THE NATIVE PRESS.

THREE MEMORABLE DAYS.

The "Mokattam" (under the heading "Egypt in Three Days"). — Egypt has scarcely seen in its very old history such days as the three days which have just passed in Cairo. The inhabitants of this city have witnessed three scenes which will remain engraved on the hearts of people, and which people will narrate to their descendants and commemorate for future generations. On Saturday dawn and on Sunday two extremely impressive processions marched through the streets of Cairo which attracted the keen attention of all people both pedestrians and those who live in the buildings situated on both sides of the roads, who looked at the scene with great admiration. When the second procession passed in front of Shepheard's Hotel the British officers who were there stood and greeted the masses of people according to the military fashion. Egypt is under the protection of the Deity. The scene on Sunday was a manifestation of sorrow accompanied with impressive calmness and serenity, and third scene of yesterday was one of great pleasure, jubilation and inexpressible delight. We write these lines not for the people of Cairo who all have seen what we mention, but for the population of the other parts of this country. And he who endeavours to describe the events which have figured before the vision of people feels his inability to do so on putting down the first word. As the processions marched in the streets of the capital tremendous shouts emanated from all directions filling the air, and hands played melodious tunes as they accompanied the crowds which were full of delight and energy from the oldest to the youngest. The Sultanic proclamation which was issued on Sunday evening gave a sense of hope for the improvement of the present state of affairs, and people spent the night expecting some good news to come on the morrow. At about noon, yesterday the "Mokattam" issued a supplement containing the declaration made by General Allenby in agreement with his Highness the Sultan removing the restrictions on travel and giving all Egyptians who wish to leave the country complete freedom to do so, the four detained Pashas included. Some people knew this on Sunday evening, but the general public, which had no knowledge of what would be declared, received the news with jubilation. We congratulate the country on the disappearance of the crisis. Let all work unitedly rendering every right and necessary service for the preservation of this union, the consolidation of the pillars of harmony and the elevation of the position of the country in the eyes of all people far and near. May Allah protect Egypt and the Sultan of Egypt and those who love her and wish her success.

FROM COMPLAINT TO DELIGHT.

The "Ahram." — Between the evening when the Sultan issued his message to his beloved nation asking it to rely on him and to help him to serve the community by giving up demonstrations, and the next morning when General Allenby acted, in agreement with the Sultan, his proclamation removing restrictions on travel and granting freedom to all Egyptians who desire to leave the country, and setting at liberty Saad Zaglloul Pasha, Ismail Sidky Pasha, Mohamed Mahmoud Pasha and Hamed Basel Pasha—between that evening and this morning—the community has changed from one state to another. It has ceased to complain and demand and has began to express its delight and thanks, raising its voice up to heaven....

A NEW MINISTRY.

The "Ahram." — It was rumoured in official circles last evening that the formation of a new Ministry was forthcoming; and we may convey the good news of its reconstitution very shortly to the nation, when all affairs will return to their normal conditions; and the country will resume its ordinary life, proceeding in the way of prosperity, with the help of the Almighty.

BELGIUM'S TREASURES RETURNED.

£100,000,000 CARGO.

Details of the record transport home of Belgium's national treasures have now been published. It is impossible definitely to fix the value of the cargo, but it is said to be close upon £100,0000,000. It consisted of thousands of sealed packages containing bullion, scrip, and all the valuable State documents of the Belgian Government and Crown, including a large number of secret papers, which belonged to the late King Leopold. The assets of the Post Office Savings Bank—a great deal in actual cash—also formed part of the cargo, which is described as the most valuable load ever taken across the seas.

When the Germans made their onslaught on Belgium the national treasures were hurried across to England piecemeal, any reasonable safe method of transit being adopted. It is understood that at any rate the bulk of the State valuables were saved. On arrival in England they were all assembled at the Bank of England, where they have been kept since. The task of getting them back to Belgium was obviously one of great responsibility, and every precaution was taken to ensure secrecy and safety. The cargo was sent in special trains to Tilbury in the charge of bank and Government officials. At Tilbury docks three special ships of the John Cockerill Line were waiting to take it across. Ten or twelve "watchers" mounted guard on the coverage. The vessels were escorted by destroyers as far as Dutch waters. At Antwerp the cargo was transferred to special trains and carried to Brussels, where it was received by officials of the Belgian Government.

TWO NEW GOVERNMENT POSTS.

In the budget it has been decided to make certain changes in the status of sub-Governors and sub-Mudirs and Moawins of the Ministry in the provinces. Two new posts have been created for this purpose, one with an annual salary of from L.E.600 to L.E.800 and another from L.E.400 to L.E.600.

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ANCIENT EGYPT.

DECREES OF PATERNAL DISINHERITANCE.

CURIOUS LEGAL CUSTOMS.

(By Joseph Offord).

The deeply lamented young scholar, M. Jean Maspero, in one of the early volumes of his catalogue of Greek papyri of the Byzantine Epoch, in the Cairo Museum, published as No.67097, a short manuscript which, however, illustrated a well known ancient Greek custom termed in antiquity the Apokerykis as existing at a late period. This word signified the legality, by a certain process, of a father to expel formally a recalcitrant son from the family home, and to deprive him of his inheritance. Further, to forbid him to assume the family name, or return to his parent's house.

To become effective this excommunicatory notification required a proclamation by an official. It was practically an act of banishment and of denial to the succession to property between living people and therefore differed from such pronunciations as those that become effective subsequent only to the decease of one of the parties.

This proceeding was current among the Hellenic peoples in very early times being mentioned in the code of extremely ancient laws found inscribed upon stone at Gortyna, in Crete. It is also mentioned by Plato and now the papyri prove it was still recognised as late as the reign of Diocletian.

The manuscript edited by M. Jean Maspero was studied and formed the basis for a thesis by M. Eduard Cuq who made the fullest possible use of it but there were only a few perfectly legible lines left upon it, so that it was not clear whether it was a report upon judicial procedure, or merely a piece of a legal students rhetorical declamation.

Consequently even if it did refer to some law, it might be a proposed enactment of such and not to one already in existence. M. Maspero was against the view that it referred to some accepted statute. The opinion as far as we know, rested on the fragments of any names of the parties concerned, and of any indication of the date of the act, or its place of promulgation, and its contents apparently being contrary to the Code of Justinian in his opinion all militated against it. M. Cuq however, notwithstanding the shortness and imperfections of the text thought otherwise. He referred the document to about the year 567 A.D. the time of Justin II and considered it then an action of parental legality, lawful to be put into force in the Greek provinces of the Roman Empire and especially in Egypt.

It tacitly permitted a father to make use of this still recognised law if the youth had persistently after remonstrance refused to amend his ways.

The denunciation of the culprit was required to be formally set forth in writing and the document submitted to a legal tribunal. If sanctioned, it deprived the child of all interest in his parents' property both at the time it was issued and of any subsequent acquisitions. This exclusion was formal and appears to have been irrevocable.

JUSTINIAN'S LAW.

The law of Justinian, however, in Novello CXVIII reserved to the son a third part of the portion of his father's estate he was legally entitled to. To be a consummated act it was necessary that it should be proclaimed by city authorities, so to insure due publicity by inscribing it in the public registers and also promulgating it by the city crier and exhibiting a written copy in a public place or thoroughfare.

M. Cuq from his study of the Cairo papyrus concludes that it did not, when completed, contain a specimen of part of the clauses of such a notification or of the law directing what the formulae of such clauses should be, but merely notes of the terms the writer knew had been, or proposed should be included in the notification of such a formality.

Fortunately nearly all such doubtful points have now been cleared up by the discovery of another papyrus which actually embodies an Act of Apokerykis preserved in some twenty six lines of fairly legible text. Those who would like to peruse it will find it in Tome III of Papyrus Musée du Caire and is one of the text so ploughly edited by Sir Gaston Maspero and M. Haussoullier from M. Jean Maspero notes. The document is accurately dated as having been engrossed upon "the eleventh day of Athyr; 3rd Indiration, in the 15th year of Justinian, which is equivalent to the April 12th A. 569. It presents to us the precise title for such a deed that is to say, the herald's formal proclamation ensuring the perpetual exclusion from a family of the person interdicted. Strange to say the father in the case disclosed by this new-found deed, appears to have been the unfortunate parent of a quartette of unvirtuous sons for four such are enumerated by their personal titles in the act depriving them of the family fortune. In a four line fragment the father describes their acts of misconduct and ingratitude.

The next legible piece of six lines gives part of the sentences concerning the redisposal of the father's property but a lacuna of the commencement renders the terms somewhat obscure. It is clear however that he reserves all their rights to his, except the amount of one As, or one obol. But this document accepts as compulsory at law the Novello CXVIII terms mentioned above, and it appears that in consequence of this the four misdemeanants were entitled to inherit one fourth of the estate, which would give to each as a matter of fact one twelfth of it. That is to say, the much tempered terms of the old Apokerykis law.

Had they not been such a vexation to their father they would have succeeded to one fourth of his property.

PARENTAL MALEDICTIONS.

The fifth piece of this valuable document appears to have contained parental personal malediction and an appeal to the magistrates from the father to protect him from any forcible attempts to compel him to assist the young people. That is to say the officials were to see to it that his Apokerykis decree was legally upheld. The sixth portion of the text is longer giving as any as twelve lines and only one of this paragraph appears to be missing. Fortunately it reproduces the final phrases of such an act. In them the father cautions the public scribes or notularii of the town of Antinoe to provide proper publicity to his notification. The decision it sets forth is immutable and irrevocable. It will be apparent that such publicity must have been beneficial to the citizens because notifying them of the depreciation in fortune of the children. Also as tending to warn other young people who might be tempted to follow in similar evil courses, by the dire results of the example of conduct of his own progeny. He sets forth that "These wicked children having offended and calumniated their father, I have regulated my testament in such a manner as to reduce it to the strict legal proportion so that all the world may know that I am determined to remain master." Of this irate old gentleman we fortunately know a good deal for he was that Diescuros of Antinoe whose poor, but prolix poems and fulsome panegyrics addressed to his superior officials occupy so many of the papyri procured from the mound of Kom Ishgaw. He was an advocate by profession and so we may rely upon it uses correct legal forms for the terms he employs.

A FATHER'S COUP DE GRACE.

The first edited piece of papyrus which was two years older it would now seem than this one was a roughly written project of phraseology for the parental coup degrace. He being in a certain sense a legal luminary in his engrossment of this act of Apokerykis, confines himself strictly to legal terminology and does not foist into the text, as was his habit in the literary effusions of his leisure hours, whole sentences or phrases from the classics. Neither has he, in this manuscript, indulged in the flights of oratory with which his numerous other productions are embellished. He merely inserts in this deed such sentences as are necessary to ensure its validity, several of which are embodied in the early document which we deem to have been a preliminary draft of the deed (see papyrus 67097). He especially cites the imperial law which sanctioned the disinheritance (under certain prohibitions) of children, which set forth that it was their duty to respect their parents as an obligation, under the penalty, in case of persistent disobedience, of being expelled from the family. So that the existence at Diosuros' date of a Novello of this description is certified. From these two papyri and various legal manuscripts and deeds such as wills, we can recover what must have been the leading formularies of the lost Novello of Justinian on this matter of successive family inheritance. It evidently was not the imperial aim therein to merely uphold and confirm the ancient Apokerykis penalties, but to moderate them and render its terms subject to supervision before consent to its promulgation could be obtained.

In future, previous to such a parental excommunicative sentence possessing legal force it must succeed in passing the honourable ordeal of a proper tribunal. The written public advertisement of its clauses had then to be exhibited for 7 days and its clauses complete duly engrossed in the city's archives. The mitigation in the penalty was considerable, because it would seem to have resulted in the defaulter, whatever his wrong doing, not being entirely disinherited but receiving one third of what he was originally entitled to. M. Cuq considers that these modifications were not strictly adhered to as up to the present we have not found any new law quoted in later collections of the imperial edicts.

It is interesting to know that the practice of disinheritance by Apokerykis exists in Greece at the present day. M. Cuq quotes the case of the exhibition of the formulae of such an act of parental defence in a province of the Peloponnesus in the year 1911 with differences necessitated by the changes of time such as an illusion to a proposal of departing for America very similar to the compilation of the outraged Diescuros. The last clauses of this production state that the wrong doer a young woman is henceforth placed beneath the ban of Apokerykis. Therefore upon the decease of her injured parents she shall not receive from them the sum of even one single centime.

Direct trains between Berlin and Vienna are now being run by way of Munich, Passau, and Linz to avoid passing through the Czecho-Slova territories, as was necessary on the old direct lines through Prague and Oderberg respectively.

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SUDAN TRADE.

The total value of merchandise imported into the Sudan during the month of February 1919 amounted to L.E. 393,158, showing an increase of L.E. 30,573 over those of February 1918. The total value of exports amounted to L.E. 311,091, being L.E.66,204 in excess of those of February 1918.

The total values of imports and exports during January and February were as follows:-

From January 1, to February 28:-

	1919. L.E.	1918. L.E.
Imports	554,907	705,421
Exports	489,595	465,473

The following tables show the values of the principal imports and exports during the solve mentioned period in 1919 as compared with 1918:-

From January 1, to February 28:-

IMPORTS

	1919. L.E.	1918. L.E.
Wheat	3,662	2,349
Flour	14,103	3,760
Sugar (refined)	117,351	58,711
Coffee	3,854	10,547
Tea	6,693	37,830
Coal	30,280	98,481
Matches	7,297	7,250
Soap	4,571	12,272
Cotton fabrics	168,972	212,550
Sacks	20,110	49,989
Tobacco, Tombac, Cigars, and Cigarettes	33,985	14,163

EXPORTS.

Cattle	71,457	72,998
Sheep and goats	77,087	59,881
Undressed Hides	11,167	15,645
Undressed Skins of Sheep and Goats	17,788	4,363
Ivory	11,641	4,417
Durra	13,827	80,873
Dukhn	25,001	19,453
Beans (Dried)	8,256	16,576
Sesame	66,566	40,572
Dates	16,505	17,019
Ground Nuts	25,341	13,105
Gum	89,979	77,347
Charcoal	11,225	7,494
Gold (Bullion)	6,263	7,808

The following tables show the values of imports and exports classified according to countries of origin and destination:-

IMPORTS.

The following are the imports and exports by countries. Via Red Sea and Nile routes:-

Great Britain	34,391	12,847
Egypt	459,754	346,504
Africa, Union of South	27,742	96,653
Arabia	3,356	3,332
Eritrea (Massawa)	644	2,982
France	40	257
India and Aden	58,097	241,079
Italy	1	69
Other Countries	4,882	1,698

EXPORTS.

The exports via Red Sea and Nile routes were:-

Great Britain	98,049	—
Egypt	350,697	440,276
Arabia	19,283	20,738
Eritrea (Massawa)	20,643	4,459
France	923	—

ANGLO-ITALIAN AMITY.

Brigadier-General Armando Mola, C.B. before returning to Italy after serving as Military Attaché in London, was entertained at dinner by the British Government at the Carlton Hotel, London. Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., presided in the unavoidable absence of Major-General Seely, and there were also present the Lord Mayor, Lieutenant-General Sir F.J. Davies, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Lieutenant-Col. S. L. H. Slocum (United States Army), Admiral Farquhar, C.B., Admiral de Lorenzo, K.C.M.G. and others.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "Our guest," read a telegram from the Italian Ambassador regretting his inability to be present. In General Mola, said the chairman, we had a very distinguished soldier, whose record went back for many years on many fields of battle in many climes. In the present war he had rendered distinguished services in Albania. He had fought in the Trentino and the Alps, having commanded batteries of heavy guns at altitudes of 7,500 ft. General Mola was perhaps even more intimately known to us for the invaluable work he had done here on the Inter-Allied Commission.

Brigadier-General Mola, in reply, spoke of his harmonious co-operation with the British authorities. He observed that there had been general sympathetic and comradeship in dealing with the difficult questions they had been called upon to solve. He felt that their work had been inspired by mutual confidence and mutual faith, and it had carried us all to final victory. He paid tribute to what he described as the "glorious British Impérial Army" one of whose most gallant units, the Guards Division, led by one of our most gallant soldiers, Lord Cavan, whose name was cherished by all Italians, we had the privilege of admiring in its triumphant march past its great King in such a display of loyalty and comradeship. It was this Army, and it was our great Navy, that entitled us to share in the important share of the laurels of victory over our common foe.

Summer time in Germany is to be from April 15 to September 15.

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BRITISH PRISONERS IN RUSSIA.

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT BY BOLSHEVISTS.

The question of the treatment of British prisoners in Russian hands has been raised in the House of Commons. Mr. Cecil Harmsworth stated for the Government that negotiations were in progress for the exchange of all military and civilian prisoners in the hands of the Russian Bolshevist Government; but he could not state when this exchange would take place.

Mr. George Jones asked the Foreign Secretary whether members of the British mission to the Caucasus, under Major Goldsmith, were put under arrest by the Bolshevist Government of Russia in October last at Vladikavkas, kept in custody until November, then removed to Astrakhan, a distance of 150 miles, in springless carts and motor lorries, and kept there until January last, when they were removed to Moscow, since which date they had been kept in solitary confinement in the Butiska prison in small, damp, and insanitary cells, and with insufficient food.

He asked whether the reason for this treatment was alleged by the Bolshevist Government of Russia to be that they require the members of the British mission as hostages; whether he was taking any steps to obtain the release of the men concerned; and whether he could state when he expected such release might be obtained.

Mr. Cecil Harmsworth said the answer to the first portion of the question was in the affirmative, with the exception that it was understood that the prisoners were not kept in military confinement, but were being allowed a certain amount of exercise.

BETTER TREATMENT NOW.

They were now reported to be in receipt of extra food and comforts, which had been sent out by his Majesty's Government. He understood that the Russian Bolshevist Government had stated in a wireless communiqué that the treatment of the Caucasus Mission would depend on the treatment given to those Russian Bolshevist officials who were prisoners in our hands, but he was not aware of the statement to which reference was made in the second part of the question.

Negotiations were in progress for the exchange of all military and civilian prisoners in the hands of the Russian Bolshevist Government; but he was not able to state when this exchange would be effected. The leaders of the Bolshevist movement had been informed that they would be held personally responsible for the treatment of all prisoners in their hands.

The Agricultural Relief of Allies Committee have shipped 300 head of cattle by the s.s. Manitou to Antwerp as a free gift of the farmers of England to help the Belgian farmers in restocking their holdings. This ship is to be followed in the near future by others, taking sheep, pigs, and poultry; in addition to cattle.

RACING ENTHUSIASTS.

Those who cannot attend the Races can yet have a big interest by taking chances in the "Gazette" weekly competition. All entrance fees less ten per cent give to the winner.

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FRANCE AND AMERICA.

On the proposal of M. André Tardieu, hitherto High Commissioner for France at Washington, President Poincaré has signed a decree abolishing the office of High Commissioner as from April 1. Such services as are necessary to be maintained in America for some months yet will be placed directly under the various departments concerned, under the authority of a resident Director-General. M. Casanave, Minister Plenipotentiary. The Commissariat-General for France-American War Business, established on June 17, 1918, is to be maintained with its present functions until the departure of the American Army from France.

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