

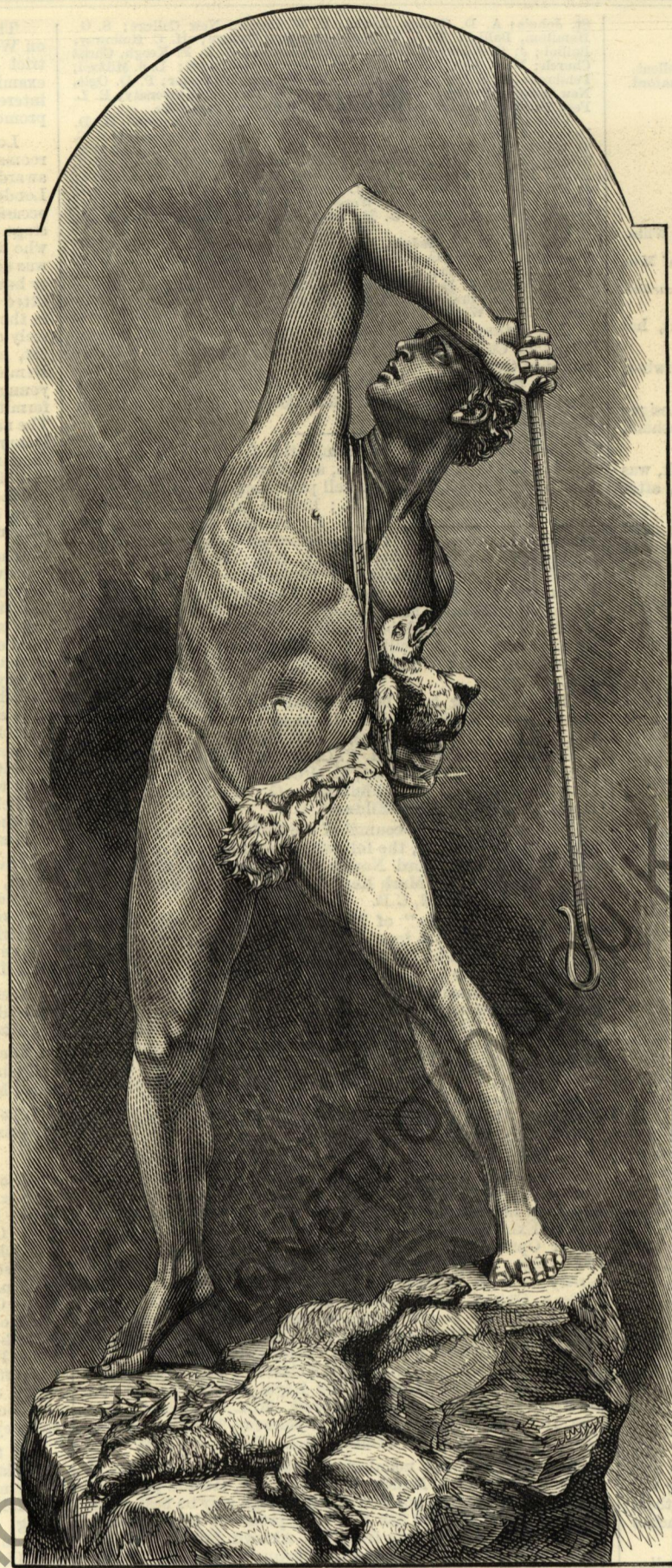
The Extra Supplement.

"GIRL READING." BY C. E. PERUGINI.

For the delineation of feminine grace and modesty M. Perugini has earned for himself a reputation as wide as it is merited. His pencil is at once facile and true, and it never fails to convey that sense of preciousness which is so valuable an element in the limning of ladies gently born. His colouring is correspondingly suave and harmonious, as he does not strive to force his pigment too palpably on the eye. In the case before us, the colour is laid on so lightly and daintily that the canvas is allowed to show through and help thereby the texture of the dress. His is essentially a sympathetic brush, and he must address himself to his sitter *con amore* or not at all. The "Girl Reading," to whom we present our readers, is the first important figure which catches and rivets the attention of the visitors in Gallery II. of the Royal Academy. Attired in a loose white dress with a simple frill round her neck, we see her seated on a marble bench engrossed in the illuminated volume which lies in her lap. It is bound in blue velvet, and is probably a mediæval romance of valour and true love: and, as if in sympathy with the triumph of the lovers, she holds in her right hand a sprig of white orange-blossom. The back of this hand touches her finely-moulded chin, and the elbow rests in the palm of her left hand. Her well set head is adorned with short auburn hair, which contrasts pleasantly with the green foliage in which the ripe golden fruit nestles behind her, and in which the white blossoms sparkle starlike. Her eyebrows are slightly raised, indicative of attention; and the soft fall of her eyelids betokens consent. Her mouth is at once delicate and mobile, and ready at a moment to droop into sorrow or break into a ripple of delight. In short, the "Reading Girl" is a realisation of maidenly sweetness and modesty, and the sentiment she inspires in the beholder is as pure as she herself is lovely.

THE ISLE OF CYPRUS.

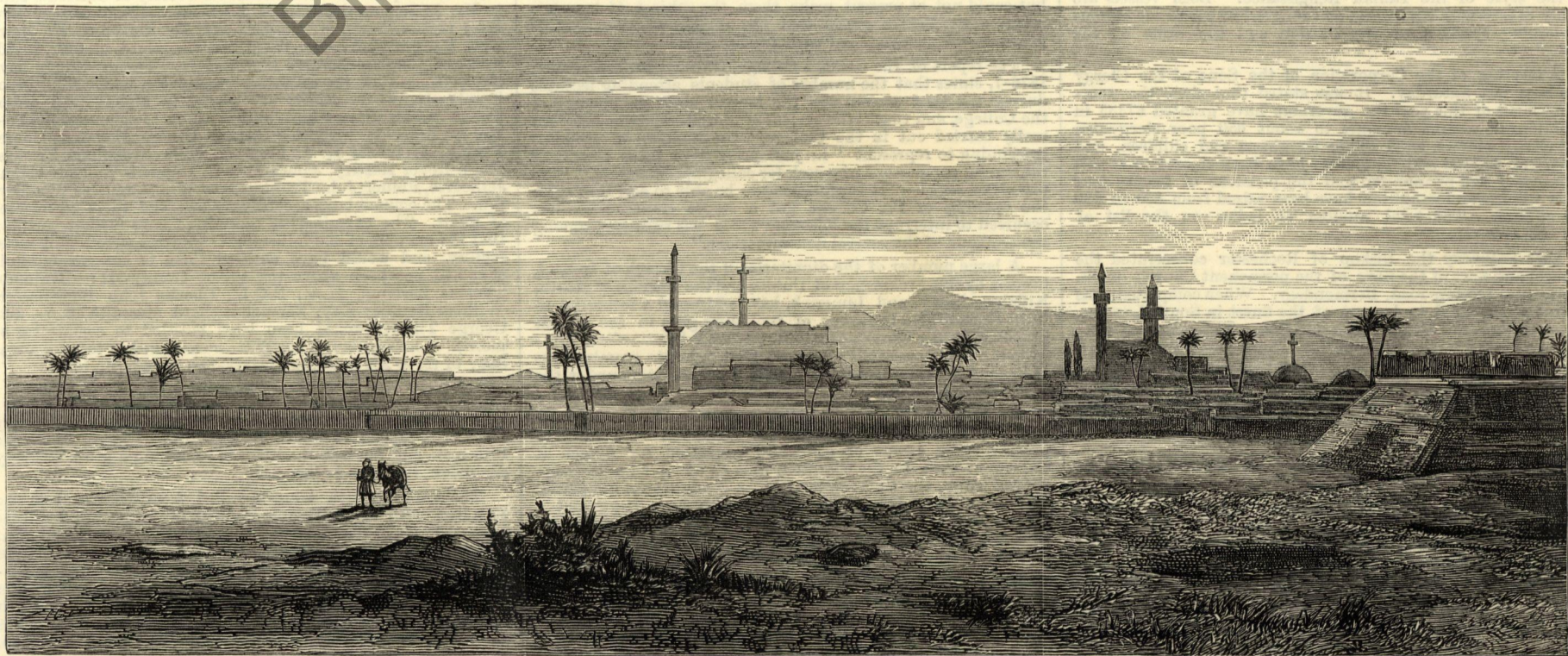
The new British Administrator, Lieutenant-General Sir Garnet Wolseley, arrived at the port of Larnaca on Monday morning in the transport-ship *Himalaya*, with his staff and a portion of the troops under his command. The British Naval squadron, consisting of the *Minotaur*, the *Black Prince*, the *Salamis*, the *Monarch*, and the *Invincible*, saluted his Excellency on entering the harbour. The troops arriving from Malta are mostly encamped beside the aqueduct, near Larnaca, but one battalion is sent to each of the other chief towns—Famagusta, on the east coast, Kydenia and Limasol, and Nicosia or Levkosia, which is the capital of the island. We have already dispatched a Special Artist to furnish this Journal with Illustrations of the commencement of British rule in Cyprus. The Engravings published in this and last week's Numbers present views of the capital, Nicosia; the Holy Cross Mountain, or Stavro Vouni, eastward of Larnaca; and the seacoasts at opposite extremities of the island. We gave some account of the geography and history of Cyprus in our last publication. More recent and precise information as to Cyprus is not readily obtainable. But for the inquiry instituted a few years ago as to the facilities offered to agricultural and industrial emigration carried on in countries where England has a consular service, and for the occasional reports of those Consuls upon the local commerce with Great Britain, there would not have been available for the general public at this day any recent sources of information about the island which has become on a sudden so interesting to England. In German there has been published, indeed, a more complete description of Cyprus, and of the antiquities of the island the American Consul, General



"RETALIATION." BY C. B. BIRCH. IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

Cesnola, has given a comprehensive account. But modern Cyprus has not yet found its English historian. Meanwhile, enough is on official record to furnish an intelligent comprehension of the country and its capabilities for European colonisation and European capital. The only opening which Cyprus offers to European colonists (we here quote Mr. Consul Lang) is as farmers. "Perfect security to life and property is an advantage possessed to a greater degree in this island than in any other part of Turkey," he says. "The land is all for sale, and at most moderate rates. The climate is not unhealthy, but demands—as every other place in the world does—simplicity in diet and temperance in habits. Under these conditions, capital invested would certainly find a handsome return in agricultural enterprise in Cyprus." The purchasing power of money in the island may be easily compared with that in England, when we say that in the necessaries of life £15 in Cyprus is as good as £25 in England; but that in the luxuries of life £15 in Cyprus is not so good as £10 in England.

As regards the temptations Cyprus offers to European capital, a glance at commercial returns will show the very varied nature of the goods in which it deals. Among its exports are raw cotton, wool, salt, dyes, silk, oil seeds, wine, locust beans (Russia imports them to the value of £42,000 per annum), hides, dried fruit, wheat and barley; while its imports include, as the larger items, cotton, woollen, and leather goods, tobacco, sugar, coffee, salt fish, rice, butter, hardware, iron, spirits, soap, and glass. The unequal nature of the climate is a drawback: one year will be remarkable for a torrent of rain forty days together, and the next memorable for drought. This is a fact against the farmer; but for such extremes of the seasons Nature has herself provided a set-off in endowing the island with such differences of temperature and such variety of soil that in no year—even though it be marked by local floods or partial droughts—does the average production of the whole island suffer. Thus when, in 1871, the cotton crop—owing to the drought, fell off some 60 per cent in the field as compared with 1870, the harvest from the carob-tree (the "locust bean") yielded a larger revenue than in the year before. In this, however, all authorities agree, that the soil of Cyprus is still an unworked mine, and that, as Consul Lang says, "capital invested would certainly find a handsome return in agricultural enterprise." Among the other sources of local revenue, the salt-fields deserve a passing notice. Thirty years ago those of Larnaca were leased for £400, but in 1871 they produced a clear revenue of £20,000. Nor does this last amount represent the profit which might be realised from this property, for the supply of salt—we give the words of local authority—is "unlimited," and, in spite of the unfortunate fiscal policy of the Turkish Government, the trade continues to increase. In the hope of obtaining an immediate increase of revenue, the Pasha of Cyprus raised the market rates of salt, but, failing in his object, lowered them again. The mischief, however, had been done; and, in spite of the cost of sea-carriage, Syria is now largely supplied with salt from Barbary. Yet but one word is wanting to double the Cyprus revenue from salt; for, by lowering the price a couple of paras per oke, not only would the home consumption rise to former proportions, but the Barbary traders, who at present make only bare profit, would have to abandon the Syrian market. Still, the main prosperity of Cyprus depends upon its land; it is pleasant, therefore, to gather from the official reports promises of future progress. In the first place, we learn that when, in 1869, a year of favourable seasons succeeded one of unfavourable, the Government tithes from the land leaped up 28 per cent. And in the next we note that the value of the crops has, as compared with ten years ago, largely increased bulk for bulk, owing solely to the improvement in the quality of the produce.



LEVKOSIA OR NICOSIA, THE CAPITAL OF CYPRUS.