

A CYPRUS PILGRIMAGE

Sketches from Life

Our Artist writes:—"Mount Troödos, Cyprus, which is 6,400 feet above the sea, offers to the residents of Egypt a delightfully cool and beautiful summer resort. The range is covered with pines and firs, the views and scenery are delightful, and a tin hotel and a boarding-house in tents offer sufficient accommodation for visitors. The officials from the Cyprus towns have here their own houses and camps. The ships that ply between Egypt and the island are not very comfortable, but the journey only takes a day and a night. From Limasol, on the coast, four sturdy little ponies, harnessed abreast in roomy carriages, take visitors up to Troödos. The road is uphill nearly the whole way—thirty-six miles—and halts are made to rest and water the team, while the passengers gladly avail themselves of an opportunity to stretch their legs. A change of ponies is made half-way.



A PARTY OF PILGRIMS ARRIVING AT KYKKON MONASTERY

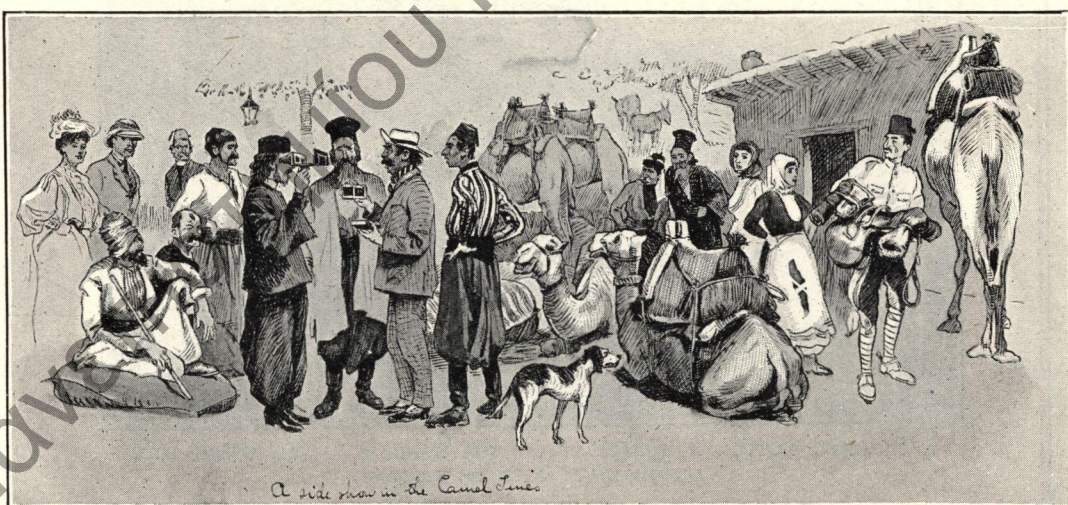
By H. D. Collison-Mor'ey

the open, and it is really a remarkable sight to see the thousands and thousands of little bivouacs, with the animals tethered close by, surrounding the buildings. A dense crowd of people move along the street of booths, haggling and bargaining over their purchases, others sitting in the cafés watching clumsy, big-booted Cypriots dancing. From fifty to sixty camels bring up the extra forage required for the many animals, and it is distributed by a couple of priests to the peasants for a small sum.

"When we arrived the Abbot received us in his own rooms, and gave us some delicious coffee and sweetmeats, prior to our being shown our quarters for the night. Each room contains three or four beds, and at such a crowded time as fair time one is lucky if one finds one's stable companions are all of the same sex."



A ZAPTIEH, OR MOUNTED POLICEMAN



A SIDE-SHOW IN THE CAMEL LINES

"The walks are numerous, and many interesting excursions on mules may be made, of which by far the best is the one to Kykkon Monastery, twenty-six miles away in the heart of the mountains, where the monks put one up for the night, and supply one with excellent food and wine. In September the feast of the Virgin Mary attracts over six thousand peasants from all over the island to make their pilgrimage to the holy picture in the chapel. This is said to have been painted by St. Luke himself, and has the reputation of effecting miraculous cures. As one approaches the monastery, which stands isolated high up on the side of a big mountain, along all the hill-paths can be seen troop after troop of gaily clad country folk, all riding on mules and donkeys, streaming endlessly towards the fair. The steady flow of new arrivals goes on all day, and outside the main gate, where the press is greatest, is the watering-place for the animals, a wild tangle of mules and donkeys, with here and there an excited head appearing, the whole controlled by a mild-faced, long-haired young priest. Only stopping to tether their animals and mark their bivouac, tired and dusty from their, perhaps, many days' journey, the pilgrims go to the chapel to make their round of the holy ikons, kissing each picture once, and St. Luke's many times. The galleries of the monastery accommodate over six hundred people during the fair, while the remainder camp outside in

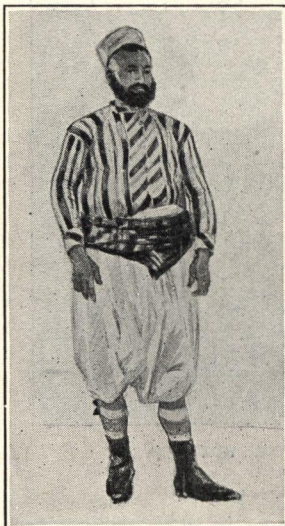


A TYPICAL CYPRIOT DANCE

KINDERGARTEN WORKING PARTIES.—Mr. Charles Awdry, of 2, Hyde Park Street, W., writes:—"May I call your readers' attention to a new development connected with the Poor Children's Yuletide Association, which has for its object the provision of Christmas trees for poor children in the slums. As an outcome of the drawing-room meetings held on behalf of the Association, it has been decided to establish working parties for making dolls and other toys which are washable and unbreakable. Messrs. Liberty, Elkington, Spiers and Pond, and the Proprietors of THE GRAPHIC and the Gentlewoman are offering handsome prizes for the rag knockabout toy sheets when made up into toys. The sheets can be supplied to ladies getting up these parties, and the dolls, when stitched and stuffed, are not only available for the prize competitions which have been inaugurated by the Association, but will form great attractions for the Christmas trees, and will be exhibited at the grand Christmas Tree Party on December 18, to be held at the Portman Rooms, before being despatched to the parishes and mission centres in the slums selected by the Bishops, etc., without any denominational bias. May I suggest that if any ladies would be willing to start working parties for young people, it would be a great help to the undertaking, and a capital method of employing useful fingers in the dark evenings. Full details may be had from the secretary, Mr. P. S. Bruff, Byron House, Fleet Street, E.C."



TOURISTS STARTING FOR KYKKON MONASTERY



A VILLAGE HEADMAN



EN ROUTE FOR MOUNT TROODOS: A HALT TO WATER THE PONIES