

aggeration to say that for every shilling paid to the Government, two are paid to the collector. The English officials, meanwhile, though they know well that such things are done, have no means of ascertaining when or how they are done, far less of putting a stop to them. They must work with the only tools which are at their disposal. Illustrative of this, I may quote a remark which a retired Indian civilian made to me a few years ago. He had left the Government service in order to practise as a barrister at the Calcutta bar, and, from his knowledge of the inner workings of the former mystery, he rapidly acquired a large practice. This seeing of matters from the native side came as a very startling revelation. "If," he said to me, "when I was a civilian, an angel from heaven had told me the things that I now know are habitually done under our authority in India, I would not have believed him."

Now it is easy enough to demonstrate on paper that representative institutions cannot be set up all at once in India; but paper demonstrations cannot remove or mitigate the actual daily ills which I have sketched above. The people of India are ready to throw themselves into any agitation for political change, not because they desire to overthrow the Government of the Queen, or have thought out any scheme of reform; but because they are suffering from a multitude of evils which, under the existing regimen, they know to be remediless. This fact it is which has won for the party of political reform an abundant measure of support in a surprisingly short time, and which will effectually prevent the movement from dying out. It is objected to the spokesmen and leaders of this party that they do not number among them the landed gentry, or the old aristocracy, or the native princes; but this fact is easily accounted for without supposing that these classes hold aloof because they are at heart opposed to the schemes of the reforming party. One result of British rule in India has been to create an opulent and influential class which, its prospects in life being independent of the Government, has nothing to fear from the hostility of the officials. This class consists of the native barristers and *Vakils* who practise in our courts of law, the editors and writers for the native press, English and vernacular, and the rich mercantile community residing in the great cities and seaports. Any political movement that is set up in India must at the outset derive its recruits almost wholly from these people, no others being in a position to enter upon it without serious inconvenience and even danger to themselves.

The movement is still in its infancy. It has been provoked into life by the intolerable friction everywhere caused by the existing bureaucratic régime. But it is supremely diffident of its own powers; it hardly dares to guess whether it may be going; and there is planted deep in the Indian character a profound reverence for authority. If our English officials would deign to look with a kindly and encouraging eye upon these first attempts to translate into practice the lessons which these Indian reformers have learned from us, they would be greeted with effusion and loyally accepted as leaders. Unfortunately, they are practically unanimous in denouncing the party of reform as disloyal and seditious. The moderation of their projects they hold up to ridicule as a proof of their insincerity, and thus, to the utmost of their power, they are forcing the conduct of the agitation from the party of reform to the party of revolution. Such a party, and in formidable strength, is to be found in every province of British India. In fine, the dangers which menace the future of our eastern Empire, whether from without

or within, will spring in the main from the obstinate perversity which deliberately refuses to take account of the actual facts. All our writing, all our speaking about India consists of a nauseating reiteration of self-laudation. Practically, we assume that we are not simply morally impeccable, but that it is impossible for us to make a mistake. We denounce as unpatriotic or seditious or vilely ignorant any one having the audacity to hint at rocks below the surface, or signs of coming danger. We decline to take thought for the morrow. We have no policy—unless to drift blindfolded can be designated such.

ROBERT D. OSBORN, Lieut.-Colonel.

#### ON GRECIAN SHORES.

ALEXANDRIA, December 1, 1888.

IF the condition of the Greeks, socially, morally, and materially, has improved, as can be demonstrated to be the case—in fact has emerged from darkness since independence in 1832—the visitor at this day is still unfavorably impressed with the many elements of its lagging progress. It requires long years to reproduce forests, to restore watercourses for agricultural purposes, to teach a people modern arts, and long periods of peaceful pursuits to bring back a population. All this, apparently, is being done, if slowly. There is, too, among the better classes a profound faith in the ultimate fate and greatness of Greece. There is a politician in every house, a consuming curiosity for news and political gossip, and, in the islands still in the possession of Turkey, a deep undercurrent of resistance. A striving after improved methods, educational advancement, the erection of imposing municipal and other public buildings for the poor, sick, and orphans, and a well-to-do Church, form the better side of the picture.

There are far more Greeks living under Turkish rule than in Greece itself, the latter numbering but two millions, and there is a well-founded belief in a wide extension of territory northwards, the reclamations of the islands still in painful subjection to large Turkish garrisons, and perhaps ultimately a strip of sea-coast in Asia Minor. In these places the money interests, the language, the actual inhabitants are all preponderatingly Greek. Even at Constantinople the Greeks rank second in a mixed population of a million, the Turks numbering 390,000. In fact, much of the wealth and trade, the commanding influence, in a way, of this section of the world has again come to them; and it remains to be seen what they will do with themselves in the approaching political crisis. This element may receive more consideration at St. Petersburg than elsewhere, and may yet precipitate the solution of the Eastern question. The national forces are being gradually strengthened, and this expense, coupled with a growing ambition, may prove too severe a strain upon so poor a country. Taxes upon imports are enormous, and many domestic articles commonly in use in other countries are out of reach of the masses. In this case, home production is not stimulated, for practically there is but little manufacturing or skilled handicraft carried on. There are a few macaroni factories and soap works about the Piræus, and at Syra some ship-repairing machine shops, a marine railway for ships up to 2,000 tons, and a large tannery industry. The wealth of the country is in its natural productions—wine, oil, currants, salt, tobacco, and fruits, and a limited mining industry. The fisheries and shipping interests employ many thousands. In trade and commerce the Greeks

surpass in skill all the races they come in contact with, not excepting the Jews, Armenians, and Persians they compete with in Stamboul, and they handle most of the money and products in the Levant. Salt is produced by evaporating the sea-water in shallow basins, and is seen in great pyramidal heaps for miles along the shores of Attica and the adjacent islands. Olive trees are seen everywhere, and the noble groves, some of great age, are greatly sought for shade by flocks and the people. Flowers and color plants grow profusely, and gardens need only irrigation to bloom perennially, while of fruits there is apparently the whole list of semi-tropical and temperate zones.

The Corinth canal enterprise, connecting the Gulfs of Corinth and of Argina, is progressing slowly, and is being executed by a French construction company. No time can yet be fixed for its completion, certainly not within two years; and even when finished, the saving of the three hundred miles in the water route to the Black Sea, Asia Minor, and Athens may become of less moment than the necessary charges and increased difficulties attending narrow inland waters, though the winter passage around Cape Matapan can then be avoided. The Peloponnesian railway leads up to and crosses the excavation, and gangs of natives, Montenegrins, and Italians can be seen at work. The line of the canal follows the still existing marks of the similar attempt by Nero, and the track over which small vessels have been transported for centuries. It is about five miles in length, and unexpected difficulties are being met with in the rock formations. There is also a "railway development" at hand, judging from controversies regarding privileges, concessions, plans, and projects, formulated by the newspapers. More railways and roads are needed, the latter certainly; the haste in connection with the former, their extension in a grand system conformably to the necessities of modern times and the country, all wear the familiar guise of promoters and speculators. The present railways seem to be fairly equal to the necessities of the country, and the sea washes all sides of a land not a long distance across. The rolling-stock is English, and, according to the usual standard, the service is not what it should be.

One must rough it to some extent when travelling in Greece, and more than primitive accommodation cannot be expected outside of Athens. Even in that city the water supply is lamentably deficient, the springs and wells being often brackish, and potable water is sold on the streets. At this time, however, great improvements are being effected in the capital city; streets are being widened and macadamized, new buildings are going up, and there is a struggling attempt to throw off the inertia and provincialism of the usual dusty town. The new exhibition building erected at one extremity of the royal gardens in honor of the King's twenty-fifth anniversary is a marble-faced portico, with wings in plaster, facing the great Corinthian columns of the old temple of Olympian Zeus, and is sadly dwarfed in the presence of the mute giants in sight on all sides. The dusty slope towards the Ilyssus is more or less parked, containing an artificial basin; but the grounds were, when I saw them, in confusion consequent upon hurried preparation and the work of caring for arriving exhibits. The number of articles of domestic manufacture that will be shown should indeed point a moral.

Excavations on the Acropolis are continuing, and the work at the National Museum and the Polytechnic goes slowly on. The Schliemann collection at the latter is the great attraction, and to the Museum are added the best of the finds as they occur in the country at large.

Half the building is still closed to visitors. In the broad space between the building and the street is enough more material to stock an ordinary museum elsewhere, including sarcophagi, pieces of columns, capitals, reliefs, and figures in considerable numbers. These two buildings are a great credit to the state in every respect, and are well designed to preserve for museum and educational purposes the best of the remnants left of classic Greece. They are spacious, have marble facings or linings, and are of appropriate classic type externally. The Museum has but one floor; the Polytechnic is more elaborate, consisting of two lateral colonnades and a central quadrangle of two floors, with an ornate double marble stairway externally. The material is beautiful Pentelic marble, and the white, gleaming surfaces and numerous columns in a fine open section of the city form an impressive picture.

From Athens to the Piræus the train passes vineyards, lovely gardens and groves, stopping at Phalerum, the summer resort. Phalerum, bay and shore, is a beautiful spot, has now a large, complete hotel, long rows of bathing-houses, pretty groves, and the bluest of waters. From the beach one sees Mt. Hymettus, the Acropolis, and the Theseum, with Athens on the left, and on the right the terraced heights of Elias and Munychia. Piræus is a large, straggling seaport town, with wide busy quays and unclean streets, and surrounds the circular, roomy, and convenient harbor. A few traces only of the old walls running down from Athens seven miles away are found now, unless search is made for them. They enclosed Athens, a strip of country several hundred yards wide, and this magnificent natural basin, besides two smaller ports, Zea and Munychia, over the hill to the left towards Phalerum, where are still seen the stone galley-ways, a theatre hewn out of the rock, and the best remains of the wall itself. A tramway; noisy, dirty shops and cafés; fleets of small trading vessels of quaint old type; motley groups in fustanella, white stockings, and embroidered jackets; black eyes and fine handsome faces; coffee-sipping and mastic-drinking; and the people always in the streets—are passing memories of Piræus. A few hours after leaving this port, in passing Cape Colonna, the remaining upright columns and part of the architrave of the ancient Temple of Athena, splendidly crowning the hill, are plainly seen standing out in the purest white from the green background.

The Greek islands are both richer and poorer than the mainland. Some, like the Ionian group, are of wonderful fertility and healthfulness; others, often mere barren rocks, with miserable remnants of ignorant humanity clinging to them. Corfu is much frequented by invalids, by yachtsmen and sportsmen, and the fall and winter months bring many outdoor lovers and wild-boar hunters. The neighboring mainland of Albania and Epirus is also full of game, the climate is mild, and there is every facility and comfort of existence attainable. The Ulysses Rock, a favorite resort of the Austrian Empress, beautifully conserved by a few monks; the mulberry and olive groves; the great variety and profusion of fruits; the drives, and King George's residence and park, all combine highly to favor the island. Among the monuments is one of Capodistrias, the first President of Greece. The exportations of figs, oranges, olive-oil, wine, honey, currants, silk, and cotton continue large, and the sea fisheries are of importance. The stout old walls and citadel that successfully withstood Islam, the Italian element in the population, and the peculiar dialect give the city a character quite its

own. The city has a population of 28,000; the island, 85,000.

Cephalonia and Zante are in many respects also favored islands, and are much sought by winter yachtsmen and invalids. The former has in recent years been the rendezvous of the English fleet in the Mediterranean under the Duke of Edinburgh, as offering superior facilities for the many needs of the force. Zante, the southernmost of the group, does not greatly differ from Cephalonia in the character of its population, its fertility, and healthful environment. A part of the island is composed of blue mud and clay—in places whole hills are of this material—and in the interior are found bubbling wells of mud mixed with a crude bitumen or asphalt. The town is on the shore of an open bay, the hill behind it being crowned by a large old Venetian fortification, now used as a general prison. The late Minister of the Interior of Greece was from this town; and upon his decease (at Athens of malarial fever) the people omitted for some weeks all amusements, music on the promenade, and theatricals. Like nearly all Greek towns, the necessity of public sanitation is a matter not yet entertained, and white-faced children with diseased eyes are far too common. In 1887 there were exported 8,000 tons of currants, and a great quantity of wine, much of this appearing in Europe as port. These wines are sweet and heavy, as a rule, and, with the introduction of better methods, could be improved, beyond doubt.

Crete, still under Turkey and hardly yet recovered from the last insurrection and its repressive horrors, is vainly hoping for the morning. For the present it remains undeveloped, with a suspicious, uneasy people, living in fear of the ill-paid, ragged garrison of 10,000 soldiers. It is, from its position and superior natural resources, capable of supporting a large population, and has even now a considerable trade in silk, wine, oil, fruits, and chestnuts. Candia, the largest town (80,000 population), and the Governor's residence, is an agricultural community. The roads are bad, excepting near the principal port of entry, Canea, and Suda Bay on the northern side of the island. The latter is one of the finest and largest harbors in the Orient, but is lacking in life and activity, containing only a small, desolate village and a decaying naval arsenal. Steamers come to this bay in winter, in summer lying off the shallow small basin of Canea. The Ottoman steamers from Tripoli to Constantinople stop here, and slaves are occasionally found aboard and set free by the English consular authorities, whose cavass, or dragoman, keeps track of the business. The considerable number of blacks about are said to be of this description: they have in such cases the option of returning to Africa. The old Venetian walls, moats, naval arsenal, and citadel are still of imposing strength and appearance. Canea has about 12,000 inhabitants, and its roughly cobbled, narrow, unclean streets, fish markets, leather workers, and motley crowds render it unattractive, though it has a decidedly Oriental appearance. Passing up a street to the Governor's palace, I noticed a hive of notaries and lawyers, and upon inquiry learned that these men of the law and pleaders have sprung into existence only since 1878, previous to which time justice inclined towards the longer purse. It is believed that Crete will richly reward future efforts at excavations, the people as a rule observing great secrecy in regard to this matter, especially in the disposing of such articles as they may have from time to time in their possession.

Syra, the centre of the Cyclades, is the second

port of the kingdom, and is noted for its shipping and tannery interests. The town is built along the bay shores and on two cone-like hills, each surmounted by a large church—one Roman Catholic, the other the Greek Church—and in its blue and white limewash gleams like a stage picture. In the time since the independence it has risen from a mean village to be the chief port of the whole group. Activity is noted in its little shipyards, and all the steamers to the East touch here. New roads about the island are being constructed, the city is erecting a large, pretentious municipal building of marble, and there are hospitals, asylums, and schools. A good water supply is lacking, five cents the gallon being the cost of pure water on the streets; each house has under it a rock cistern, collecting the year's supply in the few rainy months of the year. The lower levels and streets almost rival a Chinese city in uncleanness and smells. Mount Pyrgos, immediately back of the town, gives one a view of the whole group of the Cyclades and Greece itself. At certain seasons, migrating quail rest on Syra to such an extent that they are slaughtered by the thousands. The rocky island is treeless, has but little rainfall and a warm climate. Smallpox has recently found many victims, and still exists, and fevers are common.

Milo contains the largest perfectly enclosed harbor in the Mediterranean, but one meets here with a desolate picture. The straggling little town of Castron clings around the peak of a considerable hill far above the ruins of the ancient Melos, whence the celebrated Venus was taken in 1820. In this great bay the Venetians annihilated the Turks in a memorable sea fight in 1661. The island is volcanic, has a small mining, sulphur, and fishing industry, and contains not over 3,500 inhabitants. Samos, though a principality tributary to Turkey, is wholly Greek. It is fairly prosperous and content under its Christian prince, Alexander Kara Theodora, who was one of the Turkish Commissioners at the Berlin Congress. Since that time he has taken no further part in Turkish imperial affairs and has resided here—a kind of polite banishment. The annual tribute is £2,000. Samos is rich in classical remains, and, like many of these islands, has not been completely investigated. It is a curious fact that the natives generally in this part of the world have a greatly exaggerated idea regarding the character and value of the still undiscovered remains of antiquity. The principal ruins here are a Temple of Juno, and the rock aqueduct described in the *Nation* at the time of its discovery some seven years ago (Nos. 908, 909). The port of Bathi, the Prince's residence, has a picturesque, rock-bound harbor and the quaintest of broad ancient quays. The trade is mainly in the superior wine and tobacco produced, the former rivalling the best port, and the latter ranking with the best grown in Yenidge and Latakiya. Tenedos and Rhodes still retain their mediæval features, the latter especially, with its tunnel-like passages and streets, enormous walls, bastions, and defences, and crowded town. Rhodes is among the most fertile and beautiful islands in the Levant, and, like Samos, has many pretty little villages scattered about on its verdant slopes.

Many of the islands are mere barren rocks, some with villages clinging to the highest peaks crowned by crumbling castles and fortifications, or with groups of white clusters of houses far up on the rare green pastures. The skies are seldom unkind, there are no extremes of climate, the mariner sails on for months without losing sight of land, threading the wonderful storied archipelago with its traces of the

old time. The scenes of to-day seem to belong to another world. C. A. SIEGFRIED.

## Correspondence.

### A PATRIOTIC PROTEST FROM ABROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR : Reports have reached Europe since the recent election at home which reveal such widespread and shameless bribery that every honest American cannot but feel disgusted and indignant. Something *must* be done, and the *Nation* thinks something *will* be done, to prevent further disgrace and secure better methods and laws governing our elections.

It is with this hope and assurance of yours, Mr. Editor, that a number of American teachers and students in Berlin and Leipzig, irrespective of party, wish to express their sympathy, pledging at the same time their hearty coöperation with all who will help on reform. We believe that continued indifference would bring us to a condition more wretched than that of any nation in Europe. We should not even be so fortunate as to fall into the hands of pedantic and military bureaucrats, where we should at least be safe, much as we might fret under their paternal guardianship and their martinetism; but, as the *Nation* has said, we should be at the mercy of political auctioneers who would sell our Government to the highest bidders.

Against running such risks we protest. We will no longer be cheated out of the full value of our votes by the corrupt of any party whatever. We call for a strictly secret ballot, for stringent laws against bribery, and for their vigorous enforcement; and we hope to unite with our fellow-teachers and fellow-students at home—in fact, with the honest and intelligent of all parties—in securing these safeguards, whether it be by joining reform clubs already in existence and organizing new ones in every county and town, or by other practical agitation.

At present, our boasted universal suffrage is laughed at in Europe. The papers and intelligent observers see clearly that it is the bribed legions and their "bosses" who hold the balance of power in our national elections, and the purchasable "blocks of five" who can turn the scale in many a State and county election.

Of course, there are those who will call us doctrinaires or academic idealists; but we are not quite ready to succumb to the realism of fraud and rascality simply because the rascals are wide awake and the honest seem hard to rouse.

[Signed by 27 American teachers and students in Berlin and Leipzig, representing 4 different political parties, 13 different States, North and South, East and West, and 11 different colleges.]

BERLIN, December 25, 1888.

### INSIDE A CANADIAN POLLING-BOOTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In Canada the Australian ballot system has been in force for the past fourteen years. We have grown familiar with it, and what astonishes me most is how any one can call it complex, or, having once seen it, could possibly endure to work with any other. It was adopted in the Dominion in 1874, and for the provincial elections of this province a couple of years later. The first election held under it in this city was in January, 1877. I was one of the presiding officers there. Since that time we

have had fully a dozen elections, Provincial and Federal, and at every one of them I have spent the day in some capacity, either as presiding officer or candidates' agent, inside a polling-booth, generally in a city district, but sometimes in a rural one. Possibly a description of the practical working of the act may be interesting to readers in the United States.

Our nominations are now in the simplest form. Twenty-five electors can nominate a candidate by nomination in writing provided a deposit of \$200 accompanies it. This sum is forfeited in case the candidate fails to poll half the vote of the successful candidate. If only as many nominations are made as there are seats to be filled, the returning officer returns them as elected by acclamation. If more, he issues a proclamation that a poll will be held, and containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order, with their occupations and residence. The day of polling is fixed by the act for the seventh day from nominations. Then the returning officer proceeds to make his preparations for a poll. Of course he has known long beforehand whether or not the regular parties intend making nominations, and has made his preparations accordingly. The district has already been divided off into polling-sections by the revising barrister who makes up the electoral lists. These polling-sections must not contain more than 300 electors, and in practice (here at least) it has been found most convenient to keep them smaller than 200. These small polling-sections are the most effectual safeguard against disturbance and disorder yet discovered.

In each of these sections the returning officer hunts up a conveniently situated house or shop to serve as a polling-booth, and arranges the space inside so that one portion is completely guarded from observation, both from inside and outside. Then he appoints a presiding officer and a clerk for each district. He swears in the presiding officers and furnishes each with his ballot-box, a certified list of the electors in his district, a poll-book, a supply of ballot-paper and lead-pencils, and a number of printed directions (given in a schedule to the act), directing voters how to mark their papers, which the presiding officer sticks up about the booth. A constable is appointed for each booth. The booths open at nine and close at five. A little before the time of opening the presiding officer and his clerk arrive. The former swears in the latter. The agents, if they are wise, will also take care to be on hand sharp on time. Each candidate appoints two agents in writing. In practice the appointment is left with the committee of the district: the candidates sign a number of blanks, the committee arrange who are to be agents, and fill in their names. Of these two agents one requires to be sworn not to reveal the names of the candidates for whom any of the electors may mark their ballot-papers in his presence. This is for the protection of the illiterates and other incapables. The sworn agent is obliged to remain in the booth till it closes. The unsworn one can go in and out, and practically serves as the medium of communication between the sworn man and his party outside. Each agent of course has been "posted" by his district committee, and furnished with a list of electors marked with hieroglyphics to designate "for," "against," "doubtful," "dead," etc., etc. The presiding officer, poll-clerk, constable, and agents are the only persons allowed within the booth. There are no provisions preventing persons congregating about the polling-booths—a matter which I see most of your correspondents attach great importance to. There are one or

two provisions for the suppression of disorder, conferring the powers of a magistrate upon the presiding officer, etc. But in practice it is found that the small polling-district and the secret voting do away with all temptation to riot. In former times here, with open voting and a few large sections, we had furious fights about the booths. Now the only signs of a booth are three or four men talking about the door and a couple of cabs drawn up. There is nothing to do outside, and the "worker" who could find no better employment than standing all day outside a booth watching the voters go in and out the door would not find much appreciation of his services in the party. Last of all, the presiding officer opens his ballot-box, exhibits it to the agents in the manner of a stage conjuror, opens the slide, locks the box up, and deposits it on the table.

These preliminaries over, the constable is directed to open the doors, announce the poll open, and admit the voters one at a time. One enters and presents himself at the table. The presiding officer asks his name, and looks to see if it is on his certified list. If it is not, as sometimes happens, the voter goes off to hunt up the right district; but this seldom happens. If the name is on the list, the poll-clerk enters it on his book, with the occupation and a number, and if no objection is taken by the agents, the presiding officer hands him a ballot-paper. The ballot is in a form prescribed in the act. Here is one of the official papers from the last Dominion election in this city:

#### Election for the Electoral District of Halifax, 1887

### FULLER.

I. H. H. Fuller, City and County of Halifax, Merchant.

### JONES.

II. Hon. A. G. Jones, City and County of Halifax, Merchant.

### KENNY.

III. Thomas E. Kenny, City and County of Halifax, Merchant.

### STAIRS.

IV. John F. Stairs, of the Town of Dartmouth, Manufacturer.

The portion below the perforated line is the counterfoil. Its use is to counteract the device mentioned by your Louisville correspondent, viz., putting in a blank and bringing out the official paper. The presiding officer puts his initials on the back of the ballot so as to be visible when the paper is folded up. The poll-clerk numbers the voter on his poll-book, and the presiding officer puts the same num-