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CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

CONDITION OF THE POPULATIONS

IN

ASIATIC TURKEY,

AND THE

PROCEEDINGS IN THE CASE OF MOUSSA BEY.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 1 (1890)." C. 5912.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1891.

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Correspondence respecting the Condition of the Populations in Asiatic Turkey, and the Proceedings in the Case of Moussa Bey.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 1 (1890)."]

No. 1.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 20, 1890.

MR. ALVAREZ, not being able to ascertain what, if any, action was being taken with regard to the fresh charges against Moussa Bey, called on the 18th instant on the Minister of Justice. The conversation Mr. Alvarez had with his Excellency is of some interest, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of his Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez.

IN consequence of my inability to obtain any information respecting the present condition of the remaining actions against Moussa Bey, and more especially of the muleteer, Ali Agha's, I called upon Jevdet Pasha, the Minister of Justice, and asked him for information. None, however, was procurable to-day, owing to the numerous cases of illness among the officials of the Ministry of Justice, and the Pasha asked me to call again on Monday.

In the course of conversation his Excellency asked me point-blank what were the objects aimed at by the Armenian Committees in London and Paris.

I replied that of course I did not know, but as our conversation was essentially private and unofficial, I said that, personally, I imagined that they desired to obtain considerable improvements in the administration of the provinces inhabited by their co-religionists.

The Pasha then inquired how could they maintain that they were in a majority in the country they called Armenia when they were really in a hopeless minority, and at this point he produced a document containing statistics as to the population of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir, Mamuret-ul-Aziz (or Kharput), Kaleb, Adana, and Siwas. The figures he read out to me, compared with those given for the Mussulman and non-Armenian populations, were decidedly unfavourable to the Armenian claim to a majority of the inhabitants. From memory I can only give one example. In the Vilayet of Bitlis, out of a total population of 285,000 souls, only 115,000 were Armenian, according to the Pasha, and in this vilayet he said the Armenians were relatively most numerous. As he told me these statistics were official, and with the exception of one or two vilayets, derived from the last census, I asked if he would have any objection to give me a copy. "None whatever," said he;

I will let you have it on Monday." From recollection of articles which the Ambassador had kindly shown to me, I pointed out to the Pasha that a great portion of the provinces which he said the Committees claimed as Armenian was not included in the territory for which these Committees demanded an improved administration,

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and that nobody thought of maintaining that certain districts, such as Hekkiari, for example, were Armenian in character. I also mentioned that the Armenians in their calculations exclude nomad races, such as the Kurds, from whom they receive considerable annoyance.

Against this exclusion the Pasha very naturally protested. He then made a digression to the subject of Moussa Bey, and mentioned what to me appeared to be an astonishing fact, if true, viz., that Moussa Bey was appointed Mudir of Khoyth, at the request of several Armenians some years ago.

I pointed out to his Excellency that the Porte has it in its power to remove the Armenian question absolutely. "How?" asked the Pasha. "By the strict enforcement of the existing laws on the administration of the provinces, by the establishment of a mixed gendarmerie, by the appointment of efficient and competent Valis, judicial and other officials, and by their being regularly paid proper salaries. There would then be no more complaints about the insecurity of life and property."

The Pasha: "These are certainly points deserving the serious consideration of the Porte, but you know we have always had the Budget difficulty as regards judicial officials. I readily admit their insufficiency, but we haven't the money to pay more." I referred to a time less than ten years ago, when several Ministers, and among them the Ministry of Justice, had more control over their own revenues, and officials were better paid in consequence. The Pasha assented, and changed the conversation.

I ought to mention that Jevdet Pasha fully admitted the loyalty of the great bulk of the Armenian population, and when discussing the numbers of the Armenian population, he asserted that Saïd Pasha, the present Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the late General Baker Pasha made a tour in Asia Minor, Armenia, and Kurdistan after the last war, and reported on this question. Copy of their Report was communicated to the British Embassy. If I rightly recollect, this Report was made in 1879 or 1880.

(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

January 18, 1890.

No. 2.

Rustem Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

RUSTEM PACHA présente ses compliments au Marquis de Salisbury et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ci-joint la traduction d'un télégramme que quelques-uns des principaux habitants Arméniens de Van ont dernièrement adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et qui a pour objet de démentir certaines nouvelles répandues en ces derniers temps concernant l'état de cette province.

Londres, le 1^{er} Février, 1890.

(Translation.)

RUSTEM PASHA presents his compliments to the Marquis of Salisbury, and has the honour to transmit to him herewith the translation of a telegram which some of the principal Armenian inhabitants of Van have recently addressed to his Highness the Grand Vizier, and the object of which is to refute certain reports which have lately been spread with regard to the condition of that province.

London, February 1, 1890.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Telegram addressed from Van to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

Le 28 Janvier, 1890.

IL est parvenu à notre connaissance que, dans ces derniers temps, certains journaux étrangers ont répandu la nouvelle que des villages étaient incendiés et que des habitants étaient mis à mort dans notre province. Le fait que des bruits de ce genre aient pu être inventés et publiés a profondément agité les sentiments de tous vos fidèles serviteurs. Nous nous hâtons de vous assurer que les nouvelles dont il s'agit sont l'œuvre de la malveillance, et nous saisissons avec empressement cette

occasion de renouveler l'expression de nos sentiments de fidélité et de dévouement envers la personne de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Souverain.

Ce télégramme est signé par le Délégué du Patriarche, les membres du Conseil Civil des Arméniens, et plusieurs Arméniens notables de Van.

(Translation.)

January 28, 1890.

IT has come to our knowledge that recently certain foreign newspapers have spread the report that villages were burnt, and that the inhabitants were put to death, in our province. The fact that reports of this kind should have been invented and published has deeply disturbed the feelings of all your faithful servants. We hasten to assure you that the reports in question are the work of evil-disposed persons, and we eagerly seize this opportunity to renew the expression of our sentiments of loyalty and devotion towards the person of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, our august Sovereign.

This telegram is signed by the Delegate of the Patriarch, the members of the Civil Council of the Armenians, and several Armenian notables of Van.

No. 3.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, February 7.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, dated the 2nd January, 1890, from Mr. Devey, Vice-Consul at Van, drawing attention to certain statements on the authority of the Secretary of the Armenian Patriotic Association, published in the London "Daily News" of the 11th December, 1889 (which I have not seen), together with the copy of a despatch, dated the 7th January, 1890, addressed by me to Mr. Devey, asking for further information on matters mentioned in his despatch. I telegraphed to you on the 7th instant with reference to this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, January 2, 1890.

A PARAGRAPH appeared in the "Daily News" of the 11th ultimo, containing various statements on the authority of the Secretary of the Armenian Patriotic Association. It would be unnecessary to point out the absurdity of the assertion that a band of Kurds, armed with Martini rifles, issued from the Government stores of this city to make a raid on the village of Daghveran.* It is further stated that an Armenian named Mekhitar, of the village of Zitzan, in Shattakh, was roasted to death by Kurds. To the best of my belief, no such incident at all has occurred in any part of this vilayet.

As to sheep-lifting, it is true that there were some cases in the latter half of October last; 300 sheep were carried off from the village of Sevan, but the culprits were found and restitution enforced within the next few days. Sheep were also carried off from the villages of Kessrik and Archag, in this neighbourhood, and from the village of Kirel, of Hamidiyyé Caza, in smaller quantities about the same time. I am not aware that there have been any other cases since.

The above-mentioned murder at Zitzan may presumably be explained by a reference to a Report addressed by Mr. Barnham to Sir E. Thornton on the 1st October, 1886. Should my surmise be correct, it is most unjustifiable that this outrageous deed should be now brought forward as if it happened yesterday, instead of

* ? Aghveran.

three and a-half years ago, and to accuse the Vali of Van of "endeavouring to suppress the truth."

I understand that a further statement has appeared in print to the effect that seven villages in the Van Vilayet have been lately burnt, with violence. This also is absolutely untrue; its only foundation can be in the fact that some few stacks of hay have been destroyed by fire during the last three months, and a considerable quantity at Bashkaleh (Albak), and some stacks in one or two villages of Garchigan Caza. In the former case, I believe there was doubt as to who the incendiaries were, while, in the latter, the local authorities are taking steps to obtain some indemnification for those who suffered loss.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Consul Lloyd to Vice-Consul Devey.

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 7, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 2nd January, 1890. With reference to certain statements that appeared in the "Daily News" of the 11th ultimo, you remark, "It is true that in October last there were cases of sheep-stealing, 300 sheep having been carried off from the village of Sevan;" but you add that the culprits were found and restitution was enforced within a few days of the offence being committed. You also mention two other instances of the same kind of depredation, without, however, stating whether in these the offenders were discovered or restitution of the property took place. I presume that in each of these cases the aggressors were Kurds and the victims Armenians.

It is desirable that you should furnish me with information on the following points:—

(a.) As to whether any criminal proceedings were instituted by the Government or the owners of the sheep against the offenders at Sevan, who are said to have been discovered, and, if so, with what result.

(b.) As to whether in the two other cases mentioned by you the offenders were discovered and brought to trial, and whether the stolen property has yet been restored to the owners or not.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 4.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, February 7.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the following despatches from Mr. Devey, the Vice-Consul at Van: the 26th September, 1889, the 29th October, 1889 (with inclosure), and the 17th December, 1889, together with copy of my despatch dated Erzeroum, the 9th December, 1889, to Mr. Devey, with reference to some disturbances that took place a few months ago among a portion of the Sassun district, in the Sandjak of Moush. It would appear that early in the month of September last certain Kurds in this district, being pressed by the Government with reference to a murder said to have been committed, and on account of certain taxes due, defied (and in this they were joined by some Armenians) the local authorities, who had but two companies of troops at their disposal. A reinforcement of two battalions was consequently sent from Van, and on the arrival of these troops the insurgents, to the number of from 200 to 300 men, armed with native guns, but no rifles, took to the hills, where they were attacked and dispersed, with the loss to themselves of six men killed and wounded. Order is said to have been at once restored.

I inclose an extract from the "Times" of the 17th December, 1889, which evidently refers to the incident reported by Mr. Devey. The statements that "the population of Sassoun, in Upper Armenia, has rebelled and driven out the Turkish garrison from that town," that "after two sanguinary encounters, the troops were put

to rout," and that "the insurgents with six cannon were being reinforced from Russian Armenia," being, according to Mr. Devey's Report, devoid of foundation, I thought it desirable to so inform you by telegraph on the 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Chermiside.

Sir,

Van, September 26, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in consequence of trouble among the Kurds of Sassoun district in the Moush Sandjak, two battalions will start from Van for that caza the day after to-morrow. Mehmed Bey, a Staff Lieutenant-Colonel, has been placed in command; this officer has had considerable experience in commanding expeditions sent to restore order in turbulent districts, *e.g.*, last year in Hekkiari, and some years ago among the Dersim Kurds, and full reliance may be placed in his zeal and discretion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, October 29, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a paragraph in the "Bitlis" journal, affording some information respecting the incident in Sassoun mentioned in my despatch of the 26th ultimo. Mehmed Bey left Van alone, but took command of the troops from Moush and Bitlis. It is stated that the language of Sassoun is an impure Armenian, whence it may be conjectured that a part of the Moslems were renegades from that Church at some epoch. The immediate cause of the dispatch of the troops was, I am told, a refusal to pay taxes, in which the Armenians joined the Kurds. The three Cazas of Modki, Sassoun, and Garzan are very similar in general characteristics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Extract from the "Bitlis Gazette" of October 17, 1889.

(Translation.)

ARREST AND PUNISHMENT OF BRIGANDS IN SASSOUN.—When Sassoun Caza is spoken of, most of our readers would doubtless think of a well-ordered place where the inhabitants are blessed with the advantages of civilization.

In respect of this caza, though it is hoped that under the Sultan's auspices the order, tranquillity, and civilization imagined by our readers, who are ignorant of local conditions, will be established—yet its present condition is entirely wanting in such order and civilization.

This district comprises over a hundred villages, and depends for its civil administration on Moush, and for its judicial on Sert; it is about fourteen or fifteen hours distant from the former, and ten or eleven from the latter town.

Besides the importance of this caza, and the wild and nomad character of the inhabitants—so to speak, just as in the Cazas of Modiki and Garzan—the fact of its being surrounded by these cazas and Khyan and Pernashin and such-like "nahiyyés," and that it should be limitroph with such difficult of access, but important spots, clearly gives special reasons for its local importance being greatly augmented.

In view of the wildness of the inhabitants, local conditions having prevented any census* being taken so far, the exact number of inhabitants is unknown; but, males and females together, it may be approximately taken as exceeding 6,000, of whom four-fifths are Kurds, and the rest Armenians.

* Colonel Everett estimated in 1884: Armenians, 5,957; Kurds, 3,045.

If, on account of its mountainous situation and remoteness, Sassoun has remained quite obscured from the rays of careful attention, inspection, and reform, no less has that which depends on the light of prosperity—education—entirely failed to penetrate.

Inasmuch as they had none among them capable of explaining the true creed, or of appreciating law and morality, the inhabitants, both Moslem and non-Moslem, have remained in gross ignorance and abjectness of understanding, and, whilst knowing nothing of religious duties or institutions, have even forgotten their language.

The language they at present generally use, which resembles a species of Arabic without any system, is in suitable relation to the strange barbarism which has produced it from the blending and mixing up of the Kurdish, Zaza, and Armenian languages.

Kurds and Armenians converse in this tongue, and the individuals of both nations in the exercise of brute violence are as wild beasts, and in their actions and habits perseveringly give free licence to villany and aggression.

That the Government functionaries of this caza, which from time to time has had to be administered by military force, have been compelled to accommodate their ideas and action to the requirements of local conditions, and that often enough in respect of necessary local business inaction has been incumbent, is no secret.

For the purpose of establishing and rendering firm the necessary security under His Majesty the Sultan as against this peace-breaking condition, which occasions local perturbation, and for the seizing of the murderers of a certain Stepan who was killed by robbers in his house at night, a recent effect of this savageness, two detachments of troops were lately dispatched to the caza by Imperial command.

When news was received that this force was unequal to cope with the situation and to re-establish order effectively, two battalions of infantry summoned from Moush and neighbouring posts and placed under the command of Mehmed Bey, a Lieutenant-Colonel of the regulars from Van, together with two mountain guns, were further sent, so that the chastising force thus attained a sufficient degree of efficiency.

When for some days nothing was heard of the operations of this force, upon repeated communications to the proper quarter whereby the necessity and importance of taking measures and action was pointed out by the Vali's representative *pro tem.*, the Defterdar, for this most urgent pursuit—to sum up the official information handed in, the prescribed measures followed out by Mehmed Bey in accordance with the communications and desires of the central authorities resulted in complete success.

The military force returned safely to Khato, the caza town of Sassoun, having seized under the Sultan's authority the four wicked robbers, the sons of Bedr Khan, suspected of having ventured on the odious deed of murder, and renowned in crime, with their abettors they were found in the village Morshen of Garzan, where they had taken refuge but were unable to escape the military power. The inhabitants of Sassoun, practised and accomplished in wickedness, were reduced to complete submission by the troops, who were successful in this manner.

That so great a solicitude which must be reviewed in relation to the difficulty and predisposition of the situation, taken together with the wild and wandering habits of the inhabitants, should have been done away with by the above described gentle and safety-giving methods, through the wonderful effects produced by the Sultan, whose study is the causes of prosperity, devoting his special quality of majesty and his private talents of grace to removing every difficulty and obstacle to make way for facility and ease, which is all in accord with his dignity, therefore do we offer special prayers on behalf of His Majesty in pure devotion of spirit, and record gratefully the serious efforts, zeal, and measures which have happily resulted in these high fortunate events as desired by the Vali and the troops, and in particular their commander, and by the local authorities.

Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, December 17, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your despatch asking for further information respecting the cause and nature of the recent disturbances in Sassoun, and the measures taken by the authorities to quell them.

I have not been able to obtain fresh details as to the cause of the disturbance, but previously had reason to believe that the Kurds of the caza in question refused to pay their taxes and tithes this summer, as they doubtless have often enough done before, and that the Armenians, who are in the depths of ignorance and barbarism, and scarcely distinguishable from the Kurds, followed their lead.

The translation from the "Bitlis," which has already been forwarded you, avers that the local authorities have on many occasions found it necessary to remain quite passive, and not attempt to exert any authority; it makes no reference to non-payment of taxes and defiance of the Local Government, but ascribes the dispatch of the two battalions to the "peace-breaking condition" which occasioned local perturbation, and the necessity of seizing the murderers of one Stepan, after that two companies of troops, sent previously, had been found unable to maintain order. The murder had taken place at Hazu, and four suspects had been already arrested there.

The Sassoun rebels formed a considerable band, numbering possibly between 200 and 300, and armed with native guns, but no military rifles; as soon as they learnt that two battalions and two mountain guns had been sent against them they passed from Sassoun to the mountains of Gharzan, and were caught up by the troops at a few scattered houses forming part of the village of Norshin, from which a brook flows down past Hazu (Khato), chief town of Sassoun; to the east a lofty ridge divides the valley from Modkan, and on the remaining three sides the ground rises more gently. Here Mehmed Bey, the Lieutenant-Colonel in command, completely surrounded them, sending out his troops at midnight, and at early dawn advancing directly up the valley with the two mountain guns; the Kurds, as is usually the case, were panic-struck as soon as they heard the sound of the bugles, and attempted flight in two directions, but were each time turned back. Some five or six were wounded and killed, and they took shelter among the houses; the guns were now brought into action, and fifteen and eleven shots fired from the two pieces, when they displayed a white scarf and surrendered. The fight lasted a short half hour, and none of the soldiers were hurt.

I now hear that order has been effectively restored, it is to be hoped on a permanent basis, but no troops have been stationed in the disturbed cazas.

The forces that took part in this affair were one battalion from Moush, and one from Sert; one company also joined from Touzlar; but the command was confided to the Staff Lieutenant-Colonel Mehmed Bey of Van.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 4.

Consul Lloyd to Vice-Consul Devey.

Sir,

Erzeroum, December 9, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 29th October, 1889, together with the inclosure thereto.

In your previous despatch dated the 29th September, 1889, you reported that two battalions have been sent from Van to the Sassoun district in the Moush Sandjak, in consequence of disturbances therein.

After further inquiry such as you may be able to institute, please report the cause and nature of the disturbances alluded to, as well as the measures taken by the Turkish civil and military authorities in suppressing them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 4.

Extract from the "Times" of December 17, 1889.

ARMENIA.—News has reached Vienna from Russian sources that the population of Sassoun, in Upper Armenia, has rebelled and driven out the Turkish garrison from that town. The garrison was not large. It is reported that two sanguinary encounters took place before the troops were put to rout. The insurgents are now said to have received reinforcements from Russian Armenia, and to be in possession of six cannon.

Vienna, December 16, 1889.

No. 5.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 7.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 9, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch dated the 18th December, 1889, from the Vice-Consul at Van, with reference to disturbances that have lately taken place in the Caza of Khizan, in the Sert Sandjak of Bitlis.

The Adianli Ashiret is a Kurdish tribe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

 Inclosure in No. 5.
Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, December 18, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report that news of a distressing character has arrived from the Caza of Khizan, in the Sert Sandjak of Bitlis.

The Adianli Ashiret had been guilty of some outrages (of which I have no information) in the neighbourhood of Sert, and a company of troops was sent from that town and seized some of their Chiefs; the greater part of the tribe effected their escape. The soldiers then, it is stated, misbehaved; they abused the Kurdish women who had been left behind, and also possessed themselves of chattels buried by the Kurds before their flight. Shortly afterwards the son of the Captain in command was, on his way from Sert town to join his father in Khizan, caught by the Adianli and cut in pieces.

In the next place, the Kaimakam of Khizan sent the "Verghi Mudir" of that district with some other functionaries to hold an inquiry on the spot where the tribal Notables had been arrested. Those of the Kurds who were still there, mistrusting their intentions, shut themselves up, and in making a sortie killed the "Verghi Mudir."

I am sorry to have only such scanty details to bring to your notice on this subject, but you, Sir, are doubtless aware how difficult it is to obtain any information which would tell against the order and security maintained in the provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 6.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 30, 1890.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting Moussa Bey, I have the honour to report that, having heard that an "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" had been issued by the "Juge d'Instruction" in the case of Ali, the Turkish muleteer, against Moussa Bey, and that an appeal against this "Ordonnance" was made in due form by the plaintiff's lawyer, and was under the consideration of the "Cour des Mises en Accusation," I instructed Mr. Alvarez to make inquiries at the Ministry of Justice. From these it resulted that the information was correct, but as I had reason to fear that no further progress was being made in the second stage of the Moussa case, I sent Sir A. Sandison to discuss the matter with Djevdet Pasha, and to point out to him the irregularities in the former trial, which have been reported to your Lordship in detail, and to express a hope that in the second stage these would not be repeated, and that no further time should be lost in bringing Moussa to trial on the many and serious charges still pending against him.

His Excellency having emphatically denied the existence of any irregularities, and having asked that these should be recapitulated to him, I instructed Mr. Stavrides and Mr. Alvarez to go together the following day to see his Excellency and discuss the question of the proceedings.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Stavrides, giving a report of the conversation which took place, and a translation of the Memorandum which his Excellency begged might be presented to him.

Djevdet Pasha now proposes to make in writing a history of the various phases of the case for my information.

I shall not fail to transmit to your Lordship a translation of this document when it reaches me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Memorandum.

IN consequence of his Excellency's instructions communicated by you, I called yesterday with my colleague Mr. Alvarez upon Djevdet Pasha, and I stated to his Excellency that as he expressed the wish in his interview with you the previous day to discuss the question of the proceedings of the judicial authorities in the Moussa trial with somebody who knows something about law, we both were instructed to put ourselves at his Excellency's disposal upon this point. Thereupon Djevdet Pasha proceeded to state that he had carefully followed in the papers the proceedings before the Court in this case, and it appeared to him that no irregularities whatever had been committed.

I then begged leave to give our views on the subject, and I enumerated all the irregularities which took place, and the loose manner in which the investigation had been conducted.

His Excellency said that he would inquire whether the Public Prosecutor of First Instance had done his duty or not. As to the question of Moussa Bey's accomplices not being made to share in the trial, it has been carefully considered at the proper time at the Ministry of Justice, and it was found unnecessary to have them brought here from a distant country without *prima facie* evidence and upon the simple denunciation of the plaintiffs. Thereupon a long discussion ensued, when we endeavoured to show that such a procedure was without precedent, and that if Moussa had been brought here on the simple denunciation of the plaintiffs, there was no reason why his accomplices should not be dealt with in the same way. In short, I stated to his Excellency that I should submit to him a Memorandum embodying all the arguments in support of our views, and that I should beg him to consider it, not with the intention of controversy, but with a sincere desire to discover whether our arguments were well founded or not. Djevdet Pasha said he would be much obliged to me if I would so, and asked me to send my Memorandum to him to-morrow, Monday, and to call upon him on Tuesday in order to come to a conclusion as to what might be done.

(Signed) C. G. STAVRIDES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Mr. Stavrides to Djevdet Pasha.

(Translation.)

January 15 (27), 1305.

AS your Excellency is aware, the numerous crimes imputed to Moussa Bey being the topic of discussion in the European papers, and the voice of the complainants having reached the ears of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, His Majesty gave orders that the accused and the complainants should be summoned to Constantinople, and the matter investigated under the eyes of His Majesty, whereupon these people were brought here, and the matter was handed over to the Public Prosecutor appointed by law for the pursuit of crime.

Now, whereas the duty of this functionary was to take under consideration the delicate and important nature of the case, and to neglect no source of information which could throw light upon the truth, he abandoned his task to the private prosecutors, and took no action at all.

Further, although the private prosecutors complained both of Moussa Bey and of the relations and assistants, yet he refrained from demanding that these latter also should be summoned, interrogated, and put upon their trial. When the case came before the Court, he assumed the direction of the trial, examined the witnesses, and put to them a number of vague questions, with a view to catching them tripping. Afterwards he accused them before the Court of giving false evidence, and demanded

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their punishment, and finally he was more zealous than Moussa's own advocates in demanding his acquittal.

This was all witnessed by a number of Turkish and foreign subjects who were present in Court.

As for the "Juge d'Instruction," although he knew that the "instruction" would be incomplete so long as Moussa's relations and assistants were not summoned and interrogated, he shut his eyes to the fact; besides this he outstripped his functions in proceeding to weigh the value of the evidence, as was established by the decision of the "Chambre des Mises en Accusation."

As for the Court itself, although it is most probable that they were influenced by the conduct of the Public Prosecutor, and though, in finding the "instruction" incomplete, they might have caused the investigations to be supplemented, yet, as the Judges are free to form their own conscientious opinion, nothing can lawfully be said to the decision they gave.

It must be said, however, that the President, by yielding up his functions to the Public Prosecutor, adopted a course which entails responsibility for the direction of the trial.

Finally, the judicial functionaries were careless in the investigation of this important case.

No. 7.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 3, 1890.

THE predatory habits and actions of a certain Chieftain in Kurdistan, called Moussa Bey, had attracted much attention during the last few years, not only in Europe, but even in America.

Two American missionaries had suffered at his hands in the year 1883, and the Government of the United States had sought, but hitherto in vain, to obtain an adequate punishment of his misdeeds.

We had no special ill-usage of any British subject to complain of in that particular locality, but Her Majesty's Embassy in Turkey had at all times taken a deep interest in the welfare of the population inhabiting the extensive dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, whether Mussulmans or Christians, and our country has watched, with a constant and sympathetic attention, every improvement gradually reported as introduced in the administration of justice, or any other branch of the Sultan's public service, and on that account I did not fail to follow all the steps taken by the Government of this Empire from the first moment when I learnt that this notorious local miscreant, Moussa, was being brought for trial to Constantinople.

My copious and exhaustive Reports on this subject will have put your Lordship in possession of full and accurate details, both of the different steps taken for the public prosecution of this offender, and to the manner in which I have acquitted myself of my duty of pressing on the attention of the various Imperial Ottoman authorities concerned the importance that there should be no miscarriage of justice in this important criminal case, on which the attention of England and America was fixed.

The accompanying Memorandum, drawn up, at my request, by Mr. Charles Hardinge, will show the consecutive steps taken by me with that view, and I venture to hope that your Lordship will agree with me in thinking that nothing was omitted which could have been properly done in my position as the Representative at the Court of a friendly and allied Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Memorandum.

THE following Memorandum is a recapitulation of the action taken by Her Majesty's Embassy during the past nine months with a view to securing the trial and condign punishment of the notorious Kurdish Chief Moussa Bey for the atrocious

crimes charged against him, of which evidence had been received from trustworthy sources, such as persons residing in the Province of Bitlis and Her Majesty's Consular officers, but of which he remains so far acquitted by the Court at the termination of the first stage of the proceedings.

When the Sultan was pleased to receive your Excellency in private audience on the 20th of May last, His Imperial Majesty, in alluding to a reply given by Lord Salisbury to a question put by Lord Carnarvon in the House of Lords upon the state of affairs in Kurdistan, declared his inability to believe the truth of the actions attributed to Moussa Bey, as being so entirely opposed to Mussulman character and custom, but stated that he was shortly expected to arrive at Constantinople to defend himself from the charges made against him. His Majesty also gave your Excellency the assurance that his trial would be conducted with perfect fairness and justice.

Sir W.
White,
May 20,
1889.

On the 27th of the same month Sureya Pasha, the Sultan's First Secretary, informed Sir A. Sandison that, at the instance of His Imperial Majesty, Moussa Bey had been summoned, in writing, to present himself to the provincial authorities and to proceed in person to Constantinople to answer the charges brought against him. Your Excellency also made representations at the Sublime Porte on the subject of the atrocities of which Moussa Bey was accused, of which corroborative evidence had been received from Colonel Chermiside, Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, and assurances were given that he was on the road to Constantinople, accompanied by officials of the Vilayet of Bitlis, and prepared to answer all the charges preferred against him.

Ibid.,
June 2,
1889.

Ibid.,
June 2,
1889.

His arrival in the capital was reported on the 24th June, thus falsifying the doubts freely expressed by many well-informed persons that such a result would ever be achieved.

Ibid.,
June 27,
1889.

A few days later the Sultan's *Irade* ordaining the trial was promulgated, containing stringent orders to the provincial authorities that they should offer every facility for the transport to Constantinople of witnesses for the prosecution or other persons directly interested in the trial, which, as stated in the *Irade*, was to be conducted with "the greatest justice, equity, and dispatch."

Ibid.,
July 2,
1889.

Some few weeks elapsed, occupied chiefly by the bringing up of the witnesses, who for various reasons displayed considerable reluctance and hesitation in coming forward to testify against Moussa Bey, and, later, by the preliminary investigation. During this inquiry, although no Dragoman of Her Majesty's Embassy was present, the proceedings were very carefully watched through other sources, and on more than one occasion your Excellency took steps to point out unofficially to Djeydet Pasha, the Minister of Justice, the paramount importance that the trial should be conducted in a spirit of the greatest impartiality. As an additional security towards this end an assurance was obtained from his Excellency that a *verbatim* report of the interrogatories would be duly published in the Government press. When certain irregularities in the preliminary stages of the inquiry came to your Excellency's knowledge, such as the browbeating of the Armenian witnesses and the courteous distinction shown by the authorities in their treatment of the accused, they were pointed out to the Grand Vizier in an unofficial manner for his serious consideration.

Ibid.,
October 11
1889.

Ibid.,
November
21, 1889.

Information having reached Her Majesty's Embassy that in spite of the serious charges brought to light against him in the course of the preliminary investigation, Moussa Bey was enjoying the hospitality of his friend Bahri Pasha, Governor of Scutari, your Excellency made energetic remonstrances against such laxity of discipline, and eventually obtained his removal to the Central Prison in Stamboul.

Ibid.,
November
21, 1889.

It would be useless to recount the course of the trial, of which the proceedings were related in detail in your Excellency's despatches to Lord Salisbury, nor would it be profitable to dilate further upon the irregularity of procedure shown by the Procureur-Général during the course of the trial, whose language and tone savoured throughout more of a counsel for the defence of an accused suffering under grossly unjust imputations than of a prosecutor of a prisoner accused of the most heinous crimes. It suffices merely to record the fact that on the conclusion of the trial no time was lost in representing strongly to the Grand Vizier the scandalous and unprecedented conduct of the Procureur-Général, and in pointing out the disastrous results which might accrue to the Ottoman Government from so flagrant a misconception by a Government official of the duties appertaining to his position by giving just grounds for adverse criticism of the manner in which justice is administered in the Empire, and thus opening the door to foreign and hostile interference. Still it may not be out of place to remark here that the case for the plaintiffs was very much weakened by the apparent apathy of Simon Tenghir Effendi, their leading counsel, who made no attempt to check the Public Prosecutor or to protest against his action as contrary

to all precedent. No attempt either was made by him to vindicate the witnesses for the prosecution from the aspersions cast upon them by the Public Prosecutor and the counsel for the defence.

It must not be forgotten in considering this question, and your Excellency's constant endeavours to secure a more satisfactory result to this trial, that it was impossible for Her Majesty's Ambassador to take other than an unofficial interest in the proceedings, since there was no question of any British subject being in any way concerned with the crimes imputed to this Kurdish Chief, nor was it possible to take any action whatever during the course of the trial, without being exposed to the imputation of endeavouring to interfere with the course of justice, in the same way that the British press is debarred from comments upon any trial during its progress.

Flagrant as the injustice of the decision of the Court may appear, and in complete contradiction to the overwhelming evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution, and further action on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy is rendered all the more difficult by the stubborn and repeated assertion of the Ottoman authorities and press that the trial was fairly conducted, and that the sentence of acquittal was dictated by principles of justice and equity.

Your Excellency did not, however, fail to cause His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and the Sublime Porte to be informed of your views upon the manner in which this case has been conducted thus far; and fresh assurances have been offered that further instructions will be given respecting the prosecution of the remaining charges to be brought against Moussa Bey.

So far, however, it has been impossible to ascertain what, if any, action is being taken in this sense.

(Signed) CHARLES HARDINGE.

Constantinople, January 25, 1890.

Sir W.
White,
January 4,
1890.

Ibid.,
January 20,
1890.

No. 8.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 11, 1890.

I HAVE had under my consideration your Excellency's despatch of the 30th ultimo, reporting the steps you had taken with a view that no time should be lost in placing Moussa Bey on his trial on the serious charges still pending against him.

Your proceedings in the matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 9.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 16, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, February 16, 1890, 2.40 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS against Moussa Bey. The previous acquittal was on four counts. An "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu," on account of insufficient evidence, has since been found by the "Juge d'Instruction" in three cases, but other counts are still under consideration by the "Chambre d'Accusation," and these latter are by no means unimportant. As far as I have been able to ascertain, however, none are sufficiently advanced to be sent for trial. Fresh evidence from the scene of the alleged crime is required in the case of rape. This is also the case in regard to two charges of murder, the inquiry into which is still going on.

No. 10.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 11, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Clifford Lloyd, in which he reports that he has been asked to interfere in the case of five



Armenians who are in gaol at Erzeroum awaiting confirmation of a sentence of perpetual banishment for treason after trial according to law. Mr. Lloyd, however, does not think it desirable to do so, but considers that he should rather reserve his influence for such cases as may indicate oppression of the Christian population either by Turkish officials or by Kurds, and he points out the general policy he is adopting in this question, which I feel convinced will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, January 31, 1890.

WITHIN the last few days it has been brought under my notice that there are five Armenian prisoners in the Erzeroum gaol who, having been tried for sedition and sentenced to perpetual banishment to some other part of the Turkish Empire, are now awaiting confirmation of the sentence from Constantinople. Mr. ———— urges the case of these persons upon me, in order that I may take such action as may seem to me most likely to obtain their release, or a mitigation of the penalty imposed upon them. Mr. ———— states that he believes their offence to consist in having sung and been in possession of "national songs;" but the information at his disposal concerning their antecedents, offence, and trial is of a very vague nature.

The "Procureur-Général" here, on the other hand, informed me a month ago, of his own accord, that these prisoners had been tried for having entered into a treasonable correspondence with Russian subjects across the frontier. I have requested Mr. ———— to supply me with more detailed information, without which it would be impossible for me, if otherwise desirable, to approach the Governor-General on the subject.

To take any action whatever in such cases appears to me to be a course open to serious objection, the prisoners having been brought to trial, judged, and duly sentenced, so far as I am aware, according to law. I hope to be able to do more good by reserving, as a general rule, the exercise of such influence as my position may give me with the Turkish Governors to cases in which it comes to my knowledge that acts of injustice or oppression have been committed outside the law, either by Turkish officials or by other subjects of the Sultan. If the Turkish Government locally can be induced to insist on the maintenance of order among the Kurdish population, from whose acts of violence the Armenians hitherto have suffered much and often, the chief cause of the unhappy condition of many of the Christians in Armenia will have been removed.

My information from various sources and localities leads me to hope that the local Governors are making more sincere and vigorous efforts during the last few months to protect the Christians from oppression by Kurds, and I should be much more disposed to encourage them in this course than to attempt to interfere with the administration of justice in the case of offenders in a frontier district charged with, and, so far as I am aware, fairly tried for such offences as treason or sedition.

I have taken this opportunity to express myself upon the policy that suggests itself to me as desirable to adopt, at present, locally, in the hope of mitigating to some extent the condition of the Armenian people, and which I trust will meet with the concurrence and approval of your Excellency and of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 11.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 12, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I transmitted to your Lordship a translation of a Memorandum presented by me to the Minister of Justice, recapitulating the

irregularities which, in my opinion, had taken place in connection with the proceedings in the Moussa Bey case.

I have now the honour to inclose a translation of the reply which has been furnished to me by his Excellency.

My object in presenting a Memorandum to the Minister was not to enter upon a legal discussion on the case; and from the inclosed Memorandum by Messrs. Stavrides and Alvarez, your Lordship will see that it was the Minister's first intention to clear up any irregularities which may have taken place, but that for some reason this idea was abandoned, and the present answer of the Minister is a series of legal subtleties, and the Memorandum partakes of the nature of a written defence of the proceedings of the Minister, the Memorandum presented by me being looked upon in the light of an attack on the Ministry of Justice from a legal point of view.

I have called upon Messrs. Stavrides and Alvarez to furnish me with a Memorandum criticizing the reply of the Minister, and I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Memorandum by Turkish Minister of Justice.

A MEMORANDUM, containing various private considerations on the Moussa Bey case, has been perused.

To be able to rightly appreciate the line of conduct adopted, and the opinions expressed (or verdict given) by the judicial functionaries and judges in this case, every kind of political opinion should be put aside, and the question must be examined as a purely judicial one.

Whatever be the opinion formed by each person for himself as to Moussa Bey's being an honourable and upright man or not, and as to his being guilty or not of the crimes laid to his charge, the real question at issue consists in the presence or absence of proofs for his condemnation, and in the legality or illegality of the inquiries and formalities which have taken place.

Should the question be examined from this point of view of mine it naturally follows that the publications in European papers, and the outcries and demonstrations, both of those who maintain that they have been injured and those who don't, have no importance whatever, as it is probable that the above have taken place from some spiteful motive, and perhaps the complaints which have been made are to a certain extent of no importance. For, both in the Ottoman Empire and in foreign countries, many crimes take place and many criminals are prosecuted, and this being the case, the fact that one of them or several should be taken an interest in and afford certain papers and individuals material on which to vent their spite certainly indicates an exceptional state of things. But should it be said the real point at issue is the oppression to which the Armenians are subject, this is quite out of proportion to Moussa Bey's personal importance. But since the political side of the case is put out of court, there is no need to discuss the strange manner in which the complaint arose, or the intrigues and knaveries of many and various kinds which were then met with, or the relations and plan of action which it has been materially proved to exist between the Armenian Committees formed in Europe and the persons who now appear here to make complaint.

The exigencies of the situation, therefore, only require that information should be given with regard to the points of law calling for attention in this Memorandum. From the statements of this Memorandum, it appears that the duty of prosecuting in the preliminary investigations and in the presence of the Criminal Court is considered to belong to one Public Prosecutor. Whereas the duty of the Public Prosecutor of First Instance is to demand an inquiry, and to make claims and express opinions in the course of the investigation, and the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal performs his duty in the Chamber of Accusation and before the Court. Consequently, to accuse one official of failing to perform his duty, when the duty is that of two persons, shows a misconception. The opinion that in crimes, which are connected with each other, the investigation should in any case be united, unquestionably and undoubtedly arises from a mistaken process of reasoning. True, in the chapter on the Chamber of Accusation in the Code of Criminal Procedure, the

necessity of the unity of trial is pointed out. But it is evident that unity of trial means unity of investigation, and the contents of this chapter set aside the theory of the necessity of the union in any case of the inquiries in crimes which are connected; for in this chapter is to be found the union by the Chamber of Accusation of documents concerning connected crimes, with regard to which separate inquiries have been made.* This expressly indicates that separate inquiries may be carried on with regard to those accused of connected crimes, and that on their conclusion they may be united by the Chamber of Accusation. But should an investigation be made with regard to one of these and not as regards the others, and should the Chamber of Accusation not see the absolute necessity of discovering the truth with regard to the others, it cannot be supposed that there is an obligation to wait for other inquiries to be made as regards other persons in order to accuse a person with regard to whom an investigation has been made, in order to be able to appreciate how far these explanations of the law on this point here stated are incontestable or the reverse.

There must be remembered, in the first place, in criminal matters, the possibility of imprisoning an accused before sentence, and the continuance in a state of detention for a long time of persons whose innocence will probably be proved; secondly, that the limits of the duties and authority of Judges of Instruction charged with making investigations are defined by law, and that the Court of Cassation must decree a change of venue in order that the limits of the investigation may be overstepped. The statement that the Public Prosecutor who is charged by law with the search into and bringing to light of the crimes laid to Moussa Bey's charge abandoned his duty to the private prosecutors, and made no attempt whatever in that direction, is not in harmony with the actual course of the proceedings. The basis of the action being a complaint, and their being no material proof visible, and it being stated that many of the crimes brought forward took place many years ago, the Public Prosecutor's knowledge of these crimes was limited to the plaintiff's complaint, and it was natural that he should adopt as the basis of his prosecution this knowledge. Nevertheless, looking at the correspondence with the local authorities referring to the sources which have been pointed out, and with the inquiries which have taken place *en évidence*, the accusation of the Public Prosecutor in this manner is really unusual, unjust, and unconscientious. The right of appreciation by Judges of Instruction as regards the investigations made by them is a question in which criminalists are united. It is only its degree which calls for discussion and consideration. If reference be made to jurists' publications and the decisions of the French Court of Cassation, it will be seen that the interpretation put on the law by the Judge of Instruction and by the Chamber of Accusation in the Moussa Bey case is legally admissible. In certain questions, it is possible for two diametrically opposite opinions to be expressed, which are legally admissible. Only that opinion is blameworthy which cannot be in accordance with the law. Consequently, the Chamber of Accusation's annulment of the Judge of Instruction's conclusions on the point of appreciation of the evidence given cannot motive blame of the Judge of Instruction. For as there are many jurists and decisions existing which confirms the Judge of Instruction's opinion on that point, so, too, there are many jurists and decisions to be found which support the Chamber of Accusation's legal declarations on the subject. If the contrary be supposed, it will be necessary to suppress those Courts of First Instance whose sentences are annulled on appeal, and those Courts of Appeal whose decisions are quashed in Cassation.

Coming to the question of the Public Prosecutor having taken on himself the conduct of the proceedings during the course of the trial, of his having interrogated the witnesses, and of his having put a number of irrelevant questions in order to produce contradictions, this objection is diametrically opposed to Public Prosecutors' fundamental duties, and to the definitions unanimously given by jurists who describe and comment on these duties. In every book which has been published commenting on the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is mentioned that Public Prosecutors cannot in every case support their own views, and even that in case of necessity they are obliged to demand the rejection of their own claims, and that as soon as they perceive the existence of certain circumstances which show that a witness is a false witness, they are even obliged to carry out every kind of inquiry and investigation to bring out the falsehood to light. It is impossible to imagine the contrary of this.

For there can be no difference of opinion on the following fact, that it is more terrible for an innocent man to be condemned on the evidence of a perjurer than for a criminal to remain unpunished.

* This sentence is not in agreement with the context.

How far the questions of the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal, which it is asserted were irrelevant, were sage, is proved by the moral and material contradictions which appeared as the result of those questions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Memorandum by Messrs. Stavrides and Alvarez.

IN submitting to his Excellency the Ambassador's appreciation, in conformity with instructions, our observations on Jevdet Pasha's written statements in connection with the proceedings in Moussa Bey's case, we have the honour to state that when his Excellency expressed the wish to have from us a Memorandum embodying the exceptions that we had verbally stated, and promised to give us a written reply, we observed that if he demanded the Memorandum with an intention of refuting our arguments we had better abstain, but that if he wished sincerely to consider with impartiality our statement, and to see whether we were right or wrong, we were at his disposal.

He answered that he would be much obliged to us if we furnished him with such a Memorandum, and that he intended to make a thorough investigation of the proceedings of the judicial authorities from the date of the alleged crimes down to the end of the trial, in order to enable his Excellency the Ambassador to form an idea of the manner in which the authorities have conducted themselves, and whether anything was left undone. We said that we should be very glad to receive such a statement, and we had no doubt it would please the Ambassador. We are now informed that such a statement was really prepared, but at the last moment it was put aside, and a systematic refutation of our exceptions was adopted instead.

(Signed)

C. G. STAVRIDES.
J. ALVAREZ.

February 10, 1890.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Memorandum by Dragomans Stavrides and Alvarez.

(Translation.)

IN reply to the Memorial in Turkish which we addressed to the Minister of Justice, his Excellency has given the reply in writing, inclosed herewith, with respect to which we have the honour to submit to the appreciation of Her Majesty's Ambassador the following observations.

The Minister of Justice begins by saying that he declines to discuss the question of the trial of Moussa Bey from a political point of view, and that he will speak only of the point of law. He insinuates, nevertheless, that the whole of this trial is merely result of Armenian intrigues, and that there is an understanding between the Committees in London and the plaintiffs. Now, in our above-mentioned Memorial, we had by no means discussed the question from a political point of view, but we had merely stated that the account of the numerous crimes imputed to Moussa Bey having filled the columns of European newspapers during these last few years, and the complaints of his victims having reached the ears of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, the matter had become of greater importance, and that it had become the duty of the "Procureur-Général" to do all in his power to ascertain the truth, and to perceive that an individual to whom about thirty crimes were imputed, one more heinous than the other, could not be as harmless as a dove; besides that, as he was well aware, before the plaintiffs brought their accusation against him, the Local Government, which knew what to believe in his case, kept him in prison at Bitlis. His Excellency Jevdet Pasha has attempted to defend the "Procureur-Général" of the Court of Appeal, by maintaining that the investigations which he had asserted he ought to have made should have been made not by him, but by the "Procureur-Général" of the Court of First Instance. It appears to us that this assertion of his Excellency does not change the question in point. We had maintained that the necessary investigations had been made in an incomplete and unsatisfactory manner, and his Excellency, far from maintaining the contrary, says we have been mistaken in imputing the fault to one man rather than to another.

As regards the question of the accomplices, Jevdet Pasha, while admitting that, according to law, the accomplices ought to be included in the same sentence with the principal author of the crime, asserts that their solidarity as regards the sentence does not necessarily entail their solidarity as regards the investigations, and that the trial of each accomplice might be made separately. We have not been able to catch the drift of this argument, and we cannot understand how his Excellency considers separate trials compatible with a single sentence. In any case, we have said, and still say, that the examination of the accomplices was necessary for the trial of Moussa Bey, and the fact that it was not carried out was a great fault, which Jevdet Pasha is free to lay at the door of the "Procureur-Général" of the Court of Appeal or of the "Procureur" of First Instance, as he likes best.

The Minister of Justice objects also to the charge of negligence which we made against the "Procureur-Général," saying that it was natural that the "Procureur" should found his prosecution on the charges of the plaintiffs in the civil suit, seeing that there was no other material evidence of the crime, and that the crimes of which Moussa Bey was accused dated, for the most part, from far back, and still more because he had before him information from the local authorities.

We would observe that there was so much evidence, that three out of five members of the Court of Appeal found it sufficient to find Moussa Bey guilty of the crime of murder.

Besides, the crimes he is accused of are real facts and are generally notorious, such as murder, arson, abduction of girls, which the agents of the law might easily have verified, and, with his Excellency Jevdet Pasha's permission, we assert that the fact that a crime is not of recent date does not exclude the proofs of it. His Excellency, however, does not tell us what these agents have done in order to discover the authors of these crimes, which are real and notorious. The Minister maintains that the "Juge d'Instruction" should not be blamed for giving his opinion of the evidence which the Court of Preliminary Inquiry might confirm or throw out; otherwise, he adds, the Courts of First Instance would be constantly exposed to blame when their sentences came to be reversed by the Court of Appeal.

We would remark that the Court of Preliminary Inquiry neither confirmed nor threw out the opinion of the "Juge d'Instruction," but simply declared that he exceeded his powers.

Besides this, the Minister of Justice says nothing respecting the negligence of the "Juge d'Instruction" in not completing the investigation by proceeding to the examination of the accomplices.

Finally, as regards the attitude of the "Procureur" in the Court of Appeal before the Criminal Court, the Minister maintains that, in the opinion of all the lawyers, it was perfectly regular; that the "Procureur" is not always bound to prosecute the accused when he is convinced that he is innocent, and that when he sees the falseness of the evidence he is bound to warn the Court. As for the questions which, according to us, had no justification, and which were addressed by the "Procureur" to the witnesses, the Minister points out that it is, thanks to them, that the falseness of the evidence was proved.

Now, if the "Procureur" had confined himself to submitting these questions to the President to be addressed to the witnesses if he thought fit, there might have been, perhaps, nothing to say against it, for the President might possibly not have considered fit to put them. That to which we objected is, that he usurped the power of the President, and that he, for the most part, conducted the discussion himself, and as for the questions which, according to the Minister, contributed to show up the falseness of the evidence, we may point out that the contradictions into which the "Procureur-Général" led ignorant and illiterate witnesses to fall did not bear on the principal point of the crime, but on accessories of a less importance, so much so that, as we have explained above, these contradictions did not succeed in shaking the opinion of the three Judges of the Criminal Court who found Moussa Bey guilty of murder.

To sum up, we consider the reply of his Excellency Jevdet Pasha far from conclusive, and resembling more the refutation of an advocate than the words of a Minister seeking *bond fide* to clear up the truth.

(Signed) C. G. STAVRIDES.

J. ALVAREZ.

February 10, 1890.

No. 12.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further Memorandum from Mr. Alvarez, reporting on the remaining charges which are still to be brought against Moussa Bey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez.

WITH reference to the present position of the various actions brought against the Kurdish Chieftain Moussa Bey, some of which have been disposed of, there is now only one in the hands of Hussein Sedky Effendi, Judge of Instruction, viz., the case of the girl Gulezar, niece of Miro, of the village of Khares. In this case, which is one of rape, and includes a charge of murder of Miro's father, Agop, it appears that the documents containing the local interrogatories are very defective on important points of evidence, and a number of questions, to be put to the witnesses on the spot by the local Judge of Instruction, have been forwarded by Sedky Effendi, allowing a fortnight either way for the post; it is evident a month will at least be required before receipt of the results of this examination by the local Judge of Instruction.

In the case of the robbery and murder of Agop and Manuk, of Tedwan, an "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" has been issued by the Judge of Instruction. I am informed that opposition was promptly made within a delay of three days, and the case is now before the Chamber of Accusation, which as yet has given no decision.

In the case of Timo of Vartenis, it appears that at the date of the change of name the matter was under examination at the local Chamber of Accusation, and consequently the documents in the case have been forwarded to the Court of Cassation, upon whose decision will depend the re-examination of the case, or not, by the Constantinople Chamber of Accusation. As yet no decision has been come to by the Court of Cassation.

In the case of Ohannes, whom Moussa Bey is accused of having burnt alive, an "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" was issued on Saturday last, and I have reason to believe, though without positive information, an opposition was lodged within the legal delay. If so, the matter will be brought before the Chamber of Accusation. The deceased's widow, Gulezar, is in this case the prosecutrix.

(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

February 12, 1890.

No. 13.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a list prepared by Mr. Alvarez of the charges brought against Moussa Bey, and their actual position at the present moment.

Your Lordship will observe that of the ten charges made against Moussa Bey, two verdicts of acquittal have been recorded, three cases have been disposed of, two are before the Court of Cassation, two are before the Chamber of Accusation, and one case is in the hands of the Judges of Instruction, local and in the capital.

I have on more than one previous occasion dwelt in my Reports to your Lordship upon the irregularities that took place during the recent trial of Moussa Bey, and the unprecedented conduct of the Prosecutor-General, but, at the same time, I cannot insist too strongly upon the manner in which the successful issue of the trial was prejudiced by the apathy of the prosecution and their mismanagement of the case both before and during the course of the recent trial. Ample time and opportunity were afforded to the prosecution to collect and prepare the evidence necessary to

insure the conviction of the accused of the atrocious crimes of which he was undoubtedly the author, but, instead of sifting the evidence of the witnesses, the prosecuting counsel allowed that evidence which was trustworthy to be prejudiced by that which was false, and thus complicated very much the difficulties of the situation against which I have had to contend, hampered as I have been by the impossibility of making any official interference in a case where no British subject or interest were directly concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 13.

List of Charges brought against Moussa Bey which have been or are in the hands of the Juge d'Instruction.

1. VIOLATION of Ano, daughter of Iranos.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" dismissing the case issued by Judge of Instruction, and confirmed by Chamber of Accusation.
 2. Robbery and manslaughter of Serope, brother of Khurschid, of Tedwan.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" dismissing the case issued by Judge of Instruction, against which no opposition has been made.
 3. Migherditch and Carabet v. Moussa Bey.
Three counts, arson, robbery and burglary, extortion.
Moussa Bey acquitted. Although appeal has been made to Court of Cassation, Moussa cannot be retried on this account.
 4. Kumasch v. Moussa Bey.
Charge of murdering her husband, Malkhass. Moussa acquitted. Although appeal has been made to Court of Cassation, Moussa cannot be retried on this account.
 5. Robbery of Eranos of Tapavan.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" dismissing the case issued by Judge of Instruction, against which no opposition has been made.
 6. Rape of Gulezar, niece of Miro. Murder of Agop, Miro's father, and robbery.
Further evidence is being taken in this case. At least a month will elapse before this case leaves the hands of the Judge of Instruction.
 7. Robbery of Ali Agha and merchants of Van.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" dismissing the case confirmed by the Chamber of Cassation. I have reason to believe that an appeal has been lodged in the Court of Cassation.
 8. Robbery and murder of Agop and Manuk, of Tedwan.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" dismissing the case issued by Judge of Instruction. Opposition made, and the case now under consideration of Chamber of Accusation.
 9. Assault on and robbery of Timo of Vartenis.
This case is now under the consideration of the Court of Cassation, for confirmation or annulment of proceedings of local Chamber of Accusation.
 10. The widow Gulezar v. Moussa Bey. Burning her husband, Ohan, alive.
"Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" of Judge of Instruction, dismissing the case. Opposition made, and the case now under consideration of Chamber of Accusation.
- From above it will be seen that two acquittals have been recorded, three cases have been disposed of, two are before the Court of Cassation, two are before the Chamber of Accusation, and one case is in the hands of the Judges of Instruction, local and in the capital.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,
Foreign Office, February 26, 1890.
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant, forwarding a Report from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum relative to an application to him for his good offices in the case of five Armenians now under sentence of perpetual banishment for treason.

Mr. Clifford Lloyd explains the reasons for which he does not consider that it would be advisable for him to interfere in the matter; and I have to request that you will inform him that I concur in the views which he expresses on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 26, 1890.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, inclosing a Memorandum by the Turkish Minister of Justice on the Moussa Bey case, with remarks by MM. Stavrides and Alvarez.

I concur with you in thinking that it is useless to continue the controversy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 21, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. ———, a gentleman interested in the Armenian Provinces of Turkey, and who has correspondents in those parts.

The writer gives a most satisfactory account of the improvement of the administration of the vilayet since the arrival of Raouf Pasha, the new Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Letter addressed to Sir W. White.

Sir,

February 17, 1890.

IT is with great pleasure that I send to your Excellency the following extract from a letter from ———, at Bitlis, upon the state of the country.

After speaking of the unhappy condition of affairs, and the insecurity felt by the Christian inhabitants of that city and vicinity during two or three years past, Mr. ——— says that immediately upon the arrival of Raouf Pasha a change for the better was visible.

Quietness has prevailed both in the City of Bitlis and in the surrounding country. No one is now seen carrying offensive weapons in our markets. Officials long in the service but known to be unfaithful have been removed. Raouf Pasha is known to be beyond the reach of bribery, and officials who have been addicted to the practice of taking bribes have given it up out of fear of the Pasha. When men charged with murder are brought into Court, Raouf Pasha attends the trial to see that justice is done.

Prior to his arrival, Christians were insulted and beaten by Koords without cause, both in the market-places of Bitlis and in the outlying wards. This has almost ceased. A number of Koords charged with murder had been allowed to escape after being arrested and brought into the city.

Raouf Pasha has secured the recapture of many of these, and their condemnation for the legal term of fifteen years' imprisonment.

These, among many instances which might be cited, show that the Governor-General is seeking order, peace, and justice, and is meriting the admiration and gratitude of the inhabitants.

Hoping that your Excellency may derive some satisfaction from this testimony to a hopeful condition of affairs at ———, which is so largely due to your own efforts, I have made haste to forward the statement immediately on the arrival of the mail.

(Signed) ———

No. 17.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 24, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch from Mr. C. Lloyd regarding the Armenians confined in the Erzeroum gaol under sentence of banishment for life.

I have caused the matter to be brought to the notice of the Grand Vizier in an unofficial manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, February 12, 1890.

IN my despatch dated the 31st January, 1890, I alluded to the fact of there being in the gaol at Erzeroum five Armenians awaiting the confirmation of a sentence of exile for life to some portion of the Turkish Empire on a charge of sedition.

I have caused inquiry to be made into the case of these persons, and, though it is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information, I learn from various sources, independent one of the other, that the offence of four of the prisoners consisted in having been found in possession of "national songs," and that of the fifth, a priest, in having had in his house a history of Armenia published in Venice. These men have been for about two years already in prison. There is good reason to believe that the case of these unfortunate prisoners is no uncommon one. In fact, a high Turkish official informed me that some thirty Armenians, similarly charged and sentenced, had lately been deported from Erzeroum to their respective destinations.

As your Excellency is aware, if I mentioned these cases to the Governor-General, I should be informed that they pertained alone to the Tribunal before which they were tried.

These proceedings are, however, much to be regretted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 18.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, March 7.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, February 14, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a statement lately appeared in the "Times," to the effect that certain Armenians living in the vicinity of Alashgird were desirous of emigrating to Persian territory, "being unable to longer endure the oppression of the Turkish Government;" that they had applied to the Persian Government on the subject, and had been informed that they would be received in Persian territory, and be granted lands; that, in consequence of this reply, the Armenians had applied to the Porte, and been informed that they might go if it pleased them to do so. I believe the Porte drew the attention of the Governor-General of Erzeroum to this paragraph, and his Excellency requested me unofficially to furnish him with a translation of it, which I accordingly did. A Christian Commissioner has been sent to the locality to inquire and report, and the Governor-General has quite recently informed me that, should there be no truth in the statement, he intended to direct the arrest of the person from whom the statement originally emanated, and who, he added, was known to him.

My information leads me to the belief that there is truth in the report that a considerable number of Armenian families—over 100 it is said—have made all arrangements to emigrate to Persia, and are now only awaiting the opportunity and the camels necessary to the journey. The Turkish Government will undoubtedly use all means to prevent the Armenians carrying out their design.

I shall duly inform your Excellency as to the result of the inquiry, for the movement now set on foot in Alashgird seems to be one which, if it extends, may have important political results in connection with Armenian affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 19.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 24, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Mr. Clifford Lloyd, transmitting correspondence with reference to outrages by Kurds upon Armenians in the Van Vice-Consulate jurisdiction.

I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to these statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, February 10, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch dated the 9th January, 1890, I have now the honour to inclose copy of one received from Mr. Devey, dated the 25th January, 1890, together with my reply thereto, dated the 5th February, 1890.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, January 25, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 7th instant, and to send you some further information in respect of the subject of my previous despatch.

Sivan is a village of some thirty-five Armenian and twelve or fifteen Kurdish houses. In October last, 280 sheep were carried off from here by a band of Kurds numbering not more than six, amongst whom was a son of Derbaz Agha, of Salahkhané. There is no doubt that the Kurds were Turkish Kurds, and, it is said, dependents of Yusuf Khan, of the village Setmanis, near the Persian frontier. Zaptiehs were sent in pursuit of the raiders, but returned without having effected anything.

Finally, Derbaz Agha, who is temporarily in this city, was induced to bid his son restore the stolen animals, and the latter, taking some ten men from his village, seized them again from his ex-comrades; 180 were given back to their owners. One of the plunderers was said to have been wounded. The "Procureur Impérial" informs me that he has asked for the papers relating to this affair from the Vali, whence it may be presumed that some action will shortly be taken.

I have been unable to obtain further information in respect of Kassrik, which is a village of twenty-five houses, mostly Kurdish, not far from Sivan. It was said that 200 sheep had been driven off at the same time as the 300 from Sivan.

From Archag, a large Armenian village 15 miles distant, 30 sheep only were driven off by Kurds of the Mukuri tribe (250 families under Temir Agha, who are located in Mahmudiyyé Caza, between Archag and Sarai).

According to a later account, it was Kurds of Yusuf Khan, of Setmanis, who were again the culprits. A Petition was given in to the local authorities, but the sheep have not been restored, nor am I aware that any criminal proceedings were instituted.

From Kirel, a village almost entirely Armenian, lying about 40 miles to the east of the Bashkaleh Road, no complaint was lodged. Possibly, if sheep were indeed carried off, the loss was very trifling.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

Consul Lloyd to Vice-Consul Devey.

Sir,

Erzeroum, February 5, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch, dated the 25th January, 1890. The robbery at Sivan of 280 sheep from Armenians by Kurds seems to constitute in its attendant circumstances a typical instance of the injustice to which the Christian rural population is so frequently subjected.

It is desirable that you should take an opportunity of mentioning this case, and the others alluded to in your despatch (if you are satisfied as to the facts), to his Excellency the Governor, in the hope that some steps may be taken to punish the offenders, and to compensate the victims for their losses.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 20.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 25, 1890.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Lloyd's despatch of the 14th instant on the subject of the proposed emigration of certain Armenian families to Persia, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch on the subject from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum.

I may likewise mention that the Grand Vizier having been spoken to on the subject by Sir A. Sandison, under instructions from me, his Highness denied all knowledge of the subject, and expressed his disbelief in the fact that any such emigration to Persia was really intended at this season.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, February 17, 1890.

IN my despatch dated the 14th February, 1890, I have the honour to inform your Excellency of the proposed emigration to Persia of certain Armenian families from the Valley of Alashgird. Since writing this despatch I have made further inquiry, and find that the facts are as stated therein. The people who propose to emigrate, consisting of over one hundred families, began to make the necessary arrangements last November, in consequence of depredations by neighbouring Kurds, from whose attacks the Turkish Government took no measures to protect them, for being unarmed they were unable to protect themselves. As the result of one attack in October by the Kurds, against whose exactions the villagers had previously complained to the Local Sub-Governor, the whole of their crops stored for winter sale were burned, some while stacked in the field, and some while stored in the village.

The Christians were then left in a state of poverty, and, failing to get any redress from the Turkish local authorities, applied to the Governor of the neighbouring Persian province to offer them facilities for emigration. The latter promised them the site for habitations and land sufficient for their support, with exemption from taxation for, I believe, three years. The villagers had made all arrangements to move this month, but a strong force of gendarmes has been sent to the locality presumably with the object of by force preventing them carrying out their design.

The people remain in a state of extreme want and discontent. I shall, however, see the Governor-General on the subject, and urge him, unofficially, to take their case into his favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 21.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, March 7.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 19, 1890.*

LAST November the Director of the French school here, of which I have been given the opportunity of forming a high opinion, imported for educational purposes some atlases which were, with other books, taken possession of by the local Government and submitted for examination to the Press Censor. As the Maps of Asia Minor contained the Province of Armenia, it was held that they could not be handed over for use in the school. The matter was referred for orders to Constantinople, and instructions have lately been received from the Porte, authorizing the atlases being handed over to the school Director on condition of being at once sent back to France, to which country they have accordingly been returned.

The Armenian school authorities in Erzeroum proposed this week to give an amateur entertainment for the benefit of the funds of the establishment. As a matter of form the permission of the local Government was asked, but refused on the ground that the performance was to be in the Armenian language. I report these two cases as exemplifying the principles guiding the Turkish Government in dealing with matters relating to Armenia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 22.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 14, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 14, 1890, 2:30 P.M.

WITH reference to question asked in House of Commons by Mr. Bryce, I have the honour to report that some years ago several thousand Mussulmans of the Caucasus migrated from mountains to the plains, but not being satisfied there they appealed to the Porte. The matter is being considered. The arrangements are not yet completed, but the Turkish Government is not unfavourably disposed. The number of males mentioned is 24,000. The Russian Government is willing to allow them to leave under certain conditions. Their Delegates will have to make arrangements and visit the localities before their arrival. They will probably be settled in Provinces of Adana and Konieh, but the localities have not yet been decided upon. Any further information which reaches me on the subject will be at once forwarded to your Lordship.

No. 23.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, March 21.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, February 28, 1890.*

IN continuation of my despatches of the 14th and 17th February, 1890, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that the Commission sent to inquire into affairs at Alashgird consisted of three Turkish officials, one a Christian and two Mahomedans. Their Report has, I believe, been submitted to the Governor-General, but I am not at present in a position to state what recommendations have been made. There lives in the locality a Protestant Armenian pastor named Lazarus, a man said to be much respected by the people among whom he lives. In my despatch of the 17th instant I mentioned that the Christian inhabitants of Alashgird "had complained to the Sub-Governor," and "had failed to get any redress from the Turkish authorities." They, in fact, petitioned the Sub-Governor, setting forth what they had suffered and

the poverty they were in consequence enduring. It appears that Pastor Lazarus took a somewhat prominent part in drawing up, signing, and presenting this Petition, which, so far as I can learn, dealt alone with the social position of the petitioners, and made no reference to political questions. Pastor Lazarus was yesterday brought into Erzeroum in charge of two policemen, but has been discharged on bail. Having been confined to my house for some days past, I have unfortunately been unable to call and see the Governor-General as I intended to do, but this morning his Excellency informed my Dragoman, who had unofficially called at Government-house, that at present there was no charge against the pastor, but that he had been brought into Erzeroum to be questioned on certain matters, and that if a charge was preferred against him I should be informed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 24.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 16, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that I have ascertained the following respecting the immigration of the Circassians from the Caucasus. It would seem that the number reaches 50,000; that the Russian Government has made no objection to the departure of these people, who are looked upon as rather a disorderly population. A Russian General was appointed to confer with the Ministers of Justice, Public Works, and the Evkaf, but the arrangements had not gone far when he was appointed to some post at Kieff, which was accepted, and he left about a week ago. Another General from the Caucasus will probably be appointed to take his place, but as the season is now somewhat advanced, it is more than likely that the immigration will be postponed until next winter.

I understand that the immigration is dictated in a great measure by fanatical reasons, these people desiring to inhabit a Mussulman country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 25.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, March 21.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, March 6, 1890.

IN my despatches of the 14th, 17th, and 28th February, 1890, I brought to your Excellency's notice the proposed emigration of certain Armenian families to Persia from the Valley of Alashgird. It has now come to my knowledge that the movement has considerably spread, and that at the smallest computation 600 Christian families from that locality have joined in it. In this country an Armenian family may be reckoned as consisting of at least seven persons, which would indicate that arrangements have been concluded for the emigration of from 4,000 to 4,500 persons. The Turkish Government, however, sustains its prohibition. The poverty among these people and the Christian inhabitants of the adjoining districts is stated to be very great. Their lamentable condition seems to result from, on the one hand, the heavy, and in some respects unjust, taxation imposed by the Government and levied without consideration by subordinate officials, and, on the other, from the exactions and ravages of the neighbouring Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 26.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, April 18.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, March 18, 1890.

REFERRING to my despatches dated the 9th January and 19th February, 1890, in which I brought to your Excellency's notice several cases of sheep stealing on a large scale by Kurds from Armenians in the Vilayet of Van, the local Governor-General has now informed Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, who, according to my request, unofficially brought the cases to the notice of his Excellency, that in all the three cases reported the sheep have been restored to the owners, and in two cases "the necessary investigation is being taken in hand by the authorities."

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 27.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, April 18.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, March 18, 1890.

I INCLOSE two despatches from the Vice-Consul at Van, respectively dated the 9th October, 1889, and the 3rd March, 1890, reporting the murder, in Vostan, of the son of an Armenian priest by a Kurd.

I have requested Mr. Devey to report any further proceedings that may be held in the case, and to suggest to the Governor-General, unofficially, that the prisoner be brought to trial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Devey to Colonel Chermiside.

Sir,

Van, October 9, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report an instance of crime which occurred quite recently in Vostan, at the south-east end of Lake Van. The son of an Armenian priest was murdered there by a Kurd, but a force of gendarmes was quickly dispatched, under the Tabur Aghassi, and the assassin has been identified and apprehended. The motive of the crime is still rather obscure; it would seem that there were lands belonging to the church in question, of which certain Kurds wished to acquire possession, but personal revenge is also stated to have been the immediate cause.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, March 3, 1890.

A PARAGRAPH appeared in the "Daily News" of the 11th February, in which it is stated, among other items, that a "party of Kurds broke into the Armenian Convent of St. Nishan, in the Province of Van, and murdered the son of an Armenian priest named Mardiros. The victim's age was 22. Halil Pasha, Governor-General of Van, refused to consider the father's complaint on the ground that it was 'actuated' by political motives."

This particular crime is reported in my despatch of the 9th October; the motive was jealousy in love, and the Kurdish lad who, unaided and alone, stabbed to death the son of the priest in the open air was apprehended very shortly after the murder, and is now awaiting his trial in the Van prison. Only one witness can be produced, and hence the delay, though, from what I heard about the affair at the time, the circumstantial evidence should have sufficed for a conviction without any witness at all.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 5, 1890.

ON noticing in the "Daily News" of the 24th ultimo a telegram from Vienna, stating that the Armenian Patriarch had received from the chief Armenian Ecclesiastical authority in Van a long letter, declaring that the population is suffering from continual acts of brigandage on the part of the Kurds, and that the Patriarch had handed the letter to the Porte, accompanied by a special Report from himself, I instructed Mr. Marinitch to ascertain what truth there was in the above-mentioned telegram.

That gentleman informs me from a trustworthy source that in substance the intelligence is true, though in some points the information is misleading.

It may therefore be of interest to your Lordship if I relate briefly the exact circumstances of the case.

On the 22nd January (3rd February) last a report reached the Armeno-Gregorian Patriarchate from Van, giving full details of outrages committed by Kurds during the last two years within the limits of the Vilayet of Van.

The main outrages are as follows:—

Four Armenians have been murdered.

The house, stable, and property of an Armenian have been burnt by Kurdish brigands.

Many women and girls have been forcibly carried away by Kurds, with the object of making them embrace the Islamic faith; but failing in their attempts to do so, the Kurds ultimately restored them to the Armenian Ecclesiastical authority in Van, where they are at present sheltered.

The Report embodying the above facts has been submitted by the Armenian Patriarchate to the Ministry of Justice.

From the above statement, it appears that most of those outrages took place when the notorious Moussa was still in that districts, whilst from the account given in the press one might draw a hasty conclusion that they occurred quite lately and since Moussa was brought to Constantinople, but in reality the list comprises, as I have said, all those which have taken place during the last two years.

I am further assured through the same source that all the reports received of late from provinces inhabited by Armenians tend to show that the condition of the Christian population is considerably improved, especially in the Vilayets of Bitlis and Moush.

In reply to inquiries which I addressed to Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van as to the truth of the alleged crimes, I am assured by the latter that he has no information of any grave crime having been committed during the last four months, while Mr. Clifford Lloyd denies any such report having reached him or the Armenian Church authority in Erzeroum, which may easily be accounted for by the fact that the last murder entered on the published list is alleged to have been committed in December 1889.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 14, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, reporting a satisfactory conversation he had held with the Governor-General of Erzeroum respecting the government of Kurds and other matters touching the local administration of that vilayet.

I have instructed Mr. Block to communicate the contents of this despatch to his Highness the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 6, 1890.

IN the course of a conversation I lately had with the Governor-General here, we spoke of the proposed emigration of Armenians from the valley of Alashgird, as detailed to your Excellency in my despatches of which that of the 6th March was the last. The Governor-General informed me that he had done all he could to assist the people there, and in appointing a Commission of Inquiry had been careful to nominate a Christian member; that he had offered them seed, grain, and administrative measures for their better security, but that the inhabitants persisted in their desire to emigrate. I gathered that his Excellency was of opinion that political motives were actuating, at least, the leaders of the people in sustaining the agitation, and he informed me that the proceedings of the Commission of Inquiry had been submitted to the Sublime Porte for orders.

I pressed again upon his Excellency the importance to the people and the necessity to the Government of dealing vigorously with the brigand Kurds, whose constant attacks upon Christian villages, coupled with exactions and barbarities, constitute an ever existing ground of complaint. I also ventured to express my opinion, which I believe to be well founded, to the effect that if the Kurds were properly controlled, and the Christians adequately protected, the latter would be comparatively a contented people, and that the foundation of nearly every grievance, from time to time brought forward locally, would be removed. The Governor-General expressed his desire, and, judging from his high character, I have no doubt a sincere desire, to deal with this very important question. He detailed to me various minor administrative measures he was taking, all conducive to the better government of the Kurdish population, and added that many of these lawless people had already completely submitted to his authority. This question is not, however, to be settled by isolated action on the part of one Governor-General. There are five officers of that rank within the limits of this Consular jurisdiction, each having more or less a large Kurdish population under his government, and though I lose no opportunity of bringing to, and pressing upon, their notice those instances of lawlessness by Kurds coming to my knowledge, yet no satisfactory result is likely to be arrived at until general action of a strong and continuous character is taken by all the local governments under orders from His Majesty the Sultan.

At present, as your Excellency is aware, the Kurds are armed and the Christian peasants unarmed and helpless, the latter sow and the former appropriate the harvest to their own wants, while to gratify their instincts they often burn and destroy what they do not appropriate.

On the other hand, owing to these circumstances, the peasants get into arrears in the payment of taxes, the collection of which proceeds by arbitrary and sometimes by cruel methods on the part of subordinate officials, and redress in the one case and the other being for various reasons refused or withheld the Christian peasants are reduced to a state of abject poverty, fear, and discontent. Any combination for the purpose of petitioning the Government for assistance and consideration is met by the application of those measures only excusable in the case of a people plotting revolution. This the Armenian people in this country are far from contemplating. There are undoubtedly young and indiscreet persons to be found here, as elsewhere, who at times act imprudently, but my observation and information lead me to the belief, held also by all those whose local experience constitutes them authorities on the point, that if the Christian peasants were adequately secured against the attacks and ravages of the Kurds they would be as contented and loyal as they are naturally industrious.

At the end of a long and satisfactory conversation the Governor-General said to me that probably grievances often existed without his knowledge, but that he "wished it to be known far and wide that his door was open night and day, and he was ever ready to listen to any well founded complaints of the people and to inquire into and redress them, adding that he also "hoped that I would not fail to bring to his notice any cases of misgovernment or oppression which might come to my knowledge."

It is with much gratification, which will be shared by your Excellency and by Her Majesty's Government, I am confident, that I communicate the views expressed to me by the Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.



No. 30.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 2.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 7, 1890.

AS reported to your Excellency in my despatch of yesterday's date, I had seen the Governor-General here on the subject of the serious condition to which many of the Christian peasants are reduced in this country owing to the depredations of the Kurds. I again, yesterday, had the opportunity of seeing the Governor-General at the reception he held in honour of the Sultan's birthday, and he informed me that he had applied for authority to locate troops in various parts of the country, to use them in protecting the Christians, and to support him in the efforts he contemplates making with the object of bringing the Kurds more under control. His Excellency said that "if we are permitted to use the soldiers at our disposal" (he was alluding to himself and to other Governors-General) "we shall be able to bring the Kurds into a state of comparative order, and to adequately protect the Christian peasants." I informed your Excellency to-day by telegram of this important statement, thinking it likely that you might consider the fact of such an application being before the Sublime Porte as affording a suitable opportunity of again addressing it on the subject.

It is, however, most desirable, if any good result is to be attained, that there should be general action of an energetic nature on the part of each Governor-General in Kurdistan, under direct orders from Constantinople. Such united action will alone suffice to overawe the Kurds and to insure protection to the Christian rural population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 31.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 2.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to state that inquiries lead me to believe that there is a marked improvement in the administration of the Bitlis Vilayet under the rule of the present Governor-General.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 32.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 21, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th February last, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez, confirming a statement which had reached me to the effect that an "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" had been found in the case of Gulezar against Moussa Bey, and that an appeal has been lodged with the Chamber of Indictments.

As regards the other cases, only one is now under the consideration of the Cour de Cassation, and the remaining two are in the hands of the Public Prosecutor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez.

WITH reference to the statement that the case of Miro (*i.e.*, Gulezar) against Moussa Bey was thrown out of Court, I have to state that an inquiry being made at the Ministry of Justice, this statement was found to be correct. Hussein Sedey Effendi, the Judge of Instruction, however, told me that the "Ordonnance

de Non-Lieu" was not issued till Thursday, and therefore the legal delay of three days would not expire till Monday, as the day of communication is not counted. The result of the inquiries I had made at the Chamber of Indictments and Correctional Court of Appeal was that opposition had been duly lodged against the "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu," although the Departments of the Public Prosecutor and First Instance were unaware of this fact. The Judge of Instruction, in answer to various questions put to him, could not say exactly when he had received the last batch of witnesses' evidence, but it was probably a week or ten days before the "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu." He said there was not sufficient evidence against Moussa Bey, whose witnesses proved an *alibi*, but there was against Jezo, his brother, against whom it should be noticed no action has been brought. Schahbaz Effendi reminded me that seven or eight months ago the "Arménie," of Marseilles, had an article describing Jezo as the real criminal, which he had translated for the Palace.

As regards the cases against Moussa in the Court of Cassation, only one is at present under the Court's consideration, viz., Ali the muleteer's. On this case the Court is said to be in deliberation. The two other cases are still in the hands of the Public Prosecutor-General of the Empire, or his assistant, Talaat Bey.

(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

No. 33.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 28, 1890.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram yesterday morning informing me that a further question would be asked in the House of Commons to-day on the subject of the Moussa Bey case, I immediately addressed a letter to the Grand Vizier, asking for information as to the present position of the case. A copy of this letter is herewith inclosed. I instructed Mr. Alvarez to convey this letter to the Grand Vizier, to give it to his Highness, and to ask for a reply. The inclosed Memorandum by that gentleman gives the answers he received both from his Highness and from the Minister of Justice. The substance of these was that the Chamber of Indictments had not arrived at any decision in the case of the girl Gulezar, but that as it was Sunday it was impossible to inform Mr. Alvarez of the exact position of the case, but that the Minister of Justice would make inquiries.

I had the honour to report the substance of the above to your Lordship by telegraph yesterday evening.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure I in No. 33.

Sir W. White to the Grand Vizier.

Highness,

Constantinople, April 27, 1890.

THE Marquis of Salisbury has instructed me by telegraph to report how Moussa Bey's case now stands, and what result has been obtained by bringing him to justice, in consequence of your Highness' promise of a new trial more than a couple of months ago.

Her Majesty's Ministers have to answer to-morrow (Monday) afternoon a question on this subject in the House of Commons, and require a Report from me.

Such reply on my part must go by telegraph to-night, and I can only say that I have not heard from your Highness on this subject all this time, but that I have been told from private sources that the Chamber of Instruction has, in the meantime, disposed of the remaining charges against Moussa by giving an Ordonnance of "Non-suit" ("Menh-i-Mehakeme").

I need hardly add any comment as to the effect which such a miscarriage of justice is likely to produce in Europe and America when it is made public, and I beg to renew to your Highness on this occasion the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez.

IN consequence of his Excellency the Ambassador's instructions to that effect, I called this morning upon his Highness the Grand Vizier at his palace at Nischantasch, and handed to him the Ambassador's letter on the subject of the question put in the House of Commons about Moussa Bey's being put on his trial and brought to justice. His Highness, after perusing the letter with great attention, said, after some reflection, that he would obtain information as to the actual state of the case from Jevdet Pasha, Minister of Justice. I informed his Highness that the only case against Moussa Bey now in First Instance was that of the girl Gulezar; that in this case opposition had been made by the plaintiff to the "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" (Nonsuit) granted by the Judge of Instruction, and that the case was at present before the Chamber of Indictments, which up to the date of my latest information, *i.e.*, Thursday, had not come to any decision. The Grand Vizier then told me he would go to the Porte to-day as there would be a Cabinet Council at which Jevdet Pasha would be present, and he asked me to call there between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. This I did. After I had waited some time the Grand Vizier came out of the Council and told me that he had spoken to Jevdet Pasha about the case, that that Minister had told him that among the Armenians' evidence was perjured evidence, and that there was not sufficient evidence against Moussa, but, notwithstanding, Jevdet Pasha assured him that there was every likelihood of Moussa being brought to trial on this last charge. His Highness added that Moussa Bey would certainly not be allowed to return to his country, as the Porte was quite aware what sort of person he was. I pointed out to his Highness that what the Ambassador wanted was that justice should be done; that Jevdet Pasha's assurances of the likelihood of Moussa Bey being put on his trial in the case of the girl Gulezar was at variance with what would be the evident duty of the Chamber of Indictments, supposing his (the Pasha's) account of the evidence to be correct. I again reminded him, as I had done in the morning, of the importance of the matter, concerning which the Ambassador would telegraph to-night. The Grand Vizier said the sitting of the Council of Ministers would be over in about half-an-hour, when he would discuss the case with Jevdet Pasha and myself. He then returned to the Council. About a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes afterwards Jevdet Pasha came out of the Council and told me that he had a second conversation with the Grand Vizier on this subject. He repeated a remark which the Grand Vizier had made in reply to a suggestion of mine that application should be made to the Ministry of Justice to learn the exact position of the case, *viz.*, that to-day being Sunday there would be no judicial officials at the Ministry who knew anything about the matter. I pointed out the importance of the question asked in the House of Commons, and the necessity of exact information. Jevdet Pasha repeated that, as far as he knew, the Chamber of Indictments had not come to any decision on the girl Gulezar's case, and remarking that it was impossible to learn anything to-day, and it would be useless for me to wait for the Grand Vizier, asked me to call upon him to-morrow at the Ministry of Justice, which I promised to do.

(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

No. 34.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 29, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez, reporting a conversation with the Minister of Justice, in which his Excellency declared that the action of the girl Gulezar was still under consideration by the Chamber of Indictments.

I have instructed Mr. Dragoman Stavrides to obtain all the information he can concerning this case and the way in which it is being conducted, and I shall not fail to report to your Lordship in due course whatever I may learn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez on the Moussa Bey Case.

I CALLED upon Jevdet Pasha, Minister of Justice, to-day, in compliance with his request of yesterday at the Porte, but his Excellency did not arrive at his Department till long after the time fixed. He told me that after I had left the Porte yesterday he gave instructions that Hussein Ruschdy Effendi, the President of the Correctional Court of Appeal and Chamber of Indictments, should be found and invited to attend the Grand Vizier's Iftar that evening, but he did not know if the President had done so. The President of the Court was then presiding and could not leave the Bench, but in his absence the Minister sent for Schabay Effendi, Jelal Bey, Director of Criminal Affairs, and the Public Prosecutors of Appeal and First Instance, after consultation with whom the Minister desired me to inform the Ambassador that, in consequence of the opposition made by the plaintiff to the Judge of Instruction's "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu" in favour of Moussa Bey, the case of the girl Gulezar, the only one now remaining, was at present under the consideration of the Chamber of Indictments, which would probably give its decision in the course of one or two weeks. This time might be required on account of the delays inevitable in Ramazan.

(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

Constantinople, April 28, 1890.

P.S.—I believe the documents in the case of Gulezar were not handed to the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal for the Chamber of Indictments before to-day, whereas I was last week informed that they had been so disposed of on Thursday last.

J. A.

No. 35.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul-General Eyres, reporting the satisfactory government of Aziz Pasha, the new Vali of Beyrout, and the improvement that has taken place in the government since his appointment.

I have expressed to his Excellency Saïd Pasha the great satisfaction with which I have heard of this improvement, and have also instructed Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter to convey to his Excellency the Vali my personal satisfaction at hearing of the energy shown by his Excellency in dealing with the cases mentioned by Mr. Eyres, and at the generally improved government of the vilayet since his appointment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Acting Consul-General Eyres to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Beyrout, April 24, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the Governor-General, Aziz Pasha, who has now held his post for some nine months, has been very successful hitherto in his method of government. Though not a man of remarkable ability or of great energy of character, he is practical and keenly anxious to execute justice without fear or favour, qualities which cause him to be both respected and liked by the people of Syria. They consider him, however, too easily influenced by his *entourage*, and no doubt there is some foundation for this accusation.

With regard to his dealings with the Consuls of foreign Powers, his Excellency's never-failing courtesy towards them and willingness to aid them to the best of his ability causes him to compare very favourably with his predecessors.

I take this opportunity of mentioning two instances in which this Consulate was concerned where the Governor-General acted with much energy and goodwill.

In January last an Englishman named Webb was attacked by Bedouins while journeying from Caiffa to Jaffa; he was slightly wounded and robbed of all his effects. By the efforts of Aziz Pasha four of the assailants have been arrested, and many of the goods recovered. Considering the extreme difficulty of following up the Bedouins and the apathy of the Turkish police as a rule, I consider that their success on this occasion was entirely due to the efforts of the Governor-General, and to the energy with which his strenuous and repeated orders inspired his subordinates in Nablous.

Another instance in point is his Excellency's behaviour with regard to the Kaïmakam of Tiberias.

The late Mr. Eldridge reported to your Excellency in his despatch No. 2 of the 7th January last the arbitrary behaviour of this Kaïmakam, who is a renegade, and therefore strongly protected in certain quarters. He took upon himself on various occasions to destroy British certificates, and, finally, illegally and unjustly imprisoned a British-Indian subject named Cohen. My remonstrances met with an immediate response from the Vali, who, after some correspondence, caused a Commission to be sent from Acre to inquire into the matter, and on receiving a Report adverse to the Kaïmakam obtained his immediate dismissal from his post.

I venture to suggest that Aziz Pasha would be much flattered if your Excellency should see fit to convey to him the expression of the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the prompt redress granted in this affair, which, though only an act of justice, would, in the case of most Governors-General, have required much correspondence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. A. EYRES.

No. 36.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 8, 1890.

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my despatch of the 29th ultimo, to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez, reporting the confirmation by the Chamber of Indictments of the "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu," given by the "Juge-d'Instruction" in the case of the girl Gulezar.

This information has since been confirmed to me by the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Memorandum by Mr. Alvarez.

IN accordance with his Excellency's instructions, I called at the Ministry of Justice on Saturday, as well as this afternoon, for the purpose of learning the result of the deliberations of the Chamber of Accusation in the case Gulezar, niece of Mero, *v.* Moussa Bey. As Shahbaz Effendi had previously told me would be the case, the Chamber finished its deliberations to-day, and Hussein Ruschdy Effendi, the President of the Correctional Court of Appeal and Chamber of Accusation, told me that the Chamber came to the decision that the Judge of Instruction's "Ordonnance de Non-Lieu," dismissing the case against Moussa Bey, should be confirmed. Although not yet communicated to the parties interested, this decision is an accomplished fact. Gulezar will of course retain the right of making an appeal in Cassation, such as has been made in the other cases. This concludes the list of cases which have been brought against Moussa Bey before the Chamber of Indictments.

May 5, 1890.

No. 37.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of five despatches received by me to-day from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on certain alleged outrages on Armenians and matters connected generally with this subject. With regard to that of the 29th April (Inclosure No. 3), I have already asked the Grand Vizier to telegraph for inquiries, which he has done, and he informed Mr. Block this morning that he has as yet no answer.

As regards those of the 29th April and the 1st May (Inclosures 4 and 5), I shall not fail to bring the subjects mentioned therein to His Highness' notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 29, 1890.

I INCLOSE a despatch (of the 15th April, 1890) from the Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, reporting it to be in contemplation to send a large military force of sixteen battalions of infantry against the Kurdish population about the Dersim Mountains. An expedition on this scale seems to me highly improbable, especially as the Acting Vice-Consul reported the matter to me privately three months ago, and no movement has as yet taken place. I will, however, cause further inquiry to be made, and again report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Acting Vice-Consul Boyadjian to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Diarbekir, April 15, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that some time since it was reported to me from Kharpoot that an Imperial Edict issued authorizing the military and other authorities to dispatch a military expedition composed of sixteen battalions of infantry, each numbering 800 strong, to the Dersim Mountains, with the view of chastizing the turbulent Kurds of the region; and in a letter of a later date, I am told that the mobilization of the troops depends upon money which has to be procured and the arrival of the new Vali of Kharpoot, who, as I understand, reached his destination last week with final instructions on the subject.

Without pretending to pronounce any opinion as to whether this measure is the only and best one to adopt for the purpose of introducing more respectable and regular habits and a more orderly life among the Kurds in question, I may state that some effectual measures are needed to subdue them, and to insure and protect the life and property of the inhabitants of the immediate neighbourhood of the Dersim Mountains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS BOYADJIAN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 29, 1890.

THE Vice-Consul at Van reports to me that on the 19th April sixteen mounted Kurds attacked some Armenian villages situated about 10 miles to the south of Van and carried off 1,120 piastres and 3 horses, Firing took place. The villagers were

arriving at Van to petition the Governor-General on the subject. As inquiries may be addressed to your Excellency regarding the outrage, I communicated the facts (so far as they are known to me) by cypher telegram to you on the 27th April, 1890.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, April 29, 1890.

WITH regard to inquiries your Excellency made by telegram as to the alleged perpetration of certain serious outrages in Kurdistan upon Armenians, I have the honour to state that at the time I knew of no offences such as were described having lately been committed, and Mr. Vice-Consul Devey reports to me on the same subject as follows:—

“I repeat my opinion that there have not been any unusual cases of outrage either in number or kind for some months past” in the Van Vilayet, “and that there has been no extraordinary aggressiveness on the part of Moslems against Christians.

“It is my firm conviction that the rumours and reports so constantly circulated are almost entirely motivated by self-interest, greed, and intrigue (more rarely by mere wantonness), and as mentioned in recent correspondence there is no hope of finding a greater regard for truth, honour, and honesty in any one party than in another, whether Moslem or Christian.”

Since the receipt of your Excellency's telegram, I have heard of the commission of several very serious crimes and outrages upon the Armenians, which shall be reported when details reach me.

In a country such as this lawlessness is to be expected, but unfortunately in nearly every serious instance armed and ungoverned Kurds are the aggressors, and the unarmed and unprotected Armenian Christians the victims.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 37.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 1, 1890.

A FEW months ago two young Armenian men (*A* and *B*) arrived here from Constantinople. The uncle of one of them (*B*) lives in Erzeroum, where he works at the trade of blacksmith, and is known by the name of Nalji Hacha Dur. On arrival they stayed a short time at the house of this man, who advanced them money to commence a small business. The partnership did not give mutual satisfaction, and was dissolved. *B* then left Erzeroum. *A* having been asked by the police to show his papers, which were not I believe complete, and being questioned, stated that on first arrival here he had resided for a short time with the blacksmith. The latter's house was consequently searched, and twelve books found therein were taken possession of by the authorities. This was about six weeks ago.

In about three weeks eight of the books were returned, and the blacksmith was arrested and criminal proceedings commenced against him for possessing the others.

The man cannot read or write, and states that all the books were received by his daughter from her school teachers. One book is said to contain Armenian national songs, and the others local historical references, books such as are to be found in every Armenian's house.

Hacha Dur is now in prison awaiting trial.

This being the Ramazan, I have been unable to see the Governor-General regarding the case.

Next to the depredations of the Kurds, the constant searching of Armenians' houses, the arrest and imprisonment of individuals for long terms, often for life, for having books in their possession containing references to the past history of Armenia,

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constitute a grave abuse of power by the Turkish authorities, and a source of wide-spread suffering to the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 37.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 1, 1890.

IN my despatch dated the 6th March, 1890, and in previous despatches therein mentioned, I informed your Excellency of the proposed emigration of a large number of the Armenian inhabitants of the valley of Alashgird. A certain number of these peasants—about 200—left their villages and succeeded in reaching the vicinity of the Turco-Persian frontier, but, troops having been sent out from Bayazid to intercept them, they have been brought back to that town and are being thence sent to their homes.

The Governor-General has commissioned the Chief of the Police here to proceed to Alashgird to inquire into the charges of oppression brought by the people against certain Kurdish Chiefs in the locality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 38.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour of reporting to your Lordship the dismissal of Djevdet Pasha, the Minister of Justice. The other Ministerial changes are as follows:—

Riza Pasha, formerly Minister of the Evkaf, has been appointed to succeed Djevdet as Minister of Justice.

Zihni Pasha, Minister of Public Works, has been appointed Minister of the Evkaf.

Raif Pasha, formerly Director-General of the Custom-house, has been appointed Minister of Public Works, a post which he has already filled on a previous occasion.

Hassan Fehmi Pasha, who, in 1885, went to London on a Special Mission with regard to Egypt, has been named Director-General of Customs.

The Governor of Pera has been named Secretary-General of the Prefecture of Stamboul, and Nazior Bey, who occupied that post, has been named Governor of Pera.

Blacque Bey, who occupied the post of President of the Municipality of Pera, has been appointed Minister at Bucharest, and is succeeded by Hussein Bey, formerly Consul-General at Bombay, and recently a Secretary at the Palace.

Riza Bey, Minister at Athens, has been removed, and Mahmoud Neddin Bey, Minister at Belgrade, takes his place.

The Minister at Bucharest, Feridoun Bey, is removed to Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 39.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 12, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that the present moment was an advantageous one to press his Highness the Grand Vizier to do something with regard to the Moussa Bey case, which, as I reported to your Lordship, was practically at an end as far as the Courts of Justice were concerned.

I mentioned the matter to his Highness. The Grand Vizier then made some proposals to me with regard to his punishment in an administrative manner, and

I to-day instructed Mr. Block to speak to his Highness, and to say that in general I approved of his proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 40.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 22, 1890.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction the dismissal of Djeddet Pasha from the post of Minister of Justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 41.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 28.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 23, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I received information by telegraph from Mr. Consul Lloyd on the 11th instant that some Armenian Catholics who were assembled at service in a church on the 10th instant at Holduchuk, between Erzeroum and the Black Sea, had been attacked by armed Mussulmans, who robbed women of their jewellery, wounded the priest, and threatened him with death; also that a ransom of 100*l.* had been demanded and paid, that 400*l.* in money and kind had been carried off, and that some houses in the village had been desecrated.

Immediately on receipt of this information I caused the matter to be laid before the Grand Vizier.

From inquiries made by his Highness it appears that the spot where the outrages took place is Gagnikond, in the Caza of Hodivtchous, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and that the attack was made by Laze brigands dwelling in the mountainous districts between the Vilayets of Trebizond and Erzeroum.

His Highness now informs me that the perpetrators of this act of brigandage have been captured by the soldiers sent out for that purpose, and are now in prison in the Vilayet of Trebizond pending their trial.

This information has been confirmed by a telegram from Mr. Consul Lloyd received yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 42.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 6, 1890.

SINCE writing my despatch of the 8th April last, I have received other communications still further confirming the reports of the energetic administration of the Governor-General of Bitlis. Several Kurdish Chiefs who have made themselves notorious as brigands in the Bitlis Vilayet have lately absconded, some taking refuge in Van and others coming to Erzeroum to make submission here. The latter have been sent back under escort to Bitlis, a fact testifying to the desire of the Governor-General of Erzeroum to co-operate in measures conducive to order and security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 30.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 14, 1890.

AT Hodunchur, in the Erzeroum Vilayet, a place situated about half-way between this and the Black Sea, the Christian (Catholic) Armenian community was assembled in church on Sunday, the 4th May, taking part in Divine Service, which was being conducted by a priest named Bedros.

While so engaged, the Christians were attacked by some seventeen armed Mussulmans, who despoiled the women of whatever jewellery they were wearing, and further threatened to kill the priest, who was wounded in three places, it is said, unless a ransom of £ T. 100 was paid. The congregation collected and paid the money. The robbers further plundered a certain number of houses, and carried away altogether £ T. 400 in money and kind, including the silver properties of the church. This is a very serious crime, and gives some indication of the condition of insecurity in which the native Christians are living in this country.

Besides the priest, three Armenians were wounded. The assailants lay concealed until the congregation had assembled, and then, having fired off the rifles with which they were armed, rushed into the church with their drawn swords. £ T. 60 of the money taken belonged to the church.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

P.S.—Hodunchur is the district, Kehmakhoud being the name of village where this attack took place.

C. LL.

No. 44.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 26, 1890.

SOME time ago the late Minister of Justice furnished me with statistics of the population of those vilayets principally inhabited by Armenians in support of a contention made by his Excellency that the Armenians were in a minority in those provinces.

The figures were based for the most part on the results shown by the last Census.

This list I referred to Mr. Clifford Lloyd for comparison with the numbers obtainable by him.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of his despatch, giving the results he has obtained.

Taking the five principal vilayets and comparing the numbers, there is certainly a difference, but it is not very striking considering the difficulty of collecting statistics.

It is as follows:—

Porte's estimate	..	..	..	..	..	Moslems.	
Mr. Lloyd's estimate	..	..	..	..	..	1,432,075	
						1,233,402	
Difference	..	..	..	..	..	198,673	

Mr. Lloyd's estimate	..	..	..	..	..	Non-Moslems.	
Porte's estimate	..	..	..	..	..	566,297	
						512,372	
Difference	..	..	..	..	..	53,925	

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White,

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 14, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose estimates of population for the five vilayets within the jurisdiction of this Consulate, asked for in your despatch of the 5th February last. I regret the delay in forwarding the information called for by your Excellency, but to compile reliable statistics of any description relating to this country is a work of some difficulty, and in this instance reference was necessary to distant localities. In communities, whether Christian or Moslem, there exists a desire to diminish numbers in order to evade the calls for military service and payments for exemption therefrom, while official population Returns, either from the Turkish Local Governments or from the Armenian Church authorities, cannot be taken as conclusive.

For all practical purposes the inhabitants of these provinces may be divided into two classes, non-Moslem and Moslem, which two headings have been adopted. The former may be said to be composed entirely of Armenian Christians, excepting 60,000 Nestorians, inhabiting, with 60,000 Kurds, the wild borderland of the Van vilayet adjoining the Persian frontier.

When estimates 1, 2, 3, 4, Table (A), were drawn up, the Sandjak of Sert formed part of the Diarbekir vilayet, and for purposes of comparison in this Table I have added the present population of this sandjak to Diarbekir, deducting it from Bitlis. In Table (B) the estimates are given under the different vilayets according to their existing boundaries.

I inclose Tables (A) and (B), together with the statistical document received from your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

(A.)—COMPARATIVE Estimates of Population within jurisdiction of Kurdistan Consulate.

Authority and Date.	‡ Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Bitlis.		§ Diarbekir.		Kharput.	
	Non-Moslem.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Moslem.
1. Mr. Taylor, 1869.	405,700	724,700	109,000	574,500	130,000	270,000
1. Berlin Project, 1878*	1,172,000	528,000	..	..	..	..
3. Official to Sir C. Dilke*	652,463	367,575	..	..	..	..
4. Armenian Patriarch to Her Majesty's Ambassador*	478,000	280,000	148,800	145,000	170,000	125,000
5. Turkish official, 1880†	387,064	821,476	87,908	328,174	91,790	337,788
6. Official figures furnished to Her Majesty's Ambassador by Sublime Porte, 1890	323,936	846,804	107,278	285,077	81,158	300,194
7. Mr. Clifford Lloyd, 1890	355,150	678,862	123,563	249,856	88,155	205,353

* Supplied directly or indirectly by Armenian Patriarchate, *vide* "Turkey No. 6 (1881)," p. 123 (Major Trotter's despatch).

† *Vide* "Turkey No. 6 (1881)," p. 124 (Major Trotter's despatch).

‡ Present population of Sert (35,403 non-Moslem, 44,503 Moslem) deducted for purposes of comparison.

§ Ditto, ditto, added for purposes of comparison.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Erzeroum, May 14, 1890.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

(B.)—COMPARATIVE Estimates of Population within jurisdiction of Kurdistan Consulate.

Vilayets.	Official figures furnished to Her Majesty's Ambassador by Sublime Porte, 1890.		Mr. Clifford Lloyd's Estimates, 1890.	
	Non-Moslem.	Moslem.	Non-Moslem.	Moslem.
Erzeroum	113,488	441,671	113,488	441,671
Bitlis	109,944	167,054	121,082	166,794
Van	135,912	282,582	155,988	115,000
Diarbekir	71,870	240,574	87,584	304,584
Kharput (Mamuret Elaziz)	81,158	300,194	88,155	205,353
	512,372	1,432,075	566,297	1,233,402

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Erzeroum, May 14, 1890.

No. 45.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 26, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, reporting an attack made by Kurds on about the 6th instant on some Armenian labourers who were returning to their homes from Russia, and in which five are said to have been killed.

Mr. Lloyd also reports the arrest at Bayazid of the Vartabed of the Armenian church (a dignitary ranking next to a Bishop), who has since been released on the personal guarantee of the Bishop of Erzeroum.

On my making representations to the Sublime Porte upon the attack on the Armenian workmen, I have been met with a flat denial of the truth of the allegations in question, and I have now pointed out to Mr. Lloyd the necessity of obtaining corroborative evidence of his facts before reporting them, as my constant representations to the Grand Vizier and the Sublime Porte not unnaturally produce an irritating effect, and I have told him that it would be advisable to mention such reports in the first place to the Vali and hear the result of his inquiries before communicating them to this Embassy, unless he should feel convinced that his informants are to be implicitly relied upon.

I shall not fail to inform your Lordship of the facts of the above-mentioned case as soon as I receive from Mr. Lloyd a reply to my telegram.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 13, 1890.

IT is with regret that I have to report further proceedings in the valley of Alashgerd, which furnish grounds for the serious apprehension existing in the minds of the Christian inhabitants of that district as to the security of their lives and persons. It is the custom for able-bodied men in Armenia to leave their homes from time to time to labour in more prosperous countries. About the 6th May a large number of these labourers were passing across the valley of Alashgerd on the return journey to their homes after having been working in Russia. They were attacked by the Kurds, robbed, and five of their number killed. Though it is well known that the Kurds live by plundering the Christians, no effort is made by the Turkish



Government either to disarm them or to afford any protection to the Christians, the law against the latter carrying or having arms being at the same time strictly enforced.

In connection with affairs at Alashgird, I have also to report the arrest at Bayazid of the Vartabed of the Armenian Church, who was a few days ago brought in custody to Erzeroum and lodged in the gaol, from which he was on the 8th May released upon the personal guarantee of the Bishop of Erzeroum. I can hear of no charge having been formulated against the reverend gentleman, nor has one yet been preferred against the Protestant pastor, who was also arrested at Alashgerd and brought in custody to Erzeroum, as reported in my despatch dated the 28th February, 1890.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

P.S.—A "Vartabed" is a dignitary of the Armenian Church ranking after a Bishop.

C. LL.

No. 46.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 30, 1890.*
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd instant on the subject of the attack upon an Armenian church at a village in the Caza of Hodunchur, and I approve the prompt steps which you took to bring the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 47.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 29, 1890.*
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Lloyd reporting two murders said to have taken place, one at Mosum and the other at Gopal.

I do not propose to bring the matter to the notice of the Sublime Porte until I receive further details from Mr. Lloyd, and I have instructed him to obtain these, and to urge the Vali to bring the offenders to trial and to have them punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Erzeroum, May 16, 1890.*
I REGRET to have to report two more murders of Armenians by Kurds. They both took place at the end of April last. In the first case the Headman of a village named Mosum, near the Turco-Persian frontier in the district of Bayazid, was cut down by a Kurd at his own door. In the second case, one Murad, the son of the Headman of the village of Gopal, in the district of Khenous, was shot down on the road by one Hajar, the brother of a Kurdish Chief against whose proceedings Murad was on the way to complain to the Sub-Governor. In the Mosum case it is said that the motive of the murder was revenge for complaints made. I have as yet received no further details of these crimes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 48.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 6, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a Memorandum drawn up by Colonel Chermiside at my request, in which he gives information upon the recent occurrences in the district of Alashgird derived from his own personal experience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

 Inclosure in No. 48.

Memorandum by Colonel Chermiside.

WITH reference to Mr. C. Lloyd's despatches of the 13th, 14th, and 16th ultimo, I may remark that the district of Alashgird is one in which the inhabitants, particularly the Armenians, are specially liable to insecurity and outrage.

Alashgird lies on the great caravan road from Tavriz to Trebizond, and the easiest and most frequented caravan route from Van to Erzeroum lies through it.

Labourers returning from Trans-Caucasia to the Moush and Bitlis districts pass through it, whilst the regular route of the periodical Armenian pilgrimages from Trans-Caucasia to Surp Garabed Monastery, near Moush, also crosses Alashgird.

It is a frontier district bounded by a rugged barrier immediately to the north, which forms the Russian frontier, but the Kurds cross and recross this by numerous paths.

Many of the Kurds are now Russian subjects.

To the south, except down the valley of the Euphrates, lie mountainous regions, inhabited by pastoral Kurdish tribes.

Since Alashgird has become a frontier district, it has become more difficult for the Turks to control than it was formerly.

In 1888 an attack, accompanied by murders, was made on the villages of the district from Trans-Caucasia by the notorious Russian outlaw Kerim and his followers.

Troops and the Mutessarif of the sandjak were there in October 1888, and captured two or three of these robbers and wounded the chief.

In 1888 or 1889 a robbery of pilgrims to the Monastery of Surp Garabed occurred.

In 1889 an outrage or robbery occurred at a village in the west end of the plain, and a traveller (or travellers) was robbed and killed at the Kilij Bel, the pass out of the district, on the Van road.

I do not remember any other outrages, and the caravan roads were not abnormally insecure.

The present occurrence, therefore, if true, is unfortunately not abnormal, but during the time I was Consul in Kurdistan cavalry were stationed in the district, which was often patrolled.

Kiazim Bey, an Albanian, who had served in the gendarmerie under the late Baker Pasha, was then Mutessarif of the sandjak of which Alashgird is a sub-district.

Mr. Devy and myself both thought highly of him, and I much regretted his removal last year.

In the district between Alashgird and Bayazid, Her Majesty's Consul, if he visits it, will find villages surrounded by ancient and mostly ruined walls, as at Mossun, Arzab, Diadin, &c., which clearly indicate the turbulent state in which the border country near Ararat, inhabited by Kurd, Armenian, Persian, Tatar, has been in for centuries.

The occurrence in a village of Hodivechur is in quite a different direction, *i.e.*, in the Tchorokh Valley, a very difficult mountainous tract, lying to the extreme north of the Erzeroum district, on the borders of Lazistan.

Lazistan is administered from Trebizond.

I believe action has been taken in this matter from the latter place.

The Lazes are notoriously a fierce, wild people; I travelled through Lazistan last

June from Krom, near Gyumush Khane, to Trebizond, Yonuera, Surmeneh, Of, Riza, and Hemschin, and thence to Ispir and Erzeroum.

On the whole, very few outrages have been reported from Erzeroum in past years from the northern districts. In Lazistan most of the Christians are Greeks, and in Yonuera, Surmeneh, Of, and Riza seemed to get on very well with the Moslems, as mentioned by the Greek Archbishop of Trebizond to Her Majesty's Consul.

Owing, however, to the insecurity to all travellers alike in Lazistan, and for other reasons, a special Military Commission visited Lazistan last year, as reported, for the purpose of collecting breech-loading rifles.

In the autumn of 1889, while travelling a little to the south of Hodivchur, a highway robbery and murder occurred, but the victims were Moslems. Cavalry were sent out, and the murderers captured.

As regards murders reported from Mossun it is not stated if the murderer was arrested. Mossun is a large, mixed village, Christian and Moslem, the head-quarters of a frontier post of regular cavalry.

Considering together the events reported, and assuming the reports correct a matter of some doubt, I would point out that the Erzeroum province is over 300 miles in length, and, for a great extent, over 100 miles in breadth. Of its divisions and sub-divisions, 3, 16, and 162, those of the second category, *i.e.*, the 16 (cazas), are often considered analogous to counties or continental cantons. The six occurrences reported (including arrest of Protestant pastor, "koltukju" (?) pedlar), took place in five different ones of these sixteen cazas, and in one alone, Alashgird, is reference made in this series of despatches to previously reported occurrences. Kiazim Bey, an active Mutessarif, had the assistance of some troops, and the Vali attached such importance to his presence in his district, that he would not grant him leave at Erzeroum to avail himself of a dentist's services. He was removed owing to the intrigue of the local Mufti. It is to be noticed that, as regards the occurrences reported as having taken place in different localities of such an extensive tract, no information has been furnished as to any action in pursuit of criminals by the local authority.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE, Colonel.

Constantinople, June 3, 1890.

No. 49.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 9, 1890.

WITH reference to the despatch from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan of the 14th instant, which reported an attack made upon a Christian Church at Hodunchur, in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Lloyd, reporting that four of the ringleaders in the attack, who are said to be of notorious character, have been captured in the Trebizond Vilayet.

I have instructed Mr. Lloyd to report to me as soon as he may have ascertained when and where the trial of the offenders is fixed to take place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 29, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform you that four of the ringleaders in the attack upon the Christian Church, therein reported, have been captured in the Trebizond Vilayet. They are said to be men of notorious character. The priest's wounds are of a serious nature.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 50.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 9, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch to your Lordship of the 12th ultimo, inclosing Mr. Consul Lloyd's despatch of the 29th April, reporting an attack by Kurds on some Armenian villages situated about 10 miles south of Van, I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Lloyd, transmitting one from Mr. Vice-Consul Devey, which gives full information upon the occurrence before reported.

I have caused inquiries to be made upon this matter to the Grand Vizier, to whom, at his request, I have given a copy of Mr. Lloyd's inclosed despatch, and his Highness has promised to make further inquiries on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 19, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch, dated the 10th May, from the Vice-Consul at Van, reporting the attack by Kurds upon villages a few miles south of Van, as communicated by me to your Excellency by telegram on the 28th April, and in my despatch of the 29th April, 1890. There are no zaptiehs stationed in the locality.

I am informed that the Vali is making "honest and strenuous efforts" to have these brigand Kurds arrested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Vice-Consul Devey to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Van, May 10 1890.

I AM informed that rather more than two weeks ago a company of sixteen mounted Kurds, armed with fire-arms, made a descent from Norduz Caza, into the Havatzor Valley, for the purpose of levying blackmail.

They first went to the villages Hekh (Haik?) and Hertukh, also known as Lower Meshingerd, where they took by intimidation thirty medjidiés and three horses, and thence to the villages Hosp and Meshingerd (inhabited by Kurds), levying eleven more medjidiés, and finally they proceeded by night to Kehrzi and Aspashen, where they again levied fifteen medjidiés.

The Kurds are said to be of the Girvanli Ashiret, inhabiting Shattakh, of which Shakir Agha is, I believe, Chief, who resides in Norduz.

The Havatzor Nahiyyé is a rectangular district, extending east and west for about 4 miles below Khoshab to the lake shore; in width it would be about 5 miles, and is not more than 10 or 12 miles distant from the Van town; it contains upwards of a score of villages in clusters, under the direct authority of this city, which are chiefly peopled by Armenian agriculturists. There are Armenian "Mudirs" at the villages Norkugh, Kiziltash, and Ishkhanékom, and a Mussulman Mudir at Lower Meshingerd; no zaptiehs are stationed in the Nahiyyé.

On information being brought here, the Tabur Aghassi and some twenty gendarmes were sent out to search for the malefactors, but they returned shortly, having effected nothing.

One is prepared to hear without surprise of such doings from the more remote parts of the vilayet, or from the mountainous regions, where there may be old feuds between Aghas and tribes of two limitroph cazas, but the distinctive feature in the particular case is that an Ashiret residing at some distance, and apparently with no

reasonable pretext, should venture upon so gross a breach of the peace in a district close to Van, and under the immediate protection of the central local authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

P.S. *May 11.*—I hear to day that a certain Shakir, not the Chief above mentioned, has been arrested for participation in this crime.

G. P. D.

No. 51.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, June 13.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 29, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 13th instant, I reported to your Excellency that an attack had been made by Kurds upon a body of Armenian labourers crossing the valley of Alashgird, and that the latter had been robbed and five of their number killed. I made this report upon corroborated testimony of high character, but subsequent inquiries lead me to doubt the loss of life said to have taken place during the attack. The Vali informs me the labourers were Nestorians; that over 100*l.* of the money carried away by the Kurds has been recovered, and four of the offenders are in custody. The attack took place between Bayazid and the Russian frontier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 52.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 18, 1890.

I HAVE received Sir W. White's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing a further despatch from Mr. Clifford Lloyd relative to the attack upon some Armenian villages near Van, and I approve the steps taken by his Excellency to bring the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier in order that inquiries might be made with regard to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 53.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I am in receipt of information in two telegrams from Mr. Consul Lloyd reporting serious disturbances at Erzeroum, to the following effect:—

Telegram No. 1:—

“ June 21, morning.

“The Vali with the General commanding, other Generals and civilians, personally assisted at a minute search, on the 18th instant, of the principal Armenian school and Bishop's church at Erzeroum, for arms. None were discovered.

“The Armenians, who are considerably excited by the proceeding, have closed their shops and schools, and contemplate protesting to the Sultan by telegraph.

“The order to search for arms was recently received by the Vali, direct from Constantinople. The Vali was himself opposed to this proceeding, but was not previously consulted.

“During the afternoon, to-day, Mussulman mobs attacked the Christian quarters of the town, armed and using sticks and stones. A considerable amount of firing ensued, which resulted in several persons being killed and wounded.

"The town is to-night apparently quiet, and is patrolled by troops.

"I will telegraph further to-morrow.

"I have complete confidence in the Vali.

"Until my report reaches you, I would request you to support him."

Telegram No. 2 :—

" June 22, morning.

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have to report that the town is quiet to-day and the troops out. The primary cause of the disturbance was the order from Constantinople for a search to be instituted in Christian church, which created a reckless feeling amongst Armenians. The Mussulmans and the Government regarded the closing of their shops as a hostile demonstration. About 200 Armenians assembled yesterday in the churchyard with the object of drawing up and sending a protest to His Majesty the Sultan. By the Bishop's request one battalion was dispatched to the vicinity.

"The Vali states, and is generally believed, that several pistol shots were first fired by some Armenians upon the troops, of whom one was killed and three wounded.

"The Mussulman mob upon this attacked the Armenians, followed them into their various quarters, made attacks upon houses, and several Armenians were killed and many more wounded.

"The Consuls all agree that the troops under their officers were deserving of great praise for their conduct in doing their utmost for the protection of the Christians. The Consulates are now being guarded."

The above information from Mr. Clifford Lloyd reached me yesterday and to-day. I understand that the version of the matter given by the Grand Vizier is that the Vali had the consent of the Bishop to make a search of the church buildings for the purpose of dispelling the suspicions of the authorities that arms were being manufactured on those premises.

His Highness also asserts that the Armenians commenced the disturbance, being exasperated by the search which was being carried out, and adds that the troops deserve the highest praise for their efforts to defend the Christians, although these latter had at first fired upon them.

No. 54.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 23, 1890.

I HAVE received a telegram to-day from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, dated yesterday, to the following effect :—

"An identic note has been addressed to the Vali by the Consuls here, in which certain measures are specified which are, in our opinion, essential for the protection of the Consulates, and which will also serve for the protection of the Christian quarters of the town.

"Information from a more or less reliable source has been received to the effect that the attack will be renewed upon the Christians to-night.

"I do not share this belief.

"The General in command of the corps d'armée arrives this evening or to-morrow with a battalion.

"The number of killed and wounded, which I gave in my last telegram, is now reported to be greater than was at first supposed, and I have impressed upon the Vali that the wounded should be attended to.

"I feel apprehensive of the disturbance spreading to parts of the country where the Christians are quite unprotected."

I had already, before receiving the above telegram from Mr. Lloyd, impressed upon the Grand Vizier the necessity of his taking every precautionary measure to tranquillize the town, and especially to insure protection of the Consulates.

No. 55.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 23, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of this day's date on the subject of the recent disturbances at Erzeroum, I have the honour to report that I have just received a satisfactory telegram from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, dated 9 A.M. to-day, announcing that all was quiet at that hour at Erzeroum.

No. 56.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 24, 1890.

WITH reference to my previous telegrams reporting the recent disturbances at Erzeroum, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in reply to representations which I made yesterday morning, I have now received assurances from the Grand Vizier, that instructions had already been dispatched for a searching inquiry to be made into the events which have occurred; that order and tranquillity had now been re-established, and would be henceforward maintained; and that a summary of all the official Reports which have been received at the Porte upon the subject would be transmitted to Rustem Pasha, who would submit it to your Lordship for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

His Highness repeats his assertion, that the Armenians were the aggressors, and believes that they were instigated by designing persons to cause a disturbance. He expresses his astonishment at the estimate furnished by Mr. Lloyd, that 250 persons had been killed and wounded, stating that the official Reports received by the Sublime Porte place the numbers at a comparatively very insignificant figure.

No. 57.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 25, 1890.

MR. CLIFFORD LLOYD telegraphs to-day that he considers that there is no longer any danger of the disturbances at Erzeroum being renewed. He has received satisfactory news from the Vali as to the state of things in the surrounding districts.

No. 58.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 26.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 26, 1890.

I HAVE received information from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan to the following effect:—

“The condition of the Armenians in Erzeroum is now one of terror, and the gravest apprehensions are entertained amongst Europeans lest fresh disturbances may occur.

“I am personally of opinion that danger is over for the moment; but a number of Armenians are being arrested by order of the Government, while no steps are being taken towards the prosecution of any of the Mussulman mob who were engaged in the affray of Friday.

“An extremely bad effect may be caused by this action, and fanaticism may be thereby encouraged.

“The Consuls here will be prepared to make a representation to the Governor on this account, but for good reason we do not consider it would be discreet to exert pressure at present.

“With reference to my telegram of the 22nd instant, the Divisional Commander, with a battalion, has not yet arrived here, and I hear he has been counter-ordered.

"The Russian and French Consuls and myself met to-day. We are of opinion that three points are immediately essential for order to be preserved:—

"1. That the rifle battalion which is now at Erzingan should be ordered here for duty.

"2. That an order from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan should put an immediate stop to any further prosecution of Christians in connection with the recent disturbances until we may be in a position to see justice carried out. At present we are not in such a position.

"3. Measures which should be taken for the protection of the country population.

"I have this day sent away the guard over my Consulate."

This ends Mr. Lloyd's telegram. I am about to communicate his views to the Grand Vizier.

No. 59.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, in which he informs me of a report having reached him that a Christian church at Topra Kala, in the Valley of Alashgird, had been maliciously burned down by Kurds, the church property having at the same time been stolen and the Bible desecrated.

I at once caused inquiries into the truth of this matter to be made, not only at the Porte, but also among the Armenian Ecclesiastical authorities at Constantinople.

Although up to the present time no Report upon the subject had reached the Government, the Ecclesiastical authorities had received information which inclined them to believe that the church had been set fire to, not by Kurds, but at the instigation of an Armenian priest already recalled to Constantinople.

This account would appear to agree with the explanation of the occurrence given by the Vali to Mr. Clifford Lloyd.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, May 9, 1890.

IT has been brought to my notice that about fourteen days ago the Christian church at Topra Kala, in the Valley of Alashgird, was burned down maliciously by Kurds, the church property stolen, and the Holy Bible desecrated.

I have reported to your Excellency from time to time the discontent prevailing among the inhabitants of that district, and I thought it desirable to see the Governor-General yesterday regarding the alleged desecration of the Christian church. His Excellency informed me that at Topra Kala there are two churches, one now used by the people, and one in a partially ruined condition. In the latter Service is not performed, nor is any property retained. On hearing a report similar to that which had come to my knowledge, he had sent a well-qualified officer to the spot with orders to assemble the leaders of the Christian community, and in their presence to sift the facts and to see that immediate justice was done. From the reports he had now received, the Governor-General informed me he had no doubt whatever that the ruined church, which had been partially burned, had been set fire to by the Christians with the object of charging it to a local Kurdish Chief, whom they were very anxious to have removed. Nothing had been stolen, and no desecration of the Bible had taken place.

Having to-day made inquiries from the Armenian Bishop, he states that he has received a report from his local agent at Alashgird to the effect that "the Kurds had burned down the Christian church, and desecrated the holy things therein, but that the Christians had put out the fire before the church was wholly consumed."

I will endeavour to arrive at the facts, and will report the result of my inquiries to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch on Consul Lloyd's despatch of May 9, 1890.

I HAVE endeavoured to ascertain privately whether there was any foundation in the rumour spread to the effect that the Christian church at Topra Kala, in the Valley of Alashgird, was burnt down by Kurds, the church property stolen, and the Holy Bible desecrated.

From the information I have obtained from a reliable source it appears that up to the present moment no report has reached the Sublime Porte confirming the alleged outrages.

The Armenian Patriarchate is, however, inclined to believe that the Kurds did not perpetrate this outrage, and it is rather thought that the church has been burnt down at the instigation of an Armenian priest already recalled to Constantinople.

(Signed) HUGO MARINITCH.

Pera, June 12, 1890.

No. 60.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 14, 1890.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the case of Moussa Bey, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Grand Vizier has informed me that Riza Pasha, Minister of Justice, has been able to obtain evidence against Moussa Bey sufficient to insure his punishment, but that there will probably, owing to expenses and enforced delays, be no new trial, though his Highness expects that Moussa will probably be exiled administratively, as was previously reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 206 of the 12th ultimo, inclosing Mr. Block's Memorandum of that day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 61.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report information received by telegraph this morning from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan in the following terms:—

“A regiment of cavalry ought to be sent in small detachments to patrol the country from this town.

“Pray cause order to be sent to this effect, as although I have to-day received the Vali's assurance that he agrees in its utility, the order had better be sent.

“I have still the fullest confidence in the Vali.”

I intend to communicate the above information confidentially to the Grand Vizier.

No. 62.

Rustem Pasha to Foreign Office.—(Received June 28.)

1, Bryanston Square, Londres, le 27 Juin, 1890.

J'AI reçu cet après-midi un télégramme de Constantinople donnant quelques détails sur un incident très regrettable qui s'est passé à Erzeroum. Je vous en envoie copie ci-inclus pour votre information et celle du Marquis de Salisbury.

Bien sincèrement à vous,

(Signé) RUSTEM.

(Translation.)

1, Bryanston Square, London, June 27, 1890.

I HAVE received this afternoon a telegram from Constantinople, giving some details with regard to a most unfortunate occurrence which has taken place at

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Erzeroum. I inclose herewith a copy of it for your information and that of the Marquis of Salisbury.

Yours most sincerely,
(Signed) RUSTEM.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Saïd Pasha to Rustem Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)

Le 27 Juin, 1890.

IL vient de se passer à Erzeroum un incident que la malveillance ne manquera certainement pas d'exagérer. Voici les faits :—

Informé qu'il existait dans une église et une école Arméniennes de la ville des fonderies ou l'on fabriquaient des armes, l'autorité procéda à une perquisition avec l'assistance du Vicaire Patriarcal et du Directeur de l'école. Cette perquisition n'amena la découverte de rien de suspect.

L'autorité se félicitait du résultat de l'enquête, lorsque le lendemain plusieurs Arméniens poussés par certaines instigations, ont fermé leurs boutiques et ont commencé à se former en groupes.

Quelques magasins Musulmans furent pillés.

Pour maintenir l'ordre, des patrouilles furent organisées et au passage de l'une d'elles devant l'église où se trouvaient réunis les mécontents, ceux-ci firent feu, tuèrent un soldat et en blessèrent quatre autres. Malgré cela les troupes ont eu garde de ne pas faire usage de leurs armes. Dans la panique qui s'en est suivie, les Arméniens du haut de leurs maisons tirèrent des coups de revolvers et lancèrent des pierres dans la rue.

Il y eut huit Arméniens de tués, l'un, le bedeau, est mort d'une balle de revolver tiré de l'intérieur de l'église où les Musulmans n'avaient point pénétré; le second a été également tué par des coups de revolvers partis des habitations Arméniennes. Les troupes n'étaient point du reste armées de revolvers; les autres six ont succombé à des coups de couteau et de canne à épée.

Il y a aussi parmi les Arméniens dix qui ont été blessés à la tête par des projectiles jetés du haut des maisons, ou qui ont reçu des coups d'instruments contondants. Une soixantaine d'autres se sont faits de légères blessures ou des contusions, la plupart dans la poussée qui se produisit à leur première sortie de l'église.

Les Musulmans comptent deux morts et quarante-cinq blessés de coup d'armes blanches et de bâtons.

Toutes ces constatations résultent d'une expertise médicale. Grâce aux mesures prises tout est rentré dans le calme.

Bientôt après la ville a repris son aspect normal, et les blessés reçurent tous les soins requis.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

June 27, 1890.

AN incident has just occurred at Erzeroum which will certainly be exaggerated by ill-will. The facts are as follows :—

Informed that there existed in an Armenian church and school of the town founderies in which arms were manufactured; the authorities proceeded to make a search, with the assistance of the Patriarchal Vicar, and of the Director of the school. This search did not lead to the discovery of anything suspicious.

The authorities were congratulating themselves on the result of the investigation, when on the following day several Armenians who were instigated thereto closed their shops and commenced to form in groups.

Some Mussulman shops were pillaged.

In order to maintain order, patrols were organized, and on one of these passing in front of the church where the malcontents were assembled the latter fired, killed one soldier and wounded four others. In spite of this, the troops refrained from making use of their arms. In the panic which followed, the Armenians fired with revolvers from their houses, and threw stones into the street.

Eight Armenians were killed; one, the beadle, was killed by a bullet from a revolver fired from the interior of the church, which the Mussulmans had not entered; the second was also killed by revolver shots fired from the Armenian houses. The troops, moreover, were not armed with revolvers. The remaining six died of stabs from knives and sword-sticks.

Among the Armenians two were also wounded on the head by missiles thrown from the houses, or received blows with blunt instruments. Some sixty others had slight wounds or contusions, the majority in the scuffle which occurred on their first exit from the church.

The Mussulmans have two dead and forty-five wounded with swords or sticks.

All these statements are founded on a medical examination. Thanks to the measures adopted, order has been completely restored.

Soon after the town resumed its normal aspect, and the wounded received every necessary attention.

No. 63.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, June 28, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 26th instant, I have seen the Grand Vizier, who has engaged that the three measures recommended by the Russian, French, and British Consuls shall be carried out at once.

His Highness particularly promised to give orders that the country districts shall be patrolled by detachments of cavalry.

No. 64.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 1.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 1, 1890.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter, dated 3½ h June:—

“Disturbances amongst the Druses in the Hauran.

“Three battalions of infantry, accompanied by cavalry and eight guns, advanced on the 27th instant to take possession of Swediah, the chief town of Jebel Hauran, with the object of replacing the obnoxious Governor in power. Some 4,000 armed Druses defended the town, and a fight of four hours' duration ensued, but the Druse Chiefs did not take part in it. The troops, after losing two officers and twenty-four men killed and forty-six wounded, occupied the town. The Druses dispersed with a loss, it is said, of 300 killed and many wounded. I do not consider that very serious consequences need be apprehended. Instead of starting to-morrow for England on leave, I have decided to postpone departure, and may probably go to the headquarters of the Druses in the Lebanon with the object of exerting such influence as I may command to prevent the inhabitants from taking part in the insurrection.”

No. 65.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, July 3, 1890.

WITH reference to the outbreak among the Druses of the Hauran, respecting which I addressed your Lordship in my telegram of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that Mr. Consul Dickson has telegraphed the following information from Damascus:—

“The Druses having resolved to continue their resistance, the authorities are dispatching to the Hauran all troops available.”

No. 66.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.—(Received at Foreign Office, July 11.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, June 20, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the day before yesterday the Governor-General, with the General commanding the Division, and the superior

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Generals of the garrison, together with the chief civil functionaries, visited the large Armenian school here, known as the "Sanassarian School," the founder of which has just died, and also the Armenian Bishop's church, throughout both of which buildings a minute and vigorous search (the flooring of the school being taken up in parts) for arms was made. The vaults of the church were also entered. Nothing was, however, found. These proceedings of the Turkish Government, carried out in such an unusual manner, gave rise to grave excitement on the part of the members of the Armenian Church, and to apprehension in the minds of the Christian community generally. The Armenians, as a protest, closed their shops and schools, and proposed to telegraph their complaints to His Majesty the Sultan.

I did not go to see the Governor-General yesterday, as I considered doing so would but probably add to the popular excitement, but I took opportunities of advising those in communication with the Armenian people to counsel them to open their shops, and to desist from all public acts that might raise fanatical feelings in the town against them. The town remained quiet yesterday and to-day until about 4 P.M. At 2 P.M. to-day I visited the Vali, who informed me of what had taken place at the school and church, adding that he had acted under direct telegraphic orders from Constantinople. He looked upon the closing of the Armenian shops and schools as a demonstration against the Government, and said he had urged the people, through their Bishop, to desist from it and to resume their work, and stated that, if they did not do so, he intended to post troops about the town and to arrest those persons who had ordered the shops to be kept shut, a proceeding which he contended was forced upon the people generally by a few. For this statement I am aware that he had foundation. I urged upon his Excellency the danger of attempting to use any force or display of troops to gain this object, for if the people were left to their own devices no harm would result to any one but themselves, and of necessity they would be obliged to open their shops in a day or two. On the other hand, any such proceeding as he contemplated would probably stir up the fanatical feeling, always existing in a large Mussulman town such as this, to the serious danger of the Christians' lives and properties. On my leaving Government House the Governor-General held a meeting of his advisers, which was attended by the Armenian Bishop and his friends. At about 4 P.M. the Bishop returned to his own house, and, finding a large crowd of Armenians collected outside it, addressed them to the effect that the Vali was their friend, and, believing in their loyalty, it was his (the Bishop's) and the Vali's wish that the demonstration should be brought to an end and the shops opened. Upon this the people raised hostile cries, and pressed upon the Bishop to such an extent that he was forced to call upon some Turkish soldiers near to protect him. The Armenians then seem to have collected at their church in some numbers, and a battalion of troops appeared upon the scene. What there and then took place I am not yet in a position to inform you, but it is reported by Christians and Mussulmans that three or four soldiers were there killed. At about 5:30 P.M. Mussulmans were seen running from all directions towards the church armed with sticks and some with swords, and at about 6 P.M. a mob of some hundreds were observed by me following the Christians into their quarters of the town (in which the foreign Consulates are situated) attacking them with bludgeons, axes, and stones. I also heard considerable firing. The mob took possession of the street in which is Her Majesty's Consulate, attacked the Christians, and stoned their houses. Up to within a few weeks the American Mission occupied the house I now rent from it as the Consulate, and its windows were broken by the mob in common with those of other houses occupied now by the members of the Mission and by Armenians in the same street. I hoisted the flag, and sent a mounted messenger to the Vali, informing him of what had occurred, and asking for troops to be at once sent for the protection of the locality and of the Consulate. The troops soon arrived, and others in the course of time appeared and cleared the streets. The Turkish soldiers under their officers, I am informed, behaved well, having used every effort to protect the Christian people. I also saw respectable Mussulmans trying to restrain the mob. By night-time this portion of the town was quiet, but I continued to hear isolated reports of fire-arms from other quarters. It is impossible to, as yet, give you any accurate report as to the extent of this outburst or of the number of Christians killed and wounded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

P.S.—I have just been informed on reliable official authority that two Turkish soldiers were killed and three wounded when the Armenians fired upon them with

revolvers at the church, whither the Vali informs me troops were sent at the request of the Bishop, and that twelve Armenians are believed to have been killed and about 250 wounded by the Mussulman mob, exasperated at the sight of the killed and wounded soldiers.

C. L.

No. 67.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 4, 1890.

ON getting Mr. Lloyd's telegram of the 25th ultimo, which reached me on the afternoon of the 26th, describing Erzeroum as being in a state of terror, and begging me to impress upon the Porte the adoption of the three points which, at a meeting of the British, Russian, and French Consuls, had been agreed upon as being of immediate necessity, I considered that your Lordship would approve of my taking every possible step to prevent the mischief going farther.

I, therefore, first called on the French Ambassador to inquire whether he had received a similar telegram to the one which had reached me from Mr. Lloyd. His Excellency said that such was the case, and that, as it was impossible for him to go that day to the Porte, he would be grateful if I would represent him in urging upon the Grand Vizier the adoption of the recommendations made by the three Consuls.

At the interview which I had subsequently with the Grand Vizier I spoke of the seriousness of what had already taken place, and especially dwelled upon the danger of a renewal of the disturbances occurring, and, above all, on the fatal consequences which might follow if the country districts (where there existed no military force) became the scene of conflicts between Mussulmans and Christians. I then told his Highness that, on the part of the French Ambassador as well as for myself, I begged to urge the adoption of the measures recommended by the British, French, and Russian Consuls, namely, that the garrison of Erzeroum should be reinforced by the battalion of rifles at Erzingan, that all prosecution of Christians implicated in the late riots should for the moment be suspended, and that patrols of cavalry, acting as a gendarmérie, should move about the surrounding districts of Erzeroum in order to prevent the agitation from spreading into the country. I handed to his Highness a Memorandum, showing the reasons why the adoption of these measures was considered by the Consular body at Erzeroum to be of pressing importance.

The Grand Vizier fully acknowledged the advisability of complying with the recommendations made by the Consuls, and he promised me that the Seraskier should immediately telegraph instructions to the Commander of the forces for strengthening the garrison at Erzeroum in the manner advised, and for causing bodies of cavalry to patrol the surrounding country. As for the postponement of all prosecutions of the Armenians who had taken part in the recent riots, he would himself that evening (it was the post day for Erzeroum) write to the Vali to discontinue proceedings of that sort for the present.

On my return to Therapia, I telegraphed to Mr. Lloyd that order would at once be given to carry out the recommendations of himself and his colleagues, and authorized him to acquaint the Vali with this fact. I called on M. de Montebello to tell him of the result of my interview with the Grand Vizier, and his Excellency, after thanking me, said that he would send to the French Consul a telegram similar to the one I had dispatched to Mr. Lloyd.

No. 68.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 7, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a Report dated the 28th ultimo, which I received to-day from Mr. Consul Lloyd on the subject of the late disturbances at Erzeroum, and describing the general condition of things in his Consular district. Mr. Lloyd, at the date of his dispatching this Report, had evidently not received the telegram which I sent him on the 28th ultimo, telling him that the Grand Vizier had consented to immediately adopt all the recommendations



which were drawn up at the meeting of the British, Russian, and French Consuls, and to which reference is made in my despatch to your Lordship No. 301 of the 4th instant.

Inclosure in No. 68.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Erzeroum, June 28, 1890.

(Extract.)

IN continuation of my despatch of the 20th instant, I have the honour now to report the result of my inquiries as to the disturbances here on that date.

An anonymous letter, forwarded by the General Officer Commanding the Corps d'Armée at Erzeroum to Constantinople, was deemed sufficient on which to direct the Governor-General, by telegram, to take the serious step of searching the Bishop's church and the Sanassarian School.

It excited the feelings of the Christian people to a degree that placed the majority of them beyond the control of their Bishop and his Council, and was the direct cause of all the serious trouble that followed.

They closed their shops and schools as a protest; and when, on the 20th, certain shop-keepers, in accordance with the Governor's orders and the Bishop's advice, opened their shops, some of the younger Armenians attacked them, scattering their wares. The shop-keepers were defended by the neighbouring Turks, the Mussulman mob began to assemble, and the disturbances may be said to have commenced.

The next proceeding of these men was to hoot their Bishop (as reported in my despatch of the 20th instant), and to behave towards him with such violence as to necessitate him calling upon some Turkish troops near for protection. At this time the Governor-General, an officer of large experience, singularly good judgment, and liberal views, had caused much of the town to be occupied by detachments of troops, with the view of quelling disturbance, however arising. At about 3:30 P.M. he gave orders for picked troops to be sent for the protection of the Consulates, and of the Christian quarters of the town. I have lately rented as a Consulate a house in the main street of this quarter recently occupied by American missionaries, and at some distance from where my colleagues reside.

The troops went to their (the Consuls') block of houses, but, by mistake, none came here, which was unfortunate, as from the central position of Her Majesty's Consulate, they could have subsequently afforded much protection to the neighbouring people.

His Excellency's orders as to guarding the Christian quarters of the town were not carried out.

In the meantime, the Christians collected in their churchyard to the number of some 200 or 300 persons, discussing, it is said, the terms of a protest they desired to forward to His Majesty the Sultan. The Mussulman mob was also collecting, armed with large staves, and some with swords and pistols concealed under their clothes.

I have carefully sifted every statement made to me by officials and Armenians, as well as by independent witnesses, neither Mussulmans nor Armenians, regarding what here took place, and I believe the account I now give, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, is an accurate statement of what occurred.

A selected battalion was ordered to the vicinity of the church by the Governor, as he states, at the request of the Bishop, who, however, alleges that he only asked for small bodies of troops to be sent for the protection of those shop-keepers who might open their shops in accordance with the advice he intended to, and did, give to his people.

The point is immaterial, for I consider, in sending the troops, the Governor appreciated the grave danger to the collected Armenians if attacked by a Mussulman mob of the lowest classes of the town.

The battalion is a well-disciplined corps, under the command of a Circassian enjoying the confidence of his superiors. His instructions from the Governor on first starting for the locality, and conveyed to him again and again by officers sent by his Excellency (of this I have quite trustworthy and independent evidence), were that, whatever might arise, he was on no account to fire on the people, Christian or Mussulman. Though, considering what subsequently occurred these may appear to have been orders of too stringent a nature, yet I will point out further on that his Excellency in giving them showed both his desire to protect the Christians and a foresight which prevented much bloodshed.



On arrival in the vicinity of the church the officer in command caused the Mussulman mob to be put back, and sentries placed to keep it under control. It may be thought again by some that this mob should have been at once dispersed, more especially as every moment its numbers were being swelled by all sorts of reckless characters running from every part of the town armed with large sticks, and evidently intending mischief. In a European town, with wide streets, good police arrangements, and support at hand, such an undertaking would not be lightly entered upon; but in an Oriental town, inhabited, as this is, under completely different circumstances, it would, in my opinion, have been a reckless proceeding, which would have resulted in the gravest disaster. Finding that the situation became more threatening the longer it lasted, both the Armenians inside the churchyard and the Mussulmans outside being in a more or less excited state, the officer in command entered the churchyard, with about twenty men, and, in a quiet and friendly way (calling those collected "my sons") told them to get away to their homes. In a few minutes he again entered, and again urged them to go. The Armenians say that he then gave them half-an-hour to bring their meeting to an end, which is denied by the officer and is against all the probabilities; but whether he did so or not he entered a third time, and, while entering, five or six shots were fired, killing one soldier and wounding three. The Turks say these shots were fired by the Armenians in the churchyard and from the windows looking on it; most Armenians allege the shots were fired by the Turks themselves, though a prominent and respectable member of their community, present at a window looking upon the scene, would not deny to me the contention of the Turks.

At this time the sexton of the church also fell, killed, struck by a revolver bullet. I have no means of knowing whence this ball came. It may have been a return-shot fired by a Turk, a ricochet shot, or a shot ill-aimed by those who fired at the soldiers. The Armenians say it was fired by a Turkish policeman. The officer then (at about 5:30 P.M.) ordered his men into the churchyard to clear out the people, and carrying out this order, many bayonet wounds were inflicted upon the Armenians. A number of the people were searched at the outer gates as they were endeavouring to escape, and a loaded revolver, a horse-pistol said to have been just fired off, and some Eastern swords were found upon their persons. The troops did not fire; on this point I am quite satisfied.

Besides the Turkish casualties, I believe two Armenians were killed in the churchyard. Once shots were fired and blood spilt, some twenty more pistol-shots were fired off, by whom or from where is not clear. The unruly behaviour of the Christians now gave place to terror, and they ran in the direction of their own homes. The Mussulman mob, exasperated at the sight of the killed and wounded soldiers, broke from all control, and in a few moments Christians, soldiers, and mob became a confused mass of people, the Christians flying with the mob upon them with staves, and swords, the officers and soldiers even taking Christians in their arms to protect them. The flight of the Christians and the pursuit of the mob soon took both beyond the reach of this battalion, and to the confines of the Christian quarter. What now took place was, in great part, under my own observation.

At a little before 6 P.M. I saw the Armenians running before the mob which was invading the quarter. Every Christian (the women were spared) overtaken was murdered, or assailed with intent to murder.

As the mob came on each house was attacked with stones, and an attempt made to force the doors of some. Two young men of about 20 years of age, cadets in the military school, in uniform with their side-arms on, formed part of the attacking party.

I closed the Consulate doors, and prepared to defend it to the best of my ability. The mob, headed by a horseman with a drawn scimitar, passed backwards and forwards from street to street, being more or less in possession of the whole quarter. I heard from thirty to forty shots fired. The Armenians who reached their houses secured themselves therein, making no attempt at self-defence. One man was slaughtered at a short distance on one side of the Consulate, and another on the other. Some of the lower windows of the Consulate were broken during the disturbances. As no police or troops appeared, though the cavalry and artillery barracks are within 100 yards of the head of the main street in the Christian quarter, and not 300 yards from the Consulate, as the mob was increasing in numbers and daring, and as darkness was coming on, I succeeded in sending a mounted cavass to the Governor-General, with a request for troops to defend the quarter and the Consulate. At about 8 a guard of eight gendarmes arrived, and shortly afterwards troops cleared the streets. During the flight of the Christians they suffered from the bayonets and swords of

isolated parties of the garrison without officers, as well as from the arms of the mob. In the Turkish quarters of the town many Christians were attacked and their houses plundered by parties of soldiery, as well as by roughs. I heard firing in different directions until late at night. The state of terror among the Armenians is such as to make it impossible to obtain any authentic accounts of the numbers of killed and wounded. Ten or twelve have certainly been killed, and in all probability, when the truth is known, the number will amount to twenty. The number of wounded must be between 200 and 300. The Turkish accounts as to the number wounded vary, although the Governor is making every effort to arrive at the truth. The wounded in their fear are lying secreted, and the terror is so great that even those sixty or seventy whose names and addresses are known are without medical attendance, except such as has been provided by the Governor.

On Sunday, the 22nd instant, it was generally believed that the attack upon the Christians was to be renewed on a more determined and extended scale; but, as I have informed you by telegram, I saw no reason to share this apprehension, but rather to believe that all immediate danger was over as regards the town of Erzeroum. I am anxious, however, about the security of the Christian peasantry.

In another despatch I have informed you what measures I consider immediately essential to the preservation of order, both in the town and throughout the provinces.

On the night of the 20th instant I offered such protection as Her Majesty's Consulate afforded to the members of the American Mission, one American gentleman and two ladies, with many Armenian women and children, and shall continue to protect, if necessary, all American citizens and others who may seek refuge here in case of further disorder.

A feeling I can only describe as one of abject terror prevails up to date among the native Christian community of all classes, which is very painful to witness, and which is likely to continue for some time.

After every inquiry it has been possible for me to make, rejecting the mass of rumour brought me, and considering only the facts within and coming to my knowledge, I have arrived at the following conclusions, the purport of which I communicated to you by telegram on the 24th instant, for your information and that of the Marquis of Salisbury.

The searching the Bishop's Palace on the 18th June was not only unnecessary and resolved upon, so far as I can learn, on insufficient grounds, in a hasty irregular manner, without consultation with the Governor-General, but was also a gravely indiscreet act, and the direct cause of all the events which followed.

The subsequent conduct of the Armenians, against the advice of their Bishops, was ill-advised and, considering all the local circumstances, provocative.

When troops were brought out precautions should have been taken, as ordered by the Governor, to protect the Christian quarters of the town from the Mussulman mob, which it was known was collecting.

The moment the troops arrived at the churchyard and the officer called upon the Armenians to go, they should have dispersed quietly to their own homes, which they would then (before blood was shed) have been able most probably to reach in safety.

The battalion of rifles under its officers behaved excellently, exercising self-restraint after their men were shot, obeying the orders given to them, and protecting the fugitive Christians to the best of their ability.

The conduct of some isolated parties of Turkish troops, not under the control of officers, was almost as bad as that of the Mussulman mob.

I have carefully observed the course of events in Erzeroum since the 20th June, and in my opinion every sign of further premeditated disorder is wanting, and I have therefore felt myself justified in so informing your Excellency from day to day, irrespective of the views of others.

On the evening and night of the 20th June I consider all Europeans and Christians in Erzeroum to have been in danger.

I desire to bring to the notice of your Excellency and the Secretary of State the humane conduct from the first moment to the outbreak of the Persian Consul-General, Ali Naghi Khan. He opened his Consulate for the reception of all who sought refuge there, and has extended his protection to all classes of the native Christian community, using his utmost endeavours to calm the fears of the panic-stricken people.

It remains for me but to state that I have the fullest confidence in the desire of

the Governor-General (Sanieh Pasha) to take all measures necessary to the perfect restoration and maintenance of order.

The Governor has informed me, in reply to my repeated inquiries, that the wounded known to the authorities are receiving care from them.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 17, 1890.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th instant respecting the recent disturbances at Erzeroum, and informing me of the interview you had with the Grand Vizier, when you urged upon his Highness the adoption of the measures recommended by the British, Russian, and French Consuls with a view to the speedy restoration of order.

Your proceedings in the matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, July 18, 1890, 4.40 P.M.

NOTICE of question given in House of Commons for Monday, asking as to truth of assertion that there are still Christian Armenian prisoners detained in the gaols of Erzeroum and Erzingian for the last two years untried.

No. 71.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, July 19, 1890.

I WILL make immediate inquiry at the Porte in connection with your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, and, in the meantime, have the honour to refer your Lordship to the Parliamentary Blue Book, "Turkey No. 1 (1890)," p. 20, paragraph 8, where will be found a Report by Colonel Chermiside on the subject of Armenians detained in Turkish prisons.

No. 72.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 16, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith two despatches, of the 2nd and 5th instant, which I have received (by the same post) from Mr. Consul Lloyd, stating that the condition of things at Erzeroum and in the surrounding country continued to cause him much apprehension; but I have since received from him a comparatively reassuring telegram, dated the 12th instant, in the following words "Town quiet, but adjoining country in a somewhat lawless state."

After having read the above despatches, I saw Count Montebello, who informed me that, for some time past, he had not received from the French Consul any reports of a disquieting nature, and I also was positively assured yesterday at the Porte that perfect order prevailed at Erzeroum.

It was only on the 28th ultimo that the Grand Vizier, in consequence of my own and the French Ambassador's representations, wrote to the Vali, and the latter could hardly have received his Highness' instructions by the 5th instant, that is to say, the date of Mr. Lloyd's last despatch. I think it fair to point out that, in any case, the Vali was justified in using some discretion as to the right moment for liberating these prisoners, who, it may be presumed, were the ringleaders of the riot on the

Armenian side, and that it might have proved to be a very grave imprudence on the part of his Excellency if he had allowed these persons to be at large before the arrival of military reinforcements sufficient to prevent a renewal of the disturbances.

From a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Lloyd, dated the 5th instant, it appears that large reinforcements of both cavalry and infantry were on the march to Erzeroum, and as soon as I shall hear of these troops having arrived there I propose urging upon the Grand Vizier the propriety of no longer delaying the release of those prisoners who are not directly charged with having fired upon the soldiers.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 2, 1890.

ON receipt of your telegram dated the 28th June I saw the Vali on matters to which it referred. Our conversation was almost confined to the question of the prosecutions instituted against Armenians since the 20th June. After much difficulty I obtained his personal assurance that—

1. The prosecutions should be suspended.
2. No further arrests should be made.
3. The prisoners at the moment in custody should be gradually (so as to avoid wounding Turkish susceptibilities) released.
4. This understanding not to refer to those in custody charged with firing on the troops on the 20th ultimo.

As this understanding is in keeping with the assurances given by the Grand Vizier to you, I request instructions whether, in case of its non-fulfilment, I am again to bring the matter under the Governor's notice; and also whether it is your desire that, at the proper time, in the event of no proceedings being taken against any persons concerned in the attack upon the Christians, I should make representations to the Vali on the subject.

I omitted to inform you that a Court of Inquiry, formed in most part of military officers, had been appointed to inquire into matters connected with the events of the 20th June; but, so far as is publicly known, its deliberations up to the present have only resulted in the arrest of many Christians, one of whom has been released since my last interview with the Governor.

Under the conditions existing in this country some cases of disorder must be expected in the provinces after what has occurred in Erzeroum. During the past week various reports have reached me of attacks upon the lives and properties of Christian peasants. I have brought to the Governor's notice, at his request, those for which there seemed to be foundation. His Excellency continues to assure me that the country generally remains quiet; but as Christians are not now coming into Erzeroum and as they would not refer to such matters in their correspondence, it is difficult to form an opinion as yet whether the Governor is fully justified in giving these assurances.

The excitement in the town of Erzeroum is slowly subsiding, but the condition of the Armenian population remains one of great apprehension.

Since writing my despatch of the 28th June, 1890, two persons at least are known to have died of their wounds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 5, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 2nd instant I informed you of the undertaking given to me by the Vali upon the 30th June with reference to the Armenians arrested since the 20th June on charges connected with the events of that day. Having had reason to believe that there was undue delay in staying the prosecution of and in releasing these people, I yesterday made inquiries on the subject, and his Excellency informed me that one man has been discharged from prison, but that there

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will be no further releases made until the conclusion of the proceedings now being conducted by the Court of Inquiry, which is still sitting. This is, of course, indefinite and at variance with the assurances given to me on the 30th June. The Vali has not attempted to justify to me these arrests (except in the case of two or three persons charged with firing upon the troops), but rather leads me plainly to understand that the prisoners were arrested and are detained in view of Mussulman feeling. No further arrests have been made, but twenty Armenians remain in custody.

The Governor also informed me that no steps have been taken to bring to justice any of those persons who took part in the attack upon the Christians, and he justifies this inaction on the ground of its not being expedient to excite Mussulman feeling. The Vali, however, stated yesterday that, on the conclusion of the proceedings against the Christians, steps will be taken to prosecute those who attacked them.

No troops have yet arrived in Erzeroum from elsewhere.

Considering local conditions, I still think that it would be inexpedient to, at present, proceed against the members of the Mussulman mob, but the course being persisted in as regards the Armenians who were the victims (notwithstanding the assurances given to you in Constantinople and to me here) seems to be very unjust, and only to be excused by assuming that, by giving way to some extent to Mussulman clamour until his position is strengthened by the arrival of other troops, a misfortune to the Christians greater than their imprisonment is being averted by the Governor.

The Governor informed me that six patrols of zaptiehs and two of cavalry are out in the vicinity of Erzeroum. I have good reason for doubting the accuracy of the reports made to his Excellency on this and other subjects, and numerous complaints have come to my knowledge as to attacks made upon Armenians by Mussulmans in villages in the neighbourhood, the condition of which is seriously insecure. I have brought several cases of attacks upon Armenians and of pillage to the notice of the Vali, to whom they had not been reported.

The people are afraid to lodge their complaints at the seat of Government. I have no reliable information from the provinces. The Vali informed me yesterday that he had not yet sent out those troops he had assured me, on the 30th June, would be at once dispatched, but that he was awaiting the arrival of a regiment of cavalry from Erzingian. He added that a battalion of infantry is on its way from Kharput to Keghi, a district about three days' march south-west of Erzeroum. Nothing has yet been done to secure order in those districts lying between Erzeroum and Bayazid and Erzeroum and Van, where there is a large Kurdish and unarmed Christian population. If considerable lawlessness already exists in the immediate vicinity of Erzeroum, there are grounds for anxiety as to the condition of the Christian inhabitants of localities further remote and more liable to outbreak.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 73.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, July 23, 1890.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant on the subject of Armenians alleged to have been kept in prison without trial for two years at Erzeroum and Erzingian, I have the honour to report that the Grand Vizier has stated to Sir A. Sandison that there is no ground for any such allegation.

No. 74.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 23, 1890.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of questions recently asked in the House of Commons respecting the alleged ill-treatment of the Armenian population in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.*

* (1) Mr. Stevenson, July 1; (2) Ditto, July 21; (3) Mr. Schwann, July 21, 1890

I have to request that you will cause inquiry to be made into these statements, and furnish me with a Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 75.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 25.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the prosecution instituted against Nalji Hacha Dur, of Erzeroum, for treasonable practices, as reported in my despatch of the 1st May last, has been withdrawn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 76.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 25.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Sir William White's despatch dated 29th May last, requesting me to see the Governor-General regarding the two murders mentioned in my despatch dated 16th May. I hope in a short time to address you again regarding these two serious offences, which, in the meantime, form subjects of further inquiry by me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 77.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 25.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to state that, during the past week, there has been no renewal of disturbance in the town of Erzeroum, all the quarters being occupied by guards of troops, as well as being patrolled day and night. There has, however, been no restoration of confidence among the Armenian Christian inhabitants, who remain in a state of great apprehension, while an unsettled feeling among the Mussulman population is remarked.

There has been considerable disorder in the country on all sides of Erzeroum, prompted, it appears to me, more by a desire to plunder the weak and unprotected, than by animosity of race or creed. From whatever cause this state of affairs may arise, it is necessary that order and confidence should be promptly restored.

It is to be regretted that the health of the Governor-General is failing, which adds much to the difficulty of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 78.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 26, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that the French Chargé d'Affaires received a few days ago a despatch from the French Consul at Erzeroum, stating that, notwithstanding the assurances given by the Grand Vizier to Count de Montebello, the Armenians in custody at Erzeroum on the charge of being leaders in the riot of the 20th ultimo had not been liberated, and that the proceedings against them had not been suspended.

M. Imbert having called on me in order to communicate to me the above Report of the French Consul, I told him that I had, by the same post, received similar information from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

We thereupon agreed that we would send our Embassy Dragomans to point out to the Grand Vizier that the instructions which his Highness had sent to the Vali on the 28th ultimo, in compliance with the promise made by him to Count de Montebello and to me, had not, in this respect, been carried out.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a *pro-memorid* on the subject, which I desired Sir A. Sandison to leave with his Highness.

The Grand Vizier gave as his reply that he had not intended to convey to the French Ambassador and to me that the few Armenians who were already in custody on charges of manslaughter and other serious offences against the common law were to be allowed to go free. His meaning had been that all prosecutions of a general kind should cease, and that there should be no further arrests made of Armenians; and this engagement had been fully carried out. He assured Sir A. Sandison that in due course, and as soon as the state of things permitted it, strict and impartial justice should be dealt to the Mahommedans not less than to the Christians in respect to their participation in the occurrences of last month. Meanwhile, the Armenians in custody were being proceeded against judicially, and the greatest care would be taken that no unfair evidence should be admitted against them.

M. Imbert informs me that a similar reply was made by Kiamil Pasha to the representations of the French Dragoman.

In reference to the concluding and private part of my *pro-memorid*, stating that according to Mr. Clifford Lloyd's reports the Christians at Erzeroum and in the surrounding districts were in a state of alarm lest they should again be attacked, the Grand Vizier repeated his former assurances to me, that "perfect order had been restored and would be maintained in that country."

Inclosure in No. 78.

Pro-memorid.

Prosecution of Armenians implicated in Disturbances of 20th June at Erzeroum.

HIS Highness the Grand Vizier was good enough to promise on the 28th June last to the British Chargé d'Affaires and to the French Ambassador, that he would at once instruct his Excellency the Vali to discontinue these prosecutions until the animosity of the Mussulman population shall have subsided sufficiently to allow of equal justice being done to the disturbers of peace on the 20th June last, whether Christians or Mahommedans.

Subsequently to this promise, the Grand Vizier acquainted Mr. Fane that instructions to the above effect had actually been dispatched by his Highness to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

Reports, however, have been received by Mr. Fane from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, dated the 12th of the present month, according to which none of the Armenians accused of having participated in the riots had been liberated from custody; and from these Reports it further appears that, while the prosecutions of the said Armenians had been actively continued, no proceedings whatever had been taken against any of those Mahommedans who attacked the Christians and their houses on the 20th June.

The British Chargé d'Affaires, in view of what is stated above, has the honour to request that his Highness the Grand Vizier will call the attention of the authorities at Erzeroum to the necessity of their at once obeying the instructions which, in consequence of the engagement made by his Highness to the British and French Representatives, were in the aforesaid sense dispatched to those authorities by his Highness on the 28th of last month.

Mr. Fane begs to take this opportunity of privately informing his Highness that, according to the latest despatches received by him from Her Majesty's Consul, it appears that the Christians at Erzeroum and the surrounding country continue subject to constant alarm of being again attacked by their Mahommedan fellow-countrymen.

Therapia, July 24, 1890.

No. 79.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 30, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Lloyd, reporting a collision between the Persian and Turkish tribes upon the Bayazid and Van line of the Turco-Persian frontier.

As regards Mr. Lloyd's statement, that the Persian Government appears not to be satisfied with the measures taken by the Turkish Government for the prevention of aggressive movements from Turkish territory, I have the honour to report that I learn that the Persian Ambassador in this capital was some time back in frequent communication with the Palace relating to this subject, and that a joint inquiry had almost established the fact that the Turkish tribe were the aggressors. His Excellency has, however, since stated to Sir A. Sandison, that the incident was closed to the mutual satisfaction of both the Turkish and Persian Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 14, 1890.

DURING the month of June last there were disturbances upon the Bayazid and Van line of the Turco-Persian frontier between the Jellali (Persian) and Hyderanli (Turkish) tribes. The Persian Consul-General informs me that within the last few weeks these tribes have twice been in collision, with the loss of some killed and wounded on either side. The Persian Government seems not to be satisfied with the measures taken by the Turkish Government for the prevention of aggressive movements from this side of the frontier. The Governor-General here has assured me that adequate steps had been taken on his part to prevent the Turkish tribe advancing, but since this assurance I learn that the tribes have been again in collision.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 80.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 1, 1890.

DURING my short absence on leave two events of a painful character have again attracted attention to the Armenian population of Turkey, viz., those at Erzeroum on the 20th June, concerning which your Lordship has received, I believe, full information, to which I have nothing new to add, and the attack made on the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch in his own Cathedral church on Sunday last, the 27th ultimo, of which a description will be found in the accompanying account of it drawn up by Mr. Marinitsch.

This attack on the Head of their Church took place evidently on political grounds, and led to a collision between the troops and police sent to restore order and protect his Beatitude and the discontented Armenians, but it is impossible to state with accuracy the number of casualties on both sides; it is, however, generally believed that two or three soldiers lost their lives in it, and five civilians. A great many arrests have been made, and the official inquiry is being proceeded with.

The remarkable thing about it is, that this appears to be the first occasion since the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks on which Christians dared to resist soldiers in Stamboul.

The report reached the Sultan whilst His Imperial Majesty was sitting on his Throne in the Great Hall at the Palace of Dolma Bagtché receiving the homage of all his functionaries on the occasion of the first day of the Kourban Bairam festival. The ceremony was only interrupted for a few minutes that His Imperial Majesty might hear what had happened and was then resumed.

The Minister of Police, to whose excellent qualities this Embassy can bear testimony, was at once dismissed, but I hear that, on reconsideration, this hasty punishment has been found not to have been deserved.

For some time the agitators amongst the Armenians of the capital had been of opinion that their present Patriarch was not sufficiently a political leader of their people, and were desirous to bring about the resignation of his Beatitude.

With a despatch addressed to your Lordship on the day of my return here, the 26th July last, Mr. Fane forwarded a translation of a Petition, or "Fakrir," presented at the Palace by the Patriarch on the 23rd June, 1890.

Mr. Fane, in a very detailed Report which he drew up in that despatch for your Lordship, also mentioned that his Beatitude was persuaded by Sureya Pasha, the Sultan's First Secretary, to omit from that document a passage which stood in it originally referring to Moussa Bey and his doings and impunity.

This omission was no doubt made use of as an argument to increase the irritation against the Patriarch, which culminated in an attempt to murder his Beatitude in his own church.

The number of Armenians residing in this capital is no doubt considerable, and the presence among them for so many months of witnesses aggrieved by Moussa's misdeeds, and unable to obtain justice against him, must be taken into account to explain the feelings which led a population, hitherto reputed as the most peaceably disposed and long-suffering in the world, to an act such as took place at Stamboul on Sunday last, and which, to use the expression repeated by Mr. Fane in his despatch quoted above, was of the class of "moutons enragés," and shows a surprising degree of excitement and desperation.

I may also mention that that expression was not new to me, as I heard it frequently employed as a threat of what might happen by a leading gentleman of the Armenian community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Memorandum by M. Marinitsch.

YESTERDAY morning, when the Armenians were assembled in their Cathedral of Koum Kapou, which is next to the Patriarchate, for the purpose of celebrating their Mass, an individual, a coffee-seller, originally from Vau, named Artin Gulguinian, advanced to the altar with a paper in his hand and prepared to read it. The Patriarch, on noticing him, informed him that that was not the time for reading his document. Thereupon, several persons cried out that the paper should be read. Some disorder ensued, and the Patriarch endeavoured to escape from the church under the protection of the clergy and his people. The individual then drew a revolver, and prepared to fire on the Patriarch.

Fortunately he was prevented from carrying out his intention, and Mgr. Achikian succeeded in leaving the church and making his way to the Patriarchate. A crowd of persons, consisting for the greater part of Armenians from the Provinces of Armenia, had already invaded the Patriarchate, and were engaged in breaking the window panes. This crowd, numbering more than 1,500, commenced shouting and accusing the Patriarch of being desirous to neglect the interests of the nation, to remain indifferent to the massacre of their co-religionists, and declaring that their position had become intolerable.

The Patriarch tried to pacify them, and advised them to disperse by showing them that their demonstration was hasty and menacing, that he had done his duty, and that he would have continued to do so after the Baïram fêtes; but, as the manifestants continued in their vociferations against the Patriarch, his Beatitude decided that he would receive a deputation. This body enumerated again all the complaints of the Armenian populations, and insisted on the Patriarch setting out immediately for the Yildiz Palace for the purpose of laying the complaints of the nation before the Sultan. Mgr. Achikian, seeing that the attitude taken up by the manifestants was becoming more and more menacing, determined to yield to the wishes of the crowd, and started as if to go to the Imperial Palace. After crossing the road adjoining the Patriarchate, his Beatitude entered a chemist's shop while waiting for the carriage which should take him to Yildiz. The chemist made pretence to shut his shop to

screen the Patriarch from the gaze of the manifestants, which latter, in their exasperation, began breaking the doors and windows of the pharmacy. In the meanwhile the carriage which was to convey the Patriarch had arrived, and his Beatitude took his seat in it with a priest and one of the manifestants. The carriage had scarcely proceeded a few yards when the Patriarch found himself surrounded by soldiers who had hastened to the spot. Thereupon the Patriarch, feeling that he was under their protection, alighted from his carriage and asked permission to enter the first house he saw, in order to escape from the crowd. At this moment some reports of shots were heard, and the troops made use of their bayonets. It is reported that two soldiers were killed and one most seriously wounded, and that on the side of the Armenians some deaths occurred, and numerous cases of wounded.

The first to appear on the theatre of the skirmish were Marshal Dervish Pasha, Aide-de-camp General of His Majesty, Kiamil Bey, Minister of Police (who has been dismissed in consequence of this incident), and Ahmet Pasha, Head Spy of the Palace.

These persons had only left Koum Kapou when tranquillity had been already restored.

A dozen arrests were made. Artin Gulguinian, the first mover in the manifestation against the Patriarch, was amongst those in prison. For several hours the Patriarchate was guarded by troops, and all the adjoining streets were occupied by soldiers. Later, Koum Kapou had resumed its ordinary aspect, and business was again resumed in the quarter.

(Signed) H. MARINITSCH.

Pera, July 28, 1890.

No. 81.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 1, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting upon the state of affairs in that town and in its vicinity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 19, 1890.

DURING the past week order has to a great extent been restored in the immediate vicinity of Erzeroum, but unsatisfactory reports of a reliable nature reach me from the provinces, indicating a lawless condition. There has been considerable plundering of Christians by Kurds, the latter being throughout the country in movement. No Armenians are travelling, the roads to them being unsafe. The Russian Consul-General, at the request of the Governor-General, owing to the insecure condition of the country, has sent back to Russia two bodies of Russian Armenian pilgrims lately arrived here.

Two battalions of infantry have arrived here from Erzingian, and a mountain battery with a regiment of cavalry has left for Bayazid. The Acting Vice-Consul at Kharput informs me that two battalions of infantry have been ordered thence to Erzeroum.

In connection with the events of the 20th June here a few more Christians have been arrested, making a total of twenty-four now in custody. No Mussulmans have yet been arrested for the murder and pillage of the Christians upon that day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 82.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 4, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Lloyd, reporting upon the condition of affairs in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Consul Lloyd to Mr. Fane.

Erzeroum, July 26, 1890.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the movement among the Kurdish population, reported in my despatch of the 19th July, continues.

At this time of the year the Armenian peasantry usually suffers more or less at the hands of the Kurds, but at present numerous reliable reports of attacks and pillage reach me from all directions of the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and from the Sandjak of Moush in the Bitlis Vilayet, and are of a nature to indicate a state of general insecurity and lawlessness in those parts. In some instances, the Mussulman inhabitants have also been the victims as well as Christians.

An improvement is reported in the state of affairs upon the Turco-Persian frontier between Bayazid and Van (see my despatch, dated the 14th July, 1890), and no disturbance has been brought to my knowledge from the Vilayets of Kharpout and Diarbekir.

The military reserves are being called up in different localities, including Van, Erzeroum, and part of Kharpout.

Samih Pasha, the Vali of Erzeroum, and Halil Pasha, the Vali of Van, have been recalled, and are to be replaced respectively by Hassan Khairy Pasha and Osman Nouri Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 83.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 12, 1890.

I TRANSMIT herewith an extract from the "Times" newspaper,* recording a debate in the House of Commons, in which attention was called to the alleged interference of the Turkish authorities with the publication of Armenian works of an historical and religious character.

Sir J. Fergusson undertook to make further inquiries, and I have to request your Excellency to report to me on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 12, 1890.

I HAVE received Mr. Fane's despatch of the 26th ultimo, and I approve the terms of the Memorandum therein inclosed which he caused to be communicated to the Grand Vizier, reminding his Highness of his promise that the proceedings against the Christians implicated in the disturbances at Erzeroum should be suspended.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

* August 11, 1890.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, August 19, 1890, 3 P.M.

A COMMUNICATION has been received from M. Hagopian, in which it is stated that one Armenian has been sentenced to death by court-martial, three condemned to fifteen years' imprisonment, and five others to shorter terms, in connection with the recent riot at Constantinople.

Please report as to the facts.

M. Hagopian asks Her Majesty's Government to intercede, with a view to obtaining commutation of sentences.

No. 86.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 21, 1890.

WITH reference to the telegram I had the honour of receiving from your Lordship dated the 19th instant, my despatch of the 1st August gives a full account of the disturbance at Koum Capou, derived from reliable sources. The riot was apparently got up against the Patriarch. An Armenian wilfully fired at his Beatitude, and subsequently killed a gendarme after the police had been brought into the church in order to restore order amongst the rioters.

A court-martial was summoned to try the guilty parties, and it is, consequently, extremely difficult, and I may say almost impossible, to obtain a correct version of the proceedings at the trial.

The Sultan has commuted the sentence of death; and another similar sentence, pronounced against a man who killed a soldier during the same riot, will probably be dealt with in the same way by His Imperial Majesty.

The information I have at my disposal leads me to believe that at this moment any representations to recommend clemency would have but little chance of success, but I am carefully watching any opportunity, as a further diminution of these punishments may still be hoped for, owing to the fact that the Sultan is in active consultation with certain leading Armenians in his service on the subject of the grievances of their people.

No. 87.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 22.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 2, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that four battalions of Redifs, 1st Class Army Reserve, have been called out at Van, and four battalions at Erzingan: 2,000 men of the "Ihtiat" are also being assembled throughout Kurdistan, and are to be sent to Mush.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 88.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 22.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, July 31, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Fane's despatch dated the 11th instant, calling my attention to a question asked by Mr. Schwann in the House of Commons relative to the Armenians, and in reply have to state—

1. One, Hussni Bey, a celebrated malefactor of the Kharput Vilayet, who, during the last twenty years, it is reported to me by the Acting British Vice-Consul, has escaped the penalty of the law owing to his wealth and influence, has lately been banished by an Imperial Order to Konia, much to the satisfaction of the inhabitants

of the town and plain of Kharput, who have signed an address to the Sultan thanking His Majesty for the measure taken.

2. There are no political prisoners, such as are indicated in the honourable Member's question, in the Erzeroum gaol, nor, I believe, in that of Erzingan; but on latter point inquiry shall be made.

3. Russian troops are at present being collected at Sari Kamish, near the Turkish frontier; but I have no reason to believe the object to be other than the usual manœuvres annually held.

I have also received your Excellency's telegram of the 29th instant, referring to statements which have lately appeared in the "Daily News" regarding affairs in Armenia, and, in reply, have to state that I have received no reports of outrages committed by Kurds in the vicinity of Van since the depredations perpetrated by certain Kurds (under Shakir), as reported in my despatch of the 29th April, 1890, but inquiry shall be made on the subject as well as into the alleged offences by soldiers.

I observe that a question has also been asked in the House of Commons as to this Shakir, who surrendered himself lately to the Governor of Van, and was liberated with a warning. It appears that an Armenian Christian priest was instrumental in bringing about this result. Shakir excused his conduct on the ground that he had not levied any contributions from the poor, but only from those able to make them. He is a man of influence and position among the Kurds, and peculiar though the course adopted may appear to be, it is not improbable that it will tend to the tranquillity of the locality, and to the better security of the Armenian peasants in the neighbourhood, for the infliction of punishment after his voluntary surrender would have in all likelihood led to acts of retaliation by the Kurds. Some of the property robbed has been restored to the owners, and I have requested the Vice-Consul to bring the matter under the notice of the Governor, with the object of a restoration in full being made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 89.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 22.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 2, 1890.

REPORTS having reached me from different and independent sources of a serious collision between Kurds and Christians in the plain of Mush, with loss of life on both sides, and of the arrest of a large number of the Armenian peasantry, I have directed the Vice-Consul at Van to proceed to Bitlis and Mush to learn the facts, and to come on to Erzeroum to report personally to me if he should consider it desirable to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 90.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 22.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 5, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch dated the 31st July last, I have the honour to state that some months ago there was a brawl among soldiers at Van regarding a prostitute, in which a soldier was stabbed and subsequently died, this being the only offence upon which the charge of murder by soldiers can rest. My despatch of the 29th April last reports the last case in that locality of pillage by Kurds. Considering the wild nature of the country about Van, and the circumstances of its inhabitants, the Governor appears to have administered with some success. During the last six weeks various parts of Kurdistan have been in a disturbed state, but, with the exception of some collision between Persian and Turkish frontier Kurdish tribes, the state of the Van Vilayet is comparatively quiet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 91.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 22.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 6, 1890.

IN my despatch dated the 31st ultimo, allusion was made to the brigand Kurd, Shakir, who had surrendered himself to the Turkish Government, and been released. I requested the Vice-Consul at Van to mention the case to the Governor, with the object of a complete restoration of property being made, and of learning more precisely the reasons of his release.

I inclose Mr. Devey's reply, dated the 28th ultimo, and have again requested the Vice-Consul to suggest to the Governor the propriety of causing restoration to be made of the money carried off.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Van, July 28, 1890.

YOU will have already gathered from a Memorandum (private) which I addressed to you, under date of the 18th inst. that I had on my own initiative taken steps in the sense desired by you, viz., in again making representations to the Acting Vali on the subject of the thefts committed by Shakir, and also in suggesting to his Excellency the propriety of causing a full restoration to the peasants of all money, as well as property, taken from them.

To judge from his Excellency's manner of receiving my suggestions, I do not suppose for a moment they will bear any fruit.

In a subsequent interview with Hamdi Pasha, I did not revert to the subject, but as you ask on what grounds Shakir was pardoned, I have the honour to answer—clearly on account of the local influence of his family, and because the Government are either not strong enough or else not willing enough to have justice executed and the law put in operation.

If it should be considered desirable that I should again address Hamdi Pasha on the subject, and inquire of his Excellency on what grounds Shakir was pardoned, I would be glad to receive telegraphic instructions to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

No. 92.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 22, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extracts from the "Moniteur Oriental" and the "Stamboul" of the 20th instant, giving an account of the punishments to which those who took part in the disturbance at Koum Capou have been condemned by the Court-martial summoned to try them.

Owing to these proceedings having taken place entirely outside the sphere of the Ministry, it has been a task of some difficulty to arrive at the truth of the various statements made respecting these sentences; but, from the information that I have been able to obtain, I have reason to believe in the greater correctness of the more detailed account, published in the "Stamboul," and inclosed herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 92.

Extract from the "Moniteur Oriental" of August 20, 1890.

L'INCIDENT DE COUM-CAPOU.—Voici les peines infligées par la cour martiale, aux individus impliqués dans les désordres qui ont éclaté le premier jour du Baïram, à l'église Arménienne de Coum-Capou.

Artin Djankeulian, sujet Ottoman, accusé d'avoir été l'instigateur du mouvement, a été condamné à mort; Sivasli Artin et Sivasli Nazaret à quinze ans de détention dans une forteresse, le premier à Akia et le second à Mételin; un Grec du nom de Nicolas et Kutakianli Baron, également à quinze ans d'incarcération dans la forteresse de Sinope; Erzindjali Garabet à cinq ans dans le fort de Chio; le Grec Youvan à cinq années dans la forteresse de Pias; Hatchik pour le même terme à Lemnos. Seize autres individus, arrêtés par le ministère de la police, ont été acquittés.

Cette décision de la cour martiale ayant été soumise au Conseil des Ministres, la peine de mort a été commuée en la déportation perpétuelle à Akia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 92.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of August 20, 1890.

L'INCIDENT DE COUM-CAPOU.—Les journaux Turcs publient ce matin le communiqué officiel suivant:—

"La cour martiale vient de rendre son jugement contre les personnes qui, le premier jour du Courban-Baïram, se réunissant au Patriarcat Arménien de Coum-Capou et dans l'église attenante, ont osé fomenter des agissements criminels et contraires à leurs devoirs de sujétion.

"Parmi ces individus, le nommé Artin Djangulian ayant été reconnu coupable d'avoir provoqué les sujets Ottomans à la révolte contre le Gouvernement Impérial et fait des tentatives pour détacher de la domination Ottomane une partie du territoire du Gouvernement Impérial, a été condamné à la peine de mort.

"Le nommé Artin Natourian, originaire de Sivas, a été condamné à quinze ans de détention dans la forteresse de St.-Jean d'Acre.

"Le nommé Nazareth, originaire de Sivas, a été également condamné à quinze ans de détention dans la forteresse de Mételin.

"Le nommé Nicolas, de la communauté Grecque, a été condamné à quinze ans de détention dans la forteresse de Sinope.

"Les nommés Avédis et Baron, ce dernier originaire de Kutahia, ont été condamnés chacun à cinq ans de détention dans la même forteresse.

"Le nommé Garabet, originaire d'Erzendjan, a été condamné à cinq ans de détention dans la forteresse de Chio.

"Les nommés Youvan de la communauté Grecque, à cinq ans de détention dans la forteresse de Pias, et Hatchik également à cinq ans de détention dans la forteresse de Lemnos.

"La cour martiale a acquitté seize autres individus arrêtés par la police sous l'inculpation d'avoir pris part à l'affaire.

"Ces condamnations, après avoir été approuvées par le Conseil des Ministres, ont été soumises à la sanction Impériale.

"Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a bien voulu commuer la peine capitale prononcée contre Artin Djangulian en celle de détention à perpétuité dans la forteresse de St.-Jean d'Acre.

"Les autres condamnations ont été maintenues et sanctionnées.

"La peine infligée à quiconque prêche la révolte aux sujets d'une Puissance contre celle-ci et se rend coupable de tentatives pour soustraire à la domination de cette Puissance une partie du territoire lui appartenant, est la peine capitale.

"Bien que la mise à exécution de cette peine soit toute naturelle dans tous les pays du monde, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a, pour cette fois seulement, bien voulu commuer le peine de mort à laquelle Artin Djangulian a été condamné. Cependant, Sa Majesté ayant ordonné que dorénavant, dans le cas de renouvellement d'un pareil agissement sur n'importe quel point de l'Empire, les coupables seront aussitôt traduits par-devant la cour martiale et subiront, sans aucune commutation, les peines qui leur seront appliquées par cette cour, le fait est porté à la connaissance publique."

Colonel Stewart to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 29.)

Sir, *Tabreez, July 12, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a strong party of Kurds of the Jalali tribe, who inhabit the Persian side of the border near Makou, raided into Turkish territory for the purpose of driving off sheep.

Makou will be found marked on Kiepert's Map on the Persian side of the border, not very far from Mount Ararat. The Jalali Kurds were met by the Hyderanlu Kurds on the Turkish side, and a fight ensued.

Seven men are said to have been killed on the side of the Turkish Kurds, and two on the side of the Persian Kurds, besides some wounded.

The Amir-i-Nizam has sent stringent orders to Timour Pasha Khan, the Chief of the Jalali Kurds, Governor of Makou, to keep his Kurds in order and to prevent all raiding, but the Persian authorities seem to have very little power of stopping these raids.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. STEWART.

Colonel Stewart to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 29.)

Sir, *Tabreez, July 16, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour, in continuation of my despatch of the 12th instant, to report that a great deal of excitement has been caused on the Perso-Turkish frontier by the late raid of the Jalali Kurds from Makou in Persia on the flocks of the Hyderanlu Kurds in Turkish territory.

Timour Pasha Khan, the Chief of the Jalali Kurds, is encamped with some 5,000 men of his tribe near Ovajik. Ovajik is situated north-west of Khoi, on the main caravan road to Bayazid, and is marked on all Maps. I visited Ovajik some years ago on a journey from Erzeroum to Tabreez.

Many tribes of Kurds and others have assembled to reinforce and assist the Hyderanlu. At two points within the Turkish frontier there are reported to be considerable gatherings of Kurds, viz., at Abagai and Sarasu.

Of the wounded reported in my last despatch several have died, and the loss caused by the raid is now said to have amounted to twenty-one killed on the side of the Hyderanlu Kurds and six on the side of the Persian Kurds, but probably this is an exaggeration.

Some officials have been sent by the Turkish Government of Bayazid to meet and confer with Timour Pasha Khan at Ovajik, and try to arrange matters, and it is hoped all will be amicably arranged; but there is always a difficulty in keeping the Kurds on the border quiet when any exciting cause like the present arises.

Strict orders have been sent from here to Timour Pasha Khan to keep his Kurds in order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. STEWART.

Colonel Stewart to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 29.)

Sir, *Tabreez, July 20, 1890.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a telegram has been received by the Ameer-i-Nizam from Timour Pasha Khan, the Chief of the Jalali Kurds on the Persian frontier, that he had met the Turkish officials sent by the Pasha of Van, and that all difficulties caused by the raid of the Jalali Kurds on the Hyderanlu Kurds had been removed, and the matter settled.

Particulars of the settlement arrived at have not yet been received here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. STEWART.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.—(Received at Foreign Office, August 29.)

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 16, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated the 30th ultimo, and of the various questions asked by Members of the House of Commons on the 1st ultimo regarding affairs in Armenia. Though in my despatches of the 31st ultimo and of the 5th instant the subjects referred to seem to have been disposed of, I now reply to the questions in the order in which they come:—

1. There is no foundation for the allegation that the Governor of Van was constantly supplying rifles to the Kurdish Chiefs.

2. In Kurdistan, a portion of the Turkish Empire embracing some very wild and even as yet unsubdued districts, there are always, more or less, outrages being committed by Kurds upon Armenians. All serious offences within my knowledge at the date of the questions had been reported to your Excellency and the Secretary of State.

3. There is no foundation for the statement respecting an outrage on an Armenian woman at Kavash.

4. There were some brawls (two, I believe) among soldiers at Van in which life was taken, but no Armenian was connected with them. Discipline has lately been more strictly enforced.

5. There were some raids by Kurds on Armenian villages to the south of Van in April last, as reported in my despatch of the 19th May. They were not of a very serious nature. The leader subsequently made submission, and was released at the instance of an Armenian priest.

6. Husni Bey, having completed the term of a sentence of imprisonment, was released lately from Erzeroum gaol and returned to Kharput, but, as the result of a Petition from the inhabitants, His Majesty the Sultan banished him to Konia, a town distant from the locality.

7 and 8. Excluding prisoners arrested in connection with the disturbances here on the 20th June last, there are five political prisoners in the Erzeroum gaol who have been confined there about two years, and who are awaiting the confirmation of the sentence passed upon them.

Inquiry is being made as to Erzingan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 31, 1890.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan has during the last ten days expressed an intention of sending the notorious Moussa Bey into exile to the Hedjaz for life. The latter has meanwhile succeeded in effecting his escape, and is supposed to have left for some Black Sea port on board a Greek merchant-vessel.

I have communicated this information to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 31, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting on disturbances which have occurred in various parts of Kurdistan since the 20th June last, and inclosing a Report on the same subject from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van.

I have also the honour to transmit a copy of a further despatch from Mr. Clifford Lloyd reporting the postponement of the trial of the ringleaders in the attack upon the church at Hodunchour, whose arrest I reported in my despatch of the 9th June

last, as well as the continued detention without trial of the Christians arrested in connection with the disturbances of the 20th June at Erzeroum.

I shall not fail to call the Grand Vizier's attention to these points whenever a favourable opportunity arises, but the last time Sir Alfred Sandison made some observations under my instructions it was evident that his Highness' information did not tally with that of Mr. Clifford Lloyd, and this renders the satisfactory dealing with similar complaints extremely difficult.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 21, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch dated the 26th July, 1890, I have the honour to inform you that, following upon the disturbances here on the 20th June last, a considerable amount of disorder took place in various parts of Kurdistan, especially in the Erzeroum and Bitlis Vilayets. The Erzeroum Plain is largely inhabited by Armenian peasants, and it was here that lawlessness on the part of Mussulmans immediately followed. There was some violence used towards the Christians by Mussulmans, several cases of robbery and incendiary fires coming to my knowledge. There were some Armenians wounded by fire-arms and other weapons, but no life was lost. Cavalry patrols were sent out, and order was quickly restored. These patrols have been since kept in motion. Further to the north the Lazes also committed some robberies with violence, Mussulmans and Christians being both victims; in one instance a Mussulman was murdered, and one of the robbers lost his life. I viewed, however, more seriously the signs of a general movement by the Kurds, who, I regret to say, have committed many acts of depredation upon the Christian peasantry. There was cattle-lifting in the Passen district, east of Erzeroum, on a large scale by Kurds; a Persian caravan was plundered further eastward towards Bayazid; while from Patnos, I believe, four women were carried off by Kurds. In the Arjish Caza of Van seventy-five mounted Kurds, fully armed with rifles, were passed by a foreign gentleman travelling to Erzeroum. In this direction the hostilities that broke out between the Persian and Turkish-Kurdish tribes added to the general disturbances. There was also a considerable amount of cattle-lifting and plundering by Kurds reported from the Caza of Terjan, south-west of Erzeroum. Two Protestant Armenians were murdered, one in the Kemakh and the other in the Keghi district, by Kurds from Dersim; in both these cases the Turkish Government has made arrests. Throughout all these localities, however, order has now been comparatively restored.

At the end of July the report of a serious collision between Kurds and Armenians at the village called Vartennis, in the Mush Plain, reached me. It was said that several lives had been lost, and that sixty-five Armenian peasants had been subsequently arrested. I accordingly instructed Mr. Devey, the Vice-Consul at Van, to proceed to Bitlis, where the Governor resides, and, if his inquiries led him to believe that the Armenians had been acting in self-defence, to use his influence with his Excellency with the object of obtaining the release of these peasants, whose arrest in such large numbers I considered would have a very disquieting effect upon the Christian population, embolden the neighbouring Kurds, and probably lead to further acts of aggression on their part. Mr. Devey has now arrived here to report to me personally, and I inclose a despatch from him, dated the 19th August, 1890, embodying the result of his inquiries. Mr. Devey does not pretend to give an account in detail of all that has taken place in the Mush Plain, for to do so would have entailed investigations which it would have been undesirable to enter upon; but his report gives an accurate description broadly of what has taken place in that part of the country. The main facts seem to be that on the 13th July a party of Kurds came into collision with a party of Armenians, near the village of Vartennis, in which four Kurds were killed and one wounded, one Armenian being killed and one wounded. The official and the Armenian accounts of what led to this loss of life are completely at variance, but the Governor, considering the Armenians to be at fault, arrested and lodged in prison sixty-nine of their number. Following upon this there were attacks by different parties of Kurds upon various villages in the plain, cattle were plundered, and some fifteen Armenians lost their lives, though the Governor of Bitlis had no knowledge, he said, of more than

three. The Vali has acted with decision throughout these disturbances. His zaptiehs finally cut off and attacked some Kurds carrying away cattle from the Armenian villages, killing five of the brigands, one zaptieh being wounded in the affray. The day following Mr. Devey's interview with the Vali his Excellency released forty-six of the Armenian villagers. Troops have been drafted into the district, 119 Kurds are reported to be in the Bitlis gaol in connection with these raids and order has been re-established. At present the General commanding the corps d'armée is in the locality.

The shooting of the robber Kurds by the zaptiehs will have an excellent effect throughout the country. If the Kurds were as a rule thus dealt with under similar circumstances, their crimes would be far less frequent. It should, however, be understood that to subsequently arrest and punish the Kurds in all instances of attack by them upon Armenian villagers would be most difficult in some and impossible in other cases. Many of the Kurds have as yet been but partially subdued by the Turkish Government, there being portions of Kurdistan, as for instance the Dersim Mountains, into which Turkish officials cannot enter except in company with a strong escort. There are also various other considerations probably weighing with the Turkish Government in its dealings with the Kurdish population, and which no doubt have an important bearing. There is no reason, however, why the peasantry should not be more adequately protected, and with security many of their most serious grievances would cease to exist. The forces in Armenia have now been considerably increased, and will, I hope, be utilized for this purpose, for it is from every point of view most desirable in the best interests of the Turkish Empire that relief should be given to the present hopeless feeling of the Armenian people in this province.

On the other hand, though it will be observed from the despatches from this Consulate that the policy pursued by the Turkish Government towards its Christian subjects in this country has been harassing and in many ways unjust, resulting in a condition of affairs much to be regretted, yet it appears to me that certain Armenians are to some extent responsible, in sustaining as they do even in quiet times a constant state of unrest and suspicion in the minds of Turkish rulers by the continued publication in Europe of often exaggerated and frequently quite unfounded charges of outrage and of misgovernment. There are no greater enemies to the Armenian people than those persons who, by the dissemination of so much that is false, with the object of placing the Government of the country in a false position before Europe, weaken every effort made locally in the cause of justice and good government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Vice-Consul Devey to Consul Lloyd.

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 19, 1890.

IN accordance with your instructions conveyed to me by letter of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I left Van on the 5th instant, and came here by way of Bitlis and Mush, stopping three or four days on the road to visit Raouf Pasha at Bitlis, and also Saïd Pasha, Mutessarif of Mush.

During this journey I ascertained there have been of late an unusual number of crimes of violence and aggression on the part of Kurds plundering Armenians, and I also heard of one or two cases in which Armenians had been offenders.

The districts where most outrages had occurred were immediately round about Bitlis, at the group of Armenian villages situated in Mush Plain 20 miles east of the town and close to Moussa Bey's family residence, and in villages lying to the north and west of Mush town also; in the former cases resident Kurds of Billek and Khuit were the aggressors, and in the last named, nomads, the Bodikani and the Bekiranli, who came from Diarbekir this year despite a protest by the Mutessarif; again, there were several cases in Bulanik, one or two being on a large scale, and others in the vicinity.

The Armenians generally seemed to be in a state of abject terror, afraid for their lives, though the country was already perfectly tranquil at the moment I passed through it, thanks to energetic measures taken by the Government and the patrolling of soldiers. The Kurds of Modki and the Diarbekir tribes, who had broken out of all restraint for a few days, had been driven at once back into their own quarters in the

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first days of August. The killing of five Kurds from the Billek Valley, out of a large body who were caught twelve days before my visit in the act of carrying off sheep from an Armenian village, by a force of zaptiehs, was, so far as I know, an entirely new proceeding in these parts of Turkey, and should go far to show that the authorities mean to take seriously the necessary measures, even to the last resort, for the maintenance of public order. I was told there were 119 individuals in prison at Bitlis, mostly Kurds, on account of these disorders, and that a fourth battalion of zaptiehs, which had not till now been in active service, had just been enrolled.

The perturbed condition seems to have originated with the slaughter of four Kurds from Marnik by Armenians from the neighbouring village Vartennis. The actual disturbances lasted only a few days, and consisted in bands of armed Kurds going about on foot and plundering Armenian villages, in a few instances killing and wounding where they met with resistance.

There are two versions of what occurred at Vartennis. I mentioned the incident to his Excellency Raouf Pasha, who was, up to the 10th instant, only aware of the result of the preliminary investigations, from which it appeared, according to two reports rendered, that the Armenians were to blame; they had practically picked a quarrel with the Kurds, had been the first to fire upon them, and whilst four Moslems had been shot, one Armenian only was killed.

According to one account in circulation, five Armenians of Vartennis were smuggling out of the country a turbulent Armenian priest (previously expelled from Mush), disguised as a bride, when a few Kurds mowing grass by the road observed something was wrong and stopped them. The Armenians then shot down the Kurds. According to the other account, five Armenians were escorting a lately married bride to her father's house from Mushakshir to Vartennis, when Kurds interfered, intending, under pretence of asking a wedding "pourboire," to carry off the bride; they were thus compelled to use their weapons in self-defence.

Having heard that sixty or seventy Armenians of Vartennis had been imprisoned at Mush, I ventured to suggest to the Vali of Bitlis that, assuming these people had resorted to their weapons in self-defence, the imprisonment of so large a number could not fail to produce an evil impression upon the Armenian community universally. Raouf Pasha replied that the facts must have been distorted and exaggerated; there had been a trifle more of sheep-stealing and disorderly conduct by Kurds since the four Moslems of Marnik had been killed near Vartennis, but nothing very extraordinary had happened, and, to his Excellency's knowledge, only three Armenians had been killed by Kurds in all the vilayet during the last three or four weeks. As to the Vartennis case, the affair was in the hands of the Judicial Department, only it was clear the Armenians were to blame for the fatality. As a matter of fact, forty-six out of the sixty-nine Armenians arrested were discharged on the 11th instant, and would still be able to get in their harvest with some loss.

Subsequent inquiries led me to believe that the degree of disorder was rather excessive, but of very short duration; probably fifteen or twenty Armenians have been killed individually, or disappeared, within the past four weeks in those districts, and once the figure was set so high as fifty.

As rumours have been spread again of late of the growth of seditious sentiments among Armenians, I take this occasion of once more submitting most respectfully my private opinion that no real revolutionary feeling exists in either Bitlis or Van. The general loyalty of the Armenian community is perfectly sound, and if efficient protection were afforded to the Christian agricultural population throughout the districts, combined with something more than a mere perfunctory display, or rather semblance, of executing justice, I venture to think that the cause of many well-founded complaints would be removed. It need scarcely be repeated that the Turkish administration is still full of very grave faults, more particularly in regard to the unfair treatment meted out to non-Moslem communities, especially such as are not strong enough to assert their rights, *e.g.*, the Rayah Nestorians, and the Yezids in some districts. But as regards the Armenians, whilst sympathy may well be felt for genuine cases of injustice and suffering, it is within my knowledge that many of the oppressions and outrages published by the foreign press, particularly those relating to Van Vilayet, are much exaggerated, and sometimes without any foundation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 98.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, August 22, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch dated the 29th May, 1890, I have lately had inquiries made as to when the trial of the prisoners therein alluded to was likely to be proceeded with, and am informed that it will not take place for some five or six months. This delay is to be regretted on every ground.

No steps have yet been taken to bring to justice any of those persons engaged in the murder and pillage of Christians in Erzeroum on the 20th June last, nor to bring to trial the Christians arrested immediately afterwards. If there is any evidence that any of these latter were concerned in firing upon the Turkish troops upon that occasion, I would suggest to your Excellency that it is very desirable that they should be tried for the offence, and that those against whom no charge is to be framed should be released. Among these prisoners there is now one old man, named Garabed Agha Khobeyan, of Erzeroum, whose only offence lies in the fact of his son having absconded. I can give your Excellency no reason for the long delay in taking any proceedings against the leaders of the Mussulman mob concerned in the events of the 20th June.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 99.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 5.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, September 1, 1890.

IN continuation of what I had the honour to state in my previous despatch of the 1st ultimo, as to the communications passing between the Armenian (Gregorian) Patriarch and the Sultan on the subject of Armenian grievances, I have to report that it is believed at Stamboul that the Patriarch has been induced to withdraw his resignation, on the understanding that some substantial reforms will be granted shortly.

It is impossible to vouch for the accuracy of the above statement, as these communications are carried on with great secrecy.

No. 100.

Acting Consul-General Wratislaw to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, September 19.)

Sir,

Smyrna, August 30, 1890.

AS your Excellency is aware, the Turkish tax-gatherers are not over gentle in their methods of levying moneys due to the Government. This has of late been particularly the case with the men charged with collecting the "emlak," or real property tax, which is always paid with reluctance, and falls continually into arrears. Great brutality is often shown by the tax-gatherers, not to one class of the community in particular, but to all alike. Such acts, however, have come to form part of the system by which the country is governed, and I should not have troubled your Excellency by referring to the matter had not two Armenians happened to have been recently exposed to especial violence on the part of the employés of the "emlak." In view of the attention which the position of the Armenians is now attracting abroad, I consider it my duty to inform your Excellency that these are not particular acts of injustice directed against one section of the community, but part of the system to which all subjects of the Porte here have to submit. No especial marks of disfavour are shown to the Armenians here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 101.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 13, 1890.

THERE are probably few countries in Europe where it is more difficult to arrive at a correct knowledge of facts that have happened in the immediate neighbourhood than Turkey at the present time.

What one hears and believes as the actual details of an incident said to have happened, and that even on evidence which appears trustworthy at the time, turns out after a week to have been much exaggerated, or even sometimes not to have taken place at all.

For this reason, a great reserve is imposed on those who have to report passing events officially to their respective Governments, and I quite understand, from personal experience, and appreciate duly, the difficulties encountered in his district by Mr. Clifford Lloyd, and in Crete by Mr. Biliotti.

In the neighbourhood of Ismidt there exists an ancient Armenian Monastery, near which there appear to have occurred a serious disturbance between Armenians and Circassians, and a conflict on Friday, the 5th instant, causing the death of one or of several zaptiehs who attempted to restore order.

The accounts as to the number of zaptiehs killed differ considerably, some giving the figure at four, whilst others speak of one, and the authorities are not disposed to admit any casualty at all, and at the Sublime Porte the whole occurrence is described as being quite insignificant, and not deserving any notice.

The place at which it is said to have taken place is called the Monastery at Bagtchédjik.

Another tragical event, which, however, cannot be denied, is the murder in a street at Koum Kapou, near the cathedral, a few days ago, of an Armenian priest by a layman of the same nationality, the cause of which is said to have been of a political nature, and the culprit is reported as arrested.

All this shows a growing animosity and rancour amongst the Armenians even at Constantinople, where such acts were the most unlikely to be expected, and it is greatly to be regretted that so much time is allowed to elapse without dealing effectually with this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 102.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 16, 1890.

IN my telegram of the 31st ultimo, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the flight of Moussa Bey.

In the afternoon of the 15th instant the local papers announced his recapture at Eski Shehir, and his having been brought by an escort to Broussa.

I have the honour to inclose an extract from the "Stamboul," purporting to be a French translation of a Turkish announcement in the official journal of Broussa.

I believe this account to be correct, with the exception that the statement of his having broken his leg is not confirmed.

I believe that he has been brought here and is confined at Yildiz pending the Sultan's decision as to his future destination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

A. C. WRATISLAW.

(Signed)

GEORGE POLLARD DEVEY.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of September 13, 1890.

SOUSSION DU KURDE MOUSSA BEY.—Sous ce titre "l'Officiel" de Brousse dit ce qui suit :—

"Le Chef Kurde, Moussa Bey, originaire de Bitlis, qui, par suite de ses agissements, avait été mandé à Constantinople, et mis en jugement, s'était dernièrement enfui de Constantinople pour rentrer dans son pays avec des intentions préconçues.

"Un Iradé Impérial, promulgué aussitôt après la fuite de Moussa, ordonnait son arrestation là où on le trouverait.

"Sur cet Iradé, qui avait été communiqué à tous les vilayets, des gendarmes avaient été lancés à la recherche de Moussa.

"Une dépêche du Sous-Gouverneur d'Eski-Chéhir, adressée au Vali, porte que cet individu ayant compris qu'il ne pourrait pas se soustraire à la poursuite des gendarmes mis en mouvement de toutes parts, s'est rendu aux autorités.

"Au reçu de cette dépêche, le Vali de Brousse a télégraphié à Eski-Chéhir de l'expédier sous bonne escorte à Brousse."

Dans notre numéro de Samedi, nous avons annoncé l'arrestation à Eski-Chéhir d'un homme tristement célèbre auquel son Excellence Abeddin Pacha, Gouverneur-Général d'Angora, avait donné la chasse. Il s'agissait, on l'a sans doute compris, de Moussa Bey, que nous avions pas nommé pour certains motifs.

Moussa est tombé de cheval et s'est cassé la jambe.

Il a dit aux autorités d'Eski-Chéhir qu'il ne s'était nullement sauvé de Constantinople; il ajouta qu'ayant été acquitté, il ne comprenait pas comment on pourrait considérer son départ comme une évasion. "J'étais un peu souffrant," conclut-il, "et je suis parti pour changement d'air."

Nous apprenons que Bahri Pacha, Gouverneur de Scutari, est parti Samedi, vers 4 heures, pour Brousse, à bord du yacht Impérial "Izzeddin."

Nous croyons savoir que la mission de Bahri Pacha est d'amener à Constantinople Moussa Bey.

Le "Sabah" annonce que Moussa Bey est arrivé hier.

No. 103.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 17, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 1st instant, in which I alluded to the fact of Mgr. Khorène Achikian having expressed his willingness to withdraw his resignation as Armenian Gregorian Patriarch of Constantinople, I have now the honour to report that his Beatitude has definitely tendered his resignation, and that he has left his official residence.

It is reported that this final decision has been come to by the Prelate with a view to be agreeable to his own community, and also under the pressure of repeated threats of violence of a certain number among them.

The Commission sitting at the Palace under the presidency of the Minister of Justice, on the question of the privileges of the Armenian and Greek Ecumenical Churches, is still deliberating.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 104.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 27, 1890.

NOTWITHSTANDING the reports that have appeared quite lately in a few English and many foreign journals, that the notorious Moussa Bey has been sent off into exile to Medina, I am not in a position to confirm this as a fact—as derived from an official source; and though I believe that that place is to be assigned him for his

future residence, I doubt his having left Constantinople up to two days ago, although the intention of removing him to a distant province still, no doubt, exists.

This decision was come to on about the 23rd August, and somehow or other Moussa Bey got wind of it so rapidly that he made his escape from the house of Bahri Pasha, the Governor of Scutari, who was a relative of his, and under whose care he was supposed to be all the time since he was brought for trial to Constantinople fifteen months ago.

It was asserted that no one knew where Moussa was keeping himself concealed from the 23rd August, but from the perusal of a Report from our Vice-Consul at Angora to Sir Henry Fawcett, of which I beg to inclose a copy, it may be presumed that it must have been at Nallikhan, and that this cannot have been unknown to the authorities, but it was only when he made a successful attempt to get away from there on the 10th instant that strict orders were sent to get hold of him, and to prevent his joining the Kurdish tribes in that neighbourhood, at the head of whom he might have become troublesome, and he was very promptly recaptured and brought to the capital, and this time confined in the immediate precincts of Yildiz.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Vice-Consul Newton to Consul-General Sir H. Fawcett.

Sir, Angora, September 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the notorious Kurd, Moussa Bey, has been captured in the district of Eskisher on the 11th instant.

The activity of the authorities in effecting this capture is somewhat unusual, and is to be commended.

In this vilayet alone no less than 3,000 troops were scouring the country in all directions. Owing to the strict precautions taken, it would have been impossible for this Kurd to have escaped without the connivance of the authorities.

Moussa Bey was first recognized near Nallikhan, a town midway between here and Ismidt, evidently on his way to Hymana, a hilly district of Angora, and inhabited solely by Kurds. The authorities, however, by strict watchfulness, prevented him from going to Hymana. Finding he was cut off from going to the Kurdish district he started across country, and was eventually captured.

I have, &c.

(Signed) TOM NEWTON.

No. 105.

Colonel Stewart to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)

(Extract.) Tabreez, Persia, September 8, 1890.

THERE is considerable excitement amongst the Armenians in Azarbaijan at the events which are taking place at Erzeroum and Constantinople. The Armenians of this province, as I have previously reported in my despatch dated the 10th ultimo, number, at a low estimate, more than 28,000 persons, and there is a strong feeling of nationality amongst them. Papers reminding them that the Armenians in Russia, Turkey, and Persia are one nation are circulated amongst them, and there is much absurd talk of "our kingdom," and "the day when our kingdom shall come," meaning an Armenian kingdom, comprising parts of the trans-Caucasus Province of Russia, Turkish Armenia, and the small part of Persia near the border, where the Armenians are numerous.

Of course it is utterly impossible, as long as Russia exists, that the Armenians of Russia, Turkey, and Persia should form one kingdom. Besides this, in nearly every district which they inhabit, whether in Turkey or Persia, they are outnumbered by the Mahommedans.

I have travelled rather widely in the portion of Asiatic Turkey in which Armenians are chiefly found—in Cilicia, in the country between Alexandretta, Aleppo, and Diarbekir, also in Trebizond, Erzeroum, and Byzid. Just after the last war between

Russia and Turkey I made some careful inquiries on my own account, and I could not discover that the Armenians were in a majority anywhere; on the contrary, I found that, as a rule, they were in a minority, and the Mussulmans were the majority. The only exception I heard of was in the Plain of Kharput, where, I was told, they were in a majority; but this was one of the districts I did not visit.

The Armenians in Persia have no serious cause of complaint at all. They resent their social inferiority, and dislike being looked down upon by their Mahomedan landlords. In Azarbaijan, however, though it is exceptional, I know of some Christian villages where the landlord is a Christian, and even of a few Mahomedan villages where the landlord is a Christian.

No. 106.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 7, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting the release of the political prisoners arrested in consequence of the disturbances there on the 20th June last and the dismissal of the Procureur-Général.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Mr. Clifford Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, September 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that twenty-eight Armenians, arrested in consequence of the disturbances here on the 20th June last, were, on the 22nd instant, released from prison in Erzeroum. The Procureur-Général, who acted without any regard to justice in the matter of their arrest and detention, has been removed from his office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 107.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 27, 1890.

I SHOULD be glad if your Lordship would authorize me at my discretion to summon Mr. Clifford Lloyd here to confer with me on the Armenian question. He might, perhaps, at the same time, lay before the Grand Vizier a clear account of the condition of Kurdistan, and of the measures requisite for remedying it.

No. 108.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 27, 1890, 5:30 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram of to-day, and I authorize you, should you think it advisable, to summon Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum to Constantinople to confer with you on the Armenian question.

No. 109.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 14, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, covering a Minute of the measures necessary to meet those claims of Christian Turkish subjects which Mr. Lloyd regards as just. I have instructed Sir A. Sandison to show it confidentially to the Grand Vizier, without, however, giving his Highness a copy of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroun, October 2, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your consideration, a Minute written by me regarding the measures appearing to me to be necessary in order to meet the just claims of the Christian subjects of His Majesty the Sultan in these provinces.

The Minute embodies the views of all those persons here, Armenian and others, conversant with the provinces and the desires of the Christian inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Minute.

IT is admitted by every one that a change is necessary in the system of government now being applied to the Christian population of Kurdistan, *i.e.*, the Armenian people. Their sufferings at present proceed from three direct causes:—

1. The insecurity of their lives and properties owing to the habitual ravages of the Kurds.
2. The insecurity of their persons, and the absence of all liberty of thought and action (excepting the exercise of public worship).
3. The unequal status held by the Christian as compared with the Mussulman in the eyes of the Government.

As regards No. 1, putting aside isolated instances of depredation, there has been pillage on the most extensive scale, with much slaughter, by Kurds in various parts of Armenia during the past few months, as will be observed from my despatches dated the 21st August and the 1st October, 1890. This year the record is an exceptionally large one, but the position of the defenceless Armenian peasantry with reference to the Kurds, who are all armed, varies only in degree, and, looked at from any point of view, is one calling for immediate relief.

There are two courses open to the Turkish Government in its desire to protect its Armenian subjects: one to actually and completely subjugate the Kurds by force of arms; and the other to adequately protect the Armenian peasants from Kurdish aggression.

The former would entail a large expenditure of money, and in all probability bring about a general massacre of those for whose benefit it was undertaken. Many reasons exist for not suggesting this course, not the least of which is that, under any circumstances, the Turkish Government could not be induced to adopt it.

It is, however, the first duty of every Government to protect its subjects, and in this instance duty and self-interest both demand it. The Armenian peasantry are unable at present to pay their taxes owing to the ravages of the Kurds, and from the same cause are reduced to such a state of discontent that they are willing even to forsake their homes, and it is said also their religion, if relief could thus be obtained.

A better organized force of police than exists, supported by judiciously placed detachments of troops, would afford all the desired protection, provided the officers

responsible were satisfied of the intentions of the Government. Much would depend upon the personal characters of the Governors-General, who, while being held responsible for the adequate protection of the inhabitants of their provinces, should be given full executive liberty of action in providing it, which, at present, they do not possess. A Governor-General has no power to move troops without orders from Constantinople, but the duty devolving upon him renders it necessary to give to him this power, with whatever restrictions it may be thought necessary to impose from a military point of view. I am of opinion that this question of protecting the Armenian peasantry from the attacks of the Kurds is of much greater importance than any other, and that, if the Christians were shielded from the ever-existing apprehension of being pillaged and killed they would become a comparatively contented and prosperous people. Though all sections of the Armenian people are ever desirous of bringing their grievances to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Consul, yet during the past year I have had no serious complaints, excepting in connection with the disturbances in Erzeroum, which were not directly due to Kurdish aggression. In the Valley of Alashgird, for instance, where there was much distress this spring, and whence an attempt to emigrate to Persia was made on a large scale, the Turkish officials discerned a revolutionary movement, and their consequent acts gave legitimate cause for much discontent. But the Christians, having been reduced to a state of poverty by the action of the neighbouring Kurds in plundering and burning their harvest with impunity, were unable to pay their taxes or to provide for the following season's agricultural requirements, and, no attempt being made by the Government to punish the Kurds, or to afford protection against them in the future, some hundreds of persons started for Persia, where they had made arrangements to be received, but were arrested on the frontier by Turkish officials and brought back to their homes. All the Christians asked for was protection, but this was the one thing the Turkish Government failed to provide. Time was offered for the payment of taxes due, and loans of money for the purchase of seed, but, notwithstanding my advice given on the subject repeatedly, no protection was afforded, the answer always being that authority for the movement of troops had not been received from Constantinople. The result is that this summer the valley has been again overrun by the Kurds, who here, as in other parts of Kurdistan, openly declare that their action meets with the approval of the Turkish Government. I am fully justified in recording my opinion that, during the past year, had the Armenian peasantry been given security to life and property, their grievances in the provinces would not have been of that serious nature which now attracts to them the attention of Europe.

As to the second ground of complaint above mentioned, I need not go into any detail to show that the Turkish Government gives no liberty of person to the Armenians, and denies them any freedom of thought or action. In my despatch dated the 28th June, 1890, I fully explained the policy being locally adopted in this respect. I believe that the idea of revolution is not entertained by any class of the Armenian people in these provinces, whatever may be the aims of those outside them. An armed revolution is, besides, impossible. Discontent or any description of protest is, however, regarded by the Turkish Local Government as seditious, and a policy such as I described in my despatch alluded to is pursued, depriving the Armenian subject of every liberty to his person, and for which no justification exists. This materially aggravates the existing discontent, and produces a feeling of animosity between Mussulman and Christian which would otherwise die out, or which would at least lie dormant. A policy, on the other hand, of trust and conciliation would bring forth, in my opinion, results highly conducive to the interests of the Ottoman Empire, for among its subjects there are none more capable of contributing to its financial resources than the Armenian people.

The third cause is the inequality of justice and consideration shown to the Christian inhabitants of this country, both by the Executive Government and by the Law Officers. This is well known to every one conversant with the condition of Kurdistan, but, as an instance, I may mention the fact that in all crimes of violence of which the Christians have been the victims during the past year in the Province of Erzeroum no one has been punished, nor, with very few exceptions, has any effort been even made to bring the offenders to justice.

On the 20th June of this year a Mussulman mob attacked unoffending Armenians in the streets of Erzeroum, killing and wounding many, and at the same time pillaging their houses and shops, but up to date no steps of any kind have to my knowledge been taken to prosecute the guilty persons. In one case an Armenian shopkeeper applied to the Governor for redress, and was referred to the Procureur-Général, to whom he detailed all the facts, giving the names of the offenders and eye-witnesses to the

attack and robbery. The offenders were arrested, but next day released, since which no further action has been taken. On the other hand, Christians have been arrested and detained in prison for long periods without any charge being made against them.

As I found in Egypt in 1883, so it is in this part of Turkey; the laws are not to be condemned as bad, many being excellent in theory; but it is the application and administration of the law by officials which leaves room for so much improvement. It is generally admitted by English officers of experience, such as Colonel Chermiside and others, that the Porte has made successful efforts during the past ten years to purify the administration of the law and of the general service of government, and I gladly bear evidence to having personally observed proofs of an existing desire to do so. At the same time much remains to be done.

The circumstances under which this country is governed, its distance from and the difficulty of communicating with Constantinople, the discordant elements within it, the serious risk of internal misgovernment producing external agitation and political complications, the absence of any means of expressing the local public opinion of any class or division of the people, all indicate the immense power for good or evil wielded by Governors-General in these outlying frontier provinces of the Empire, and the special qualifications necessary in those appointed to fill these high offices. Second only in importance to the post of Governor-General is that of the Procureur-Général, upon whom the administration of the law almost entirely depends. He has opportunities of contaminating at its source the fountain of justice, while, if free from the taint of corruption himself, his position enables him to almost secure purity in its various channels. The selection of this officer, therefore, requires as much care as that of one to fill the higher office of Governor.

The adoption of a policy based upon the considerations I have endeavoured shortly to indicate would, I believe, meet all the present requirements of the country, and would produce an immediate amelioration in the condition of the people, both Mussulman and Christian, for trade and the prosperity of both classes depend largely upon the well-being of the latter. Whatever other reforms may be desirable, they are not of the same pressing necessity as immediate measures for the protection of the lives and properties of the people. The agricultural portion of the Armenian people plead not as rebels, but as subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, for this protection; but in the words of the note presented ten years ago to the Sublime Porte on this same subject, the Local Government at Erzeroum seems "to refuse to recognize the degree of anarchy which exists" in this province, or "the gravity of a state of things which, if permitted to continue, would, in all probability, lead to the destruction of the Christian population of vast districts."

At present, also, more radical reforms would meet with determined, if only passive, opposition on the part of the Moslem community, which is largely in the majority. If the policy I advocate was adopted in sincerity and proclaimed by the Porte, the influence of the British Government should alone suffice to secure its local application.

It has been said in the House of Commons that the British Government does not carry influence at Constantinople. I have to acknowledge the support and confidence extended to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador, and, in refutation of the statement mentioned, to remark that since the country has been in a disturbed state (20th June, 1890), out of six measures of the first importance for the adoption of which by the Porte I asked Sir William White to use his influence, four have already been fully adopted and carried out, and a fifth is in course of execution, owing, I must presume, entirely to his Excellency's influence. I therefore see no reason to doubt that if the equitable policy I so strongly recommend be approved of by Her Majesty's Ambassador and the Marquis of Salisbury, and adopted by the Porte, the influence of the British Government will be adequate to its proper local application.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Erzeroum, October 2, 1890.

No. 110.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 19, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan, reporting outrages by Kurds on the Armenian peasantry in the



Plain of Passen and Valley of Alashgerd, and stating that in the latter district the inhabitants are believed to be making arrangements to join the Greek Church, in the hope of obtaining Russian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, October 1, 1890.

SINCE the date of my despatch of the 21st August last, I regret to state the Armenian peasantry in the Passen Plain and the Valley of Alashgird have suffered severely from the attacks of the neighbouring Kurds. I believe that every Christian village in the Passen Plain has been plundered, at least 2,282 sheep, 754 head of cattle, 20 horses, and 31 asses having been carried away to the mountains. The Mussulman villages are reported to have been exempt from the visits of these robbers. In the Valley of Alashgird, at a short distance from the Passen Plain, of which it may be said to be a continuation, the Kurds have acted in a similar manner, burning crops they could not carry away, and adding to their crimes the murder of at least three Christians.

My information leads me to believe that the condition of the Alashgird Valley is one of extreme gravity, and that, in the hope of obtaining the protection of the Russian Government, the inhabitants are making arrangements to enter the Greek Church.

I had a long conversation with the Governor-General yesterday regarding these events, and his Excellency informed me that he had now troops in the locality, and that he was making every effort both to arrest the Kurds concerned and to recover the property carried away. At the same time, he was unable to inform me that more than "three or five" Kurds had been arrested for this extensive brigandage, or that the property plundered had been recovered and restored, though he assured me that his efforts were being directed to both ends. His Excellency, however, did not seem to me to realize the gravity of such a state of anarchy existing in his province, and as these events have been taking place during the last month within a few hours' march of Erzeroum, where there is a large garrison and every means of immediately restoring order, I cannot place confidence in whatever measures are being adopted. There is a want of foresight and earnestness displayed in all matters connected with the protection of the Christian people which is difficult to reasonably account for. Alashgerd is a district bordering upon the Russian frontier, and the sufferings endured by its inhabitants is creating much natural excitement among their fellow-countrymen in Russian territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 111.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord, Constantinople, November 10, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 16th March, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship information which I had been able to obtain respecting the immigration of Circassians from the Caucasus.

I have now the honour to report that the first batch of emigrants from the Caucasus, to the number of 2,400, arrived here last week in a Russian steamer of the Russian volunteer fleet chartered for the purpose, and left on the same day for Adalia, their expenses as far as that port being paid by the Emigration Commission presided over by Youssouf Riza Pasha.

It has also been announced that a second batch of Circassians from the Kuban will shortly arrive here, and arrangements have been made for their immediate dispatch

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o the localities in Asia Minor which have been designated for their disembarkation, and which, according to all the information I can gather (but which I believe is trustworthy), are so situated as to enable their settling among Mussulmans, and at a considerable distance from those portions of Asia where Christians reside in larger numbers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 112.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship extracts from the "Levant Herald," giving full details of an important political trial, which took place here at the end of last month, of ten Armenians accused of revolutionary conspiracy and attempt at murder, together with the sentences to which they have been condemned by the Criminal Court of Stamboul.

I shall have the honour of reporting further to your Lordship on this matter in a few days' time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 21, 1890.

THE ARMENIAN SECRET COMMITTEE.—The Turkish papers publish an official communication of the police to the following effect.

An intriguer named Agob Bart Patricow came to Constantinople some months ago, and succeeded in prevailing upon Kirkor of Divrik, a student of the School of Law, Armenak, letter-carrier at the Galata Post Office; Hamparzoun, student of the Milkieh School, and another man named Marcar, to form a Criminal Society with some other persons. Agob Bart Patricow assumed the presidency of the Society he had formed, and at his instigation several threatening letters bearing the seal of the Society were addressed to private persons, requesting them to send money to the Society. Besides this attempt to levy black mail, the Society also issued several publications calculated to cast discredit on the faithful Armenian nation. Patricow also deceived several Armenian youths from the provinces, who came here deprived of all means. He gave them money, and instigated them to commit all sorts of misdeeds. The police has now arrested all the members of this Society excepting Hamparzoun and Marcar, and all those who served the Committee indirectly. The police have also arrested the young man Armenak, who some time had murdered the Armenian lawyer Hatchik Effendi. Armenak has confessed that Hamparzoun had given him 5 liras to commit the murder. The documents connected with the inquiry made into the affair will be shortly sent to the Tribunal. It has also been ascertained from the papers and letters of the Committee which have been seized by the police that Hamparzoun acted in accord with the "Handjak" and other Armenian papers in order to levy black mail on the Ottoman Armenians by means of threats and malevolent insinuations.

The Turkish papers publish also the particulars of the trials of Patricow and his associates, which began yesterday, before the Criminal Court of Stamboul. Patricow and his companions are described as having formed "a secret Committee with a view of instigating the Armenians to revolt against the Imperial Government, and to effect the separation of a part of the Empire with the object of forming thereof an independent State under the name of Armenia."

The Tribunal was composed of Vassif Effendi, President; Emin Effendi and Nicolaki Effendi, Judges; and Artin Effendi Sasedidjian, Assistant Judge. The counsel for the defence were Shehri Effendi, Hamdi Effendi, Izzet Effendi, Hassan Riza Effendi, Vassilaki Effendi, and Kevork Alexanian Effendi. Memdouh Effendi, Substitute of the Proctor-General, acted as Prosecutor. All the accused were present.

After the reading of the act of accusation by the Clerk, the examination of the accused began, and will be continued in the next sitting. Shehri Effendi, one of the counsel for the accused, having resigned, the Tribunal asked the prisoners whether they would designate another lawyer, and on their declaration that they could not do so, determined that it would appoint one *ex officio*.

Inclosure 2 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 22, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

Le Procès des Arméniens.

Audience du 8 (20) Octobre, 1890.

A CETTE audience ont comparu les individus impliqués dans la tentative d'assassinat sur la personne de Soukias Effendi, Archiprêtre de l'Église Patriarcale Arménienne de Coum-Capou. Ces mêmes individus sont également accusés d'avoir fait partie d'un Comité Révolutionnaire ayant pour but de créer un État Arménien indépendant.

La Cour Criminelle est composée de Vassif Effendi, Président, d'Émin Effendi et Nicolaki Effendi, Juges-Assesseurs, et Artin Effendi Susedidjian, Juge Surnuméraire. Le siège du Ministère Public est occupé par Memdouh Bey, Substitut du Procureur-Général de la capitale.

Avant de procéder à l'interrogatoire des accusés, le Président fait donner lecture de l'ordonnance du Juge d'Instruction de Constantinople, ainsi que du Rapport de la Chambre des Mises en Accusation composée d'Izzet Bey, Vice-Président, de Gavril Effendi et Agiah Effendi, membres de la Section Correctionnelle de la Cour d'Appel.

L'Ordonnance du Juge d'Instruction est ainsi libellée :—

" Le nommé Agop Gazor, âgé de 22 ans, originaire de Bakdjédjik, conducteur de voitures, domicilié à Vlanga (Stamboul), dans la maison de Aghia-Zor Effendi.

" Philippos, âgé de 22 ans, mercier, domicilié à Ak-Séraï (Stamboul).

" Minas Garabet, âgé de 22 ans, originaire d'Erzinghian, marchand de vins établi à At-Meïdan (Stamboul).

" Vartan Calloust, âgé de 22 ans, originaire de Van, cafetier, domicilié dans le han d'Eboud Effendi à Marpoudjilar (Stamboul).

" Hampartzoun Arakel, âgé de 21 ans, originaire de Sivas, charpentier, domicilié dans la maison d'Onig, Rue Madjar (à Péra).

" Nichan Sotak, de Divrik, boulanger, tenant boutique dans une baraque au Taxim (Péra), et couchant la nuit dans la boutique de son père vis-à-vis l'Ambassade d'Angleterre;

" Ovakian Artin, âgé de 22 ans, originaire de Sivas, batelier, domicilié à Djacota (Perchembè Bazar, Galata), au-dessus d'une boutique de savetier;

" Artin Agop, âgé de 25 ans, originaire de Kara-Hissar, cuisinier, établi dans la boutique d'un Arménien d'Erzérroum dans le quartier At-Meïdan (Stamboul);

" Avédis Agop, âgé de 28 ans, originaire d'Aintab, tisserand à Psamathia.

" Bédros-Kévork, âgé de 21 ans, fabricant de pantoufles, domicilié à Vézir Han (Stamboul).

" Tous sujets Ottomans, faisant partie du Comité Révolutionnaire ayant pour but d'inciter la communauté Arménienne à se révolter contre le Gouvernement Impérial afin de détacher une partie de l'Empire Ottoman et d'en former un État indépendant sous le nom d'Arménie, comme aussi mettre à mort ceux des fidèles sujets de l'Empire qui ne voudraient pas se laisser tromper.

" Un autre individu nommé Ovakim, âgé de 21 ans, barbier, domicilié chez son beau-père Agop à Dolap-déré (Péra), a été dispensé de poursuites.

" Parmi les personnes susnommées, Agop, Philippos, Minas, le cuisinier Artin, Avédis, et Bédros, ont avoué qu'ils faisaient partie du Comité Révolutionnaire. Ce Comité, afin d'atteindre au but chimérique de fonder un État Arménien, a commis des actes de rébellion pouvant troubler l'ordre public, tels que enrôlement de soldats et assassinats.

" Les nommés Vartan et le serrurier Ovakim ont adopté le système de dénégation. Toutefois, en ce qui concerne Vartan, sa situation est aggravée par les dépositions

d'Agop, de Philippos, et de Minas, sans compter que, lors de son arrestation, l'on a trouvé sur lui des papiers nuisibles ainsi que les exemplaires des journaux révolutionnaires Arméniens 'Arménak' et 'Hantchak' qui se publient à Marseille et à Londres et dont l'entrée est interdite dans l'Empire Ottoman. Quant à Ovakim, les perquisitions faites dans sa boutique ont amené la découverte d'une lettre signée d'un nom inconnu et adressée au rédacteur du journal 'Arménak,' à qui le signataire demandait d'être porté sur la liste des abonnés de ce journal, comme aussi des Minutes de correspondances concernant les événements de Coum-Capou et la situation du nommé Nazaret, condamné par la cour martiale comme ayant pris part aux susdits événements.

"Le boulanger Nichan et Hampartzoun ont avoué qu'Agop, qui a tenté d'assassiner l'Archiprêtre Soukias, avait été, par leur entremise, envoyé et caché chez le nommé Dikran à Madjar; que Nichan avait passé une nuit dans cette maison; sans compter qu'Agop a avoué que, dans cette même maison, il avait été question de l'assassinat de l'Archiprêtre. Nichan reconnaît aussi avoir caché pendant trois jours, puis envoyé en Bulgarie, le nommé Sahag, qui avait blessé les prêtres Dadjad et Artin.

"Il en résulte que Vartan, Ovakim, Nichan, et Hampartzoun sont, eux aussi, des agitateurs. Les crimes dont ceux-ci et les individus nommés avant eux sont accusés, tombent sous le coup de l'Article 54 du Code Pénal."

Le second document prend acte du réquisitoire dressé par le Procureur-Général Halid Bey et considère comme suffisants pour l'accusation les différentes indices ci-dessus ainsi que les dépositions des prévenus. Il conclut, à l'unanimité des voix, à la culpabilité des individus susmentionnés dont les crimes tombent sous le coup des dispositions de l'Article 54 du Code Pénal.

Memdough Bey, Substitut du Procureur-Général, prend la parole et fait l'analyse des faits qui constituent la culpabilité des prévenus.

"Agop, dit-il, avoue qu'il s'était enrôlé soldat dans l'armée révolutionnaire pour aller à Tiflis; qu'il s'était rendu à l'Église de Narli-Capou pour se faire photographier avec d'autres personnes; que, plus tard, ayant reçu du Philippos seize documents et un revolver, il avait, sur le conseil de cet individu, fait feu sur l'Archiprêtre Soukias, mais que la balle avait manqué son but; qu'immédiatement après, il s'était dessaisi des documents; que Philippos l'avait conduit à At-Méïdan chez Minas; que, plus tard, Philippos, Minas, et Vartan l'ont mené à Péra; enfin que Philippos avait, dans l'armée révolutionnaire, le grade de caporal, tandis que lui-même Agop n'était que simple soldat.

"Philippos a déposé avoir donné à Agop, qui lui était envoyé par Artin, un revolver dans le but de tuer l'Archiprêtre Soukias; il en avait également reçu de l'argent et seize documents destinés à être distribués; que les pièces écrites en Arménien contiennent la phrase 'quiconque s'oppose à la réalisation d'une œuvre sacrée mérite la mort, d'après le Code Pénal' et sont revêtues de la signature 'Comité Révolutionnaire Arménien de Constantinople;' qu'Agop, après la tentative d'assassinat, s'était réfugié dans sa boutique; qu'il a conduit celui-ci dans la maison de Minas à At-Méïdan et plus tard, avec le concours de Minas, au domicile de Vartan à Péra.

"Dans son deuxième interrogatoire, Philippos a déposé qu'une ou deux semaines avant la tentative d'assassinat sur la personne de l'Archiprêtre Soukias, Artin et Minas avaient été voir les nommés Bagdadian, Kirkor, marchand de parapluies, Setrak et un autre Kirkor, étudiant, individus recherchés par la police. Ce dernier leur ayant demandé de lui indiquer une personne avec laquelle il pourrait s'entendre, pour lui communiquer les ordres du Comité et lui faire, s'il y avait lieu, parvenir le journal de ce Comité, Philippos fut élu par ses compagnons. L'étudiant Kirkor alors déclara que, d'après le règlement du Comité, les dénonciateurs seront mis à mort et que l'Archiprêtre Soukias devra être assassiné. 'Travaillons!' a-t-il dit, 'riches et pauvres seront égaux comme en Suisse! . . .'. Les autres ayant demandé si l'avocat Hatchik était un traître et s'il devait également être mis à mort, Kirkor répondit: 'Ne vous mêlez pas de celui-là; tâchez de tuer l'Archiprêtre. . .'. A la suite de cette délibération, Philippos ayant rencontré Artin, il lui dit qu'il avait remis à Agop un revolver destiné au meurtre de Soutias, ainsi qu'un autre revolver qui lui avait fourni Sahag et qui devra être remis à Avédis.

"Minas aussi a fait des aveux. Il a reconnu que quand, après la tentative d'assassinat, Agop était venu dans sa boutique conduit par Philippos, il avait conduit Agop dans sa maison à lui Minas et que, plus tard, avec Philippos et Vartan, ils l'avaient emmené à Taxim, dans la maison de Vartan, afin qu'il pût être caché quelque part.

“ Les faits avancés contre Vartan dans les dépositions d'Agop, de Philippos, et de Minas—a dit Memdough Bey—sont prouvés. Lors de l'arrestation de Vartan, l'on a trouvé sur lui plusieurs exemplaires des journaux révolutionnaires ‘Arménak’ et ‘Handjak,’ ainsi que différents documents dont deux portant l'épigraphe: ‘Conseil de la Société Arménienne Handjakian de Constantinople.’ Il est également porteur d'armes et d'un cachet.

“ Hampartzoun et Nichan ont aussi avoué qu'après la tentative d'assassinat, ils avaient envoyé Agop dans la maison de Dikran à Madjar et que Nichan a passé une nuit dans cette même maison. De plus, aux termes d'une déposition d'Agop. Nichan a dit un jour, au cours d'une conversation, qu'il avait caché pendant trois jours, puis envoyé en Bulgarie, le nommé Sahag, qui avait blessé les prêtres Dadjik et Artin.”

Inclosure 3 in No. 112.

Extract from the “Levant Herald” of October 23, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite.)

Audience du 8 (20) Octobre, 1890.

“ OVAKIM était, lui aussi, associé aux autres conspirateurs, vu qu'on a saisi chez lui une lettre portant la signature d'un individu inconnu et demandant un abonnement au journal ‘Armenak,’ comme aussi des correspondances sur la situation du nommé Nazareth, condamné par la cour-martiale pour avoir pris part aux événements de Coum-Capou.

“ Artin, qui a dénoncé quelques-uns des agitateurs recherchés par la police, avait enrôlé à Constantinople un certain nombre d'Arméniens, pour les envoyer à Etchmiadzin où ils devaient recevoir des armes et puis pénétrer dans la Province de Van afin d'y susciter des troubles. Artin a plusieurs fois eu des entrevues avec les membres du Comité Révolutionnaire au sujet de l'envoi des individus enrôlés; il a trouvé des gens qui se chargeaient de mettre à mort les victimes désignées par le Comité et il a, dans le quartier de Merdjan, pris part avec Philippos, Minas, et d'autres individus, à une réunion dans laquelle un des chefs du Comité a prononcé un discours au sujet de la formation future d'un État Arménien indépendant, avec des détails sur l'administration de cet État.

“ Avédis a avoué qu'il s'était enrôlé dans l'armée révolutionnaire sur la proposition d'Artin, que celui-ci lui avait recommandé d'accompagner Agop chargé d'assassiner l'Archiprêtre Soukias, que Agop lui avait donné un couteau et que quand il s'était rendu avec ce dernier à la boutique de Philippos, celui-ci leur avait donné un revolver à chacun. Lui-même, Avédis, avait été désigné pour aider Agop à tuer Soukias, mais il ne s'était pas trouvé présent à l'attentat.

“ Bédros a déposé que, cédant aux instances d'un nommé Aristaguès—individu recherché actuellement par la police—il avait été trouver Artin et s'était enrôlé dans l'armée révolutionnaire pour aller à Batoum. Pour se faire immatriculer, il s'était rendu avec Artin à l'Église de Narli-Capou, où ils rencontrèrent quelques autres personnes. Comme son départ pour Batoum subissait quelque retard, il se rendit à Galata; là, Aristaguès lui fit connaître un tout jeune homme qui lui dit en lui donnant un revolver: ‘le sort m'a désigné aujourd'hui pour tuer l'Archiprêtre Soukias; vous viendrez avec moi.’ Là-dessus ils se sont rendus à Stamboul, où ils ont séjourné trois jours durant à Coum-Capou et à Psamatia. Puis le jeune homme lui prit le revolver, en disant qu'une autre personne venait d'être chargée de l'assassinat du prêtre.”

Le Substitut du Procureur-Général ayant fini de parler, le Président procède à l'interrogatoire des prévenus.

Agop répond: Étant tombé malade, je cédai mon travail à une autre personne et me reposai. Me promenant un jour à Sirkédji, j'entrai dans un café; là je rencontrai le nommé Aristaguès. Celui-ci me fit signe d'approcher et me dit qu'un Comité se chargeait de recruter et d'envoyer des soldats, qu'il en avait déjà envoyé plusieurs et se

disposait à en envoyer d'autres encore. Finalement, Aristaguès me demanda si je voulais m'engager aussi; sur ma réponse affirmative, il prit note de mon nom, demanda mon extrait d'état civil et me conduisit chez le cuisinier Artin qui devait me faire partir un Mardi. Ce jour-là m'étant rendu chez lui, il me dit que je ne partirai que la semaine suivante et que Samedi je devais me trouver derrière l'église de Narli-Capou où l'on prendrait ma photographie. Je me rendis à l'église et de là dans un café. Deux ou trois heures après, Artin vint me trouver et me dit d'aller l'attendre dans un endroit voisin. Quelques instants après il y vint avec un certain Aaron et ils s'installèrent à une table voisine. Une demi-heure après d'autres personnes arrivent et prennent place séparément. Une heure après, Bédros dit de s'en aller vu que nous avions affaire. Dans ces entrefaites il se fit soir; Artin, Bédros, Aaron, et Agop, nous nous levâmes et prîmes le chemin de Psamatia; là nous entrâmes dans une taverne; moi, je ne bois pas mais les autres burent. Puis nous nous rendîmes à une autre taverne. A 12 heures et demie à la Turquie, je dis aux autres: "J'ai affaire, allons-nous-en." "Il y a," répondit Aaron, "un Effendi qui a envoyé plusieurs personnes que je dois consulter." Le lendemain, Artin me dit que l'affaire avait pris une autre tournure et que je devais rester à Constantinople. A ma demande d'explications, il répondit qu'il y avait des dénonciateurs et que je ne pouvais me rendre nulle part. Quant au prêtre Soukias, il me dit que je devais le mettre à mort. Il a tenu ensuite le même langage à mon ami Agop, qui a le même nom que moi, puis il me conduisit chez Philippos. Suivant la recommandation d'Artin, je me promenai près de la boutique de Philippos. Celui-ci vint avec Artin; ils dirent: "Nous donnons de l'argent mais nous ne trahissons pas; nous faciliteront votre fuite." Il fut décidé qu'on me donnerait des armes. Le lendemain je me rendis au rendez-vous; Agop ne vint pas. L'on me donna un revolver et douze documents manuscrits en recommandant de les éparpiller ça et là après avoir tué l'Archiprêtre. Les quatre ou cinq jours suivants je me promenai; pendant cet intervalle, je vis deux ou trois fois Soukias mais je ne voulus pas le tuer. Me trouvant un soir chez-moi je dis à mon père que l'on avait répandu des papiers disant que l'on devait tuer l'Archiprêtre: "Ne te mêles pas de cette affaire," me dit mon père; "je te coupe la tête." Le lendemain j'allais trouver Philippos et lui restituai les armes et les papiers: "Si tu ne tue pas le prêtre," me menaça Philippos, "c'est toi que l'on tuera." Sur cette réponse, j'allai me réfugier auprès d'Avédis, à qui je remis le revolver et le yatagan. Deux jours durant je me promenai avec lui.

Le Président: Vous avez dit que, pendant que vous étiez au café, vous aviez vu le prêtre passer.

Agop: J'étais avec Avédis. Je vis en effet passer le prêtre mais je ne le tuai pas. Dans la matinée je me rendis à l'église. Là j'appris qu'on voulait me tuer. Alors j'ai fait feu sur Soukias, mais je dirigeai le canon du revolver de façon que la balle ne put atteindre personne.

Le Président à Philippos: Dites-nous aussi ce que vous savez.

Philippos: Deux semaines avant l'événement, un personnage de haute stature vint me trouver et me dit: "Vous habitez dans le quartier Turc P'on vous soupçonne d'être un dénonciateur. Allez dire à Artin que j'apporterai de l'argent, des documents, et des armes. Qu'il trouve quelqu'un qui accepte de tuer l'Archiprêtre." Moi je refusai de me charger de la Commission; il me dit alors que si je ne la faisais pas, je serai tué; puis il me renouvela l'ordre d'aller dire à Artin de trouver quelqu'un. Je me rendis chez celui-ci et lui rapportai ce que je venais d'entendre. Artin trouva quelques individus qu'il conduisit à mon magasin. Je leur demandai s'ils voulaient entreprendre l'affaire. Ils me répondirent qu'ils m'amèneraient le lendemain matin l'individu qui se chargerait de la besogne. Quand ils revinrent, je leur dis, pour les détourner de leur projet, que l'Archiprêtre s'était enfui à Jérusalem. L'un de ces individus, le nommé Agop, vint plusieurs fois me demander les armes, disant que, d'après ses informations, l'Archiprêtre se trouvait toujours à Constantinople, qu'il en connaissait le domicile et était prêt à exécuter le projet. Je lui remis les armes. Un Vendredi, Agop vint me trouver: "J'ai tué Soukias," me dit-il; "faites de moi ce que vous voudrez. . . ." Là-dessus, nous sortîmes ensemble; en chemin nous rencontrâmes Minas et je laissai Agop avec lui. Je pensais que cette affaire me causerait des embarras. Je demandai alors au cafetier Vartan de me trouver une chambre pour un provincial de mes amis. L'individu qui m'avait donné le revolver et les papiers m'avait aussi remis dix Medjidiés. J'ai dépensé 120 piastres pour Agop. Vartan m'ayant dit qu'il ne serait pas possible de trouver une chambre pour Agop, je conduisis ce dernier à Taxim, chez Nichan, pour qu'il y pût passer quelques jours. Il me demanda de l'argent; je promis de lui en donner. Le lendemain, je fus arrêté à

la suite d'une perquisition ou d'une dénonciation quelconque. Je ne suis pas un agitateur. Tout ce que j'ai fait, a été fait sous l'empire de la crainte.

Le Président s'adressant à Agop : Dikran était-il chez lui ?

Agop : Oui.

Philippos : Je l'ai laissé chez Nichan ; je ne sais rien de plus. L'individu de haute taille me gagna par la persuasion et des menaces de mort.

L'Avocat Vassilaki Effendi : Qui était cet individu de haute taille ?

Izzet Effendi : Il dit qu'il ne le connaît pas.

Memdouh Bey : C'est cela ; il avait déjà dit qu'il ne le connaissait pas.

Inclosure 4 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 24, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite.)

Audience du 8 (20) Octobre, 1890.

LE Président s'adressant à Minas : Dites-nous comment les choses se sont-elles passées ?

Minas : Un matin, Philippos est venu avec Agop. Philippos me dit qu'Agop venait d'arriver de son pays, qu'il s'était sauvé du bateau sans payer son passage et me pria de le garder pour une heure. Je pris Agop et le conduisis chez moi. Le lendemain, Philippos vint à la maison et me dit d'appeler Agop. J'obéis et les laissai en tête-à-tête. Agop demanda de l'argent ; Philippos lui répondit qu'il n'en avait point et s'en alla. Bientôt après il revint et dit qu'il avait trouvé de l'occupation pour Agop. Nous sortîmes tous trois, rencontrâmes Vartan et allâmes tous ensemble à Taxim afin de voir l'occupation trouvée pour Agop. Là nous nous séparâmes et moi je descendis. Voilà tout ce que je sais.

Le Président s'adressant à Vartan : Et vous, qu'avez-vous à dire ?

Vartan : Il y a un mois Philippos est venu me demander une chambre. Je lui répondis que l'on ne couche pas dans mon han. Il me recommanda d'en trouver autre part. Je lui répondis : " Nous verrons." Quelques jours après il revint, mais je lui dis que je n'en avais pas trouvé. Nous nous rendîmes alors à Taxim, moi, lui, et Agop.

Minas : Nous partîmes ensemble.

Agop : Nous savions qu'il était cafetier et nous l'avons pris avec nous.

Vartan : Je devais trouver Philippos dans une chambre à Taxim. Il me proposa de m'accompagner et nous partîmes ensemble. A Taxim, nous nous séparâmes. Je me promenai pendant quelque temps. Puis je vis retourner Philippos et Minas : ils me dirent qu'Agop avait été retenu quelque part.

Agop : Ils me firent marcher dans les rues de Taxim ; je leur demandai où ils allaient me conduire ; ils me répondirent que quelqu'un viendrait me chercher. Alors vint Hampartzoun qui me prit avec lui. Il se trompa de maison et frappa à une porte étrangère. Puis nous rencontrâmes le frère de Dicran, dans la maison duquel Hampartzoun me laissa.

Le Président s'adressant à Hampartzoun : Qu'avez-vous à dire ?

Hampartzoun : Nichan m'avait dit que c'était un étranger et que je devais le conduire chez Dicran, qui allait à Taxim. Je dus courir pour l'atteindre, lui dis de venir avec moi et le conduisis à la maison de Dicran. M'étant trompé de porte, nous rebroussions chemin quand nous rencontrâmes le frère de Dicran. " Voici votre hôte," lui dis-je. Je ne sais rien de plus.

Le Président s'adressant à Nichan : Est-ce ainsi que les choses se sont passées.

Nichan : Un Vendredi, vers 4 à 5 heures à la Turquie, Philippos vint me trouver dans ma boutique et me demanda si je le connaissais. Lui ayant répondu que je ne le connaissais point, il me dit qu'il était mon parent et qu'il avait une prière à m'adresser. " Un de nos compatriotes," poursuivit-il, " a tiré un coup de feu sur quelqu'un. Quoique ce dernier n'ait pas été atteint, il n'en a pas moins porté plainte contre celui qui avait

tenté de l'assassiner. Notre compatriote est digne de compassion. Voulez-vous le prendre cette nuit dans votre maison?" J'objectai que, chez moi, je n'avais pas de place. Il m'offrit 200 piastres. Je répondis que je ne voulais rien faire pour de l'argent, mais enfin, du moment qu'il ne s'agissait que d'une simple erreur, d'un accident, j'acceptais que la personne en question vint passer la nuit chez moi. Là-dessus Philippos s'éloigna. Le soir, je vis Agop venir en compagnie de Vartan. Je pensais alors que chez moi il n'y avait pas de place et je l'envoyais chez Dieran, à qui je fournissais du levain.

Philippos: J'avais dit que je donnerai quelques piastres, mais non pas 200. Et puis je n'ai pas parlé de coup de feu.

Nichan: A 4 heures de la nuit (à la Turquie), je me rendis à la maison de Dieran et dis à Agop que je ne connaissais pas: "Guetchmich ola!" Il me répondit que ce n'était rien et qu'il avait tiré un coup de revolver à Coum-Capou sur la personne du prêtre Soukias.

Agop: Il vint près de moi et me dit: "A quoi bon? . . . tu as tiré, mais tu l'as manqué! J'aurais voulu que le prêtre eût été atteint et que tu fusses arrêté." Il mit alors les cartouches dans sa poche et ajouta qu'il avait envoyé en Bulgarie l'individu qui avait tiré sur les prêtres Dadjat et Artin.

Le Président s'adressant à Ovakim: Parlez aussi.

Ovakim: Un serrurier vint me trouver et me dit qu'il me procurerait de la besogne lucrative dont nous partagerions les bénéfices. "Dans une heure," ajouta-t-il, "viens me trouver." Je me rendis à l'endroit désigné, mais je ne vis pas venir la personne qui devait me donner ce travail. Le serrurier me dit alors que l'individu en question se trouvait probablement à Chichli et qu'il me le montrerait si nous le rencontrions. Jusqu'à 12 heures à la Turquie je me promenai à Taxim et aux environs. Me sentant étourdi par le grand nombre de cigarettes que j'avais fumées, j'allai me reposer dans la boutique de Nichan. Un fonctionnaire vint alors m'appeler et me dit qu'il allait faire une perquisition dans ma boutique. La perquisition fut opérée. Il a trouvé dans ma boutique une lettre demandant un abonnement, mais cette lettre n'a pas été écrite par moi. Il y a un mois, mon associé Minas est parti pour son pays. Je l'avais moi-même chassé. C'est son écriture. Il est parti bien fâché contre moi. Je ne suis pas un homme de qualité pour demander un abonnement à un journal. Les lettres découvertes émanent de personnages; elles ne conviennent pas à un individu comme moi.

Le Président: Avez-vous lu ce papier-là?

Ovakim: On l'a lu.

Le Président: C'est bien le document dans lequel il est écrit que "nous faisons des vœux pour la réussite de l'entreprise."

Ovakim: Nous avons un compatriote nommé Nazareth, qui travaille à la Douane. Cet individu était lié d'amitié avec mon père. Comme nous avions ensemble des affaires d'intérêt, je le fréquentai moi aussi. Ce Nazareth s'est trouvé compromis dans les événements arrivés à Coum-Capou. Durant interrogatoire, Nazareth a parlé avec son oncle Mikhaïl. Mon père, de son côté, ayant appris ce qui était arrivé, en fit part à Mikhaïl, qui le pria de me recommander de ne pas écrire au père de Nazareth les nouvelles que je pourrais avoir sur son compte. Mon père m'a écrit pour m'en faire part. Plus tard quoique j'eusse commencé à rédiger cette lettre afin de transmettre les nouvelles contenues dans les journaux, je ne l'achevai pas, je la mis de côté sans penser à la détruire.

Inclosure 5 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 25, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite.)

Audience du 8 (20) Octobre, 1890.

LE Président s'adressant à Artin: A votre tour. Parlez.

Artin: Étant tombé malade, je restai pendant quelque temps sans travail. Un

jour je me trouvais dans un café avec mon compagnon Antranik, originaire de Sivas ; celui-ci me dit que, tandis qu'il travaillait à Psamatia, il avait fait la connaissance d'un certain Ohannès qui lui avait proposé d'aller à Etchmiadzin. Mon ami a, plusieurs fois, vu Ohannès dans ce café où se rendaient aussi plusieurs autres individus, par exemple, Garabet, de Diabékir ; Vartan, de Van ; Antranik, et Avédis. Ohannès écrivit les noms de tous ces individus et les donna à Antranik. Ces gens-là sont envoyés à Etchmiadzin porter de l'argent destiné à des œuvres de bienfaisance, argent donné à l'occasion de la fête solennelle qui se fait dans cette ville une fois tous les sept ans au milieu d'un grand concours de fidèles. Un compagnon d'Avédis, nommé Eghinli Nigoghos, avait proposé à Vartan de s'y rendre et ce dernier avait accepté. Quelques jours après, je me rendis à Yéni-Djami, où j'ai l'habitude d'aller souvent, pour voir mes compatriotes et retirer de la poste les lettres qui me sont adressées. Hodja Agop, mon voisin qui se trouve à Psamatia, me dit un jour qu'il avait appris qu'on envoyait des hommes à l'étranger et qu'il en avait trois qu'il me proposait d'envoyer également. Les recevra-t-on, ne les recevra-t-on pas, je n'en sais rien, ils ont demandé des renseignements et écrit les noms de quelques-uns de ces individus. Plus tard, le cafetier Aristaguès a combiné cette affaire avec Artin Djhankirian qui a pris part aux événements de Coum-Capou ; ils m'ont pris dans leur groupe disant que je devrai les suivre, moi aussi. J'ai appris qu'ils ont envoyé à Smyrne un certain nombre d'individus parmi lesquels sont ceux dont ils avaient inscrit les noms. Ces personnes y allèrent et s'en retournèrent. Les gens que j'ai fait inscrire me demandèrent pourquoi je ne les envoyai pas, du moment que je les avais engagés. Je leur répondis que, d'après ce qu'on m'avait dit, ils devraient partir le lendemain ou le surlendemain avec d'autres retardataires. Je supposais même qu'on les garderait encore ici, afin que le bateau n'eût à son bord que des pèlerins. Je me rendis chez Ohannès, je le questionnai à ce sujet : "Mardi," me répondit-il. Tous ces gens-là avaient déjà abandonné leurs travaux, n'attendant que le départ. Mais Samedi, Mardi soir même arrivèrent et rien ne se faisait. Ce que voyant, je fis remarquer à Ohannès que tous ces individus devaient encore prendre leurs passeports et que ce n'était pas là l'affaire d'un jour. "Laissez-moi," me répondit-il, "vous conduire chez l'homme en question, et qu'il fasse ce qu'il voudra." Sur ces entrefaites arriva Aristaguès qui me dit : "Nous avons obligé tous ces gens-là de laisser leur travail ; ils finiront par vous tuer." Je partis de nuit pour Psamatia afin de rencontrer Ohannès, mais je ne réussis pas à le trouver. Le chef de toute cette affaire, le cuisinier d'une taverne à Psamatia, me reconnut au signalement que Ohannès lui avait fait de moi et me dit de lui communiquer tout ce que j'avais à dire à Ohannès. Je lui exposais l'affaire, lui parlais des menaces de mort qu'on m'avait adressées et lui fis comprendre que, depuis les événements du Coum-Capou il était devenu bien difficile d'envoyer dans ces pays-là des individus, serait-ce même des ecclésiastiques.

Le cuisinier me dit de repasser le voir le lendemain. J'y allai, Stépan—c'est le nom de ce cuisinier—me conduisit ce jour-là d'abord dans la boutique d'un Stépan Agha, puis au grand bazar, dans un café entouré d'un jardin. Il m'y fit asseoir et causa à l'écart avec Stépan Agha. Bientôt il revint, tenant à la main trois tuyaux ressemblant à ceux qui servent de conduits d'eau. Je commençai à réfléchir ; la liberté avait disparu ; je tâchai de comprendre ce que cela signifiait. Depuis longtemps je volais et je me demandais pourquoi le percepteur Ovakim ne venait plus, lui qui avait l'habitude de venir trois ou quatre fois par semaine. Un jour l'on me dit de partir, me faisant entendre que Ohannès pouvait venir me trouver le lendemain. Je me rendis à la boutique de Stépan Agha, celle qui porte le numéro 22, et je lui fis des reproches : "Quelle sera donc ma fin," lui dis-je ; "vous m'avez mis dans des embarras et des difficultés ; vous vivez tranquilles tandis que moi je n'ai pas mangé depuis quinze jours ! . . ." Stépan alla chercher de l'argent chez des personnes de sa connaissance, mais il revint bientôt disant qu'elles n'en avaient point. Il se rendit ensuite autre part et me dit à son retour qu'il y avait à espérer quatre-vingts sur cent que nous ferions quelque chose. "Tâches," lui dis-je, "de réussir ; autrement on me tuera !" Là-dessus je le quittai et me rendis pendant quelques jours à ma boutique. Dans l'intervalle, je le rencontrai, mais chaque fois il me prétextait qu'il n'avait pas rencontré la personne en question, et moi je ne pus me débarrasser des individus que j'avais recrutés. Comme ils ne voulaient plus me croire, je les conduisis à Kerpich han, endroit indiqué par Stépan Agha. Ils restèrent à la porte du han, mais dès que Stépan les aperçut, il ne s'y trouvait pas. La seconde fois que j'y allai, je le rencontrai : "Mais vous allez me trahir," me dit-il ; "retournez dans votre boutique ; l'horloger Maksoud, un individu court de taille et à moustache blonde, ira vous y trouver." Le lendemain, Maksoud vint en effet chez moi et me dit que le Comité

n'avait pas d'argent. Je me rendis encore chez Stépan. "Est-ce là," lui dis-je, "ce que j'avais à entendre? . . ." Il me répondit: "Ma tombe est ouverte; je vous dénonce tous! . . ." Pendant que j'allai chez Ohannès prendre les papiers, un individu vint me demander à ma boutique. Cet individu a été reconnu par Serkis, le domestique du mercier Mihran; ils me cherchèrent ensemble mais ne me trouvèrent pas, et l'individu s'en alla après avoir dit qu'il reviendrait le lendemain. C'est Serkis qui m'a tout rapporté; il me proposa même de me conduire chez l'inconnu. Je consentis et nous partîmes ensemble. Arrivés devant une maison à Iskender-bogaz, Serkis me dit d'attendre; il appela. Un individu se présenta alors et me demanda si j'envoyais des hommes. Je répondis négativement et ajoutais qu'on m'avait trompé. Il me donna ensuite, pour le Dimanche suivant, un rendez-vous dans un café avec jardin près de l'église de Narli-Capou. Au jour fixé il vint me trouver et me dit: "Artin Djhanghirian faisait partie de notre Société; il est parti et c'est Vartan, de Van, qui a été nommé à sa place."

Vartan: Il y a mille Vartans de Van.

Artin: Je devais causer avec Vartan, quand Ohannès vint me dire qu'un autre individu se chargerait d'envoyer des hommes. Il me conduisit ensuite chez le cocher Aaron. L'associé de ce dernier me dit que nous devons nous trouver le lendemain matin à l'église de Psamatia. Nous nous y rendîmes. Aaron nous attendait dans un café à deux portes. Je lui dis que le personnage en question n'était pas arrivé, que les hommes attendaient et qu'il devait dire ce qu'il avait à communiquer. En réponse, il nous offrit à boire et puis nous congédia. Le jour suivant n'amena non plus aucun résultat. Un jour, le nommé Sétrak vint me trouver à At-Méidan et me questionna sur mon identité. "Êtes-vous Artin?" me demanda-t-il; "la Société vous cherche depuis un mois." "Je le suis," répondis-je. Quand il eut ajouté que lui et moi faisons partie du Comité, je lui suggérai que je n'avais pas pu recevoir des papiers. Il partit alors pour rapporter cela à son chef. Quand il revint, il me dit que, pour me tirer d'embarras, le chef voulait bien prendre aussi soin de mes hommes. Je me rendis alors chez le mercier Philippos qui me dit: "Quiconque nous trahira et agira contre notre Comité sera tué." "Dans ce cas," lui répondis-je, "je m'en vais demander à mes hommes s'ils acceptent cette disposition." J'en parlai en effet à Agop et à Bédros. Celui-ci refusa. Agop dit qu'il avait été si souvent trompé qu'il ne voudrait croire Philippos que quand il aurait le revolver à la ceinture. Puis, d'après les ordres que m'avait donnés Philippos, je lui conduisis les deux Agop placés sous ma direction. Il dit qu'il les présenterait au chef afin qu'ils prêtassent serment, prissent des armes et touchassent leur solde journalière. Les deux Agop acceptèrent les conditions proposées et s'en allèrent. Je revis Philippos et lui demandai des nouvelles. "Soukias," me dit-il, "va partir pour Jérusalem; s'il est encore ici, nous ferons le nécessaire." L'on a dit encore que Philippos avait distribué des revolvers et des cartouches, qu'il a désigné le prêtre: je n'ai aucune connaissance de tout cela. Quelque temps après, Philippos m'ayant dit qu'il avait besoin de quelqu'un, je lui parlai d'Avédis et le lui envoyai à sa boutique. La nuit suivante, moi, Antranik et Philippos, nous nous rendîmes à Merdjan dans un han qui se trouve à côté d'un jardin. Nous montâmes à l'étage supérieur et entrâmes dans une chambre où se trouvaient Sétrak, d'autres individus et, au milieu, des cartes à jouer. L'on marqua sur le sol une ligne avec de la craie. Par des paroles détournées, Philippos fit comprendre à Kirkor Effendi qu'il devait parler. Celui-ci, qui est le chef, prononça alors un discours: "Quiconque," a-t-il dit, "s'opposera à notre Comité sera tué. Dans quinze jours, l'Arménie aura été délivrée. Riches et pauvres, tous seront égaux. Chacun aura sa part d'eau, de terre, et de lumière. A Londres et en France il y a tant de gens qui meurent de faim. En Europe, un homme nommé Président d'un Conseil conserve son poste pendant au moins cinq années. Tout Président qui viole la loi doit être renversé. Ceux qui oppriment les pauvres dans un but de profit personnel doivent être abattus, quels qu'ils soient. Pourquoi y a-t-il en France tant de soldats, et en Turquie tant de postes de police et d'officiers? Un petit nombre de gendarmes suffit pour maintenir l'ordre."

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Inclosure 6 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 27, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

*Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite.)**Audience du 8 (20) Octobre, 1890.*

[Les membres du Tribunal se retirent dans la salle des délibérations pour se reposer un peu. Un quart d'heure après ils rentrent. L'audience est reprise.]

Le Président, s'adressant à Avédis : A votre tour.

Avédis : Philippos m'a dit d'aller à Coum-Capou, où je me rencontrerais avec quelqu'un. Je m'y rendis et y trouvai Agop, avec qui je me promenai jusqu'au soir, puis je rentraï dans ma boutique. En me quittant, Agop m'avait donné trois quarts. Le jour suivant je rencontraï le même individu : il me donna un couteau. Je lui demandai ce que cela signifiait. Il me répondit : "Je dois tuer le prêtre; gardez-vous aussi cette arme." Nous allâmes ensuite au café de Coum-Capou. Le prêtre vint à passer. "Le voilà," me dit Agop. Le soir je rentraï dans mon magasin. L'on m'y apporta un revolver. Le lendemain Agop vint me donner de l'argent. Je refusai. Le Vendredi, je me levais à l'aube, quand un domestique vint me dire : "Vous avez un couteau et un revolver, donnez-les moi." Je les lui remis et il partit. Je ne sais rien de plus.

Le Président, s'adressant à Bédros : Dites-nous ce que vous savez.

Bédros : Je travaillais à Vézir han. Un jour, je descendis à Balouk-Bazar. Là je rencontraï un individu appelé Aristaguès. "Êtes-vous Arménien?" me demanda-t-il. Je répondis affirmativement. "Venez," me dit-il alors, "je vous ferai faire la connaissance de mon chef." Nous nous rendîmes ensemble dans un café de Yéni-Djami, où Artin vint bientôt nous rejoindre. Aristaguès me dit, en me montrant le nouveau venu : "Il vous enrôlera soldat." Puis nous nous levâmes et sortîmes. Dans la rue, Artin me dit qu'il devait aller chez son chef demander de l'argent pour les frais de passeport, et ajouta en me quittant : "Dimanche matin vous vous rendrez à l'église de Narli-Capou; vos chefs prendront votre photographie et vous immatriculeront." Dans la matinée de ce jour Artin vint me chercher. Chemin faisant, différentes personnes se joignirent à nous. A Narli-Capou Artin disparut pendant quelques minutes, puis il revint et causa avec quelques individus. Nous nous rendîmes ensuite dans une taverne de Psamatia. Le soir chacun rentra chez soi. Le lendemain, Aristaguès vint me voir, et me dit : "Il y a un jeune homme qui doit partir avec vous; allons le voir." Nous nous rendîmes ensemble à Galata à la taverne Yenidunia. Ce jeune homme n'y était pas. Nous eûmes beau attendre il ne vint pas. Nous sortîmes. Comme nous marchions nous le rencontrâmes. Il me dit : "Moi je n'irais pas; vous aussi rentrez chez vous." Je me dirigeai alors vers ma demeure quand le jeune homme me rejoignit encore et me fit entrer dans un cabaret voisin de la Douane de Galata. Là il me déclara qu'il avait été désigné par le sort afin de tuer le prêtre, et me proposa de l'accompagner. Je refusai. Il reprit : "Je te tue aussi; trahis-moi ici même, si tu le veux." J'eus peur, et, quoique malgré moi, j'acceptai le revolver. Nous nous rendîmes à Coum-Capou; par précaution je marchai à quelque distance de lui, mais nous nous en retournâmes sans avoir rien fait. Quelques jours après, le jeune homme me rencontra, et me dit : "Je me suis débarrassé de cette affaire-là; c'est un autre qui tuera le prêtre." Là-dessus je partis.

Artin : Avédis et Serkis vinrent ensemble et se rendirent avec moi dans la demeure d'Agop. Celui-ci me dit qu'il fallait faire partir ces individus; sinon il me tuerait. Nous allâmes ensuite, Avédis, Serkis, et moi, à Vézir han, où je leur dis que je ne méritais pas de reproches, car je leur rapportais tout simplement ce qu'on me disait. De là nous allâmes dans la taverne voisine de la Douane de Galata. Avédis et Serkis me dirent : "S'ils veulent un garant, nous en donnerons un. Nous connaissons beaucoup de monde, car nous avons été membres du Comité Djihan-ghirian."

Avédis : Je n'ai pas dit cela.

Artin. Avédis m'a dit: "Le couteau a avancé jusqu'à mes os; si nous devons mourir, mourons un moment plus tôt." Je lui répondis qu'il ne s'agissait pas de cela, que rien ne dépendait de moi, et que si j'avais eu de l'argent, je n'aurais rien de mieux à faire que d'aller dans mon pays.

Avédis: Après avoir quitté le café, nous entrâmes dans une taverne. Je n'ai pas vu d'autres personnes. Je ne sais rien. C'est Aristaguès qui m'a fait connaître Artin.

Artin: Je me suis rencontré avec lui à Yénidjami.

Philippos: Avédis n'était pas avec Agop. Je ne sais pas s'il a été avant cela membre du Comité.

Avédis, interrogé, répond: Je ne sais qui m'a donné le revolver; quant à l'argent, il m'a été remis par Philippos.

Philippos: Je n'ai fait que lui remettre l'argent qui m'avait été confié.

Avédis: Quand Agop voulut me donner de l'argent je refusai, car je ne me sentais pas grande envie de m'engager dans cette affaire.

Après la déposition d'Avédis, le prévenu Minas a été invité à lire un des seize documents compromettants qu'on avait saisis. Il résulte de la traduction littérale de cette pièce qu'elle porte en tête la mention:—

Décision, suivie des mots suivants:

"D'après le Code de Procédure Criminelle, la peine de mort est réservée à tout dénonciateur qui s'interposerait à une action cachée à l'exécution du projet."

Vartan, interrogé au sujet des documents trouvés dans sa chambre, répond qu'il ne les a jamais possédés.

Lecture est donnée du Rapport de la police, disant qu'au moment de l'arrestation le prévenu arrêté a été vu jetant dans le sous-sol du han un paquet de papiers. Ce paquet a été ramassé; il contenait les documents et les journaux susmentionnés.

Vartan persiste dans sa dénégation.

Vu l'heure avancée, l'audience est levée.

Le Président dit qu'il nommait d'office un avocat à la place de Chehri, démissionnaire, du moment que les prévenus déclaraient n'avoir pas d'avocat de leur choix à désigner.

Inclosure 7 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 28, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite.)

Audience du 11 (23) Octobre, 1890.

LE Tribunal est composé de la même façon qu'à l'audience précédente. Hassan Riza Effendi, Avocat de Bakdjédjikli Agop, est aussi chargé de la défense d'Artin et d'Avédis, à la place de l'Avocat Chehri Effendi, démissionnaire.

L'audience est ouverte à 8 heures et demie à la Turque.

Le Président s'adressant au Procureur: A la dernière audience il a été décidé de faire traduire les documents et les journaux saisis comme aussi de citer des témoins à déposer au sujet des papiers que Vartan a jetés dans l'escalier. Les traductions ont déjà été envoyées au Tribunal.

Le Greffier donne lecture de la traduction du journal "Handjak" et d'un autre document.

Le Président: Vous dites que les autres lettres traitent d'affaires personnelles (s'adressant à Vartan): Dans quel endroit a-t-on trouvé ces papiers?

Vartan: Les gens du Gouvernement sont venus faire des recherches et ils ont trouvé deux documents dans un paquet de linge m'appartenant.

Le Président: L'on dit qu'au moment de votre arrestation vous avez jeté les papiers au bas de l'escalier.

Vartan: Non.

Le Président s'adressant aux gendarmes: Le Commissaire de Police Chaban Effendi est-il présent.

Les gendarmes: Il est venu.

Le Président : Qu'il compare.

Le Président pose à Chaban Effendi les questions d'usage sur son nom et son âge, lui fait prêter serment et lui demande de dire ce qu'il sait au sujet de l'arrestation de Vartan.

Chaban Effendi : Un soir, vers 1 heure et demie à la Turquie, Husni Effendi, Président du Conseil de la Police, m'a appelé et m'a ordonné de me rendre dans un han situé près de Yéni-Djami, à l'effet de faire une perquisition dans la chambre de Vartan, frère du cafetier Artin. Je me rends à l'endroit indiqué, je trouvai le han et, après m'être assuré que Vartan y était je cherchai "l'oda-bachi;" l'on me répondit qu'il n'était pas là. Quelques personnes se tenaient près de moi; l'une d'elles me désigna, dans le côté droit du han, un endroit où il y avait quelque chose ressemblant à une porte. L'allure de cet individu m'intrigua. Nous allâmes au lieu désigné. L'individu entra dans une pièce, c'était un café; je le suivai de près et quand j'atteignis ce seuil, tous les hommes qui se trouvaient dans le café vinrent se ranger des deux côtés de la porte afin de me faire un salut respectueux. En ce moment, Vartan jeta de la porte près du café un objet blanc dans un escalier conduisant au sous-sol. Mon compagnon Salih descendit immédiatement et me rapporta l'objet jeté: c'était des papiers de couleur rouge et blanche et couverts d'écriture. Puis nous procédâmes à une perquisition dans les chambres du han.

Le Président s'adressant au témoin et lui désignant le prévenu : Reconnaissez-vous Vartan.

Chaban Effendi : C'est lui-même.

Vartan, gesticulant : Je me dirigeai vers l'escalier, cet homme me retint, par le bras, demanda mon nom, chercha dans mes poches et y trouva quelques papiers dont il s'empara. Puis il monta dans ma chambre, fouilla dans mon paquet de linge et saisit un document qui s'y trouvait.

Chaban Effendi examine les papiers qu'on lui montre, les reconnaît comme étant ceux jetés dans l'escalier et dit qu'il y avait encore un autre document ressemblant à un journal.

Le Président : Lesquels de ces papiers ont-ils été trouvés dans le paquet de linge.

Chaban Effendi : Je ne saurais dire lesquels, car c'est en même temps que nous avons saisi les documents trouvés sur sa personne et ceux dissimulés dans le paquet de linge. Dans tous les cas, ils sont parmi ces papiers que je vois.

Vassilaki Effendi : Permettez-moi de faire une observation. Le témoin dit que Vartan a jeté les papiers dans l'escalier du han. Ces sortes d'escaliers sont toujours couverts de poussière, de terre, et de boue; si les papiers y ont été jetés, ils doivent avoir été salis. S'est-on assuré qu'ils portent des tâches?

Le Président : Le temps n'était pas pluvieux, et d'ailleurs il s'agit de l'intérieur du han.

Chaban Effendi : Les papiers étaient enveloppés dans une feuille de papier ordinaire.

D'autres témoins sont entendus.

Le témoin Salih Effendi, troisième Commissaire de Police à Tahta-Kalé, déclare : Je me trouvais près de Sultan-Hamam, lorsque Chaban Effendi vint me demander si je connaissais Arab-han. Je lui répondis que c'était Aboud-han. Il me dit alors de l'accompagner pour une perquisition à faire dans la Chambre de Vartan, frère d'Artin. Je le suivis. Nous fîmes ouvrir la porte; celui qui l'avait ouverte répondit à notre demande concernant "l'oda baci," qu'il ne s'y trouvait pas.

Le témoin dépose tout à fait comme Chaban Effendi et raconte de quelle façon il a, sur l'ordre de celui-ci, saisi le paquet contenant des papiers rouges.

Les papiers déposés au Tribunal sont montrés au témoin.

Salih Effendi; Je n'ai pas ouvert le paquet. L'on voyait bien extérieurement que tous ces papiers étaient couverts d'écriture. Nous fîmes une perquisition dans la Chambre de Vartan; nous y trouvâmes des papiers et des portraits. Nous avions cherché dans le paquet de linge et dans d'autres endroits suspects.

Le Président : s'adressant à Vartan : Qu'avez-vous à répondre? Ils disent que vous avez jeté ces papiers.

Vartan persiste dans sa dénégation.

Vassilaki Effendi : Salih Effendi dit que c'était un papier rouge; Chaban Effendi avait déclaré que cela ressemblait à un journal. Je crois qu'il serait bon d'avoir des explications à ce sujet. Et puis Salih Effendi prétend que les papiers n'étaient pas enveloppés.

Salih Effendi : Les papiers étaient pliés et chiffonnés, mais non pas enveloppés. Je les ai remis à Chaban Effendi sans les ouvrir.

Le Président s'adressant à Chaban Effendi : Étaient-ils pliés ?

Chaban Effendi : En-bas il faisait obscur. Salih Effendi prit les papiers et me les apporta ; il m'a semblé qu'ils étaient enveloppés. Il doit y avoir une enveloppe bleue dans laquelle j'ai mis ces papiers. Quand je les examinai dans le café où il y avait de la lumière, je vis exactement que c'était des papiers. On les voyait émerger de la poche même du prévenu.

Vassilaki Effendi : Salih Effendi ne parle pas de journal.

Salih Effendi : Je n'ai pas ouvert les papiers.

Memdough Bey : Pourquoi cela ?

Salih Effendi : Ils étaient pliés et je les ai remis tels quels à Chaban Effendi.

Memdough Bey : Étaient ils pliés l'un sur l'autre.

Salih Effendi : Ils avaient été mis l'un dans l'autre de façon à ne former qu'un seul pli, et la pression exercée par la main leur avait donné le pli qu'ils ont eu.

Le Président s'adressant à Vassilaki Effendi : S'ils n'avaient pas été pliés, ils se seraient éparpillés.

Vassilaki Effendi : S'ils avaient été pliés, le papier rouge serait chiffonné, à cause de sa finesse. Il y a entre les dépositions des deux témoins une contradiction qu'il faut éclaircir.

Le Président s'adressant à Salih Effendi : Vous dites que vous étiez derrière Chaban Effendi et que vous avez vu Vartan jeter un objet analogue.

Salih Effendi : J'ai vu Vartan faire un mouvement avec son bras, mais je ne l'ai vu rien jeter. C'est Chaban Effendi qui me l'a dit.

Hamdi Effendi : Que signifie le nom du journal " Handjak."

Le Président : En Arménien cela veut dire " Cloches."

Vassilaki Effendi : Et que veut dire " Arménak," le nom de l'autre journal ?

Le Président : Quoi qu'il veuille dire, cela n'a rien d'important. (S'adressant à l'un des prévenus) : Que veut dire " Arménak."

Le Prévenu : C'est le nom du journal.

Le Président s'adressant à Memdough Bey : L'interrogatoire est épuisé ; vous avez la parole.

Memdough Bey expose les faits qui constituent la culpabilité des prévenus. Ceux-ci, dit-il, ont fait partie d'un Comité Révolutionnaire qui, afin d'arriver à réaliser le but chimérique de former une Arménie indépendante, a troublé les esprits du peuple Arménien et procédé à des actes de rébellion, tels que assassinats et enrôlement de soldats, actes qui sont de nature à jeter la perturbation dans l'ordre public. Les preuves de leur participation à ce Comité sont bien nombreuses : d'abord, leurs propres aveux pendant l'enquête, réitérés devant le Tribunal ; puis, les papiers saisis sur Vartan et dans la boutique d'Ovakim ; enfin, les dépositions des agents de police. Memdough Bey conclut à la culpabilité des prévenus.

La parole est ensuite donnée aux avocats de la défense.

Hassan Riza Effendi, avocat de Bakdjédjikli Agop, du cuisinier Artin et du serrurier Avédis, prend la parole. Après un préambule dans lequel il fait le parallélisme du devoir et de la justice, Hassan Riza Effendi dit que les actes du prévenu Agop appartiennent à deux catégories : ils ont été volontaires ou obligatoires. Volontaires, jusqu'au moment où, entré dans le Comité Révolutionnaire, ayant fait des enrôlements et ayant accepté la mission de tuer le prêtre Soukias, il se sent pénétré de la conséquence désastreuse que pourra avoir l'exécution de ses mauvais desseins et communique ses sentiments à ses compagnons ; obligatoires, depuis ce moment là jusqu'à celui que le crime a été perpétré, car Agop s'est laissé, grâce à sa niaiserie et sa stupidité, entraîner par des instigations et des insinuations odieuses, de même qu'à la suite de menaces de mort qui lui ont été faites, il a été pour ainsi dire forcé de commettre le crime. La première partie de la conduite d'Agop comprend un certain nombre d'actes et de paroles qui sont volontaires, voulus, mais qui n'ont pas reçu un commencement d'exécution, qui n'ont eu aucun résultat matériel. Le prévenu ne peut donc pas être incriminé pour cela. Quant à sa conduite subséquente, tout en admettant qu'elle est blâmable, elle peut cependant le sauver de toute condamnation. Agop avoue avoir fait feu sur le prêtre Soukias ; cela signifie que les véritables auteurs de ce crime sont ceux qui l'ont forcé à le perpétrer. Les mêmes arguments peuvent être mis en avant pour la défense de Bédros et d'Artin. En ce qui concerne Avédis, qui s'est enrôlé soldat dans l'armée révolutionnaire et qui a accompagné Agop allant commettre le crime, il n'a accepté ce rôle qu'avec répugnance et sa conduite ne constitue pas un crime. Je demande donc l'acquiescement de mes clients.

Inclosure 8 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 31, 1890.

COUR CRIMINELLE DE STAMBOUL.

*Le Procès des Arméniens.—(Suite et fin.)**Audience du 10 (22) Octobre, 1890.*

ALEXANIAN KÉVORK EFFENDI, Avocat de Philippos, a fait ressortir que si son client—comme il l'avoue du reste—a remis à Agop un revolver, de l'argent, et les seize documents dont il a été question, il ne l'a fait que sous l'empire de la terreur, étant données les menaces contenues dans ces documents contre ceux qui s'opposeraient aux desseins du Comité Révolutionnaire. Du reste, Philippos est un honnête citoyen d'Eghin, amoureux avant tout de l'ordre et de la tranquillité.

Izzet Effendi, Avocat de Minas, a commencé par expliquer les motifs qui l'ont décidé à prendre la défense du prévenu; il a nié ensuite que son client ait fait partie du Comité Révolutionnaire et s'est appuyé, pour l'affirmer, sur le manque de preuves. Si, sur la demande de Philippos, il a donné un abri à Agop et si plus tard il l'a conduit chez Vartan, c'est que tout simplement il a eu pitié d'un malheureux compatriote nouvellement débarqué qui, suivant le dire de Philippos, était poursuivi pour s'être enfui du bateau qui l'avait amené à Constantinople, parce qu'il n'avait pas de quoi payer le prix de passage.

Lecture est donnée d'un "teskéré" du Ministre de la Police et de différentes pièces y annexées relatives à la culpabilité du prévenu Nichan. Il en résulte que celui-ci s'occupait d'enrôler des soldats pour l'armée révolutionnaire. Ainsi le prévenu Nazareth, fils du cafetier Nigogos, a été conduit par son ami Sérop chez le prévenu Nichan qui l'a engagé à se faire enrôler et lui a promis de lui donner un revolver pour assassiner Melcon Effendi. Ces documents contiennent encore le récit de différents autres faits à la charge de Nichan.

Nichan ayant répondu qu'il ne connaissait pas ces individus, le Président ordonne la comparution de Nazareth et de Sérop.

Vassilaki Effendi, Avocat de Vartan et de Bédros, a essayé de démontrer la non participation de Vartan, au Comité Révolutionnaire et l'impossibilité dans laquelle il se trouvait, étant donnée son ignorance complète, de comprendre quelque chose aux papiers et journaux qu'il avait chez lui. Il s'est ensuite étendu sur la contradiction existant entre la déposition de Chaban Effendi et celle de Salih Effendi, Commissaires de Police, en ce qui concerne les papiers que Vartan aurait jetés dans l'escalier du han avant son arrestation. Vassilaki Effendi a ensuite essayé de disculper le prévenu Bédros en se servant à peu près des mêmes arguments.

Hamdi Effendi, Avocat de Nichan, Hampartzoun, et Ovakim, essaye de réfuter les allégations du Ministère Public. En ce qui concerne Nichan, qui, sur la demande de Philippos, a conduit le meurtrier Agop chez Dicran, il croyait que Agop avait tout simplement été l'auteur d'un accident et il a voulu aider un compatriote à sortir d'une mauvaise passe. Pour ce qui est de Hampartzoun, on ne lui reproche que d'avoir aidé Nichan à conduire Agop chez Dicran: ici aussi, ajoute Hamdi Effendi, la notion préalable du crime fait défaut, d'autant plus que, suivant ce qui a été dit, Hampartzoun ne connaissait même pas exactement la maison de Dicran. Quant à Ovakim, un homme de son acabit [*sic*] ne pourrait être l'auteur de la lettre trouvée chez lui et adressée au journal révolutionnaire; mais si même elle était de lui, la lettre n'a pas été envoyée et, au point de vue de la loi, il n'y a pas eu commencement d'exécution; en ce qui concerne la seconde lettre sur la situation du prisonnier Nazareth, elle est bien d'Ovakim, mais elle a été écrite sur la prière de l'oncle de Nazareth et les détails y contenus ont tous été puisés aux journaux. Hamdi Bey finit par attaquer la validité des documents sur la culpabilité de Nichan envoyés au Tribunal après l'ouverture des débats, car, dit-il, ces sortes de documents doivent être versés aux débats avant le commencement des plaidoiries des défenseurs. Du reste, quand bien même on les considérerait comme pouvant être produits, Nichan nie les faits avancés par Nazareth.

Le Président ordonne la comparution de Nazareth et de Sérop.

Nazareth dépose que Nichan—un jour qu'il avait été avec son camarade Sérop

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dans la boutique du prévenu au Taxim—leur proposa de l'enrôler dans l'armée révolutionnaire. Mais nous lui fîmes comprendre que nous avions peur de nous engager dans de pareilles affaires et nous le quittâmes.

Interrogé par le Président s'il connaît Nichan, Nazareth désigne le prévenu.

Sérop dépose à son tour que Nichan leur avait offert des revolvers avec mission de tuer un individu, un certain Melcon de Béchiktach, croit-il.

Ce témoin reconnaît aussi le prévenu Nichan.

Hamdi Effendi, interrogé par le Président s'il n'a rien à ajouter pour la défense de ses clients, voit de la contradiction entre la déposition de Nazareth et celle de Sérop, en ce sens que le premier déclare avoir été mené chez Nichan par Sérop, et que ce dernier prétend que c'est le prévenu lui-même qui les a, lui et Nazareth, conduit dans sa boutique. Cette contradiction, ajoute Hamdi Effendi, ajoutée à l'absence de qualité des témoins, ne peut constituer une preuve à la charge de Nichan.

Le Président fait observer à Hamdi Effendi que Nazareth et Sérop ne sont venus à l'audience que pour renouveler en présence des prévenus leur déposition devant le Juge d'Instruction.

L'interrogatoire des prévenus et les plaidoyers des défenseurs étant terminés, l'audience est levée.

Audience du 11 (23) Octobre, 1890.

Le Tribunal est composé de la même façon qu'aux audiences précédentes. Tous les accusés sont présents, assistés de leurs défenseurs respectifs.

L'audience est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

Le Président s'adressant à Agop lui enjoint de dire ce qu'il désire en ce qui concerne le prévenu Philippos-

Agop déclare que si Philippos connaît l'individu qui l'a menacé; s'il ne veut pas le nommer, c'est qu'il a prêté serment de ne pas le faire. Il ajoute que, quand Philippos lui a remis les seize documents, il lui a demandé de n'en rien dire à personne.

Kévork Effendi, Avocat de Philippos, fait remarquer que si son client a été menacé, il ne peut être tenu responsable. En l'espèce, il y a de la violence.

Artin déclare aussi que Philippos et ses compagnons sont liés par serment. Il ajoute que, dix jours durant, il s'est trouvé avec eux. Il déclare connaître l'étudiant Kirkor qui, un soir, demanda à Philippos certains renseignements en présence de Sétrak et d'Antranik; Philippos lui dit qu'ils avaient nommé deux personnes et qu'il avait besoin de deux medjidiés; Kirkor ne lui en remit qu'un en ajoutant qu'ils devaient veiller à tour de rôle.

Philippos dit qu'il ne connaît pas d'individu nommé Kirkor.

Artin: Comment, vous ne le connaissez pas! . . . ne vous êtes-vous pas rencontré avec lui dans une pharmacie à Coska?

Le Président: A qui est cette pharmacie?

Artin: Je ne saurais le dire; Antranik y allait aussi de temps à autre.

Le Président aux prévenus: Avez-vous quelque chose à ajouter.

Les prévenus gardent le silence.

Memdouh Bey résume les arguments avancés dans son réquisitoire.

Le Président déclare les débats clos.

La Cour se retire dans la salle des délibérations; au bout de quelque temps elle rentre dans la salle d'audience et le Président donne lecture du verdict dont nous avons publié le texte dans notre numéro du Vendredi, 24 courant.

Inclosure 9 in No. 112.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 24, 1890.

LE PROCÈS DES ARMÉNIENS.—(Suite.)

Le Verdict.

LA Cour Criminelle de Stamboul a rendu hier son verdict dans le procès des Arméniens, dont nous publions *in extenso* les débats dans une autre page. En voici le dispositif :—

"Attendu qu'il est prouvé que les nommés : Bagdjidjiki Agop, Minas, le mercier Philippos, le cafetier Vartan, le charpentier Hampartzoun, le boulanger Nichan, le serrurier Ovakim, le cuisinier Artin, le tisserand Avédis, et le bonnetier Bédros, ont fait partie d'un Comité Révolutionnaire ayant pour but de constituer une partie de l'Empire en État indépendant sous le nom d'Arménie ;

"Attendu que, pour arriver à cette fin, les individus susnommés ont commis des actes révolutionnaires, tels que : enrôlement de soldats, assassinat et tentatives de troubler les esprits des Arméniens ;

"Attendu que l'accusé Agop a, en outre, tenté d'assassiner le prêtre Soukias à Coum-Capou, avec un revolver que lui avait prêté Philippos ;

"Que l'accusé Vartan portait sur lui des papiers révolutionnaires dont il a voulu se dessaisir au moment de son arrestation et qu'il avait, en outre, des papiers de même nature dans son domicile ;

"Considérant que le crime des susdits individus tombe sous le coup de l'Article 4 du Code de Procédure Criminelle.

"Par ces motifs,

"Condamne Agop, Philippos, Artin, et Nichan à la peine de mort ; Minas et Vartan à sept années de détention dans une enceinte fortifiée ; Hampartzoun, Ovakim, Avédis, et Bédros à cinq années de la même peine."

No. 113.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, reporting upon the movements of Russian Armenians across the frontier, and the action taken in consequence by the Russian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

I HAVE received reliable information that during the past month Russian Armenians have been combining with the intention of entering Turkish territory in armed bands for the purpose of retaliating upon the Kurdish population for the acts of pillage and murder inflicted by it upon Armenian Ottoman subjects. The Russian Government has seized arms and arrested individuals collected for this purpose. It has also delivered over to the local Turkish authorities an Armenian priest who, being an Ottoman subject, is said to have entered Russian territory and to have taken a leading part in this movement.

About the 12th October eight or ten Kurds were returning to their homes in this province from Kars, and were met and attacked by a large number of armed Russian

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Armenians, who killed five of their number. This affair took place in Russian territory, near the frontier, between Kaghizman in Russia and Toprak-Kala in the Valley of Alashgerd. It is an unfortunate occurrence, as it may have the effect of exasperating the Kurds to further acts of violence and of adding materially to the difficulty of the Turkish Government in affording protection to the Armenian peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

No. 114.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 10, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, giving an account of his recent interviews with the Vali, and reporting an improvement in the general condition and tranquillity of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 114.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, October 25, 1890.

I YESTERDAY had a long interview with the Governor-General on the subject of the state of this province, and of the movement among Russian Armenians referred to in my despatch of this date. Besides the General commanding the troops, no one else was present, and the Governor expressed himself on this subject in a manner giving me more confidence, while, at the same time, receiving my strong representations in the spirit in which I made them.

I set before him the serious political difficulties which the continuation of such grave disorder was creating, not only within, but without Turkey, and assured him that it would gratify me to be able, at an early date, to announce to your Excellency and to Her Majesty's Government that tranquillity had been restored. I endeavoured to convince him that the only means of attaining this end was by affording, in the first place, adequate protection to the Christian peasantry against the lawlessness of the Kurds, and that this was a pressing necessity.

His Excellency agreed with me in considering that the Russian Government was making every possible effort to prevent any of its own subjects unlawfully crossing the frontier. He informed me that the frontier districts were now strongly occupied by Turkish troops, and I carried away on this occasion the impression that he now realized the difficulties and dangers likely to result from a prolongation of such an unsatisfactory state of affairs, and that he was in earnest in his efforts to put an end to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 114.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, October 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, since the date of my despatch of the 25th ultimo, no further reports of disorder have reached me from the Valley of Alashgerd, which is strongly (from an administrative point of view) occupied by Turkish troops. The movement among the Russian Armenians, and the killing by



them of five Kurds, as reported by me in my despatch of the 25th instant, has considerably added to the difficulties of the Turkish Government in restoring order, and a feeling of much apprehension exists among all classes of the population of that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Erzeroum, November 1, 1890.

AS I informed your Excellency to-day by telegram, I saw the Governor-General and the General Officer commanding the troops this morning, and I was fully assured by both that order had been completely restored in this province.

Several Kurdish Chiefs have been called to and are now in Erzeroum, which, of itself, is, to a certain degree, a security for the maintenance of order.

The Governor proposes to himself visit the Valley of Alashgerd at an early date, which will also have a good effect.

I believe that energetic measures are now being taken to maintain public tranquillity, and I have much pleasure in so reporting for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CLIFFORD LLOYD.

them of five kinds as reported by me in my despatch of the 25th instant, has considerably added to the difficulties of the Turkish Government in restoring order and a feeling of much apprehension exists among all classes of the population of that district. I have, &c.

CLIFFORD LLOYD

Inclosure 3 in No. 114.

Consul Lloyd to Sir W. White.

Erzeroum, November 1, 1890.

Sir, AS I informed your Excellency to-day by telegram, I saw the Governor-General and General Officer commanding the troops this morning, and I was fully assured by the latter that the troops had been completely restored in this province. The Turkish Chiefs have been called to and are now in Erzeroum, which, of course, is a great degree a security for the maintenance of order. The Governor-General proposes to himself visit the Valley of Erzeroum at an early date, which will also be a good effect. The energetic measures are now being taken to maintain public tranquillity, and I have much pleasure in so reporting the information of Her Majesty's Government.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Condition of the Populations in Asiatic Turkey, and the Proceedings in the case of Moussa Bey. [In continuation of "Turkey No. 1 (1890).": C. 5912.]

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, January 1891.

CLIFFORD LLOYD (Signed)

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