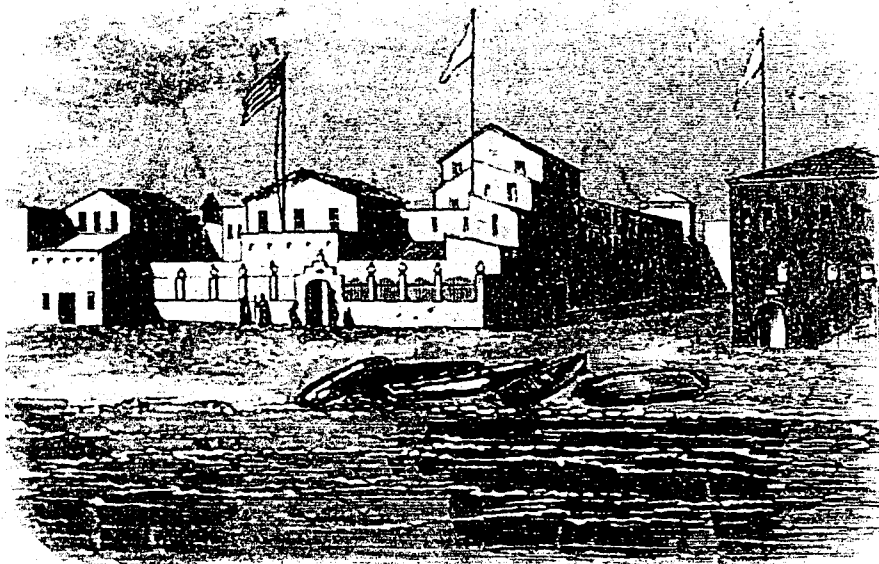


VIEW OF THE CITY OF NICOSIA, CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND.

THE ISLAND OF CYPRUS.

THE island of Cyprus, over which the flag of Great Britain has just been raised, in pursuance of the secret treaty between the Government of that country and Turkey, lies in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, and has a length of about one hundred and forty miles, with a breadth of from fifteen to forty miles. The distance from its extreme eastern point to the nearest point of the coast of Syria is sixty-five miles, while on the north the distance from its shore line to the coast of Asia Minor is about eighty-four miles. The population of the island is about two hundred thousand, of whom two-thirds are Greeks and the rest Moslems, Maronites, Armenians, Roman Catholics and Jews. It is intersected from east to west by a range of mountains, called Olympus by the ancients. The island occupies a distinguished place both in sacred and profane history, having belonged alternately to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Persians, Romans, Venetians and Turks—the latter having subdued it in 1571. It was long celebrated for the quality of its wines, but the production has now become inconsiderable. The capital of the island is Nicosia, which is located nine miles from the sea, and has a population of twelve thousand. The city is three miles in circuit, is surrounded by strong walls, and includes among its principal buildings the Seraglio or Governor's Palace, the Mosque of St. Sophia, the Palace of the Greek Archbishop, and the Church of St. Catherine. Larnaka, a city of ten thousand population, where the European consuls and the principal foreign merchants reside, and Limasol, are the chief commercial emporiums of the island. One of our illustrations shows the United States consular

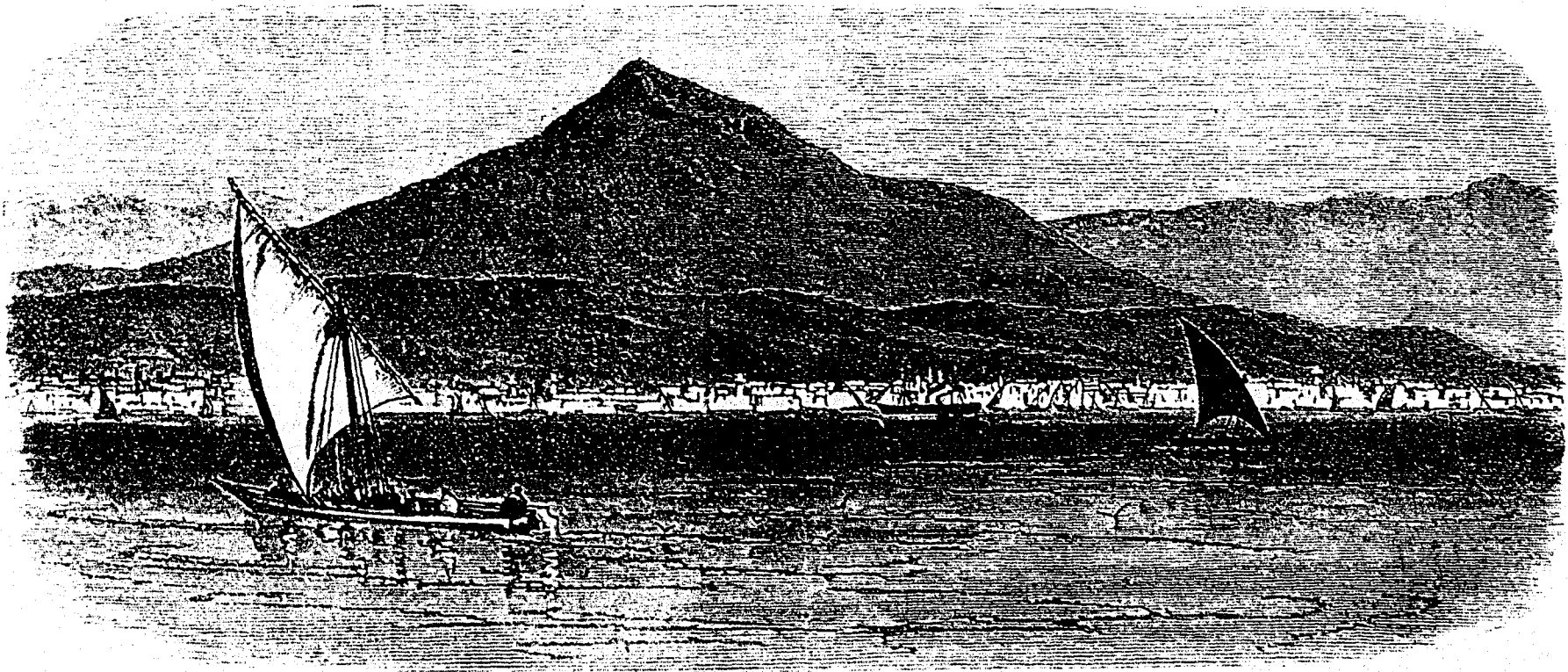


VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE, LARNAKA.

buildings at Larnaka. The island often suffers from drought, and locusts commit great ravages. Madder root forms the principal production, and the exportation of carob beans is rapidly growing. The annual grain crop is small, but there is a considerable growth of cotton, and colocynth is extensively cultivated. The prosperity of the island has been retarded by the oppression of the Turks; but under the regime of Great Britain its interests will no doubt be largely developed. To Americans the island has a peculiar interest, owing to the discoveries made there by General Cesnola.

The value of Cyprus to Great Britain lies in the fact that its possession will give her complete control of the Mediterranean, while the protectorate which she guarantees of the whole of Asiatic Turkey will at the same time give her control of the land communications between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

Under all the changes of administration to which it has been subject, the political importance of the island has never been denied. Its geographical situation makes it, in the hands of a maritime power, the virtual ruler of the whole of Southern Asia Minor to the north, and of Syria to the east. Any naval power owning Cyprus is also mistress of Port Said and the mouths of the Nile. Indeed, for a nation aiming at influence in Asia, the all-importance of its possession can scarcely be overestimated. There are harbors which can easily be dredged for an almost unlimited navy, and all along the coast from Cape St. Andreas to Buha there are heights which can easily be crowned with fortifications almost as impregnable as those of Gibraltar itself. And unlike Gibraltar, with its narrow strips of fertile soil about and below the Alamedas, the soil



VIEW OF LARNAKA, THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL EMPORIUM OF THE ISLAND.