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REPORT ON CEMETERY AT SMYRNA.

November 1872.

The Cemetery at Smyrna, in which are buried the officers and men of the British Army and of the Swiss Legion, who died there during the Crimean War, stands to the west of the town, on a rocky hill, and in the immediate vicinity of extensive Turkish and Hebrew burial grounds.

It was originally surrounded by a wall seven or eight feet in height, and with an entrance gate, but the wall is now in ruins, and the ground quite open, camels and cattle straying over it at will. The measurement of the walls is 100 paces by 46. The ground was never fully occupied, and there are now no signs either of graves or monuments, except in the centre, where there is an obelisk of soft stone, a good deal weather worn, about 30 feet high. It is a general memorial to those who died at Smyrna during the war; and on its four sides are inserted white marble slabs, on one of which is the following inscription:—

“Erected by voluntary contributions to the memory of the British soldiers who “died in the Civil Hospital at Smyrna, and of civilians who met their death in attendance upon the sick. 1856.”

On the three other sides are inscribed the names of all the officers and men of the British Army, and of the Swiss Legion, who were buried there.

Their numbers are as follows:—

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Royal Artillery | 9 | 68th Regiment | 1 |
| Sappers and Miners | 2 | 77th | 7 |
| Grenadier Guards | 8 | 88th | 3 |
| Coldstream Guards | 12 | 89th | 1 |
| Scots Fusiliers | 4 | 90th | 6 |
| 7th Fusiliers | 3 | 93rd | 5 |
| 9th Regiment | 3 | Rifle Brigade, 1st Battalion | 5 |
| 13th | 1 | Rifle Brigade, 2nd Battalion | 4 |
| 17th | 1 | 97th Regiment | 4 |
| 18th | 3 | Ambulance Corps | 1 |
| 19th | 7 | Land Transport | 2 |
| 20th | 1 | Dispensers | 1 |
| 21st | 5 | Female Nurses | 2 |
| 23rd | 18 | Wardmasters | 1 |
| 24th | 1 | Orderlies | 1 |
| 30th | 3 | Assistant-Surgeon Camplin | 1 |
| 33rd | 3 | | |
| 34th | 5 | Total | 155 |
| 38th | 1 | | |
| 39th | 1 | BRITISH SWISS LEGION. | |
| 41st | 9 | | |
| 42nd | 1 | — | |
| 44th | 1 | Officers | 1 |
| 46th | 1 | Men | 29 |
| 47th | 2 | Total | 30 |
| 50th | 1 | | |
| 55th | 1 | | |
| 57th | 2 | | |
| 62nd | 2 | | |

The obelisk requires some repairs at the angles; and it has been evidently used as a target, as there are many marks of small shot, and also splashes of lead from bullets, on the marble slabs.

The whole place is dilapidated; and there was an encampment of gipsies just outside at the time of my visit to it.

Mr. Cumberbatch, the Consul, with whom I consulted, informed me that he had spent 30*l.* in repairs a few years since, and had appealed often to the Turkish authorities, both military and police, as to the destruction of the walls, and the desecration of the place, but in vain. The Hebrew Cemetery close by is equally desecrated, in spite of the efforts of the Jews to prevent it. The stones of the wall are carried away for other buildings, and the gate has disappeared.

It would require an expenditure of at least 300*l.* to rebuild the wall; and unless a guardian were appointed, which would involve an annual cost of about 40*l.*, exclusive of a residence, the place would inevitably be destroyed again in the course of a few months. Mr. Cumberbatch, the Consul, informed me that arrangements are now being made with the Turkish authorities for the establishment of a new general burying-ground near the town for the Christians at Smyrna, and which will be properly guarded.

Under the above circumstances, my recommendations are that the ground in which the officers and men were buried be covered over with a large mound, and that the *débris* of the walls be cleared away. With respect to the obelisk, it should be removed to the new Christian Cemetery, which will involve a cost of about 50*l.*, and it will then be preserved as a general memorial to those who died at Smyrna during the Crimean War.

The Consul, with whom I consulted, concurs in the above recommendations.

JOHN ADYE,
Brigadier-General.