

BERAT.

The last *Berut*, or Charter, issued by the Sublime Porte to an Archbishop of Cyprus, the last we may believe, which will ever be issued, is a document of some historical interest.

We translate from the Romaic version given on pp. 136—143 of the *Εἰδήσεις Ἱστορικαὶ* of Philippos Georgiou, 8vo, Athens, 1874, modifying or explaining here and there a word or phrase by the light of a more summary English translation made directly from the Turkish original. The beginning of the month Shawwal, Anno Hegiras 1262, would fall between February 17 and 26, Anno Domini 1866, the fifth year of the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz.

Archbishop Sophronios died at Nicosia on Tuesday, May 22, 1900, æt. 75. He was a native of Phini, in the district of Limasol.

A copy (Romaic) of a *Berat* granted 8 Rejeb, 1251 (Oct. 30, 1835), to a Patriarch of Constantinople, will be found in pp. 258—272 of vol. I. of the *Memoirs of the Patriarch Gregory V.*, by G. G. Pappadopoulos, 8vo, Athens, 1865, and another in *Ὁδομικαὶ Κώδικες*, vol. III. 2789—dated October, 1860. The first such *Berat* was given in 1750 to the Patriarch Samuel Hanjeri. The imperial sanction had been previously conveyed by a *firman*.

IMPERIAL BERAT ISSUED TO HIS BEATITUDE SOPHRONIOS, ARCHBISHOP OF CYPRUS,
AFTER HIS PROCLAMATION IN 1865.

Seeing that, in consequence of the news of the death of the monk Macarios, Archbishop of the island of Cyprus, &c., which was recently announced, it was necessary that another should be chosen in his room, and as, by the common voice and assent, there has been elected the bearer of this our imperial *Berat* (may the strength of this Christian Primate be established!) the monk Sophronios (may his dignity be prolonged!) WE, having received news of this by a memorial (*Mahaar*) signed by all the deputies appointed to this end by the rayahs of Cyprus, who have humbly tendered their report, as well as by notice received in a resolution (*Mazbata*) of the common council of the said island, after the archives had been searched, and it was found that there really stood recorded a grant of the Archbishopric of the island to the aforementioned monk deceased, and having obtained the necessary assurance and report that the customary douceur of one hundred thousand aspers has been paid in cash to the proper office, as it was agreed, and was laid down in the original *firman*, WE give this our imperial *Berat*, and WE command

I. That the said monk Sophronios do take up the said Archbishopric of Cyprus, &c. according to the custom existing *ab antiquo*.

II. That the several metropolitans, bishops, abbots, priests, nuns, and other Christians who are under his jurisdiction, according to the custom prevailing *ab antiquo*, and the duty imposed upon them by their religion, do acknowledge him as Archbishop, and do not show themselves reprehensibly negligent in offering their dutiful obedience.

III. That he be obstructed by no one in the duties of his Archbishopric, and that no one encroach on the same, or molest him.

IV. That no one, without our exalted command, snatch from his hands the churches and monasteries which have been *ab antiquo* in the possession of the Archbishops.

V. That no one interfere in their repair, when this is carried out on the old lines, with the sanction of the courts, and under our exalted *firman*.