion was that as merchants and traders they should do all that lay in their power to develop the resources and foster the trade of the island, and there were no more enterprising traders than our large Greek firms. So far as his English friends were concerned, he was sure they would continue to co-operate. As for Prince George, the High Commissioner, whose name was coupled with the toast, he had a most difficult part to play, and as a young untried ruler he needed and deserved their best help and sympathy. His chief difficulty would be to train his subjects, who had become used to war, and whose hands were always on the sword, to follow peaceful industrial pursuits. He had the advantage of being supported by powerful auxiliaries, and it was to be hoped that British vigilance would not be relaxed until a stable and independent government was established in the island. In conclusion, Mr. Samuelson said he hoped that such changes for the better would soon take place in the material and political condition of the island, and in its relations to the mother country, that when next they met under similar auspices they would be able to modify his toast so as to wish continued prosperity to Crete, and to drink to the health of Prince George, its first Viceroy.

The Rev. E. N. Hoare, in acknowledging the toast, said he should like to have heard someone respond who had explored the mountain fastnesses of Crete, who had drunk from the bounteous fountains on its hillsides, who had penetrated its deep valleys, and who had breathed the air fragrant with its lovely wild flowers. In listening to the interesting address of Mr. Samuelson, they felt that they had been hearing him speak of a land he loved—(loud applause)—a land which he knew well. (Renewed applause.) There should be a great, prosperous, and splendid future before the island. To see reason for that they had only to look at the geographical position of Crete, and to recollect her ancient glory. (Applause.) Crete was now awaiting the prosperity which she was calculated to attain. (Cheers.) While not wishing to talk about history, let them not forget that there had been no disgrace and no dishonour to a country that from the very first had resisted, and been restless under, foreign domination. He believed that when the history of the 19th century came to be written there would be no brighter page in it than that which told of the emancipation, and the consequent re-birth, of the two great mothers of civilisation and of arts—Italy and Greece. He believed that when the history of the 19th century came to be written there would be no brighter pages than those which would record the re-birth of Greece and Crete. (Applause.) The liberation of Crete had come at a time when the Greeks were almost in despair, when they were almost inclined to hang their heads in shame. But the sun of Greece had not set—(applause)—and the future contained for her something more glorious than ever the past had recorded. (Renewed applause.) In conclusion, he trusted that peace, contentment, and early prosperity would mark the future of Crete. (Loud applause.)

Alderman Bowring, who also responded, thanked the Greek community of Liverpool for the opportunity given him to publicly express his warm sympathy with them in the very serious trouble that had come over them, and through which they had been passing for the last few years. It was a great pleasure to him to be present to rejoice with them on the liberation of Crete. (Applause.) In his (the speaker's) early days his tutor instilled into his mind the fact that ancient Greece had held the progress of civilisation, of arts, of liberty, and of all good things before the Pagan world, and his sympathies had always been, and always would be, with the nationality of Greece, in that he thought that Greece was the natural inheritance of freedom and liberal government in the east of Europe. (Applause.) He had had the pleasure of visiting their country, and he sincerely rejoiced with the people of Greece now that they saw a possible end to the troubles that had been afflicting them now for some years—troubles that many of them, he believed the majority of Englishmen, shared with them. (Applause.) They had looked with impatience, with regret, and with terror almost, at what had been passing in Europe during the past two years. The Concert of Europe, which was to settle the whole question, found itself so involved in self-interest—(cheers, hear)—and in suspicion of each other, that they could settle nothing. It was a happy coincidence that they met that night on the very time when Prince George was to take up the responsible duty that he had undertaken in the much-vexed and persecuted island of Crete. Never in the history of Europe had a young man a more brilliant and splendid opportunity than had Prince George; and never had a population a greater opportunity of showing to Europe that they were animated by that great spirit of liberty which it was hoped and believed they might be animated by. (Applause.) He hoped, and trusted that they might be animated by the spirit that was the foundation and rock-bottom both of the Christian and the Moslem religion—the spirit of love and charity, and of doing unto others as they would be done by. (Applause.) He hoped that Prince George and his advisers would see that freedom, and liberty, and equal laws prevailed in the island of Crete. If so, he firmly believed it would be a red-letter day in the history of Europe. (Applause.)

The Chairman here read the following copy of a telegram, which, amid enthusiasm, was ordered to be despatched:—"To His Royal Highness Prince George, High Commissioner of Crete, Candia, Crete.—The Greek and English friends of Crete in Liverpool, celebrating the liberation of Crete to-night at a banquet, send your Royal Highness their greetings and sincere good wishes for your prosperity and that of Crete.—Pallas, chairman."

C. C. Michallides gave "The Friends of Crete and Greece." He said—Our attitude at this moment being one of grateful appreciation and esteem towards those who said and did so much for our national cause, it would seem as if we could best express those sentiments by alluding to them as briefly as we feel them deeply. But, sir, we have this evening a duty to perform, and moderate as may be the performance of that duty, it will in no way affect the value and beauty of the attributes which we have in this toast to admire and to acknowledge. I say to admire advisedly, and not with any ostentations which to inflict upon our friends a perhaps tedious though not untimely panegyric. For looking at Philhellenism broadly, that is, taking it as a remarkably strong and earnest attachment towards another race, akin to that devotion to one's own country which we call patriotism, we are bound to class it amongst the highest and amongst the most unselfish virtues of modern times. I will indeed go further, and remind you, gentlemen, that even to our remote ancestors, to whose genius we are in a great measure indebted for this display of European sympathy, even to them such a thing as a fellow-feeling with an alien race was an unknown quantity; indeed their tendencies in this respect ran, I am sorry to own, very much the other way, if we are to judge from the uncomplimentary epithets which they invariably attached to all those who were not of their own Hellenic race. And when we consider that even that highly-strung people were, so to say, colour-blind to this kind of sympathy towards another nation, whether suffering or not, we are, I think, justified, Mr. Chairman, in saying that in that great characteristic, at any rate, these modern lovers and followers of Hellenism, whom we have known as Philhellenists, have much surpassed their masters. They have taken the light from them, and added warmth and human nature to it. It was indeed one of the most suggestive intellectual phenomena in the early part of this century, that unselfish, disinterested, generous impulse of the better nature of civilised mankind, towards a nation which, chain-laden but ever hopeful, strove to its utmost to raise itself above the dismal depths where it lay for ages, and an impulse not merely of a platonic nature. True enough, it always originated in those days in more or less platonic ways; but it almost invariably ended in a more substantial form of affection. Or need I remind you, gentlemen, that one of England's greatest bards, after exhausting his strains over dreams that "Greece might still be free," at last proceeded to Missolonghi when "his day was in the yellow leaf," and there gave us all that remained of his energy. He gave us his wealth, his advice, his influence, and, lastly, his life. (Loud applause.) Or, of his contemporary Canning, equally idealistic, but none the less statesmanlike on that account, who, after feeling on Grecian thought and dreaming of Grecian freedom throughout his young days at Eton, finally took the helm of State, and with the authority of his high office deliberately and practically carried out his early Grecian dreams. Such was George Canning, the once representative of this very city—(applause)—the maker of Greece as an independent State, and but for whose untimely death our brave Cretans would have so unceasingly fought against. And finally, sir, a Greek will be the last to forget the hundreds, nay, the thousands, of the elite of the intellectual world of that time, who, roused by that irresistible enthusiasm which had swept over every nation where civilisation had any footing, rushed to the plains of Pata and other time-honoured battlefields to offer their blood as a libation to the country whose traditions they so deeply revered. It would be a long list indeed if I were here to enumerate the names of even the most conspicuous of that sacred phalanx which, as already pointed out, proceeded not from this alone but from all centres of culture and of refinement. For, apart from the fact that Byron's and Shelley's names can hardly be mentioned by a Greek without the names of Chateaubriand and of Foscolo at once flashing through his mind, we have even more frequent parallels in the more active fields of Philhellenism

where the strains of song are substituted by the clank of arms. And thus it happens that the name of Admiral Codrington will ever recall to us that of Marshal Maiten, as that of Church could hardly fail to awaken within us the memory of Favier. So much for Philhellenism in the twenties. But what about Philhellenism in the eighties and in the nineties? The same noble feeling and high spirit, the same self-denying and devoted sympathy, only wider, more expanded, I would say more Christian, if less classical, for in the fulness of its generous philanthropy it eventually spread itself over all the Christian races whose curse it has been for ages to be ruled by the most abominable of all rules. And as for the foremost representatives of that most remarkable phase of modern public opinion—a body of earnest and determined workers, far more numerous than those under Canning and Byron; a noble and great army indeed, fighting, often in face of strong counter currents, often in spite of serious distracting elements—fighting for a great cause with pen, with tongue, with treasure, with influence, with all the weapons which a thorough organisation can offer, and which a keen sense of justice can render so sharp and so telling. An army of true and honest Crusaders, and led by leaders more glorious than those of old—and head and shoulders over those leaders, a titanic champion of justice and of truth—and, as our chairman very appropriately suggested, a truly Homeric hero, embodying in his vast intellect all that appeared in the century great and true and strong in Philhellenism, and giving it an authority and weight greater indeed than the realm of Ministers and Kings. It is said, indeed, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, to reflect that that greatest of all modern Philhellenists should not be living to-day to see his Cretans free. Such were the workers, and such the leaders of recent Philhellenism as it manifested itself in connection with the Cretan trouble—so deep in earnestness, and at the same time so eager in the application of practical means towards their high end, that one may say that this great movement had passed from the poetry and ardour of youth to the soberness and wisdom of age. And the very fact that it so successfully passed through the latter test, and rendered itself so highly beneficial, demonstrates that it was no mere sentiment, not a mere emotional thing, but a calm and deeply-rooted conviction that ours was a case of right against wrong, of freedom against serfdom, of life against massacre. You, gentlemen, who constitute a representative portion of the Cretophiles of this country, whose voices I have heard, and whose writings I have read with profound relief and gratitude throughout that long ordeal of tedious negotiations and diplomatic rolling machines, you are indeed entitled to all the pride, to all the satisfaction which the complete fulfilment of your aspirations can give you. With a steady aim in your minds, you worked, and worked indefatigably and unflinchingly. You encouraged us when disheartened, you soothed and strengthened us when almost in despair. And now you have, besides the satisfaction to which I allude, also the everlasting gratitude of a people free for the first time after hundreds of years.

The toast, coupled with the names of the Rev. Dr. John Watson and Mr. George Wynne, was drunk to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne."

The Rev. Dr. John Watson, in reply, said whenever he had the opportunity to speak for Greece or to denounce the official Turk he had always done so. (Applause.) Words could not be found to express the gratitude that ought to be felt for the services which western civilisation had received from Greece. Poetry was synonymous with Homer, tragedy and comedy with Sophocles and Aristophanes, oratory with Demosthenes, and philosophy with Plato. Only one other land was more sacred. (Applause.) Regarding the Turk, it was not the peasant Turk or the working Turk, each a sober and intelligent man, against whom he had to speak. To him, as well as to Europe generally, it would be beneficial when the corrupt official Turk was sent out of Europe, as Mr. Gladstone said, "bag and baggage." (Applause.) For the life of him, being outside of politics, he could not understand why what an admiral had at length done for Greece could not have been done some time ago. (Laughter and applause.) Respecting the duty of diplomacy, he had to remind diplomats that there was a time when there arose such a national sentiment, such a love of independence, and an outside sympathy with independence, so boiling-up of blood, as it was right that should be given effect to. (Loud applause.)

Mr. George Wynne also responded to the toast. He remarked that reference had, made, he believed by every speaker, to the sympathy that had been displayed by Englishmen towards Greece and Crete. It was a characteristic—at any rate it was a characteristic of the British race—that they sympathised, deeply so, with all nations that were cowed, and were struggling for the attainment of. (Dr. Watson and by Mr. Hoare, there were reasons why they should sympathise, had deeply excited in the cause of Crete, a race to take into consideration the quest always and of faith, and to Englishmen there was a sense of something repugnant and the oppressed were of one faith and race. (Applause.) There was a time not long ago when prospects of Crete achieving its "in the war gloomy indeed. That was the time in which broke out, and they were very different now, been achieved, but happily success Crete had great opportunities and a great host of the and that it would once more be an country. (Applause.)

Mr. E. Atkin gave "The Soldiers of the Liberating Power." He alluded to the appropriateness of holding a celebration in Liverpool, where Mr. Gladstone had first seen the light. (Loud applause.) In Liverpool and services of the Liberal press. Having paid a tribute to the Hellenic press, the Cretan Liverpool committee for its settled until the question, however, would end from the flag Turkish blot of blood was of Crete. (Applause.)

Signor Le Chevalier Bagnotti and Colonel W. Biggs replied.

Mr. C. G. Ralli gave the Press, and, Sir Edward Russell having concluded the toast, the proceed: