

TURKEY. No. 2 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 3 (1889):" C. 5824.]

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

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Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in the East.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 3 (1889):" C. 5824.]

No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 4.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the alleged perpetration of outrages in the district of Vodina, in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a translated copy of a list of acts of violence and outrages alleged to have been recently committed by a certain Fahreddin Bey and some Albanians in his service, in the town and district of Vodina, included in the Vilayet of Salonica.

Fahreddin Bey is a youth about 19 years of age, and the son of Seifoullah Bey, a Tosk Albanian of Epirus.

He was expelled from Constantinople last winter owing to a personal quarrel with the son of Mushir Dervish Pasha, and sent to Vodina to look after his father's estate of Nissia, situate about three hours from that town.

The person who handed me the list in question is a Turk.

He asserted that the several acts enumerated, although they may appear exaggerated, are all founded upon trustworthy evidence. That some of them have already been brought to the notice of the Vali, Galib Pasha, by the Kaïmakam of Vodina, and of the Porte by the heirs of the late Hassib Pasha, who own extensive estates in Macedonia; but as no adequate steps have been taken to restrain the excesses of the young Bey and his Albanians, and the Kaïmakam of the district was, under the circumstances, powerless to act further in the matter, he expressed the hope that I would bring to bear such influence as I had with Galib Pasha, with a view of bringing to justice, and securing the punishment of, these men who have committed such outrages. Before leaving me he added that he was himself willing to come forward to testify, and bring evidence sufficient to establish, the perpetration of all the outrages referred to in the list, provided he was assured of the moral support of this Consulate-General.

In accepting the list I told him that I would make necessary inquiries, and take such action as a fuller knowledge of the circumstances would warrant.

Having on the same day (10th instant) learned from several sources that more than one of the acts of violence mentioned had really occurred, and with good grounds were attributed to Fahreddin Bey or his emissaries, I thought myself justified in calling unofficially the attention of Galib Pasha to the list, withholding, of course, the source of my information. His Excellency, after a careful perusal of the paper, said that, while he thought there was considerable exaggeration in many of the statements, some of them had already been brought to his knowledge by the Kaïmakam of Vodina; satisfactory proof has, however, not been so far obtained, and whilst thanking me for

showing him this list, he requested me to furnish him with a copy of it, which I did.

Two days after this interview I received a telegram from Vodina, of which the following is a translation:—

“To the English Consul-General at Salonica, “Vodina, August 1 (13), 1889.
“Fahreddin Bey's men carried off my sister and another girl last Saturday, after
killing my mother. I beg you will take the necessary measures.
(Signed) “MITCHÉ OF TEHOVO.”

This I immediately communicated to the Governor-General, when he sent me a civil message, assuring me that he had received no information from the Kaimakam about this outrage, and that he would at once order him to investigate and report upon it.

In bringing these matters under the notice of your Excellency, I feel it my duty to say that, from all I have so far heard, I am under the impression that not only the subordinate officials at Vodina, but even the Procureur-Général and Galib Pasha himself, hesitate to act except with even more than ordinary circumspection, owing to the connection of the parties concerned, young Fahreddin Bey being, as I have stated in the early part of this Report, the son of Seïfoullah Bey.

I have confidentially applied to a trustworthy person to make inquiries into the alleged outrages, and furnish me with such intelligence as can be relied upon, and I shall not fail to report further to your Excellency on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—After writing the above report I was informed by Galib Pasha that he had received a telegram from the Kaimakam of Vodina stating that the two girls who were abducted from Tehovo have been recovered and placed in charge of the Greek Bishop of Vodina, and that some of the persons concerned in this serious outrage have been apprehended.

J. E. B.

Inclasure 2 in No. 1.

Statement of the Acts of Oppression and Violence perpetrated at Vodina by the son of Seïfoullah Bey, and by the Albanians in his service.

(Translation.)

- AFTER beating the son of Hasnadar Beyzadeh, he went with his armed men to the konak, insulted all the officials, and carried off five Martini rifles.
2. He beat the military gunmaker Ghiga in the bazaar, and deprived him of his watch and other effects.
 3. He goes the round of the houses of Turks and Christians and arbitrarily recovers debts.
 4. He beat Christo Bagdari in his shop, in presence of the authorities, and carried off his oxen.
 5. He forcibly took Christo Kelkeny Petri from the local prison and beat him. The man, after two days, was killed.
 6. He or his men robbed some Christian merchants of Giordja, in the vicinity of Korou-teheshmé, of their watches and other effects.
 7. He laid wait for the District Clerk of Ostrova and beat him, after depriving him of his arms.
 8. Two merchants of Elbassan, who were passing by his farm, were killed by him or his men.
 9. He carried off two Christians of Ostrova to his farm, hung them up by the feet, and took 5 liras from them.
 10. He robbed 20 liras from the Christian houses at Ostrova.
 11. He robbed Yashar Agha, of Ousufli, of his Martini rifle.
 12. He went and seized the daughters of Boujin, of Velkoyan; of Jovan Krissi, of Kornitchel; and of Noushi Pano, of Tehova, and gave them to his rayahs.
 13. He took 12 liras from the Christians of the Tehova farm.
 14. He took 9½ liras from the Kornitchel farm.
 15. He took 8 liras from the Tressina farm.

16. He took 3 liras from the rayahs of Serakine.
 17. He drove away the bailiffs of the late Hassib Pasha's farms, and appointed others on his own authority.
 18. He ill-treats and imprisons whoever he pleases in the town or district.
 19. He supplies every bad character with one or two doubtful Albanians, and no one dares to go out.
 20. He has this year purchased, at very low prices, the Government tithes of whatever villages he pleased, and afterwards sold them with great profit.
- Although the above acts of violence and oppression were perpetrated with the knowledge of the local authorities, and the inhabitants have complained against their authors, no redress has been obtained.
- Moreover, some of the outrages were also reported to the Vilayet at Salonica with a like result, and the bad state of affairs continues.

No. 2.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 30, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the inclosed despatch which I have addressed to Sir William White on the subject of the outrages alleged to have been perpetrated in the district of Vodina.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, August 29, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th instant, relative to outrage alleged to have taken place in the district of Vodina, I have the honour to submit, herewith inclosed, to your Excellency, a copy of a Memorandum containing the information which I have obtained on the subject.

Your Excellency will observe that it not only confirms the account of most of these outrages, as reported in my despatch of the 26th instant, but also gives the particulars of other acts of violence and cruelty which have occurred in the same district, and the authors and instigators of which have remained unpunished.

I determined to communicate further on the subject with the Vali, Galib Pasha, and I hope that your Excellency will approve of my having unofficially and confidentially placed in his hands a copy of the Memorandum in question; and of my having, at the same time, urged upon him the importance and necessity of his taking adequate steps to secure the peaceable and unresisting inhabitants of Vodina from further ill-treatment and excesses. I pointed out to him in a friendly and earnest manner how essential it is, in view of the existing situation in Macedonia, to put a stop to a state of things which will not fail to rouse feelings of indignation against the provincial administration, and be made political capital of by the enemies of this Empire. The Vali took in good part my observations and informed me that he would make arrangements to send to Vodina the Muavin, Ahmet Pasha, who acts as his assistant at Salonica, to institute an inquiry into the reported outrages with a view of discovering and punishing the guilty parties.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Memorandum regarding Outrages committed in Vodina.

(Translation.)

M. le Préfet,

Belgrade, August 12 (24), 1889.

THE village of Nissia, three hours distance from Vodina, was bought three years ago by the brothers Osman Bey and Seiffoullah Bey. These Beys are natives of

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B 2

Permet, in Epirus; the village is now the resort of marauders and assassins. Fahreddin Bey, son of the Seïffoullah Bey mentioned above, who is barely 18 years old, has been at Vodina since last winter. The misdeeds imputed to him and enumerated on the list are very correctly stated, with the exception of the ninth and twelfth, which it is difficult to verify, most of the villagers being engaged in harvesting.

As regards the affair at Tehovo, reported in the telegram addressed to the British Consulate-General, the following are the facts:—

On Saturday, the 11th instant, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Miteh's sister and Frissh's wife and daughter, whilst harvesting near the farm of Vodina, which belongs to one of the successors of Hassib Pasha, named Iffet Bey, a Miralay quartered at Laskieh, were assaulted by five of Fahreddin Bey's Albanian followers. These Albanians were guided by two Christian villagers of Nissia, who are in the service of the same Bey. Frissh's wife, in attempting to defend the young girls, was stabbed to death, and the girls were carried off and taken to the mountains. Two days afterwards these unfortunate girls were taken to Nissia, and it was only in consequence of a telegram from the Vali, informing the Kaïmakam of Vodina that the British Consul-General had called attention to this deplorable incident, that the police commenced to make inquiries.

The girls and three of the Albanians were discovered, and brought before the authorities. These girls are now at the house of the Greek Archbishop. They have been outraged in the most infamous manner. The malefactors are in prison, with the exception of two Albanians, who, it is said, cannot be found. Fahreddin Bey left Vodina for Caterina a fortnight ago, and, it is right to add, that he had already started when these crimes were committed at Tehovo. He left some thirty of his people at Vodina and in its neighbourhood, all Albanians, for whom he has procured employment with sons of Beys of the same character as himself.

One cannot be much surprised at the crimes committed by Fahreddin Bey and his followers, seeing that similar outrages have for a long time been perpetrated by the sons of Haïta Moustà Bey, as well as by some Beys at Draghman, a village in the district of Vodina.

Quite recently one of the sons of Haïta Moustà Bey, named Tewfik Bey, so oppressed and maltreated an entire village called Slatina, that twenty-five Christian families found themselves obliged to abandon their houses, and take refuge in other villages of the district. This same Tewfik Bey had the audacity to have one of these families carried off by his men and transported to his farm, where he forced them to work in the day-time and shut them up at night.

The officer commanding the troops at Salonica, in consequence of a Petition presented by one Gorgoliatios, of Carafèria (Veria), gave orders for the arrest of Tewfik Bey's men, but the Bey himself, who is the actual author of these acts of violence, continues to commit similar outrages with impunity.

In the village of Draghman there is a young man called Mehmet Bey, son of Ahmet Bey, Agent for the Forests ("Orman Meïmourî") of Vodina. This young Bey, hardly a month ago, went to the village of Soubansko, the residence of a Mudir, and carried off a Christian girl. After having outraged her he poisoned her.

The Mudir, indignant at these acts of cruelty, sent in his official Report to his Chief, the Kaïmakam of Vodina, and Mehmet Bey and the companions who had assisted him were arrested by the Kaïmakam; but seven days afterwards the Bey was walking about the town, drunk, with Kiamil Effendi, the Police Commissioner. It is said that he succeeded in regaining his liberty for the sum of 35 Turkish pounds.

Serious complaints were sent to the Vali of Salonica by respectable inhabitants of the town. His Excellency thereupon questioned the Kaïmakam on the subject on the 4th (16th) May, and the latter replied, by telegraph, on the same day, that the complaints in question were well founded.

But Kiamil Effendi still remains at his post!

It might do harm to enter into further details about the misdeeds and the unjust and oppressive acts by which the peaceable Mussulmans and Christians are tyrannized in the district of Vodina.

If the Central Government wish to know the truth, and to put a stop to a state of things which has become intolerable, they would do well to depute a honest official of high standing to institute a strict inquiry.

The principal culprits are the Albanians in Fahreddin Bey's service, or in that of his father, Seïffoullah Bey, the young Bey himself, the sons of Haïta Moustà Bey,

Hakki Bey, who lives in the village of Sebusko, Mehmet Bey, of Draghman, and other Beys in the same village.

The Minister of the Interior,
(Signed) K. S. TAUSCHANOVITCH.

No. 3.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Salonica, August 30, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this day to Sir William White relative to the claims of East Roumelia to the village of Bachovo, as being within the line of frontier which was marked out by the International Boundary Commission in 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, August 30, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th April, 1889,* relative to the frontier village of Bachovo, situate in the Rhodope, and claimed by East Roumelia, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that I have heard that an official of that Principality very recently went to that village and, after informing the Turkish authorities that he had orders to take possession of it, to levy the tithes and other taxes, and to construct a guard-house in it, civilly requested them to withdraw from the place as it was within the line of the East Roumelian frontier as laid down by the International Commission in 1879.

The Turkish authorities declined to comply with this request without instructions from the Vali of Salonica, and, after some discussion, the official in question agreed not to proceed further in the matter pending the receipt of the Vali's order. The latter, I now hear, has telegraphed to the Porte for instructions on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 4.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, August 31, 1889.

THE present unusual activity in the Servian War Department, to which the public seemed to attach exaggerated importance and which I endeavoured to explain in my despatch to your Lordship of the 5th instant,† to be only a measure resorted to by every continental country, though neglected during the past three years, has not unnaturally, after their experiences of 1885, caused the Bulgarians to take alarm, and induced them to adopt such counter-measures as are deemed necessary to guard against another surprise.

These precautions in Bulgaria have, in turn, had for effect so to alarm the Servians, that it is difficult now to tell which Government is most afraid of the other, while each, I verily believe, is unaffectedly anxious to remain at peace with its neighbour.

It is doubtless, therefore, with a view to allay this feeling of alarm and in order to avoid injury to Servian credit in foreign money markets (a danger which I have never ceased on every suitable occasion from pointing out to Servian statesmen), that the Minister of the Interior recently addressed to every Prefect a copy of the inclosed Circular, purporting to show that the steps now taken by the War Department, with regard to the reserve forces, are strictly in accordance with an existing Law, and that therefore all rumour to the contrary and of their alleged bellicose character is invented and propagated by political opponents.

* See "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 325.

† Ibid., p. 392.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Circular of the Minister of the Interior to the Prefects.

(Traduction.)

M. le Préfet,

LA Loi sur l'organisation militaire prescrit que les soldats de tous les appels (bans) soient convoqués tous les ans pour une certaine période d'exercice déterminée par la loi. Mais cette prescription de la loi qui est non seulement très nécessaire mais encore très utile n'a pas été exécutée dans les trois dernières années, de sorte que les milices nationales n'ont pas été convoquées pour l'exercice.

Afin que cette prescription de la loi puisse être exécutée conformément à la Loi sur l'organisation de l'armée, et pour que les anciennes listes tombées en désuétude à la suite de la longue non convocation et de l'observation régulière de leur contenu puissent être corrigées et complétées, le Ministre de la Guerre se conformant à la Loi sur l'organisation de l'armée a ordonné que tous ceux qui sont obligés au service militaire soient convoqués devant les autorités compétentes, que les listes militaires soient corrigées et complétées, et que l'on détermine, à tous, les services qu'ils doivent remplir suivant la loi.

Des gens inconscients et des spéculateurs politiques ont essayé au détriment de la paix et de la tranquillité publique à exploiter dans un but inavouable l'exécution de ces prescriptions de la loi, en colportant dans les peuples la nouvelle mensongère d'une guerre imaginaire, troublant et ébranlant ainsi la population dans ses travaux réguliers comme dans ses devoirs envers l'État.

Appelé à me préoccuper de la tranquillité publique et de démentir tous les bruits qui seraient de nature à troubler cette tranquillité, tout en produisant une influence préjudiciable sur les affaires sociales et celles de l'État, je vous recommande, M. le Préfet, d'agir immédiatement avec toute la sévérité de la loi envers ces inconscients et ces spéculateurs politiques, et d'exposer aux habitants de votre circonscription que dans le colportage de ces nouvelles il n'y pas la moindre vérité.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur,

(Signé)

K. S. TAUSCHANOVITCH.

Belgrade, le 12 (24) Août, 1889.

(Translation.)

M. le Préfet,

THE Law concerning military organization provides that the soldiers of all classes of the reserves shall be called out every year for a certain period of training fixed by law. But this provision of the law, which is not only very necessary but also very useful, has not been carried out during the last three years, so that the national militia has not been called out for training.

In order that this provision of the law may be put into force in conformity with the Law concerning the organization of the army, and that the old lists, which have fallen into disuse in consequence of the length of time since the reserves have been called out, and the non-observance of their contents, may be corrected and completed, the Minister of War, in conformity with the Law concerning the organization of the army, has ordered that all those who are liable to military service shall be summoned before the competent authorities, that the military lists shall be corrected and completed, and that it shall be decided what duties they should each of them perform according to the law.

Unprincipled persons and political speculators have attempted, to the detriment of public peace and tranquillity, and for objects which they would be ashamed to own, to make capital out of the fact, that the provisions of this law are to be put into execution by circulating abroad false reports of an imaginary war, thus disturbing and agitating the people both in their regular employments and in their duties towards the State.

As it is my duty to look after the maintenance of public tranquillity and to deny all rumours which may tend to disturb that tranquillity, and at the same time exercise a prejudicial influence on social life and the affairs of the State, I call upon you, M. le Préfet, to act promptly and with the utmost severity of the law against these unprincipled persons and these political speculators, and to explain to the inhabitants of your district that there is not the least truth in the reports circulated.

The Minister of the Interior,

(Signed)

K. S. TAUSCHANOVITCH.

Belgrade, August 12 (24), 1889.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Servian Army Organization Law.

(Traduction.)

ARTICLE 93. Les réservistes doivent être répartis pour l'exercice militaire avec leurs cadres permanents en unités de formation séparés, et ils doivent subir une période d'exercice, chaque année, pendant trente jours au plus. La seconde levée doit être convoquée chaque année pour une période d'exercice de quinze jours au plus.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 93. The reservists shall be distributed for military service with their permanent cadres in separate units of formation, and they shall go through a course of training every year, which shall last thirty days at the most. The second levy shall be called out every year for a course of training of a fortnight at the most.

No. 5.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 2, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the following items of military news.

In accordance with the new military Law on recruitment, which will be submitted to the approval of the Sobranje next October, the Bulgarian Government have called up the recruits, who usually only join the ranks at the end of December or beginning of January, for the 6th proximo. They amount to about 18,000.

By the adoption of this measure these recruits will have had six months' military training by the beginning of next spring instead of being a raw and almost worthless body of men.

It is also proposed to retain the time-expired soldiers in the ranks, who are usually discharged next month, till the end of the year, thus raising the existing military force to about 50,000.

The Government have ordered 33,000 Berdan rifles and 10,000,000 cartridges. The rifles are to be delivered by the 1st November, and the Contract has been taken by a Bulgarian, a Frenchman, and a Belgian. They declare they can procure the rifles in Russia through the intermediary of a Belgian house.

Preparations are being made for the mobilization in as short a time as possible in case of necessity, but no branch of the army has been actually mobilized, nor have troops been moved to the Servian frontier, as stated in the papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 6.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 2, 1889.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stamboloff states that he continues to receive very disquieting news respecting the various military measures of the Servian Government with a view to placing their army on a war footing.

He regards the calling out of the whole reserve forces of the country, the purchase of provisions and forage, the reorganization of the transport service, the repairing of the roads leading to the Bulgarian frontier, coupled with the violent articles of the Servian press against this country, as so many indications that Servia is certainly preparing for war, and that she is probably being urged to engage in hostile action against Bulgaria.

He has referred on several occasions to the disquieting news he continually received on this subject from Servia, and on each occasion I have endeavoured to assure him that his fears were not shared by those who were scarcely less interested in the maintenance of peace and good relations between the two neighbouring countries; and I have sought to impress upon him the extreme importance of not aggravating the situation by responsive military measures which would be

interpreted in Serbia as aggressive, while at the same time pointing out that it was difficult to believe that a nation seriously meditating war would adopt the military system now being introduced in Serbia.

M. Stamboloff says he is convinced that Serbia had intended to attack them if they had declared their independence on the 14th ultimo, and that the Servians counted upon success by throwing an overwhelming force into Bulgaria and seizing the capital before there was time to mobilize the Bulgarian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 7.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 2, 1889.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Stamboloff told me yesterday that M. Body, the Acting Servian Agent, had called upon him and had made the following communication under instructions from his Government.

The Servian Government gives the Bulgarian Government the most formal and categorical assurances that the reports lately circulated of hostile or aggressive intentions towards Bulgaria are unfounded; that the calling up of the reserves and other military measures are being taken solely with a view to the reorganization of a national militia in accordance with the Ministerial programme; and that if the Bulgarians think it advisable to mobilize their army such a step is certainly not necessary as far as Serbia is concerned, and must be directed against some other Power.

M. Stamboloff informed M. Body that he received with satisfaction the assurances conveyed to him on behalf of the Servian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 8.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, September 3, 1889.

AT the weekly reception on Saturday last I expressed my regrets to General Gruitch, the President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Serbo-Bulgarian newspaper war which is now waged between the two countries, who, if they understood their true interests, would rather endeavour to impress Europe with the fact of perfect agreement and consequent ability to work out their destiny and independence; and I warned his Excellency of the great odium which in the present temper of Europe would be surely incurred by that country which should first disturb the public peace.

General Gruitch replied that he was well aware how vital a point for the prosperity of Serbia was the preservation of the most friendly relations with Bulgaria and other Balkan States, and that an assurance in such sense had only a few hours before been dispatched to Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 9.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 6.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, September 3, 1889.

THE long-expected reply from the ex-Queen to the offer made to her from hence with the ex-King's concurrence that she should have access to the Palace in Belgrade if her visits to the young King took place at stated times and for limited periods, has not yet been received here, and I was informed to-day by the Secretary-General of the Department for Foreign Affairs that probably none would be received, Queen Nathalie

having repeatedly written to her private friends at Belgrade that she should make use of her rights as a Servian subject to come when she chose, to stay as long as it suited her, and to purchase or build a house here should residence in the Palace be denied to her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 10.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, September 6.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 6, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stamboloff informed me this morning, in reply to my inquiries, that orders had been issued for calling out immediately the reserves of ten regiments for a few weeks' military exercises and manœuvres.

The Government have had this measure in contemplation for some time past, as they were anxious to pass the older classes of reservists through their manœuvres and to test the efficiency of their system of mobilisation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 11.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 9.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, September 4, 1889.

REFERRING to my despatch of yesterday's date, in which I recorded the substance of a conversation some days previously with the Servian President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs on the existing newspaper war with Bulgaria, and on the very great importance that Servia should, in her own interest, endeavour to cultivate the most friendly relations with her neighbours generally, and Bulgaria in particular, I have the honour to subjoin a summary of a leading and manifestly Ministerially-inspired article which appeared yesterday in the "Correspondance Balcanique," a reputed Government organ recently started at Belgrade in the French and German languages, probably in opposition to the "Pester Lloyd," on which every one in Servia unacquainted with this vernacular has hitherto been compelled to rely for local information, which was not infrequently accompanied by disparaging comments.

"We are informed," says the article in question, "that the alarming rumours recently circulated in the press of the military preparations of the Balkan States have led to friendly assurances between M. Stamboloff and the Servian Agent at Sophia, and that this interchange of ideas was marked by that cordiality and friendship which habitually characterize the relations between these two conterminous and kindred countries.

"M. Bodi, the Diplomatic Agent of Servia, made it clear to the Bulgarian Minister that the calling out of the reserves in Servia was nothing more than what an existing Law on military organization required, as explained by the Servian Minister of the Interior in his recent Circular, and that, as the Servian Cabinet cherishes the hope of remaining on the most friendly footing with all Balkan States, the Government of Bulgaria need not, unless for other reasons, mobilize a single soldier.

"M. Stamboloff received these explanations of our Agent with the most lively satisfaction, and hastened, on his side, to give the assurance that the Government of Bulgaria does not contemplate departing in the remotest manner from that pacific policy which it has traced out for itself, not only in regard to Servia, but every other country, and that certain orders for arms and war material were only given with a view to satisfying normal requirements.

"We take note with satisfaction of the favourable impression produced by this interchange of loyal and sincere assurances between the two Governments, and we doubt not that these will lead to a strengthening of the existing bonds of union between the two countries, as well as to the removal, for the future, of all possibility of misunderstanding."

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1889.

I HAVE received Mr. Blunt's despatch of the 30th ultimo, and I approve the steps which he has taken, as reported in his despatch to your Excellency of the 29th ultimo, to bring to the notice of the Vali of Salonica the outrages which have been committed in the district of Vodina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 13.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. F. R. St. John.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 10, 1889.

YOUR despatch of the 3rd instant,* in which you report a conversation with General Gruitch on the 30th ultimo, has been received at this Office; and I have to state to you that I approve the language which you held to his Excellency as to the necessity of maintaining peaceable relations with Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 14.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, September 11.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 11, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a few days ago a printed manifesto was issued by a group of members of the Zankoffist party, reminding Bulgarians that to-day being the "Fête Onomastique" of the Liberator Czar Alexander the Second, it behoved them to solemnize the occasion by Church services throughout the country; moreover, the Municipality of Samara in Russia having the intention to unveil on that day a memorial statue to the memory of the late Czar, one of the groups on which represented "Bulgaria in the chains of slavery praying to Heaven for deliverance, and thus impersonating the idea of the liberation of all Slavs," it was a sacred duty for all the Municipalities of Bulgaria to send congratulatory messages to the Mayor of Samara, especially as that town had at the commencement of the late Russo-Turkish war presented the Bulgarian Legionaries with a flag, still preserved in the Palace at Sophia.

This Proclamation, signed by a certain P. Stanchoff, was widely circulated and would no doubt have produced a manifestation, but that the Government decided upon taking prompt measures to prevent such an occurrence. Accordingly, the ten leaders of the movement were last night arrested and detained in custody until this afternoon, when, there being no longer any reason to apprehend disturbances, they were released.

Notwithstanding these steps on the part of the Government, I understand that a number of Zankoffists formed a procession which proceeded to the Russian memorial obelisk situated at the entrance to the town, where they deposited a wreath of flowers. This was, however, at once removed by the police, who had followed the procession, and no further incident took place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Connor.

Sir

Foreign Office, September 12, 1889.

IN your despatch of the 2nd instant, you state that M. Stamboloff has referred on several occasions to the military preparations in Servia, and that you have

* No. 8.

constantly endeavoured to reassure his Excellency by pointing out to him that his fears are not shared by other interested parties, and that the very nature of the new military system in Servia renders it improbable that serious operations are contemplated.

I approve the language which you have employed and the efforts you have made to deter the Bulgarian Government from taking any action which might appear aggressive towards Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 8, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Stamboloff told me yesterday that from motives of economy, as well as from a desire to prevent undue importance being attached to the mobilization of the reserves, the Minister of War had decided to call out only the reserves of seven instead of ten regiments, as previously stated.

M. Stambouloff said that they had avoided for political reasons calling out the reserves in districts close to the Servian frontier, and that Vratza was the nearest military district to Servia in which the reserves would be mobilized, the other districts being Eski Zagra, Rahovo, Tirново, Sevlievo, Philippopoli, and Plevna.

He also stated that the recruits of 1887, amounting to 15,000, whose two years' service expires on the 15th instant, will be disbanded. But as the recruits of the current year are being called up on the same day, the entire force of the standing army during the period of military exercises will amount to about 60,000 troops of all arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 17.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 16.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 12, 1889.

SO much excitement has been caused throughout the country by the hurried calling up of the reserves, reported in my despatch of the 6th instant, that I do not like to pass over in complete silence the various rumours which reach me from Philippopoli, or are current here.

From Philippopoli I hear that the extraordinary haste and energy with which the mobilization was effected at a particularly inconvenient season, the purchase of horses in large numbers and at high prices, the calling out of civilian doctors as military surgeons, the getting ready of ambulances, and the general lavish expenditure of money as if for an immediate campaign, have given rise to a general belief that some serious political movement is on foot, or that the country is in danger of an attack from Servia.

Those of the former opinion maintain that the reservists have been convoked in order to cover a movement in favour of a declaration of independence on the 18th instant, the anniversary of the union with Eastern Roumelia, that shall appear as the irresistible current of public opinion, against which the Government cannot struggle.

In Sophia, the danger of a sudden attack from Servia, whose military preparations are viewed with unfeigned distrust, is still a source of great anxiety to the Government. Reports are constantly received of the concentration of troops towards the Bulgarian frontier, the retention in the ranks of reservists whose time has expired, the transmission of arms by the Russian Danube Steam-ship Company, and the efforts of well-known Pan Slavists and Bulgarian refugees to embark Servia in perilous enterprises against this country.

With regard to the reports respecting the Proclamation of Independence, I feel morally certain that they are without serious foundation, and merely the result of an excited state of public feeling, provoked in great measure by the hasty and injudicious manner in which the reserves were called up. I am also convinced that, without the approval and co-operation of M. Stambouloff, no movement of the sort is under present

circumstances possible; and I have received from his Excellency within the last two days the most formal and categorical denial of these reports. The Opposition has undoubtedly helped to propagate and magnify them for its own purposes.

If the Servian Government continues to keep under arms the various classes of reservists beyond the normal period, while at the same time calling up others, I fear the Bulgarians will think themselves constrained to mobilize the army in the military districts adjoining the Servian frontier—a step which, as your Lordship is already aware, they have recently refrained from taking solely on political grounds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 18.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 20.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, September 16, 1889.

I QUESTIONED to-day the Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the reports in the newspapers of the expected arrival in this country of a large number of Montenegrin families, and I asked whether the political importance attached in some quarters to the event was in any way justified.

His Excellency replied that this question (which I learnt in another quarter to have been the real object of the Prince of Montenegro's visit to St. Petersburg, with a view to obtaining the Czar's assistance) had been first broached by His Highness in conversation with the Representative of Servia in Russia, and subsequently embodied in a formal request from Cetinje that the Servian Government would allow some hundreds of families to settle in Servia for the coming winter only, and thus diminish the number of those whom it will be necessary to relieve at home.

Past experience has, however, not encouraged the Servian Government to lend a willing ear to such schemes, and I understood General Gruitch to say, that however much he and his colleagues deplored the dismal outlook in Montenegro, it was impossible, in presence of a poor harvest in Servia, to throw such an additional burden on the country as the maintenance, possibly of thousands, of destitute Montenegrin families would involve; but, continued his Excellency, if the Government of Montenegro will undertake to send only adults, able to work for their living, the Government of Servia, who have plenty of spare land, will place some of it at the disposal of any such able-bodied immigrants as may be willing to settle permanently and adopt Servian nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 19.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, September 23.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, September 22, 1889.

VARIOUS reports have been circulated here on the subject of the intentions of Bulgaria, and these have naturally produced a fear that some precipitate action may be taken at Sophia.

To avoid such a contingency, the Ottoman Government has had under consideration several projects with a view to establish more correct relations between the vassal Principality and the Suzerain Power, but none of them have as yet got so far as to insure adoption by the Porte, and it is much more likely that the policy of hesitation will go on for some time yet, and that nothing definite will be decided upon.

No. 20.

Vice-Consul Lamb to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord,

Cetinje, September 23, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of an article published in the "Correspondance Balkanique" of Belgrade and reproduced in yesterday's issue of the "Glas Tzernagortza," relative to the emigration of pauper Montenegrins into Servia.

Considering that two years ago, under exactly similar circumstances, the Servian Government of that day sternly closed its frontier to the starving Montenegrin immigrants and threw them back upon the charity of the Austrian authorities in the occupied provinces, the "praiseworthy alacrity" with which the present Rulers of Servia have recognized "how deeply the nation sympathizes with the distress from which its brethren in Montenegro are suffering," and "impelled by the sentiment of unity which binds the two States" have "discharged a national duty" in assigning lands to the new comers is highly significant of the changed relations resulting from the accession of the Radicals to power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY H. LAMB.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Extract from the "Glas Tzernagortza" of September 10 (22), 1889.

(Translation.)

THE "Correspondance Balkanique," of Belgrade, which is thought to be the semi-official organ of the present Government of Servia, contains the following article in its impression of the 1st (13th) September:—

The dearth prevailing in Montenegro has obliged the authorities in Cettigne to address themselves to our Government with the request that it would permit a certain number of the very poorest Montenegrin families to emigrate into Servia.

The Servian Government, well knowing how deeply the nation sympathizes with the distress from which our brethren in Montenegro are suffering, and impelled by the sentiment of unity which binds the two States, hastened to reply that it was ready to satisfy, to the fullest possible extent, the wishes expressed by the Government of the Principality.

It immediately took the necessary measures, and has arranged all the details of the immigration, designating the locality for the settlement, selecting the lands, &c.

In manifesting this praiseworthy alacrity, our Government has discharged a national duty. The Montenegrins will, no doubt, demonstrate their satisfaction at this fresh confirmation of friendship, and we are convinced that by this means the cordial relations existing between the two States will become, if that be possible, yet more intimate. We trust, moreover, that this proof of unity, which the Belgrade Government has given, will bring forth good fruit in every Serb land, and strengthen the feeling that all Serbs ought to hold out the hand to one another to protect each other from all trouble and oppression, and that no person on earth is able to arouse strife and discord within the Serb nation.

No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 1.)

My Lord,

Salonica, September 26, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my despatch of this day to Sir William White, relative to the exaggerated statement published in the "Correspondance de l'Est," and reproduced in the "Times" of the 20th instant, on the condition of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, September 26, 1889.

WITH reference to the letter from Monastir recently published in the "Correspondance de l'Est," and the substance of which is reproduced in the "Times" of the 20th instant, relative to the alleged murder and robbery of 200 persons in Macedonia

within the last two months, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that this statement is most grossly exaggerated.

With regard to the vilayet of Monastir, I have this morning been assured by a Greek gentleman of that place who arrived here two days ago from there, that the whole province continues to be quiet, a few isolated cases of robbery and only three murders having been perpetrated in it within the last three or four months. Of the three persons murdered one was a Bulgarian and the other two Turks. The Bulgarian was a native of the village of Smilievo, four hours from Monastir, and chief of the Fakhry (volunteer) police of the village, which was organized by the late Vali, Rifaat Pasha. He had been instrumental in the capture and destruction of some Albanian brigands, and shortly after the Pasha's recall he was waylaid and murdered by their confederates. One of the Turks was from the village of Farlesh, in the district of Gratzko, and had robbed and murdered about a year ago a certain Kapka, a Bulgarian cattle-dealer of Perlépé. He was murdered on the 19th instant by some Bulgarians of the same village, secretly employed for the purpose by the son of Kapka. The other was murdered by Turks four weeks ago in the village of Gornitzovo.

Of the two notorious brigands named in the letter published in the "Correspondance de l'Est," one was killed with his son about two years ago, shortly after Rifaat Pasha assumed the administration of the province. He was an Albanian of the village of Opar, in the district of Colonia. He had committed a great number of murders and robberies, selecting the leading Christian peasants for victims. He also used to allure Bulgarian girls, forcibly converting them to Mahommedanism.

The other brigand, also an Albanian from the same district, gave himself up more than two years ago to the authorities of Giardja (Korytza) and was pardoned through the influence of Alie Bey, a powerful Albanian Chief in the vilayet of Monastir.

If any serious outrages had occurred within the last few months in the vilayet of Monastir, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul there would not have failed to report them.

With the exception of some cattle-raids on the frontier of Servia and the usual intermittent tribal feuds in the Albanian districts of Ipek, Takova, and Gussinje, the other districts included in the vilayet of Cossovo have, on the whole, suffered less than formerly from brigandage and other lawless acts, nor have I heard of any serious occurrences there since I was at Uskup in July last.

With the exception of a Greek priest shot six weeks ago, the two districts of Cattarina and Caraferia, in the vilayet of Salonica, which used to be overrun and desolated by brigands in former years, have been entirely free from these pests during the whole of this summer, thanks to the vigilant action of the Turkish and Greek frontier troops.

In the district of Cassandra about two months ago, a band of brigands, which is supposed to have been organized in Greece, landed there and captured a Turkish landowner and held him to ransom; but the Turkish troops, assisted by the Christian peasants, eventually succeeded in rescuing the captive, after killing two, and capturing one, of the brigands.

The most recent information which I have received from the British Vice-Consuls at Cavalta, Serres, and Drama, shows that these districts are also free from brigands.

On the other hand, a good deal of lawlessness still exists in the districts of Ghevgheli, Tikvish, and Kiuprulu, in the Sandjak of Salonica. Brigands are about, and some seven or eight persons have been murdered and other excesses committed there within the last few months. Major-General Shevki Pasha has been recently sent to Kiuprulu to take the direction of police measures against these disorders.

With the exception of the above three districts and the district of Vodnia, on the condition of which I have already reported to your Excellency in my despatches dated the 26th, 29th, and 30th August respectively, I have great pleasure in reporting that the present and recent state of public security in Macedonia compared with that of last year has sensibly improved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 28, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stamboloff lately told me that he had received very satisfactory assurances from M. Djuvara, the Roumanian Agent and Consul-General here, who had just returned from Bucharest, as to the friendly policy of the Roumanian Government towards this country, as well as towards the existing régime. These assurances, M. Stamboloff said, gave him especial satisfaction, inasmuch as they coincided with the reports which he had himself received from Bucharest, and were supported by the desire of the Roumanian Government to conclude a Commercial Convention. On his part, he would endeavour to draw closer the ties of amity and good feeling between two countries who had no rival interests, and whose political existence was threatened by a common danger.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Sophia, September 29, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Graves, giving further details respecting the calling out of the Reserves and the effect upon public opinion in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Graves to Mr. O'Conor.

Sir,

Philippopoli, September 24, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report the following particulars as to the calling out of the Reserves in this district.

The telegraphic orders received here on the 5th instant for all the classes of reserve soldiers to join their respective depôts within twenty-four hours came as a complete surprise, and though the printed notices issued by the Prefect stated that the Reserves were called out for a four weeks' training, it was at first supposed that the measure had been rendered necessary by the occurrence of some alarming incident on the Servian frontier, and this supposition seemed to be confirmed by the energy with which the necessary preparations for enabling the mobilized regiments to take the field were made. Horses were bought, provisions accumulated, and clothing ordered to complete the insufficient quantity in stock, while the recruits of the levy of 1890 have been enrolled at once, though it had not been intended that they should join the colours before the month of October at earliest.

The effect upon local agriculture and commerce could not fail to be serious. The removal in the middle of harvest operations of so large a number of able-bodied workers had been very severely felt, and if open expressions of discontent are rare, it is because the peasantry are convinced that the step taken has been dictated by some national emergency.

At the same time, there has been an almost total suspension of activity in business circles, except in connection with military supply. This is the season of the great fairs in the country towns, when the retail traders make up their winter stocks; but I am assured by local wholesale merchants that since the news of the mobilization the discount of 1 per cent. usually reckoned in these transactions has risen to 1½ per cent., and that little or no business has been done at this rate.

After it became clear that no immediate danger was to be apprehended from Servia, some other explanation of these extensive military preparations was sought for, as few were ready to admit that they could have been undertaken at so unfavourable

a moment and on so large a scale, merely for the purpose of testing the military organization of the country. The conclusion generally arrived at was, that the agitation of the month of August in favour of the Proclamation of Bulgarian Independence was about to bear its fruit, but this idea, though widely prevalent at Philippopoli, met with nothing but discouragement and contradiction in official quarters, and after the 18th September, the anniversary of the Union, had passed without any demonstration, it dropped into the background again for the time being.

At present, all the military officers of weight and standing, and most of the intelligent civilians, appear to be of opinion that the mobilization of an important fraction of the army has been ordered by the Bulgarian Government, after due consideration, as a step which has been rendered imperatively necessary by previous warlike preparations of the same kind in Serbia, and that the burden of armament must be borne until the mobilized portion of the Servian forces returns to a peace footing. At the same time, they admit that political exigencies might possibly force on a declaration of Independence, in which case they profess to believe that, as in 1885, Serbia alone would actively interfere to prevent the realization of their aspirations, which they would be prepared to defend with the sword.

The troops mobilized in this district consist of the 9th, 12th, 21st, 22nd, and 24th Infantry Regiments, the 3rd and 6th Artillery Regiments, and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Of these the Infantry Regiments were practically complete, and had begun the field training of their reserve battalions within six days. The process of mobilizing the artillery and cavalry reserves has been much slower, owing to the deficiency of horses, and this cause will militate against the carrying out of the reported project of forming another artillery regiment with the reserve soldiers. The camp of exercise at Carlovo was to have been broken up on the 12th instant, but, as yet, only the 9th Infantry Regiment and one battery of the 3rd Artillery Regiment have returned to Philippopoli, Colonel Nicolaieff and staff remaining at Carlovo until further orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. W. GRAVES.

No. 24.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, September 30, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here yesterday, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, of ex-Queen Nathalie of Servia.

The day being Sunday, and the weather very fine, Her Majesty's special steamer, as it slowly ascended the Danube, was long watched from the eastern slope of the town by a vast multitude, who, on the vessel rounding the point at the junction of the two rivers, proceeded in large masses down the opposite slope which leads to the landing place on the Save and faces west.

Here it was observed that no one representing the Government was present, but that a private carriage awaited with a coachman and footman dressed in Court livery for the occasion; and I am told that since the late Prince Michael's return from Constantinople in 1867, after obtaining the Sultan's surrender of the Fortress of Belgrade, no such ovation has been witnessed here as that which has just been offered to Queen Nathalie.

When the carriage, accompanied by a vast crowd, was slowly ascending the steep hill which leads to the main street running along the whole length of the town, a short stoppage was made in front of the Cathedral, as though it had been intended that the Queen should enter, but after apparently a consultation, during which the people were getting every moment more excited, the carriage proceeded, with some difficulty, to the top, where, by starting off at full trot, it shook them off, rapidly passed in front of the Palace gates, which were closed, and thus enabled the Queen to reach her small suburban residence almost alone.

No. 25.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, October 1, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report that the general election of members to the Skuptchina, which is to open on the 13th instant, has just terminated in the unprecedented success to the Radicals of 102 out of a total Chamber of 117, thus leaving only fifteen votes to the Liberals, and the Progressist party entirely unrepresented.

I am informed that on no previous occasion in Servia has a general election been conducted so fairly by those at the time in power, and never before has such an occurrence been marked by a like absence of disorder.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 26.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, October 1, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to state, in continuation of my despatch of yesterday's date, that I called to-day at the Department of Foreign Affairs, but only learnt that the Minister was attending a Cabinet Council, and the Secretary-General of the Department was absent in consequence of illness.

It appears certain, however, that Queen Nathalie has not yet been permitted either to enter the Palace or to receive a visit from her son, for the reason that she has up to now declined to accept the conditions imposed by King Milan, in virtue of his alleged constitutional rights as guardian, that neither parent should visit the young King at Belgrade for longer than three weeks twice a-year.

No. 27.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, October 2, 1889.

IN the absence of M. de Giers, the Corps Diplomatique was received this day by M. Vlangaly.

In the course of conversation I asked his Excellency what truth there was in the newspaper reports of a Turkish Circular with reference to Bulgaria which had been very summarily put a stop to by M. Nélidoff.

His Excellency said he believed, though, as he had not received any recent reports from the Embassy at Constantinople, he had no details, that the state of the case was something of this kind:—

The Sultan had been advised (his Excellency did not say by whom) to clear up the Bulgarian situation by recognizing Prince Ferdinand, and it had been pointed out to him on the Russian side that as by the Treaty of Berlin the consent of all the Powers was required to give a legal status to the Ruler of Bulgaria, and as Russia never would give that consent to Prince Ferdinand, recognition by the Porte, or any other Power or Powers, would leave the illegal status just where it was, and only aggravate the political confusion. Under no conceivable circumstances would Russia ever recognize Prince Ferdinand.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 28.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, October 3, 1889.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 1st instant, transmitting to your Lordship the general result of the recent elections, I have now the honour to inclose a

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more detailed account, by which it will be seen how decisive has been the Radical victory throughout the country; for not only has the number of the returned Radical Members to the Skuptchina, when compared with their Liberal opponents, been as six to one, but it is shown that the number of rural voting electors, who brought about such a result, were, when compared with their opponents, as eight to one.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Extract from the "Odjek" of September 20 (October 2), 1889.

(Translation.)

NUMBER of Votes recorded at the General Election on September 14 (26), 1889.

1.—DEPARTMENTS.

	Radical Votes.	Liberal Votes.	Neutral Votes.	Total.
1. Valjevo	13,540	1,589	..	15,129
2. Uschitza	7,819	414	..	8,233
3. Kragujevatz	10,818	1,553	..	12,351
4. Belgrad	5,298	1,695	..	6,993
5. Semendria	7,019	1,056	..	8,087
6. Chupria	14,694	1,057	..	15,751
7. Krain	8,650	1,542	..	10,192
8. Knazevatz	11,648	567	..	12,216
9. Pirot	5,412	622	..	6,049
10. Vranja	11,248	1,404	..	12,648
11. Pozarévatz	11,382	1,902	..	13,284
12. Chachak	10,433	1,145	..	11,578
13. Schabatz	8,917	2,027	..	10,944
14. Kruschevatz	14,323	1,072	..	15,395
15. Nisch	11,614	674	..	12,288
Total	152,815	18,299		171,138

2.—TOWNS.

All towns, including the boroughs of Dobrina and Takovo	6,041	3,530	24	9,595
Total	158,856	21,829		180,733

No. 29.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, October 9.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 9, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a Proclamation, dated the 8th instant, announcing that His Royal Highness, being about to leave the country for a short period, appoints M. Stamboloff his Lieutenant, and invests him with the government of the country during his absence.

His Royal Highness left so suddenly by the Orient express on the same day that the Proclamation was only published the following afternoon.

His Royal Highness is expected back on the 24th instant, so as to be here for the opening of the Sobranjé on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Proclamation by Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

Proclamation to our beloved people.

AS we are proceeding for a few days beyond the boundaries of our Principality, with a view to meeting our most august mother, Her Royal Highness the Princess

Clementine of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and certain near relations of ours, in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution, we appoint as our Lieutenant, and invest with the government of the country during our absence, our Minister of the Interior and President of the Council of Ministers, M. S. Stamboloff, and hereby inform our beloved people of the same.

Given at our Court at Sophia, this 26th September (8th October, 1889).

(Signed) FERDINAND.

No. 30.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 6, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th September, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stamboloff told me this morning that the Reserves called out on the 6th ultimo for a month's military exercises would now be disbanded forthwith, and that the recruits who had completed their two years' military service would also be sent home.

M. Stamboloff added that the Minister of War expressed himself as very satisfied with the result of the test to which the military organization had been put, and assured him that it would be possible to mobilize the whole Bulgarian army within the space of ten days. He thought that, in view of this assurance, it might not be necessary to call out other Reserves, even though the military exercises in Servia were resumed this month, though it would, of course, be his duty to watch very carefully the military proceedings there, and to be ultimately guided in his decision by the reasons dictated by the military interests of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 31.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)*

My Lord,

Salonica, October 5, 1889.

THE Bulgarian frontier authorities have made an important capture. On the 3rd instant, they surrounded and succeeded in seizing alive the brigand Chief, Donche Sladko, who has committed serious misdeeds on both sides of the frontier, with two of his confederates, Kotreli and Yannaki. The Natchalnik of Dubnitsa, in officially informing the Kaimakam of Djuma of this capture, has begged him to send any people having grievances against these brigands to Dubnitsa to assist at their trial.

With reference to my Report of the 26th ultimo, on the state of public security in Macedonia, Sheoki Pasha reports that the police in Kiuprulu have pursued and killed a Turkish brigand who used to ravage the villages in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 32.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, October 13, 1889.

GENERAL GRUITCH informed me yesterday, at his weekly reception, that King Alexander had on that day visited his mother by permission of his father, and that His Majesty had remained two whole hours, of which one was spent quite alone with his mother.

I understood General Grutch to say that the permission thus given by the ex-King was for this one visit only, but that he thought if the ex-Queen abstained from interfering either in politics or in the education of the young King, such permission would be often renewed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 14, 1889.

THE extreme secrecy observed with regard to Prince Ferdinand's intention of leaving Sophia on the 8th instant on a visit to his family not unnaturally encouraged the activity of the Zankoffist party in spreading false reports on the subject, which have been loudly re-echoed by the political refugees congregated in Servia. Deceived by these rumours, M. D. Zankoff has just written to M. Stamboloff, advising him to take advantage of Prince Ferdinand's absence from the country to make terms with Russia, and urging upon his Excellency the advisability of giving in his adherence to the Russian programme indirectly communicated to the Government early in 1888, the principal conditions of which were:—

1. The deposition or withdrawal of Prince Ferdinand.
2. The sending of a deputation to St. Petersburg as an *amende honorable*.
3. The renewal of friendly diplomatic relations with Russia.
4. The dissolution of the present Sobranjé and the election of a new Chamber, which should elect a new candidate for the throne, not of the Roman Catholic religion.

M. D. Zankoff requests, at the same time, permission to return to Bulgaria, but I understand M. Stamboloff does not propose to return any answer to M. Zankoff's communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 34.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, October 14, 1889.

I HAVE just learnt that M. Sallabasheff, the Minister of Finance, has concluded a loan of 1,000,000*l.* (25,000,000 fr.) with the Länder Bank of Vienna, upon the following conditions:—

Issue price 85, with 6 per cent. interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund; 400,000*l.* (10,000,000 fr.) to be paid over at once, and the remainder in sums of 200,000*l.* (5,000,000 fr.) at intervals of six months at the option of the Bulgarian Government.

These conditions are, in fact, very similar to those mentioned in the agreement between the Bulgarian Government and Mr. Clergue.

No. 35.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 15, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd September, in which I informed your Lordship that the Bulgarian Government had ordered 33,000 Berdan rifles from a financial Syndicate, I have now the honour to state that the contractors have declared their inability to make delivery on the 1st November, and have applied for a prolongation of the term to the 1st January.

Suspecting that the Syndicate, owing to political considerations, will be unable to deliver the rifles at the later date, the Bulgarian Government have denounced the contract, and confiscated the caution-money of 1,600*l.* (40,000 fr.) deposited in due fulfilment of the contract; 5,000,000 Berdan cartridges are, however, already on their way to Sophia from Austria, so that the Government will at any rate have sufficient cartridges for the Berdan rifles already in their possession.

I understand that the present idea is to purchase 100,000 rifles in Austria, of the Männlicher system, 11 millim., and that advantageous conditions of purchase have been proposed by the manufacturers.

I will report to your Lordship in due course the result of the present negotiations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord,

Salonica, October 15, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of my despatch of this date to Sir William White on the state of things on the Turco-Bulgarian frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, October 15, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that tranquillity continues to prevail all along the Turco-Bulgarian boundary.

The Natchalnik of Kustendil, during his recent inspection of the Bulgarian frontier stations, complimented the Turkish civil and military authorities of Djuma-bala on the measures adopted by them towards insuring order and security on their side of the frontier; and I should add that about two or three months ago the Bulgarian Government forwarded a gold snuff-box to Izzet Bey, the Kaimakam of Djuma-bala, accompanied with a letter expressing their high sense and appreciation of the valuable assistance which he and his subordinates have rendered to the Bulgarian police.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 37.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord,

Vienna, October 23, 1889.

COUNT KÁLNOKY, whom I saw yesterday at his usual weekly reception, told me he had every reason to be satisfied with his conversation with the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has lately paid a visit to Vienna.

Without entering into particulars of their interviews, his Excellency informed me that everything that had been said by M. Lahovary respecting the policy of the present Roumanian Cabinet had been perfectly correct; the general purport of it being that, although there had been a change of Government, there had been no change of policy; that the Catargi Cabinet would continue to govern the country in the interest of Roumania itself; that it was their anxious wish and firm determination to cultivate the most friendly understanding with this Empire, and to uphold the independence of their country in regard to its foreign relations, in which wish and determination they had the hearty support of the great majority of their countrymen.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)

My Lord,

Salonica, October 22, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report which Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Monastir has, at my request, drawn up relative to the acts of brigandage referred to in the "Times" of the 6th August last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, September 28, 1889.

IN reply to your despatch of the 14th August last, containing an extract from the "Times" of the 6th August on the subject of the capture by brigands of a certain Simon Naum at Vlaho-Klissura, under somewhat extraordinary circumstances, I have the honour to transmit to you the following details which I have obtained respecting the above occurrence.

In the main I find that the facts as given by the "Times" are, with certain exceptions, correct. It appears that on the 27th April last the house temporarily inhabited by Simon Cotta (not "Naum" as given in the "Times"), at Vlaho-Klissura, and of which he was at the time the sole occupant, was entered at about 10 o'clock at night by three persons disguised and armed with revolvers and knives. Cotta, who appears to have been thoroughly cowed by the three brigands, was carried off by them to the Monastery of Cyrilovo, some two and a-half hours distant from Klissura, and of which the Archimandrite Gregory, whose name was so prominently brought forward in the "Times," is the Superior. Here he was kept for two days, and was then conveyed to Castoria, a small town distant from the monastery about an hour and a half, and which, it may be noted, was the actual residence of Cotta's mother. In Castoria he was, it appears, successfully concealed by the brigands for no less than ten weeks, either in their own houses or in those which had been placed at their disposal by their confederates; and that the secret was well kept is shown by the fact that, during that period, all trace of his whereabouts appears to have been completely lost. After a short time negotiations were opened by the brigands with Cotta's friends for his release, but by whom, and in what manner, these negotiations were conducted, I have as yet not succeeded in ascertaining. The sum, however, at first demanded was, I learn, 1,000 Turkish liras, which Cotta's friends ultimately succeeded in reducing to 500. Of these, 300 were forthcoming at once, the stipulation having, however, first been made that satisfactory proof should be given that Cotta was still alive. This was agreed to by the brigands, and a place was accordingly fixed upon at about an hour and a-half's distance from the town where a personal friend of Cotta's was to be allowed to exchange greetings with the captive, and thus satisfy himself as to his identity. This it seems was done, and the money paid over accordingly.

At length, in the latter part of July, rather more than ten weeks, therefore, after Cotta had been originally kidnapped, his friends announced to the representatives of the brigands that the remaining instalment of 200 liras was ready, and would be paid under the same conditions as before. The Castoria authorities, however, appear to have at last become aware that something unusual was going on in the town, and, as a measure of precaution, had forbidden all approach by water between the hours of sunset and sunrise. As Castoria is built upon the extreme end of a promontory jutting out into the lake of that name, the only means left to the brigands of conveying their prisoner to the place of meeting was by the exceedingly narrow strip of land which connects the town with the mainland.

The prisoner was accordingly blindfolded, gagged, and bound, and in this manner conducted through the streets at midnight by two of the confederates, who it appears were considered sufficient to guard against any attempt on Cotta's part to escape. On arriving at the narrow strip of land above mentioned, and when barely outside the town, the two brigands turned aside into a field adjoining the roadway to gather some melons, and were at once hailed by the watchman in charge. The brigands, fearing a surprise, fired upon and killed the watchman, and wounded his companion as the latter came running up to render assistance, and whom it is supposed they mistook in the obscurity for their prisoner. They then, it appears, took to flight, as the patrol, attracted by the firing, was by this time rapidly approaching. Cotta, whilst the above was going on, had the presence of mind to throw himself down among the melons, where he was subsequently found and rescued by the guard.

The above story, the accuracy of which is vouched for by facts which have subsequently come to light, can scarcely be said to speak well for the vigilance of the Castoria authorities. Suspicions are not wanting that certain of the latter were not altogether ignorant of the proceedings of the brigands, and in face of the fact that Castoria is a town of at the outside 7,000 inhabitants, it would be difficult to say that these suspicions are not to a certain extent justifiable. In justice to the authorities, however, it should be pointed out that the persons implicated in the affair have been

found to occupy positions which would divert all suspicion of their being engaged in practices such as the foregoing. Thus no little scandal was caused by the discovery in a disused well of a house belonging to a lady of good social position, and sister-in-law of a well-known and highly-respected merchant of Monastir, of a quantity of miscellaneous objects, all evidently stolen, and which proved conclusively that the band must have been carrying on its operations for some years past, robbing and pilfering with almost complete immunity.

Against the Greek priest Gregory the most suspicious circumstance would appear to be the loan of his monastery for two days to the brigands when Cotta was originally captured. It should also be pointed out that certain of these monasteries, especially those to the south of Castoria, have in recent years acquired anything but an enviable reputation on account of their connection with the various bands of brigands, political or otherwise, which are continually making their appearance in those regions, and if Cotta's statement be true, the number of the latter should be further augmented by the addition of the Monastery of Cyrilovo.

Some fifteen arrests have been made by the Castoria authorities, among which it is satisfactory to note are the two brigands responsible for the death of the watchman on the night of Cotta's escape. An official inquiry into the matter, conducted by the Procureur of the vilayet, has been opened, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the social position of the persons implicated may not be allowed to interfere with the due course of justice. An exemplary punishment, such as the exile of those who may be found guilty, would put a stop to such practices in Castoria, at any rate for some time to come.

I beg to return herewith, as requested, the extract from the "Times."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Extract from the "Times" of August 6, 1889.

BRIGANDAGE IN MACEDONIA.

Vienna, August 5, 1889.

THE "Correspondance de l'Est" publishes an astonishing letter from Monastir, in which it is stated that brigandage has been carried on for some months in Macedonia, by a band which had for its confederates several priests, a Greek Archimandrite, the Superior of a monastery, and three "ladies." The letter declares that three months ago a Servian named Simo Naum, living at Vlaco Clisura, was kidnapped in his own house and carried off to Castoria, where he was confined for ten weeks in the house of a Greek priest, which stood close to the Imperial Gendarmerie. The brigands demanded £ T. 1,500 for the man's ransom, and all the negotiations with the prisoner's relatives were conducted on behalf of the brigands by Archimandrite Gregory, Superior of the Monastery of Tjerilovo. This holy man received £ T. 300 from Simo Naum's friends, and was holding out for more, when two of Simo's captors, on perpetrating a fresh act of brigandage, were shot. A third escaped, but was followed to his residence, and this led to the release of Simo and the arrest of the whole band of brigands, including the three "ladies" and the Archimandrite.

No. 39.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, October 27, 1889.

I ALLUDED, in my despatch to your Lordship of the 27th April last,* to the entire independence from lay interference, even on purely administrative and non-dogmatic points, which Metropolitan Michael claimed for himself and his Church in 1881; and, while recalling to your Lordship's recollection the circumstances under which that prelate was relieved of his functions, and his self-imposed exile since 1883 in consequence, I adverted to his reported intention of employing his time, after returning to Servia and before the meeting of the Skuptchina, in the preparation for the approval of that body of a Project of Ecclesiastical Law more in consonance with his well-known views.

* See "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 333.

I now learn, on excellent authority, that a proposal in such sense was, a few days ago, submitted privately to members of the Chamber, but that it met with such general and unqualified condemnation at their hands that the Metropolitan has deemed it expedient to withdraw it, and to abandon his scheme altogether for the present.

I may mention, as a matter not altogether unconnected with the subject, that at a sitting of the Chamber two days ago, the Liberal Opposition taunted the Radical majority for their newly-acquired Austrophil tendencies, and that these retorted in the sense that it was only through intellectual obtuseness that their opponents were unable to see the paramount advantage of living on friendly terms with a powerful and conterminous neighbour.

No. 40.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord,

Sophia, October 28, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the amount of the loan concluded by the Bulgarian Government with the Länder Bank of Vienna is 1,200,000*l.* (30,000,000 fr.), instead of 1,000,000*l.* (25,000,000 fr.), and that the Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel Railway, as also the Yamboli-Bourgas line now in course of construction, have been pledged as security.

I understand that a part of the loan has been taken by some German banks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 41.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, November 3.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, November 3, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Ferdinand returned to Sophia this morning.

His Royal Highness opened the third Session of the fifth Sobranjé in person this afternoon, and read the Speech from the Throne. The Speech calls attention to the very notable fact, that this is the first time since 1878 that a National Assembly has entered upon its third regular Session, thus completing the full period for which its members are elected.

No. 42.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, October 31, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a printed French translation of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne delivered at the formal opening of the present Session of the Servian Parliament.

This Address, which in its general sense is only a paraphrase of what it affects to answer, contains, however, two clauses of exceptional importance: these I have marked, and I beg to call your Lordship's attention to them; the one as being directed against the ruinous system of policy pursued by the late régime, for which King Milan is by implication somewhat ungratefully held responsible; the other as indicating in very unmistakable terms the Chamber's approval of the desire expressed in the message to cultivate the best relations with all countries, and with neighbours in particular; a passage which was in debate attacked with some vehemence by a few irreconcilables, who pretended to discover in it a symptom of ultra-Austrophilism, but which was strongly defended by several members of the Government, and with especial force by M. Tauschanovitch, the Minister of the Interior, who spoke with crushing effect of that "spurious patriotism which prompts some Serbs to desire to see their country on any but the most friendly terms with a powerful and conterminous neighbour."

Inclosure in No. 42.

Extracts from the Address of the National Skoupchtina in reply to the Speech from the Throne of the Royal Regency.

(Traduction.)

APRÈS de longues lutttes Constitutionnelles, le peuple Serbe a réussi à faire triompher ses droits. La résistance persévérante de l'esprit national a combattu une politique *liberticide*, contraire aux aspirations de la nation Serbe, et a délivré le pays d'un régime qui a fait reculer la Serbie, en arrière au point de vue économique, qui l'a surchargée de lourdes et inutiles dettes, qui a compromis sa dignité et enfin qui a ébranlé, dans ses bases, l'organisme de l'État.

Messieurs les Régents Royaux,

La Représentation Nationale a appris avec un véritable satisfaction que nos rapports aussi bien avec les États voisins qu'avec les autres États, sont à tous égards favorables et amicaux, et que le Gouvernement a réussi non seulement à conserver les amitiés acquises, mais même à les compléter par de nouvelles et précieuses acquisitions.

Et nous avons été particulièrement touchés par le passage du discours du Trône où il est dit que la Régence et le Gouvernement sont animés du désir de cultiver la paix et la concorde dans la presqu'île des Balkans, d'un commun accord avec les autres États de la Péninsule et de soigner le développement autonome des peuples Balkaniques.

Nous espérons que cette politique féconde portera ses fruits, et trouvera son écho auprès de tous les États Balkaniques dont les intérêts ont une sûre sauvegarde dans l'union, basée sur la satisfaction légitime donnée aux intérêts internationaux.

Les félicitations adressées par les augustes Souverains et Chefs d'États, à Sa Majesté le Roi Alexandre I à l'occasion du Sacre, nous sont une preuve que nos relations internationales sont satisfaisantes.

Pleins de reconnaissance vis-à-vis de l'Europe pour ses bonnes dispositions à notre égard, nous avons tout particulièrement lieu de nous féliciter en présence des marques de chaleureuse sympathie que nous a témoignées l'auguste Empereur du peuple Russe.

L'envoi d'un Envoyé Spécial, dont la présence a rehaussé l'éclat des fêtes du Sacre, est une preuve des dispositions cordiales de l'Empereur Alexandre III, à l'égard du peuple Serbe, et à l'égard de notre dynastie nationale.

(Translation.)

AFTER long constitutional struggles, the Servian people have succeeded in establishing their rights. The persevering resistance of the national spirit has combated a policy hostile to its liberty, and contrary to the aspirations of the Servian nation, and has delivered the country from a régime which has involved the retrogression of Servia from an economical point of view, which has loaded her with heavy and unnecessary debts, which has compromised her dignity, and finally shaken to its foundations the organization of the State.

Messieurs les Régents Royaux,

The National Representatives have learnt with sincere satisfaction that our relations, both with neighbouring and other States, are in every respect favourable and friendly, and that the Government has succeeded not only in preserving friendships already acquired, but also in completing them by new and precious acquisitions.

And we have been particularly touched by that passage in the Speech from the Throne, in which it is said that the Regency and the Government are animated by a desire to cultivate peace and order in the Balkan Peninsula in common agreement with the other States of the peninsula, and to promote the autonomous development of the Balkan peoples.

We trust that this fertile policy will bear fruit, and will find an echo in all the Balkan States whose interests have a sure safeguard in union, based on the legitimate satisfaction given to international interests.

The congratulations addressed to His Majesty King Alexander I by the august Sovereigns and Heads of States on the occasion of the anointment are for us a proof that our international relations are satisfactory.

Full of gratitude towards Europe for its favourable attitude with regard to us, we

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have occasion to congratulate ourselves, especially in view of the marks of warm sympathy shown us by the august Emperor of the Russian people.

The dispatch of a special Envoy, whose presence heightened the splendour of the ceremony of the anointment, is a proof of the cordial disposition of the Emperor Alexander III with regard to the Servian people, and with regard to our national dynasty.

No. 43.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

My Lord,

Sophia, November 12, 1889.

ON the afternoon of Sunday, the 3rd instant, the National Assembly proceeded to the election of a President in place of M. Zacharia Stoyanoff, whose decease in Paris during the recess I had the honour to report to your Lordship.

The present National Assembly is composed of 296 Members, who are divided as follows:—

Government party	..	..	..	..	..	..	223
Conservatives	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Radoslavoffists	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Zankoffists	..	..	..	..	..	..	16

The Government candidate for the Presidency of the Assembly was M. Slavkoff, who had occupied the post of First Vice-President in last year's Assembly. He is a prominent member of the National party, and a staunch supporter of M. Stamboloff. Owing to the personal influence of M. Stamboloff his election was carried, in a House of 238 Members, by a majority of 90, his opponent, M. Stoiloff, receiving 73 votes from the various groups of the Opposition.

The Government candidates for the posts of Vice-Presidents were M. Petkoff, the Mayor of Sophia, and M. Andonoff, a well-known politician in Eastern Roumelia at the time of the proclamation of the Union. M. Petkoff was elected by a large majority, but the House was inclined to be recalcitrant about the latter, and though the majority voted fairly compactly in the end, they showed a certain amount of discontent, which was probably the result of a more general dissatisfaction at the conduct of certain officials in the provinces, whose abuse of authority is affecting M. Stamboloff's popularity.

It is, however, a noteworthy fact that this is the first time since 1878 that the National Assembly has held three regular Sessions without some political event or Ministerial crisis terminating abruptly the term for which the Assembly is elected.

The Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne was adopted to-day.

In the course of the discussion on the Address this afternoon a member of the Zankoffist party proposed that the House should express its desire for a reconciliation with Russia, whereupon M. Stamboloff rose and described in vivid and trenchant language his view of the policy which Russia had followed with regard to this country since the year 1878, and which had been fraught with peril and danger to the country's existence. "Nevertheless," he said, "we are ready to do all that is possible to bring about a reconciliation with Russia, and I shall be happy when this is effected. As a statesman occupied in public life for fifteen years, I do not wish to see Bulgaria on bad relations with any Power, and especially with Russia, but no sacrifice we could make would be sufficient to bring about this reconciliation; the Bulgarians would be obliged to disown themselves, to relinquish all they have won, to sacrifice their political existence, and this the Bulgarians will never do. I would prefer to see our country fall in the struggle rather than succumb basely."

M. Stamboloff's speech appears to have made a deep impression on the Chamber, and to have been received with cheers by the immense majority of the Members, and I shall not fail to furnish your Lordship with the text in a few days.

I would draw your Lordship's attention to the following allusion in the Address to the question of recognition:—

"We consider it a sacred duty, your Royal Highness, to express the great pleasure which the nation has in recognizing the fact that the cause for which it has made so many sacrifices has obtained the sympathies of the civilized world, and has called forth the praises, solemnly declared, of one of the mightiest and wisest Monarchs, as also of the most famous European statesmen.

"Deeply appreciating these encouraging symptoms, we firmly believe that eventually, after the proofs of the agreement and firmness which the Bulgarian Sovereign

and nation have shown till now, the national accomplished fact will receive the necessary international sanction which it so fully deserves. For obtaining this, we are pleased to think that our Suzerain, relying on the rights which she enjoys under the International Treaties, will make the first step towards the recognition of the elect of the nation, by which she will gain the sympathies and consolidate the bonds which exist between her and the Bulgarian nation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 44.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.---(Received November 21.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, November 14, 1889.

WITH reference to Mr. Lamb's despatch of the 23rd September last, in which he reported on the emigration of distressed Montenegrins into Serbia, I have the honour to state that this emigration, which is organized by the Government, still continues.

It is officially stated that 1,200 families, or about 6,400 individuals, are leaving the country, but many people declare that the emigrants number at least 10,000. The official statement may very possibly be correct as far as those emigrants are concerned who are leaving the country under the direct auspices of the Government, but there is little doubt that many families have emigrated independently without Government aid or sanction.

The emigrants are dispatched in batches of 1,200 to 1,500 to Berana, whence they proceed to the Servian frontier by way of Bjelopolje and Sjenitza, and M. Bakich, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has been sent to Berana to receive them, and to arrange for their onward march through Old Servia.

I believe the Servian Government stipulated that all the emigrants should not arrive in a body. The weather has been favourable, and it is expected that the last batch will leave the Montenegrin frontier in a very few days.

The Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Gavro Vukovich, informed me the other day that the Porte had acted in a most friendly way towards Montenegro with respect to this emigration, and had granted every possible facility. He added that the Austrian Government had suggested that a certain proportion of the emigrants might pass through the occupied provinces, but that on account of the absence of good roads in the eastern part of Bosnia, the proposal was declined. M. Vukovich, however, fully acknowledged the courtesy of the Austrian authorities. His language respecting the action of Austria does not tally with what I heard almost immediately on my return from England. I was informed that the Montenegrin Government had approached the authorities in the occupied provinces on the subject of the emigration, but that the latter had proposed conditions which practically amounted to a refusal to allow the emigrants to pass.

On my inquiring of my informant what these conditions were, I was told that the Austrian authorities required that (1) the emigrants should give up their arms; (2) that during their transit across Bosnia they should be subject to the laws in force in the occupied provinces; (3) that they should be allowed fuel and water, but should not be permitted to purchase provisions.

The first two conditions appear to me so just and reasonable that it is difficult to understand how any one could raise an objection to them. The third condition, if ever made at all, is less easy to understand, but the authorities in Bosnia may have had local reasons for insisting on it with which we here are unacquainted.

The distress in many districts of Montenegro has this year undoubtedly been acute, and many of the peasants had the choice between emigration and starvation. I do not think Prince Nicholas has sent his surplus population to Serbia from purely political motives, but at the same time I doubt whether the Obrenovich Dynasty is exactly to be congratulated on this sudden increase of its subjects. Montenegrins when out of their own country are apt to be turbulent, unruly, and ready for mischief, and any party of disorder in Serbia will now have ready to hand a force of tough hardy mountaineers accustomed to the use of arms and quite prepared to create disturbance whenever and wherever they may be called upon to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, November 15, 1889.

I REGRET to have to report that during the last five or six months affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier have shown a tendency to relapsing into their old unsatisfactory condition. For some time after the signature of the Agreement drawn up by the late Voïvode Radonich and Djevad Pasha, Montenegrins and Albanians kept the peace. The former were the first to break it, by the atrocious murder of two inoffensive Mussulmans on the Lake of Scutari. The perpetrators of this outrage were, as I reported at the time, promptly executed, but ever since that time there has been considerable and increasing bitterness between the Montenegrins and their neighbours.

It would be tedious and of little use to report to your Lordship every outrage that takes place in these unsettled countries, and I will only state that the last act of violence I have heard of was committed by Montenegrins of Vassojevich, who crossed the frontier and carried off 300 sheep from Seltchi, killing two men. The Headman of the tribe to which these men belonged sent over into Montenegro and endeavoured to obtain satisfaction from the Captain of the district, but I understand that the latter replied that the question must be referred to the Prince.

I am told by persons who are acquainted with the frontier districts, that now that winter is coming on it is more than likely that there may be a cessation of these outrages, but they fear that in the spring they may be renewed.

The wild mountaineers, Montenegrin and Albanian, if left to themselves, will always find plenty to quarrel about, and it will require much firmness on the part of the Governments concerned to keep them quiet.

The contention of the Montenegrin Government is, that it both can and will punish those of its subjects who are guilty of outrages, but then there must be complete reciprocity, and it cannot execute a Montenegrin who has killed an Albanian, while an Albanian who has committed a murder on this side of the frontier is allowed to go scot-free. When the enormous difficulties with which the Scutari authorities have to contend are pointed out to a Montenegrin official, he replies, perhaps justly enough, that that is no affair of his. It is for the Governor-General of Scutari to keep order in his own province, and he must be held responsible for the lawless acts of the inhabitants.

I am far from wishing to attach too much importance to these frontier disputes, but I have thought it my duty to point out that the state of affairs in the border provinces is less satisfactory than it was a year or eighteen months ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, November 30, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to a statement in the semi-official Servian newspaper "Correspondance Balcanique," just received, it appears that the last batch of Montenegrin emigrants to Servia, numbering 1,500, left Cettinje yesterday, and will arrive at the Servian frontier to-morrow, thus bringing up the number of those who have quitted Montenegro for Servia to 6,360 individuals.

Notwithstanding the exceptional mildness of the season, there exist, I hear, great misery and not a few cases of famine fever among the immigrants, whose position will, unless the Servian Government have, contrary to general expectation, taken adequate measures of relief, become deplorable in the extreme when real winter weather sets in.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 7.)

My Lord,

Sophia, November 29, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship an article from the semi-official newspaper "Svobodá" with regard to the discussion which has recently been carried on in the foreign press with regard to the supposed agreement arrived at between the Czar and Prince Bismarck with respect to Bulgaria.

The views expressed in this article are in accordance with those of M. Stamboloff at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Extract from the "Svobodá" of November 15 (27), 1889.

(Translation.)

AFTER alluding to the various reports current as to the entry of Turkey into the Triple Alliance, and latterly to the alleged promise of the German Emperor to send to Turkey fresh German officers, both civil and military, as well as a proposal to appoint an International Commission for the Dardanelles, the writer concludes:—

"Be this as it may, what we know is that the Austrians will again best the Russians, as on former occasions. The rumour that Austria will in future give up Bulgaria and the Prince is rubbish. Such reports may be spread to please Russia, or through ignorance of politics, but they have nothing in common with the active tendency of the Powers interested in our question. We repeat what we have said before, namely, that if the Powers support our cause they do it to insure their own interests. But, as these very interests are most closely bound up with the solution of the Bulgarian question, they are compelled to devote attention to the latter. That opinion seems to us very ill-considered which supposes that our question will be decided independently of other pending European questions. On the contrary, we are inclined to think that our question, as one of the most important European questions, will, by its solution, assist that of the others. The interests of the Powers are now so clearly defined as to make it difficult to believe that any one of them, whether it be Austria or Russia, would agree to renounce its future. In face of this state of things, the Bulgarian question loses nothing. It depends only on our own prudence and moderation to gain the situation. Whatever is said, or written in the press, it is a fact that our Bulgarian question has considerably advanced, and that, moreover, it cannot be settled except according to the wishes of the Bulgarians themselves. The Bulgarians themselves are the principal factor, and the solution of the question depends on the prudence of our own Government. We have in our country neither Russian nor Austrian officers; Bulgaria is ruled by the Bulgarians themselves; therefore they have no cause for fear. Provided we remain firm as a nation and preserve our position, no one can do us violence. But, should Russia decide to do so, then the consequence will be a general war, which, in all probability, will not reach us. This is why we are not troubled by the various reports. Whatever the Powers may do, whatever combinations are made, Bulgaria must remain for the Bulgarians and protected against Russian aggression. On us it depends to secure the position. Should we proceed, as the Russian organs counsel us, to bow the head before Russia, to ask pardon, and to retreat, then, naturally, our servitude is prepared, and none can be sorry for us. But if we maintain worthily the standard of Bulgarian independence, and guard our country with the same energy and patriotism, we shall overcome all the difficulties, and Bulgaria will gain the situation. Everything, therefore, depends on the Bulgarians themselves. As we make our bed, so shall we lie on it."

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 9.)

My Lord,

Salonica, December 1, 1889.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a further Report which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at

Constantinople relative to the outrages which have been committed in the district of Vodena.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, December 1, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th September last, on the subject of the outrages which have been committed in the district of Vodena, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter giving an account of the proceedings of Ahmet Pasha, who was sent there by the Governor-General, Galib Pasha, to inquire into and report upon these outrages.

This information is confirmed in all essential points by the Greek Bishop of Vodena, who, during his recent stay at Salonica, paid a visit to this Consulate and expressed his thanks for my action in bringing these outrages to the notice of the Vali of Salonica.

With reference to the alleged abduction of the daughter of Shemaiyyéji Nicolas (*vide* my Report of the 30th August, 1889), the Bishop told me that he had refused to interfere at all in the matter, as this female had a very bad reputation, and had got up the case with the police agent Kiamil Effendi, in concert with one of her Turkish paramours. The police agent has been removed to Salonica, and is to be tried for his misconduct in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 48.

Letter giving an Account of the Proceedings of Ahmet Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

I AM happy to be able to announce that the inquiry ordered by the Vali of Salonica respecting the conduct of Fahreddin Bey and the administration of Vodina has been impartially carried out by Ahmet Pasha, the Vali's Muavin. This official lodged at the Greek Bishop's house during the whole of his stay at Vodina. He examined many persons, Christians and Turks, including sundry officials of the local Government, and he ended by dismissing several of these officials, and ordered that they should be brought before the proper Tribunals. Kiamil Effendi, the Commissioner of Police, has been dismissed and sent to Salonica to give an account of his conduct.

Nedjib Bey, the Examining Judge, has been suspended, and is to go to Salonica for trial.

Chevket Bey, the Nufus Mudiri (Agent for the Census), and Mehmet Bey, the Orman Meimouri (Agent for the Forests), have been dismissed, and are to be tried; the first for corruption, and the second for his malpractices in the village of Sabosca.

Ahmet Pasha has also imprisoned some Albanians, and has issued summonses against several other individuals in Fahreddin's following, for the crimes which they have committed, according to the list drawn up in the month of August. He has also established the fact that this young Bey took part in some of those crimes, and that he is guilty of acts of oppression towards the villagers.

Some days previous to the inquiry, Seiffoullah Bey arrived at Vodina and left by night for Epirus, taking his son, the said Fahreddin Bey, away with him, so as to save him from being prosecuted. It is said that the father has undertaken to compensate all those who may have just claims or complaints against his son.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Vodina are happy to be rid of the presence of this individual, and hope that the more or less energetic measures taken by Ahmed Pasha after his inquiry will be confirmed by the central authorities of the vilayet.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord,

Bucharest, November 27, 1889.

IN the Speech delivered by the King of Roumania in opening the Chambers this morning, His Majesty states that the country is tired of political strife, and demands of its representatives an enlightened action, with the view of strengthening the prosperous financial situation, and of sanctioning the measures necessary to enable the different public services to fulfil their duties.

In referring to his recent visit to Moldavia and the Dobrudja, His Majesty states that he was deeply touched by the reception given to him and the Hereditary Prince, which has tightened the bonds which unite his dynasty to the country.

His Majesty expresses his congratulations upon the good relations which Roumania maintains with the Powers, and observes that the prudent conduct of Roumania is the surest foundation of the confidence of foreign Governments, and he refers with pleasure to the success of the unanimous efforts of the Great Powers for the maintenance of peace.

The rest of the Speech, which is of considerable length, refers to internal affairs and the measures which will be submitted to the Chamber, the most important of which are the reform of the system of taxation, the administration of State properties in the Dobrudja, the institution of Chambers of Commerce, the question of professional education, agricultural contracts, and Departmental and Communal Administrations.

His Majesty also announces that the works for a bridge over the Danube will be commenced in the spring.

His Majesty also makes allusion to measures for the reform of the judicial administration, the position of the secular clergy, and the question of primary instruction.

The last measures mentioned in His Majesty's speech are those which refer to the army, and which are intended to complete its organization, to develop its instruction, and to continue the fortifications.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 13.)

My Lord,

Sophia, December 9, 1889.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 28th October last, I have now the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship the conditions of the loan for 1,200,000l. (30,000,000 fr.) secured on the Bulgarian Government railway lines Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and Yamboli-Bourgas, which has been concluded between the Bulgarian Government and the Austrian Länder Bank and Vienna Bank Verein.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Extract from the "Svobodá" of November 25 (December 7), 1889.

(Translation.)

Particulars of the Issue of the Loan for 30,000,000 fr. (1,200,000l.), secured on the Government Railway Lines Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and Bourgas-Yamboli.

IN accordance with the Law for the conclusion of a Loan for 50,000,000 fr. (2,000,000l.) sanctioned by Oukaz of the 17th (29th) December, 1887, and in conformity with a Decree of the Council of Ministers of the 28th instant, the Minister of Finance, on the proposition of the Imperial and Royal Privileged Länder Bank and the Vienna Bank Verein has concluded with the aforementioned banks a Government loan for 30,000,000 fr. (1,200,000l.) nominal on the following conditions:—

1. In conformity with the Law of the 17th (29th) December, 1889, the Minister of Finance announces that he issues a Loan for 30,000,000 fr. (1,200,000l.),

24,300,000 marks (12,000,000 Austrian florins gold nominal), in 60,000 bonds, each of 500 fr. (20*L.*), 405 marks (200 florins gold), and the Imperial and Royal Privileged Austrian Länder Bank and the Vienna Bank Verein undertake to take up such bonds, part firm and part on option.

2. The bonds to be issued by the Bulgarian Government will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable in gold in 20-fr. pieces, in two equal instalments by half-yearly coupons falling due the 20th March (1st April) and the 19th September (1st October) in each year. The first coupon to be due on the 20th March (1st April), 1890.

3. The sinking fund of such loan to be 1 per cent. of the nominal sum annually by means of half-yearly drawings, which will take place every six months, two months before the date on which the coupons fall due. The first drawing to take place the 20th January (1st February), 1890. Bonds drawn to be paid in gold in 20 fr. pieces at the nearest date on which coupons fall due. The drawings to take place at Sophia, in accordance with Regulations to be drawn up after an agreement between the Contracting Parties. The bonds may not be previously redeemed before the 1st January, 1895.

4. The payments of coupons and drawn bonds are guaranteed by a first mortgage on the railway lines Isaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and Yamboli-Bourgas. For this purpose the Bulgarian Government constitutes, in accordance with the Bulgarian Civil Code, a first mortgage on the aforesaid lines, with all their stations, lines, plant, rolling-stock, and other property. The mortgage will be given to the banks aforesaid for account of the bondholders. Should the Bulgarian Government fail to pay the coupons and drawn bonds due within six months of their maturity, the bondholders will have the right to take over the working of the hypothecated lines for their own benefit. Should the Bulgarian Government continue for two years in default in its obligations resulting from this loan, the bondholders will have the right to sell the aforesaid railway lines, and apply the proceeds of such sale to the payment of the overdue coupons, drawn bonds, and unredeemed remainder of the loan, unless recourse be had to the Government for the unredeemed portion. All these rights may be exercised by the Länder Bank and Bank-Verein, in the name and for account of the bondholders.

5. The Imperial and Royal Länder Bank and the Bank-Verein bind themselves to take firm one-half of the whole loan, namely, 15,000,000 fr. (600,000*L.*), at the price of 85 per cent. The amount corresponding to such portion is to be paid in the following instalments: two-fifths, or 6,000,000 fr. (240,000*L.*) on the 15th (27th) November, 1889; two-fifths, or 6,000,000 fr. (240,000*L.*), on the 5th (17th) December, 1889; and one-fifth, or 3,000,000 fr. (120,000*L.*), on the 1st (13th) March, 1890, the amount in each case to be paid upon receipt of the corresponding amount in bonds, duly signed by the Bulgarian Government. Should the bonds not be ready the banks will accept, for the time being, a general bond for the nominal amount of the bonds to be received from the Government, but the latter is bound, under all circumstances, to hand over the bonds to the aforesaid banks at Vienna, not later than the 15th (27th) December, 1889, for the first two instalments, and the 1st (13th) March, 1890, for the third.

6. The contracting banks reserve, and the Bulgarian Government grants them, the option of taking, within six months from the 1st November, 1889, another portion of the loan (that is to say), 7,500,000 fr. (300,000*L.*) at the same rate of 85 per cent., and a similar amount within one year from the 1st November, 1889, at 87 per cent.

These options may be exercised for the whole amount, or for one portion only, without taking into account the redemption effected. It is agreed that the banks will always return to the Government the amount of coupons drawn for redemption.

7. The banks are obliged to transport the amount of the bonds, whether taken firm or by option, in 20-fr. pieces to Sophia at their own expense.

8. The Bulgarian Government undertakes to transport the necessary sum for the payment of coupons and drawn bonds fifteen days before their maturity to the places or bankers to be indicated to it three months before each maturity by the banks contracting at their risk. The expenses of such transport to be met by the Government.

9. The text of the bonds to be drawn up in accordance with an understanding between the two parties. In such text the loan will be described a "mortgage loan on the railway lines Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and Yamboli-Bourgas." The bonds will contain a paragraph specifying the date of the signature of such mortgage, as will also the temporary general bonds, the expenses of printing the bonds, whether taken

firm or on option, to be met by the banks. The French text to serve as the original.

10. The Bulgarian Government undertakes to use all its influence to obtain a quotation for the present loan on the bourses of Vienna, London, and Berlin; the expenses of the quotation at Vienna to be paid by the two contracting banks, but at London (to a maximum amount of 2,000l. = 50,000 fr.) and Berlin by the Government. The contracting banks to pay any excess over the sum of 2,000l. which may be incurred for expenses of the quotation in London.

11. The Bulgarian Government will pay to the contracting banks or to any other institutions or banks charged with the service of the loan a commission of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for payment of the coupons and $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for drawn bonds.

12. All payments, coupons, and drawn bonds will be exempt from all taxes, imposts, or other duties imposed or hereafter to be levied by Bulgarian law.

13. Coupons due, as well as drawn bonds of the present law, will be accepted at their nominal value by all Government offices in payment of dues, taxes, and customs, or other imposts payable according to the Budget of the Principality.

These conditions, in conformity with Article 3 of the Law sanctioned by Oukaz, dated the 17th (29th) December, 1887, have been sanctioned by Oukaz of His Royal Highness, dated the 1st instant, sub-number 233.

The Minister of Finance,
(Signed) IV. SALLABASHOFF.

No. 51.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)

(Extract.)

St. Petersburg, December 11, 1889

THE extraordinary stillness in the political world has only been ruffled by the official admission of the Bulgarian Loan on to the Vienna Stock Exchange. The comments of the Russian press, on what they consider a political demonstration almost equivalent to the recognition of Prince Ferdinand, have been of the most furious description. This was naturally to be expected, but I also hear that the matter has caused much annoyance to M. de Giers.

No. 52.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 18.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, December 15, 1889.

I WAS induced yesterday, by the statement in an English newspaper that 5,000 more Montenegrins were expected to emigrate to Servia (than I reported in my despatch to your Lordship of the 30th ultimo as having already left their native country), to ask General Sava Gruitch how the matter stood.

His Excellency gave me to understand that no more were expected; and he spoke as though he thought that the providing for those already arrived, and who will have no means of subsistence of their own till next harvest, would be sufficiently onerous to the Servian Government in their present straitened circumstances.

No. 53.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 30.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, December 25, 1889.

I ASKED M. de Giers to-day what truth there was in the telegram published some days ago to the effect that the Porte had addressed a Circular to the Powers to learn their views on the subject of the quotation of the Bulgarian Loan on the Bourse at Vienna, the Porte being of opinion that this constitutes a violation of her rights as Suzerain, and that the support given to the operation at Vienna implies in a certain sense the recognition of the Bulgarian Government.

His Excellency said that so far as he knew, no such Circular had as yet been sent, but that there was no doubt that the Porte had taken "en très mauvaise part," the

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permission given by the Austro-Hungarian Government to have the Bulgarian Loan officially quoted at Vienna and Pesth. He had reason to believe that what had caused most annoyance was the indiscriminate manner in which the Roumelian railways had been mortgaged in the same way as the Bulgarian. The Roumelian railways which had been originally conceded by Turkey, and had been worked by Turkish employés, were seized at the time of the revolution, the Turkish employés turned out, and the property treated on the same footing as if it had been Bulgarian. Anyhow, the "grief" of the Turkish Government was based on the unequivocal manner in which this last step of the Bulgarian Government showed their determination to act independently of any restraints imposed upon them by Treaties and the relations existing between them and the Porte, and still more the *de jure* relations still subsisting between the Porte and Roumelia.

I did not, however, gather from M. de Giers' language that he considered it probable that the Porte would give any very effective expression to its sentiments on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 54.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 2, 1890.)

My Lord,

Sophia, December 28, 1889.

SINCE reporting to your Lordship that the several Military Commissions appointed to report on the merits of the 11-millim. Männlicher rifle had almost unanimously decided against its adoption in the Bulgarian army, I have learnt from the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Minister of War has entered into a contract with the manufacturers at Steyr for 60,000 small-bore (8-millim.) Männlicher rifles at 40 fl. (about 3l. 6s.) each, the delivery to begin in March next, and to be continued at the rate of 3,000 rifles per month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 55.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1890.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, December 31, 1889.

THE English newspapers mention a recent incursion from Macedonia into a south-western frontier district of Servia.

I learn in an official quarter that about 250 Arnauts proceeded to cut timber for fuel in a locality which they had voluntarily vacated when it was ceded to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin, but of which they still claim to be the rightful owners, and that during the conflict with Servian Frontier Guards which ensued, two of the latter were slightly and one severely wounded.

It is to be regretted, observed my Servian informant, that more leniency was not shown to these people at the time alluded to, and that the stricter régime under Servian than under Turkish rule, especially as regards the denudation of forest land, was not postponed for a generation, or at least so gradually introduced as to induce these Mahomedans to remain.

I learn, also, that the Turco-Servian Frontier Delimitation Commissioners have at last accomplished their work, and submitted the result of their labours to their respective Governments, but it was not explained to me how this circumstance alone is expected to remedy the evil complained of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 6, 1890.)

(Extract.)

Cettinje, December 29, 1889.

ONE of the numerous questions which have been for several years past under discussion between the Porte and the Montenegrin Government was settled a short time ago. I allude to the question of the lands owned, previous to the Turco-Montenegrin war, by Mahomedans of Nikshich, who have now left this country to settle for the most part in Old Servia. These lands continued, nominally at least, to belong to the original proprietors, who were supposed to receive the rents from the Montenegrin occupiers, to whom they had been parcelled out in a somewhat arbitrary manner by the Prince, but, in reality, the Montenegrins paid little or nothing; and it is said that every obstacle was placed in the way of any Mussulman proprietor who came to this country to assert his claims.

After long and unsatisfactory negotiations, a Turco-Montenegrin Commission was appointed to settle the question and to fix the rental. A settlement has now been arrived at, or rather, I should say, the Turkish Commissioners, in despair, at last accepted the very inadequate terms offered by the Montenegrins.

The rent to be paid by the Montenegrin occupiers will now average 1 florin per "ralo" (40 square metres); but I am informed that much of the land is worth 5, 6, and even 10 florins the "ralo." At first the Montenegrin Government actually put forward the ridiculous sum of 60 kreutzers as a fair average rental.

The Turkish Minister, in speaking to me of this affair, complained of the action of the Prince's Government towards the Mahomedan proprietors, and, as far as I can judge, his complaints are justified.

Article XXX of the Treaty of Berlin stipulates that "Mussulmans who wish to reside outside the Principality can retain their real property, either by farming them out, or by having them administered by third parties." This clearly gives the proprietor the right to deal with his land as he thinks fit, and to let it to whom he likes at whatever rent it will produce. The question was originally simple enough, and had the Montenegrin authorities shown the smallest disposition to deal fairly with the Mahomedan proprietors, no Mixed Commission would have been required to settle it.

The Mahomedan immigrants from Dulcigno have been treated much in the same way as their co-religionists from Nikshich, and their lands are being little by little taken from them and given to Montenegrins.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 6, 1890.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, December 29, 1889.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th ultimo respecting the Montenegrin emigration to Servia, I have the honour to state that I am informed that the Prince would be glad, if possible, to dispatch another large batch of emigrants to the latter country, but that the Servian Government has declined to receive them. These would-be emigrants have, it appears, already sold their lands, and having no means of subsistence, the Government is now obliged to support them. Another attempt will probably be made in the spring to carry out this emigration project.

The Montenegrin officials acknowledge that the Turkish authorities rendered them every assistance during the recent emigration, and the "Glas Tzrnogortza" of to-day holds the same language, though it denies a statement of a Viennese newspaper to the effect that the Sultan aided the emigrants by contributions of money. After thus acknowledging the help and good-will of the Porte, the "Glas" concludes by saying, rather ungraciously, that the Turkish Government is really to blame for the emigration, as by neglecting to regulate the course of the Boyana it subjects this country to annual floods which deprive it of large tracts of valuable land.

No one will deny that the regulation of the Drin and the Boyana is highly desirable, but it is hardly fair to say that the distress which has forced Montenegrins to emigrate this year has been brought about by the vagaries of these rivers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir R. Morier.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1890.

THE Russian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office on the 3rd instant and made the following communication on behalf of his Government.

The Russian Government desire to call attention to the fact that the terms of the loan of 30,000,000 fr. recently concluded by Bulgaria with the Austrian banks stipulate that the Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and the Yamboli-Bourgas Railways are given as guarantees for the payment of interest and sinking fund, and that the banks have the right to take the place of the Bulgarian Government in the control of the railways if the payment of the annuities is delayed, and to sell them if payment is suspended for two years.

The Russian Government take exception to this transaction on two grounds:—

1. The irregular position of the Bulgarian Government, which has not been recognized by the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, and which is at best tolerated.

They could not therefore recognize its right to dispose of the railroads which constitute a property of the State, and to pledge the future of the country.

2. The XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin imposed on Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia obligations arising out of the Russian occupation which are not yet liquidated.

The Bulgarian share amounted to 10,618,250 roubles, the settlement of which was regulated by a Convention signed between Russia and Bulgaria on the 16th June 1883, but payments have been suspended since the 22nd July, 1885.

The Eastern Roumelian share nearly equalled that of Bulgaria, but Russia had, out of consideration for the financial difficulties of the country, hitherto abstained from claiming any part of it.

But since Bulgaria had launched into borrowing, Russia must affirm her rights under Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

As the debts owing to her have an international sanction they must naturally enjoy priority, and Russia considers that she must make reserves in regard to transactions which will affect, to the detriment of her rights, the financial resources of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 59.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 7, 1890.

I NOTICE that the "Politische Correspondenz" of this evening calls attention to a Sophia letter which appeared in its issue of the 19th December last, relative to the expenses of the Russian occupation of Bulgaria.

In that letter it is observed that the question of these expenses was settled by the Russo-Bulgarian Convention of 1883, by which Bulgaria recognized a debt to Russia of 10,618,250 paper roubles, repayable in annual sums of 800,000 roubles at the National Bank at Sophia. Bulgaria had hitherto punctually fulfilled this obligation, and it was not her fault if in recent years the Russian Government had failed to claim these sums at the National Bank at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 60.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, January 12.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, January 12, 1890.

OVERTURES are reported to have been lately made to the Bulgarian Government with a view to bring about a reconciliation with Russia, and on seeing M. Stamloff this morning I took occasion to allude to them.

His Excellency said that a short time ago a Macedonian named Selenoffski, who is an architect residing at Sophia, had sent him a letter which he had received from his son, who, upon dismissal from the Bulgarian army, had settled at St. Petersburg and married a Russian lady of some position and means. In his letter, M. Selenoffski stated that he was authorized by Count Ignatieff and other prominent members of the Panslavist movement to inform M. Stamboloff that, if he expressed a desire for the renewal of diplomatic relations, the Russian Government would be willing to reappoint Consuls throughout Bulgaria; and that, upon elections being held for a new Sobranje, they would undertake to recognize whatever Prince might be elected by the Grand National Assembly, not excluding the candidature of Prince Ferdinand. It was stated, however, that Prince Ferdinand should be induced or persuaded to leave the country during the period of the elections.

No. 61.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 13.)

My Lord,

Serajevo, January 6, 1890.

ALTHOUGH I consider it needless to contradict every trivial and ridiculous newspaper report regarding Bosnia and the Herzegovina, the Russian and Servian press have of late launched such a series of invective articles against the Austrian administration of these provinces that I think it my duty to give a denial to the absurdly exaggerated statements, and to inform your Lordship of the real state of affairs.

As I have said in previous reports, I neither think nor wish to make out the Austrian administration in these provinces perfect, but a difficult task has been carried out with no inconsiderable success, and any impartial observer, who knew the country before the Austrian occupation, cannot fail to see the progress that has been made during the last ten years, and the benefits that have accrued to the population from a civilized, regular, and strictly impartial Government.

The tales of oppression and ill-treatment recounted by the Russian press I believe to be absolutely false, and if irregularities or abuses are perpetrated at times by subordinate officials, they are not at all events directed, as the articles in question would seem to imply, specially against the Orthodox population, but affect alike Roman Catholic and Orthodox, Mussulman and Jew.

Much is said about the grinding down of the people by taxation. This is also grossly exaggerated. The taxes are certainly levied with more rigorous exactitude, both as to time and amount, than formerly by the Turkish authorities, but at all events one no longer hears of such abuses as were practised by the farmers of the tithe on agricultural produce and other imposts, with the connivance, if not assistance, of the Turkish officials.

Having to pay the tithe in money, instead of in kind as during the Turkish régime, no doubt falls rather heavily on those cultivators who have no near market for their produce, but this again affects all alike, and not specially the Orthodox peasant, and is by no means a subject of universal complaint.

Another accusation brought against the Austrians is that the purchase price paid to the growers of tobacco is ridiculously low. If this, however, were really the case, would the cultivation of tobacco expand as it does from year to year, to the detriment even of all other crops? The price given by the Government varies generally between 1*l.* and 15*l.* per metric quintal, according to quality, and I know by my own experience that the very best tobacco produced in the Herzegovina was to be procured retail, before the Austrian occupation, at 3*s.* to 4*s.* an oke, which would be equal to about 11*l.* 15*s.* to 15*l.* 13*s.* per metric quintal.

No new taxes have been imposed since Austria took over the administration of these provinces, only, as I have said, the old ones are collected with greater regularity and exactitude. The tax in lieu of military service, called "bedel-i-askerieh," exacted by the Turks from the Christian population, has of course been abolished now that the military conscription is enforced on Christians and Mussulmans alike. This was a very heavy tax, 28 piastres, or about 4*s.* 8*d.*, per annum on every male of a year old and upwards, and produced annually about 55,000*l.*

Municipal dues on all articles of consumption entering the principal towns of the province have certainly been imposed, but this, in any case, is no hardship on the peasant, who only, in consequence, charges a higher price for the produce he brings to

market. When one considers the enormous rise in price of all native products since the Austrian occupation, one must come to the conclusion that the peasants are in a vastly better position than formerly. It is in fact just the peasants, especially those within easy reach of the towns, who have profited by the change of régime; the townspeople less so. The working classes certainly obtain much higher wages, but this is probably counterbalanced by the increase in price of all necessaries of life, while the shopkeepers, merchants, and better class of townspeople have but little benefited, the expansion of trade not having kept pace with the rise in prices.

The estimated revenue of these provinces for the past year was 786,092*l.* (9,433,100 *fl.*), including 62,000*l.* (744,000 *fl.*) granted to Bosnia as her share of the Customs receipts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Referring to a Report of my predecessor, Sir William Holmes, for the year 1874, that is to say, four years before the Austrian occupation, I find the revenue estimated at 595,814*l.* But this does not include the receipts from customs duties, which were always remitted direct to Constantinople. If, therefore, the 62,000*l.* customs receipts be deducted from the revenue now raised, there remains only 724,092*l.*, or 128,278*l.* more than was raised by the Turkish Government in 1874. This difference is at once more than accounted for by the receipts from the tobacco monopoly, which were estimated last year at 225,000*l.*, of which about 63,000*l.* would go to the peasants as purchase-money for tobacco. Deducting, then, this amount from the revenue, we have at once a balance in favour of the Austrian as against the Turkish régime of 96,722*l.*

Then, again, as regards the tithe on agricultural produce. In 1874, under the Turkish Government, this tax was estimated at 337,792*l.*, whereas for 1889, under an Austrian Administration, the estimate was only 214,750*l.*, although, undoubtedly, a greater breadth of land was under cultivation in the latter year. The "verghi," also, or property and income tax, for 1874 was estimated at 87,720*l.*, and for 1889 at 55,580*l.*, and the tax on cattle for the former year at 47,648*l.*, and for the latter at 30,166*l.*

All these figures, I think, sufficiently dispose of the allegation that the country is more heavily taxed now than it was formerly by the Turks. Only, I am ready to admit that the latter were more lax in the collection of the taxes than the Austrians are, and arrears were often allowed to stand over from year to year unpaid.

It must also be remembered, in drawing a comparison between the present and former Administrations in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, that now the whole revenue is expended in the country, and in addition about 400,000*l.* are still paid annually by Austria-Hungary for the army of occupation.

In 1874 the total amount expended on the civil administration of the country, inclusive of public works, public instruction, &c., was but 197,514*l.*, and the balance of revenue was devoted to the payment of the Ottoman garrison.

I should further mention that, under the Turks, no such item as "Public Worship" appeared in the expenditure, whereas now nearly 14,000*l.* are spent under this head, which includes the maintenance of the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Archbishoprics. Formerly the Archbishops and Bishops collected from their flocks, with the help of Government *zaptiehs* if needful, the necessary funds for their maintenance.

I now come to the subject of the emigration from the Herzegovina of the Orthodox population. Regarding this matter it is very difficult to obtain reliable information. The past harvest was an indifferent one, and even in the best of years the rocky, sterile soil of the Herzegovina gives but a poor return to the agriculturist, and there is, no doubt, much poverty in some parts of the country. This, and the example set them by their Montenegrin neighbours, between whom and the inhabitants of the frontier districts of the Herzegovina exist strong bonds of sympathy and relationship, may have induced a few families to emigrate, or to desire to emigrate, to Servia, but I have certainly heard of no extensive emigration, or anything approaching to the numbers (3,000 souls) given in the Russian newspapers. If there, however, be any truth in the statement, it seems to me that no reproach is due to the Local Government for endeavouring by all legitimate means to impede such an emigration, on political as well as economical grounds. The emigration of 7,000 Montenegrins to Servia is already an event which may be fraught with much annoyance to the Austrians in Bosnia, and they cannot be expected to treat with indifference any similar movement within their own borders.

As regards the Memorandum which the St. Petersburg newspaper "Slavjanskija

Istvestija" states has been addressed by the emigrants to the European Powers I know absolutely nothing. If such a Memorandum has really been presented, it is probably the work of criminal refugees and political outlaws, and cannot be accepted as a trustworthy exposure of the sentiments of the people. From a few extracts which I have seen, this Memorandum would appear to contain the most ridiculous and easily refuted accusations against the existing Administration. For instance, it says, "The action of the Austrian Government in the Agrarian question is unscrupulous and cruel. By threats and incredible persecution she obliges the land-owners to give up their land so that she may introduce a foreign element better suited to her policy of violence. Only some few greedy, narrow-minded, and degenerate land-owners are supported, and even encouraged, to the great injury of the peasants. In fact, all means are employed to increase the dissensions and quarrels between Mussulmans and Christians. Austria follows in this her old device, 'Divide et impera.'" Such balderdash hardly requires any comment.

Then again: "the 'Slava,' a household feast-day and the greatest religious festival of every Serb, is strictly forbidden." What festival is here alluded to is not very clear, but I can testify that the national festival of St. Sava, as well as the household festival called "krsnoime," which is kept by each family on the day of its patron saint, are celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the land with perfect freedom.

In conclusion, I would draw attention to the complaint that the Orthodox population are not allowed to make use of the Cyrillic character in their books and writings. This, again, is absolutely false. There is no restriction in the matter at all. Even official documents addressed to the Orthodox communities are written in the Cyrillic character. The local official Gazette, "Sarajevski List," and all orders and regulations, are published in Cyrillic; and finally, the names of the streets of this town are about to be written up in the Cyrillic as well as in the Latin and Arabic character. Had the Austrians been less careful of wounding the susceptibilities of the different sections of the population, and from the first made German the one official language, as Turkish was formerly, it would perhaps have been better, as it would at least have preserved them from any charge of favouritism, and given less occasion to these intestine jealousies.

That the people of these provinces are perfectly content under an Austrian Administration I do not pretend, but at all events it is false to say that the Christians, of whatever denomination, or even all the Mussulmans, desire the re-establishment of Turkish dominion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 62.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 13.)

(Extract.)

Vienna, January 10, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a paragraph extracted from the "Correspondance de l'Est," which appears in the "Presse" of this evening, with regard to proposals stated to have been made to M. Stambouloff in view of a reconciliation between Russia and Bulgaria.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Newspaper Extract.

(Translation.)

A BULGARIAN ex-Captain, Selionovsky, has addressed to the Minister President a letter dated from St. Petersburg, in which he says:—

"I am authorized by influential personages to propose to you new conditions in order to facilitate the reconciliation between Russia and Bulgaria. The following are the conditions:

"1. Bulgaria must ask for the dispatch of Russian Consuls to represent Russia in the country.

"2. Immediately after their arrival steps will be taken for the elections for the National Assembly.

"3. The National Assembly so elected will have full liberty to elect any Prince whatever, even Prince Ferdinand.

"4. During the elections the present Prince must absent himself from Bulgaria."
To this proposal Stamboloff will make no reply. The thought underlying this proposal is easy to discover. The Russian Consuls will, as soon as they arrive in the country, work as electioneering agents and organize agitations in favour of Russia. Nevertheless, it is worthy of notice how considerably the Russian pretensions have dwindled. There is no longer any talk of the dispatch of Russian officers, nor of interference in the affairs of the country, nor of the necessity of asking pardon of the Czar. Kaulbars' twelve injunctions appear to have been abandoned.

No. 63.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 11, 1890.

WITH reference to the report that the Russian Government had addressed a Circular despatch protesting against the quotation of the Bulgarian Loan on the Austrian Bourse, the "Journal de Saint-Petersbourg" of to-day says that the Imperial Cabinet had limited itself to the expression of an opinion on a measure emanating from a Government the legality of which has not been recognized, and which can only be said to exist on sufferance.

The Bulgarian Government, far from acting with the reserve dictated to it by its position, had mortgaged, with the power of alienation, the railways both of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and by this act had seriously affected the mortgage, to which, in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin and later Conventions, Russia has a prior claim.

The journal goes on to say that it does not wish to enter upon an academical discussion with the "Times" and "Standard" as to whether or not there has been a violation of the Treaty of Berlin by the Government of Sophia. It maintains that with a little good faith these papers must admit that the very existence of this Government is a violation of that Treaty, and, further, that the XXist Article formally denies the right to contract a loan of 30,000,000 fr. under the conditions under which the said loan has been raised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

No. 64.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 14, 1890.

WITH reference to the assertion of the "Times" correspondent in Vienna, to the effect that the Bulgarian 6 per Cent. Loan is the only foreign loan whose quotation has been permitted upon the Vienna Stock Exchange, it may perhaps be as well to state that an Italian, Servian, and five Turkish loans are quoted on the Vienna Exchange.

I may add, too, on the best authority, that the further statement that the German Government blames the Austrian Government for permitting the quotation of the Bulgarian loan, and sides with the views expressed in the Russian Circular upon this subject, is also absolutely false.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 65.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

My Lord,

Sofia, January 13, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an article from the semi-official newspaper "La Bulgarie," relative to the note which the Russian Government has lately addressed to its Representatives abroad respecting the loan

concluded by the Bulgarian Government with the Länder Bank and the securities pledged to that institution by the Government of Sofia.

In referring to this subject yesterday, M. Stamboloff said that he did not in any way contest the priority of the Russian claim for reimbursement for the expenses incurred by the Russian occupation after the war of 1877-78, but that he could not admit that these expenses were secured by a lien either on the Tsaribrod-Vakarel or the Yamboli-Bourgas Railways, inasmuch as these lines did not exist at that time. The Bulgarian Government had never refused regular payment of the annual sum due in virtue of the agreement with Russia of July 1883 on account of the occupation, and they had paid the amount regularly up to the end of 1885, and since that time an annual sum of 2,100,000 fr. had been inserted in the yearly budget in discharge of the debt, though the Russian Government had not condescended to claim or accept it.

As regards the claim for expenses consequent on the occupation of Eastern Roumelia no agreement had ever been come to as to the amount, nor had any accounts been rendered by Russia of the administration of the revenues of the province during the occupation. He was, moreover, under the belief that an assurance had been given to Prince Alexander by the Russian Government that whatever moneys were paid by Bulgaria or Eastern Roumelia on account of the occupation would be spent in Bulgaria for the economic development of the country, whereas he was well aware that for years the annual payment made by the Government of Sofia had been expended in other ways.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 66.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 20.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, January 13, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 14th November last, respecting the emigration of Montenegrins to Servia, I ventured to remark that the Servian Government had little reason to congratulate themselves on this increase of population; and I now observe that my surmise was pretty correct.

It is very probable that, as the emigration was carried out under the auspices of the Government, the emigrants imagined that it was the duty of the Servian Government to keep them in idleness for an indefinite period.

In the meantime, it is by no means clear what is to become of the Montenegrins whom the Servian Government declined to receive, and to whom I alluded in my despatch of the 29th ultimo. The Montenegrin Government are supposed to provide these people with means of subsistence, but they are in reality maintained out of the Russian charitable fund which is being administered by a Committee consisting of the Secretary to the Russian Legation, the Metropolitan, and three other Montenegrin members.

I am informed, on good authority, that by far the larger portion of this fund will now have to be expended on the emigrants in Servia, and on the people to whom I have just alluded, and that this fact is causing a good deal of discontent throughout the Principality, as Montenegrins hold strongly to the idea that roubles should be expended on those of their countrymen who stay at home.

I also hear that the sum subscribed in Russia, 100,000 roubles, is far below what the Montenegrins hoped to receive. It appears that they calculated that in Russia there were 30,000 churches, and, if the collection averaged 10 roubles per church, the result would be 300,000 roubles. The actual sum subscribed amounted to one-third of this figure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

My Lord,

Bucharest, January 6, 1890.

THE Roumanian Chamber separated for the Christmas recess on the 4th instant after having voted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne by 99 votes to 64.

The debate began on the 23rd ultimo, and was taken up to a large extent by the discussion of the events which led to the recent change of Ministry, with the details of which it is unnecessary that I should trouble your Lordship.

Several allusions were made in the course of debate to the foreign policy of Roumania, and an amendment was moved to the effect that, as Roumania should be an element of order, tranquillity, and culture on the lower Danube, the Parliament will use its efforts to continue the prudent policy which has secured the confidence of the Powers. The mover of this amendment explained that his object was to affirm that the Parliament did not share the opinion of M. Carp, who desired that the direction of foreign policy should belong to the King.

M. Lahovary replied that the Government were responsible for the foreign policy of the country, and that it was a mistake to suppose that it was directed by the King, and in a previous speech his Excellency pointed out that the object which the Government had in view was to maintain the integrity and independence of the country, whilst seeking to avoid any subject of conflict with the neighbouring Powers. If war were to break out an appeal would be made to the patriotism of the country, and it would then be seen what decision would be come to. His Excellency referred to Switzerland and Belgium, who guaranteed their neutrality by their armaments.

The result of the division is generally considered as a great triumph for the Government and as a justification of the action of General Mano and M. Lahovary in resisting M. Lascar Catargi's demand for a dissolution.

The Chamber will reassemble on the 21st instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Sir R. Morier to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburg, January 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th January respecting the Russian Circular on the Bulgarian Loan, I have the honour to state that M. de Giers' language is in exact conformity with that of the officious organ. His Excellency has on all occasions upon which he has touched on the subject in conversation with me invariably insisted that that document did not bear the character of a protest, still less of a menace. It even hardly amounted to a reservation, and was only a taking act of certain transactions, and placing on record the opinion of the Russian Government, to the effect that these transactions were not in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. B. D. MORIER.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, January 29)

My Lord,

Belgrade, January 29, 1890.

I UNDERSTAND that the alarming rumours circulated here within the past week were founded on a report that a loan of 10,000,000 fr. (400,000l.) was about to be raised for mobilization of the Servian army, owing to an alleged concentration of Bulgarian troops on the frontier, and that the Skuptchina would be at once convoked in order to obtain legislative sanction to such a loan.

I also learn that, although there exists not the remotest desire on the part of this Government to mobilize, it will, when the Skuptchina shall in due course have assembled on the 13th instant, demand authority for a loan of 2,000,000 fr. (80,000*l.*) required for converting obsolete muskets, with which it is intended to arm the militia, as soon as the Legislature shall have passed the new Military Law.

On questioning M. Tauschanovitch, the Minister of the Interior, on the subject of these alarming rumours, his Excellency stated to me that they were absolutely false and invented, and spread for political purposes by Opposition newspapers, whom it is his intention to prosecute in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 70.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 1, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, February 1, 1890, 5 P.M.

THE arrest of Major Panitza on a charge of instigating a plot against the Prince and Government was effected last night. The accused is Grand Voivode of Macedonia, and commanded an irregular corps of Bulgarian army in the Servian War.

There are a few other officers implicated, but the Government do not consider the matter sufficiently serious to necessitate their arrest.

No. 71.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 1.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 1, 1890.

MUCH excitement was created here this morning by the arrest on Thursday night, the 30th ultimo, of Major Panitza on a charge of conspiring and instigating a number of officers of the garrison to effect a *coup d'État* for the seizure of the Prince and his Ministers, M. Stamboloff and Colonel Moutkouroff.

Major Panitza's antecedents are well known in Bulgaria. He was intimately connected with the movement in favour of the union with Eastern Roumelia, and during the Servo-Bulgarian war he commanded a corps of irregulars acting on the extreme right of the army, and rendered considerable service by the dashing celerity with which he broke into the enemy's country.

He is, however, best known by his connection with Macedonia, where he is reported to possess extensive influence in virtue of his office as Grand Voivode, and his popularity among the numerous Macedonians connected with Bulgaria.

When Major Panitza's name was submitted by the Minister of War to Prince Ferdinand for advancement to the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel, to which he was entitled by seniority as well as by the services he had rendered during the war, the Prince refused to sanction his promotion, and struck out his name from the list, and promoted at the same time one or two junior officers to the higher grade. Incensed by Prince Ferdinand's action, and further aggrieved by sundry slights which he considered His Royal Highness had put upon him, he appears to have at first intrigued with the Tsankovist party, and then to have set to work to get up amongst the Macedonian officers of the garrison a conspiracy to overthrow the Prince. Apparently emboldened by a certain measure of success amongst the officers, he finally, on the 28th ultimo, made similar proposals to the Commandant of the garrison, Colonel Kissoff, who subsequently communicated them to the Minister of War. Instead, however, of arresting him immediately, the police were ordered to watch his movements in order to discover who his accomplices were, but as it was feared that he might attempt a *coup d'État* on the occasion of a ball which was taking place at the Palace to-night, he was arrested in the early morning, and a severe perquisition effected in his house.

There is little doubt that Major Panitza was actuated by purely personal enmity towards Prince Ferdinand. His plan appears to have been to proclaim a Military Dictatorship under Colonel Kissoff, to seize M. Stamboloff and Colonel Moutkouroff, the Minister of War, in order to prevent their attempting a counter-revolution, and to present the alternative to the Prince of deposition or adherence to the new order of

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things. In order to persuade the officers to join in the plot, he endeavoured to make them believe that unless the present Government was upset within a month a Russian occupation would certainly take place in March, and M. Stamboloff seems to have reason for thinking that he was in communication with a certain Kalupkoff at Rustchuk.

The defence made by Major Panitza for his treasonable proposals to Colonel Kisooff is that he was drunk at the time he made them, but this would hardly account for his efforts to corrupt the Macedonian officers with whom he was almost in daily relationship for some time past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 72.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February 3, 1890.*
WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that Captains Tatoff and Chavdaroff, and Lieutenant Rizoff, the latter being the officer who was on guard at the Palace on Thursday, the 30th ultimo, and also five or six civilians, were arrested last night for complicity in Major Panitza's conspiracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 73.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 6.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February 6, 1890.*
I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stamboloff informed me this morning that M. Kalupkoff, a Russian subject, employed in business at Rustchuk, had been arrested owing to documents having been found in Major Panitza's house implicating him in the latter's conspiracy. There was a letter, he said, in cypher, from Kalupkoff, urging Major Panitza to proceed to work at once and get rid of him and Colonel Moutkouroff, but advising him at the same time to avoid, if possible, bringing on a revolution.

M. Stamboloff added that several letters had been found in Kalupkoff's possession from an ex-Dragoman of the Russian Legation at Bucharest named Jacobson.

I learn that, upon hearing of Kalupkoff's arrest, Baron de Wangenheim, the Acting German Consul-General, who is also charged with the protection of Russian interests in Bulgaria, asked for explanations, and was informed by M. Stamboloff of the facts above stated, and also that M. Kalupkoff would be brought to trial as soon as possible, and that, if he were found guilty of the charges preferred against him in the Court of Justice, the Bulgarian Government would not execute the sentence, but would hand him over to his own Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 74.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, January 31, 1890.*
I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note, dated the 5th (17th) instant, from M. Stransky to Dr. Voulcovitch, the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, in answer to the despatch of the 24th December last, which was addressed by M. de Giers to the Russian Representatives abroad with reference to the loan lately concluded by the Bulgarian Government with the Länder Bank of Vienna.

M. Stransky said that the note was not intended for publication, and he was surprised, to see it appear in the newspapers a few days ago. At the same time,

he saw no reason to object to its publication, although it had been made without his knowledge.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Dr. Stransky to Dr. Voulcovitch.

M. l'Agent,

Sophia, le 5 (17) Janvier, 1890.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 23 Décembre dernier, par laquelle vous m'avez donné le résumé d'une note Circulaire adressée le 12 (24) Décembre, 1889, par le Cabinet Impérial de Saint-Pétersbourg à ses Agents pour être communiquée aux Gouvernements auprès desquels ils sont accrédités, concernant l'emprunt Bulgare de 30,000,000 fr. conclu avec la Länderbank de Vienne le 1^{er} (13) Octobre, 1889.

Comme cette note peut donner lieu à des interprétations diverses ou à des appréciations défavorables à notre pays, je crois devoir vous faire connaître les vues du Gouvernement Princier sur les questions qu'elle soulève au sujet des droits et des obligations attribués en la matière à la Bulgarie par le Traité de Berlin.

Le droit de la Bulgarie de contracter des emprunts n'est infirmé par aucune des dispositions du Traité de Berlin; tout au contraire, il lui est absolument acquis en vertu des Articles 102 et 123 de sa Constitution approuvée par les Représentants des Puissances Signataires de ce Traité.

Les conditions auxquelles les chemins de fer de Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel et de Yamboli-Bourgas ont été hypothéqués en garantie de l'emprunt dont il s'agit, constituent donc une affaire d'ordre purement intérieur: il appartient à la Bulgarie, seule juge de ses intérêts, de prendre tels engagements que lui permettent ses ressources financières et d'y répondre.

L'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin, qui a trait au paiement des frais de l'occupation Russe, peut-il recevoir l'interprétation que lui donne le Cabinet de Saint-Pétersbourg en ce qui regarde la garantie assignée sur les lignes ferrées en question?

L'obligation de construire la ligne internationale de raccordement a été stipulée, sans discussion, à la charge de la Principauté, dans l'Article X du dit Traité. Ayant en vue cette obligation qui lui a été imposée avec l'assentiment de la Russie, le Gouvernement Bulgare a fait à l'époque tous ses efforts pour contracter un emprunt de manière à entreprendre et à mener à bonne fin la construction de la ligne traversant son territoire, sans grever le pays d'une charge immédiate trop lourde; mais il a rencontré toujours une opposition occulte qui fit échouer partout la conclusion d'un emprunt acceptable et le Chemin de Fer Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel fut construit avec les seules ressources de la Bulgarie, par les soins de ce même Gouvernement dont on conteste la légitimité. Aussi bien, une partie de l'emprunt conclu aujourd'hui servira-t-il précisément à remédier à une situation qui a bouleversé l'économie du Budget régulier du pays.

Quant à la voie ferrée de Yamboli-Bourgas, elle a été jugée indispensable pour la Roumélie-Orientale et personne jusqu'à présent n'a nié la grande utilité de cette ligne économique en vue du développement commercial et agricole de ces contrées.

Il est évident que ces deux chemins de fer, dont l'un a été commencé en 1885 et achevé en 1888, et dont l'autre est en voie de construction depuis l'année dernière, ne pouvaient être assignés en garantie pour les frais d'occupation de l'armée Russe; le Traité de Berlin n'en fait aucune mention à ce titre.

D'ailleurs, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie convient lui-même qu'il a conclu en 1883 avec le Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie—lorsque deux membres de ce Gouvernement étaient des Généraux Russes, MM. Soboleff et Kaulbars—une Convention qui règle les conditions de paiement de la dette de notre pays afférente à ces frais d'occupation. Les annuités stipulées dans cette Convention dont je vous envoie ci-joint copie pour plus ample information, ont été payées à la Russie jusqu'au mois de Juillet 1886 et, depuis cette époque, les versements ont lieu régulièrement à la Banque Nationale Bulgare pour compte du Gouvernement Russe; mais comme ce dernier ne veut point reconnaître notre Gouvernement, il s'abstient de donner quittance et le montant des annuités ainsi accumulées reste en dépôt à la Banque susmentionnée.

Par conséquent, il n'y a pas de raisons de croire à une insolvabilité de la Bulgarie et, pour notre part, nous nous refusons à croire que des craintes de cette nature aient pu être le mobile de la démarche du Cabinet Impérial de Saint-Pétersbourg pour justifier la priorité de garantie demandée en faveur de la créance relative aux frais

d'occupation en Bulgarie. Au surplus, comme vous le verrez, M. l'Agent, la dite Convention ne prévoit aucune garantie spéciale ni priorité quelconque à cet égard : elle est basée exclusivement sur les revenus généraux de la Principauté.

En ce qui concerne la Roumélie-Orientale, il est inexact que la part revenant à cette province pour les frais d'occupation n'ait pas été réclamée. Les créances en question furent réclamées simultanément à Sophia et à Philippopoli. Toutefois, M. Davidoff, Agent Diplomatique de Russie en Bulgarie et M. le Prince Tzéréteff, Consul-Général de Russie en Roumélie-Orientale, en invitant les Gouvernements intéressés à reconnaître en principe ces créances de la Russie, leur déclarèrent formellement que, par suite d'un Ukase de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre II, les sommes qui proviendraient de ce chef resteront dans le pays et seront affectées à des œuvres d'utilité publique. S'appuyant sur cette déclaration, l'Assemblée Provinciale de la Roumélie-Orientale avait accepté en principe cette dette ; mais lorsque le Gouverneur-Général rapporta le vote de l'Assemblée à la Sublime Porte, celle-ci voulut examiner et traiter la question avec l'Ambassade de Russie à Constantinople et le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie n'insista plus auprès du Gouvernement Rouméliote. C'est ainsi que la part revenant à cette province n'a jamais été réclamée. En Bulgarie, à partir de 1883, les annuités fixées par la Convention étaient touchées par l'Agence Diplomatique de Russie à Sophia et pas un centime n'en fut envoyé en Russie : conformément à l'Ukase Impérial susmentionné, elles étaient employées dans le pays. Nous sommes persuadés que le Gouvernement Russe ne manquera pas de convenir de ces faits que nous venons de rappeler.

Il résulte des considérations qui précèdent que, envisagée au double point de vue des obligations internationales imposées à notre pays par le Traité de Berlin et de l'engagement spécial pris par la Principauté en vertu de la Convention de 1883, la créance de la Russie pour les frais d'occupation ne saurait bénéficier de la priorité à l'encontre du droit absolu de la Bulgarie de régir ses finances d'après ses propres intérêts et suivant les modalités admises par tout État libre d'accorder des garanties hypothécaires pour certaines transactions et de n'en pas donner pour d'autres.

Les conditions de l'emprunt conclu par le Gouvernement Princier avec la Länderbank ont été approuvées par l'Assemblée Nationale et sa légalité ne peut être contestée : elle est aujourd'hui, pour ainsi dire, consacrée par le succès qu'il a obtenu et qui est une preuve de la confiance qu'inspirent à l'étranger la Bulgarie et son Gouvernement.

Cependant, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie estime que le Gouvernement Princier n'aurait pas le droit d'engager les ressources financières du pays parce qu'il ne serait pas un Gouvernement régulier, étant né de la révolution, et qu'il ne serait pas reconnu comme légitime par les Puissances.

Tout le monde connaît les événements qui se sont déroulés en Bulgarie depuis le coup d'État du 9 (21) Août, 1886, et l'on sait que la situation faite à la Principauté au point de vue international n'est pas l'œuvre des Bulgares.

En effet, à la suite de l'abdication du Prince Alexandre, la Régence, légalement constituée par lui, avait été reconnue par toutes les Puissances y compris la Russie qui avait accredité auprès d'elle le Général Kaulbars en qualité d'Agent Diplomatique de Russie. La lettre ci-jointe en copie adressée le 1^{er} (13) Septembre, 1886, par son Excellence M. de Giers à M. Natchévitch, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères du Gouvernement de la Régence, en fait foi. Or, le Gouvernement actuel de la Principauté émane de la Régence et sa légalité peut d'autant moins être mise en discussion qu'il tient également ses pouvoirs de la Grande Assemblée Nationale qui a siégé à Tirnovo en 1887.

Le Gouvernement Princier est le premier à regretter la situation où se trouve la Bulgarie au point de vue de ses relations internationales. Mais si l'on considère la mission qu'il a remplie jusqu'à ce jour dans la limite de ses droits et dans l'ordre de ses obligations, il avoue en toute franchise qu'il ne peut comprendre la portée de la récente démarche du Cabinet Impérial de Saint-Petersbourg : il ose espérer que cette démarche n'est pas le prélude de nouvelles complications politiques. Aussi, la Bulgarie croit-elle pouvoir compter toujours sur l'appui bienveillant de la Cour Suzeraine et des Grandes Puissances pour écarter un nouveau déploiement de rigueurs qu'elle n'a ni provoquées ni méritées.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Agent, à donner lecture de la présente note à son Excellence M. le Ministre Impérial Ottoman des Affaires Étrangères.

Veillez, &c.

(Signé) DR. STRANSKY.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent,

Sophia, January 5 (17), 1890.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd December last, in which you gave me a summary of a Circular note addressed on the 12th (24th) December, 1889, by the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburg to their Agents, to be communicated to the Governments to which they are accredited, on the subject of the Bulgarian Loan of 30,000,000 fr. concluded with the Länderbank of Vienna on the 1st (13th) October, 1889.

As this note may give rise to various interpretations, or to opinions unfavourable to our country, I think it my duty to let you know the views of the Prince's Government on the questions therein raised on the subject of the rights and obligations assigned to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Berlin in matters of this kind.

The right of Bulgaria to contract loans is not affected by any of the dispositions of the Treaty of Berlin; on the contrary, it is undoubtedly acquired by her in virtue of Articles 102 and 123 of her Constitution, which was approved by the Representatives of the Powers Signatories of that Treaty.

The conditions on which the Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel and Yamboli-Bourgas Railways have been hypothecated as guarantee of the loan in question constitute, therefore, a matter of purely domestic concern. It appertains to Bulgaria, as sole judge of her own interests, to undertake such engagements as her financial resources permit, and to fulfil them.

Is it possible to give to Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, which deals with the payment of the expenses of the Russian Army of Occupation, the interpretation given to it by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg with regard to the guarantee assigned to the railways in question?

The obligation of constructing its portion of the international line was imposed upon the Principality without discussion by Article X of the above-mentioned Treaty. Keeping in view this obligation which had been imposed on them with the consent of Russia, the Bulgarian Government used, at that time, every effort to contract a loan in order to be able to undertake and bring to a proper conclusion the line which traversed their territory, without burdening the country with too heavy a present charge; but it always encountered a secret opposition which caused the breakdown of any arrangements for a satisfactory loan, and the Tsaribrod-Sophia-Vakarel Railway was built with the unaided resources of Bulgaria, and by the exertions of the very Government whose legitimacy is questioned. Part, therefore, of the loan which has now been concluded will serve precisely to remedy a situation which has upset the equilibrium of the country's normal Budget.

As regards the Yamboli-Bourgas Railway, that line was considered indispensable for Eastern Roumelia, and hitherto no one has denied its great utility from the point of view of the commercial and agricultural development of these districts.

It is evident that neither of these two railways, one of which was begun in 1885 and completed in 1888, and of which the other has been in process of construction since last year, could be allocated as guarantee for the expenses of occupation of the Russian army. The Treaty of Berlin says nothing on this head.

Besides, the Imperial Russian Government themselves admit having concluded in 1883 with the Government of Bulgaria—when two members of the latter Government were Russian Generals, viz., MM. Soboleff and Kaulbars—a Convention regulating the conditions of the payment of the debt due by us in connection with the expenses of occupation. The annual payments which were stipulated in this Convention, of which I annex a copy for your information, have been made to Russia up to the month of July 1886, and since this date the instalments have been regularly paid to the National Bank of Bulgaria on account of the Russian Government; but as this latter refuses to recognize our Government it refrains from giving a receipt, and the sum total of the instalments thus accumulated is lying at the above-mentioned Bank.

Consequently, there is no reason to believe in the insolvency of Bulgaria; and for our part, we refuse to believe that fears of this nature could have been the cause of the steps taken by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg in order to justify the priority of guarantee demanded by them in favour of the credit connected with the expenses of the occupation of Bulgaria. Besides this, as you will perceive, M. l'Agent, the said Convention recognizes no special guarantee or any priority whatever with regard to this; it is founded exclusively on the general revenues of the Principality.

With respect to Eastern Roumelia, it is incorrect to say that the portion due from that province for expenses of occupation has not been claimed. The sums in question were claimed simultaneously at Sophia and Philippopolis. However,

M. Davidoff, the Russian Diplomatic Agent in Bulgaria, and Prince Tzéréteff, Russian Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia, when inviting the Governments concerned to recognize in principle the claims of Russia, declared formally to them that in consequence of an Ukase of His Majesty the Emperor Alexander II, the sums which accrued under this head would remain in the country, and would be devoted to works of public utility. Trusting to this declaration, the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia accepted this debt in principle, but when the Governor-General reported the vote of the Assembly to the Sublime Porte, the latter desired to examine and discuss the question with the Russian Embassy at Constantinople, and the Imperial Government of Russia brought no more pressure to bear on the Roumelian Government. It is thus that the portion due from this province has never been claimed. In Bulgaria since 1883 the annual payments fixed by the Convention were received by the Russian Diplomatic Agent at Sophia, and not one centime was sent to Russia; in accordance with the above-mentioned Ukase, the money was spent in the country. We are convinced that the Russian Government will not fail to recognize the facts referred to above.

It is evident from the above considerations that, regarded both from the point of view of the international obligations imposed on our country by the Treaty of Berlin, and of the special engagement taken by the Principality in virtue of the Convention of 1883, the claim of Russia to the expenses of occupation cannot override the absolute right of Bulgaria to manage her finances as her own interests direct, and, according to methods employed by every free State, to grant mortgage guarantees for certain transactions, and not to give them for others.

The conditions of the loan concluded by the Prince's Government with the Länderbank were approved by the National Assembly, and its legality cannot be contested; it is now sanctioned, so to speak, by the success which it has achieved, and which is a proof of the confidence inspired abroad by Bulgaria and by her Government.

Nevertheless, the Imperial Government of Russia considers that the Prince's Government has no right to dispose of the financial resources of the country because it is not a regular Government, being the result of a revolution, and a Government which the Powers will not recognize as legitimate.

The events which have occurred in Bulgaria since the *coup d'État* of the 9th (21st) August, 1886, are known to all, and it is known that the situation in which the Principality is placed from an international point of view is not the work of the Bulgarians.

In fact, after the abdication of Prince Alexander, the Regency legally constituted by him had been recognized by all the Powers, including Russia, which had accredited to it General Kaulbars as Diplomatic Agent of Russia. The accompanying copy of a letter addressed the 1st (13th) September, 1886, by his Excellency M. de Giers to M. Natchevitch, Foreign Minister under the Regency, proves this. Now, the present Government of the Principality emanates from the Regency, and its legality can the less be called in question because it also receives its powers from the Great National Assembly which sat at Tirnovo in 1887.

The Prince's Government is the first to regret the situation of Bulgaria from the point of view of her international relations. But taking into consideration the mission fulfilled by that Government up to the present time within the limits of its rights and in accordance with its obligations, it confesses frankly that it cannot understand the purpose of the recent action of the Imperial Cabinet of St. Petersburg; it ventures to hope that this action is not the prelude to new political complications. Bulgaria also believes that she may always count on the benevolent support of the Suzerain Court and of the Great Powers to preserve her from a fresh display of severity, which she has neither provoked nor deserved.

You are authorized, M. l'Agent, to read this note to his Excellency the Imperial Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) DR. STRANSKY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Extract from "*La Bulgarie*" of January 19, 1890.

Sophia, le 19 Janvier, 1890.

LA récente note de M. de Giers a revendiqué, en faveur de la Russie, un droit antérieur d'hypothèque sur les lignes ferrées Bulgares, hypothèque garantissant, au dire



de M. le Ministre de Sa Majesté le Czar, le paiement des frais de l'occupation Russe, telle que cette créance résulte, en principe, du Traité de Berlin (Article XXII) et, en réalité, de la Convention Russo-Bulgare *ad hoc* du 16 (28) Juillet, 1883.

Or, ne voulant pas mettre en doute la bonne foi de M. de Giers, nous ferons seulement remarquer que sa mémoire l'a mal servi. On connaît, en effet, l'Article XXII de l'Acte de Berlin, qui ne stipule absolument aucune hypothèque. De même, la Convention Russo-Bulgare ne fait aucune mention de gage ou autre; elle ne fait même pas allusion aux "revenus généraux" du pays comme c'est généralement le cas. Pour couper court à toute interprétation ou assertion arbitraire, nous croyons devoir reproduire ci-après le texte même de l'Arrangement Bulgaro-Russe:—

"Convention conclue le 16 (28) Juillet, 1883, entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et la Principauté de Bulgarie pour le paiement des Frais de l'Occupation.

"Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie et le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, désireux de régulariser le mode de paiement à la Russie des frais de l'occupation de la Principauté par les troupes Impériales Russes, conformément aux décisions du Traité de Berlin, ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, à savoir:—

"Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, son Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et Secrétaire d'État, Nicolas de Giers; et

"Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, le Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la Principauté de Bulgarie, Kyriak A. Tzankof;

"Lesquels, après avoir échangé leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants:—

"ARTICLE I.

"Le Gouvernement Princier Bulgare reconnaît devoir au Gouvernement Impérial Russe, pour frais pendant l'occupation des troupes Impériales Russes, conformément aux décisions du Traité de Berlin, la somme de 10,618,250 roubles, papier, et 43 kopecks. (Soit 26,545,626 fr.—N. de la R.)

"ARTICLE II.

"Le Gouvernement Princier s'engage à payer cette dette comme suit:—

"Le 1^{er} (13) Septembre, 400,000 roubles.

"Dans l'intervalle de douze ans, de 1884 à 1896, annuellement, à raison de 800,000 roubles, qui seront payés en deux termes, le 1^{er} (13) Janvier et le 1^{er} (13) Juillet de chaque année, soit, à chacun de ces deux termes, à raison de 400,000 roubles.

"Le 1^{er} (13) Janvier, 1896, 400,000 roubles, et le 1^{er} (13) Juillet de la même année, le restant, soit 218,250 roubles et 43 kopecks.

"ARTICLE III.

"Les paiements mentionnés à l'Article II se feront par le Gouvernement Princier à la Banque Nationale, à Sophia, au nom et à l'ordre du Gouvernement Impérial, en lews (ou francs), au cours du jour de la date du paiement.

"ARTICLE IV.

"Le Gouvernement Impérial renonce à demander le paiement de tout intérêt quelconque, sur le montant de la dette en question, soit pour le temps écoulé depuis le commencement de l'occupation jusqu'à la date de la signature du présent Arrangement, soit depuis la date de cette signature jusqu'à l'acquittement intégral de la dette.

"ARTICLE V.

"Le présent Arrangement sera ratifié et les ratifications seront échangées à Saint-Pétersbourg dans un délai de six semaines ou plus tôt, si faire se peut.

"En foi de quoi, les Plénipotentiaires des deux parties ont signé la présente Convention, faite en double, et y ont opposé le sceau de leurs armes.

"Fait à Saint-Pétersbourg le 16 Juillet (v. s.) année 1883.

"(L.S.) (Signé) GIERS.
"(L.S.) (Signé) K. A. TZANKOF."

Le texte que l'on vient de lire est assez explicite pour nous dispenser de tout commentaire.



(Translation.)

Sophia, January 19, 1890.

THE recent note of M. de Giers has put forward in favour of Russia a previous right of mortgage on the railways of Bulgaria, the mortgage guaranteeing, according to the statement of the Minister of His Majesty the Czar, the payment of the cost of the Russian occupation, inasmuch as this claim, in principle, results from the Treaty of Berlin (Article XXII), and actually from the Russo-Bulgarian Convention *ad hoc* of the 16th (28th) July, 1883.

Now, as we are unwilling to throw any doubts on the good faith of M. de Giers, we shall only call attention to the fact that his memory has served him badly. Article XXII of the Berlin Act indeed is well known, and makes absolutely no mention of a mortgage. So, too, the Russo-Bulgarian Convention mentions no condition whatever; it does not even refer to the "general revenue" of the country, as is generally the case. In order to put a stop to any arbitrary interpretation or assertion, we think ourselves at liberty to reproduce below the actual text of the Bulgaro-Russian Arrangement:—

"Convention concluded on the 16th (28th) July, 1883, between the Imperial Government of Russia and the Principality of Bulgaria for payment of the Cost of Occupation.

"The Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia and the Government of His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, being desirous of regulating the manner of payment to Russia of the cost of the occupation of the Principality by the Imperial Russian troops, in conformity with the decisions of the Berlin Treaty, have nominated as their Plenipotentiaries the following:—

"His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, his Minister for Foreign Affairs and Secretary of State, Nicolas de Giers; and

"His Highness the Prince of Bulgaria, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Bulgaria, Kyriak A. Tzankof;

"Who, after exchange of their full powers, found to be in good and correct form, agreed to the following Articles:—

"ARTICLE I.

"The Government of the Prince of Bulgaria recognizes that it is indebted to the Imperial Russian Government for costs incurred during the occupation by the Imperial Russian troops, in conformity with the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin, in the sum of 10,618,250 roubles, paper, and 43 kopecks (or 26,545,626 fr.—N. de la R.).

"ARTICLE II.

"The Prince's Government undertake to pay this debt as follows:—

"On the 1st (13th) September, 400,000 roubles.

"During the twelve years from 1884 to 1896, in payments of 800,000 roubles annually, to be paid at two fixed dates, the 1st (13th) January and the 1st (13th) July each year, in payments of 400,000 roubles at each date.

"On the 1st (13th) January, 1896, 400,000 roubles, and the 1st (13th) July in the same year, the remainder, or 218,250 roubles and 43 kopecks.

"ARTICLE III.

"The payments mentioned in Article II will be made by the Prince's Government to the National Bank at Sophia, to the name and to the order of the Imperial Government, in lews (or francs) at the rate of exchange on the day of payment.

"ARTICLE IV.

"The Imperial Government engages to renounce payment of all interest on the total of the debt in question, either for the time elapsed since the commencement of the occupation up to the date of the signature of the present arrangement, or from the date of that signature till the entire discharge of the debt.

"ARTICLE V.

"The present arrangement shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburg within six weeks, or sooner if possible.



"In witness whereof, the Plenipotentiaries of the two parties have signed present Convention, in duplicate, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

"Signed at St. Petersburg, the 16th July (o. s.), in the year 1883.

"(L.S.) (Signed) GIERS.
"(L.S.) (Signed) K. A. TZANKOF."

The text just read is sufficiently explicit to render any comment unnecessary.

No. 75.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 8.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 8, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel, who had already telegraphed to me the news of M. Kalupkoff's arrest (reported in my despatch aforesaid), has to-day informed me by telegraph that another Russian and two Bulgarians have been arrested at Rustchuk. Mr. Dalziel adds that, so far, no arrests of officers have been made, and that he is not of opinion that any serious consequences need be apprehended at Rustchuk.

I have communicated the above intelligence to Sir William White.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 76.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, February 3, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 13th ultimo and in previous despatches I alluded to a number of Montenegrins who had intended emigrating to Servia, but who had been unable to leave the country. They number about 4,000, and are now engaged in road-making in the Zeta Valley. I am told on good authority that the sickness and misery among them is very great.

M. Wurzel, the Secretary to the Russian Legation, left on the 1st instant for Danilograd to distribute relief out of the Russian fund, and a hospital has been established at Orialka, a place situated a few miles higher up the river (Zeta) than Danilograd. When this hospital was first opened fifty sick persons were at once admitted, forty of whom died within 48 hours!

The "Glas Tzrnogortza" of yesterday announces that a further sum of 25,000 roubles is being sent by the Holy Synod of Russia in aid of distressed Montenegrins.

From the accounts received here, it would appear that there is also much distress among the Montenegrin settlers in Servia, who are, moreover, in a state of chronic discontent. I heard yesterday that these people had assumed so threatening an attitude that the Government had been obliged to send a strong force of police to maintain order among them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 77.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, February 6, 1890.

SINCE addressing to your Lordship my despatch of the 1st instant, the Bulgarian Government have obtained much fuller information respecting Major Panitza's conspiracy, and, upon calling on M. Stamboloff this morning, he at once proceeded to speak as follows:—

The first traces of the conspiracy dated as far back as August last, and since that

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time all the influence of the anti-dynastic party had been exercised in corrupting and inveigling into the conspiracy the junior officers of the garrison.

In one respect there is a curious resemblance between the present alleged conspiracy and the *coup d'État* of the 21st August, 1886, for in both cases the direct actual impulse was owing to the personal feeling of a distinguished officer anxious for revenge for an act of supposed injustice on the part of his Sovereign. In 1886, Captain Bendereff, who had greatly distinguished himself during the Servo-Bulgarian war, was refused the promotion and reward of his services, and in the present instance the conspiracy starts from the date of the Prince's refusal to promote Major Panitza.

No. 78.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 9, 1890.

IN talking, a few days ago, of the events connected with Major Panitza's conspiracy, M. Stamboloff dwelt with great earnestness on the difficulties which the non-recognition of Prince Ferdinand by the European Powers was tending to create in the maintenance and stability of the present régime, and he was afraid, he said, that as long as this anomalous situation continued, a feeling of insecurity would exist which would be detrimental both to the discipline of the army and the tranquillity of the country.

I did not feel called upon to make any observations in reply to M. Stamboloff's remarks.

I understand that M. Stamboloff used similar language in talking on the same day with M. de Burián, the Austro-Hungarian Agent, who likewise appears to have refrained from any comment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 79.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(Extract.)

Cettingé, February 11, 1890.

ONE of my colleagues informed me to-day that he had read in some Austrian newspaper that, on the occasion of the christening of the infant son of the Prince of Montenegro at Rieka, on the 19th ultimo, a certain Kovatchevich, who was formerly a brigand in Herzegovina, and who now resides at Nikshieh, made a speech to the Prince, in the course of which he expressed a wish that the young Prince Peter, who had received the title of Voïvode of Zakhum, might some day govern the province ruled over in former days by the Dukes whose title had now been revived in his person.

This title of "Voïvoda Humski" requires some explanation. Up to the latter part of the fourteenth century the district of Zakhum was governed by Rulers who owed a sort of qualified allegiance to the Kings of Hungary, and one of whom, at some time or another, received the title of "Herzog," whence the name "Herzegovina." The country ruled over by these Voïvodes, or Dukes, comprised a portion of modern Herzegovina, a part of Montenegro, a small part of Bosnia, and a small portion of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

Not long after the complete conquest of Bosnia by the Turks (about 1440, I think) the district of Zakhum was incorporated in the Sultan's dominions, and one of the last members of the Ducal house, turning Mahomedan, subsequently held high office in Turkey under the name of "Achmet Herzegovinski."

The revival of this old title would at first sight appear to be a totally unimportant matter, but there is no doubt that the common people here do attach a considerable amount of importance to it and look upon it as foreshadowing an extension of the frontiers of this country.

No. 80.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 20.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 20, 1890.

ON calling upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, M. Stransky informed me that Baron de Wangenheim, the German Acting Consul-General, who is also charged with the affairs of the Russian Agency here, had just handed him a note demanding, on behalf of the Russian Government, the arrears due by Bulgaria on account of the expenses incurred by the Russian occupation according to the Convention, a copy of which I had the honour to inclose to your Lordship in my despatch of the 31st ultimo, amounting to 360,000*l.* (3,600,000 roubles, or about 9,000,000 fr.).

This sum is the amount due by the Principality proper, and does not include the expenses of the occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

Baron de Wangenheim presented, further, a claim for cartridges, rifles, and other munitions of war supplied by Russia to the Bulgarian Government, amounting to 572,988 roubles.

M. Stransky informed Baron de Wangenheim that the Bulgarian Government were themselves desirous to discharge their liability for the expenses of the Russian military occupation, and he assured him that the matter would be considered in the Council of Ministers without delay, and a reply sent to him within a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 81.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, February 14, 1890.

IF there exist a predominating idea in the Servian mind, or one in which all Serbs are perfectly united, it is that Bulgaria must be forestalled, on ethnographical grounds, in the acquisition of Macedonia and a seaboard, when the moment arrives for the disruption of the Turkish Empire.

Your Lordship may therefore imagine with what dismay the news was received here that at St. Petersburg there had been published, under the auspices of a Panslavist Society, of which General Ignatieff is President, a Map indicating that, ethnographically, Bulgaria has a better claim than Servia to the territory in question.

I am told, though not in an official quarter, that the Emperor of Russia hastened to disavow to the Servian Minister at St. Petersburg the ethnographical opinions implied by the action of the organ of the Russian Benevolent Society, and that the Servian Envoy telegraphed to apprise his Government; but the unfavourable impression made by the incriminated Map remains, and has, it is said, materially weakened the position of the present Russophil Servian Ministry.

Among the public some indignation meetings have occurred.

No. 82.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, February 15, 1890.

I LEARN, in a generally well-informed quarter, that the principal object of the recent visit to Belgrade of M. Gavro-Voukovitch, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, was to endeavour to induce the Servian Government to receive another 7,000 of his countrymen who are willing to emigrate to Servia, but that the request was declined, on the ground of the very heavy burden thrown on the Servian exchequer by those already arrived.

At an interview yesterday with the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, his Excellency, on my alluding to the matter, virtually admitted that the offer had been made and refused for the above-mentioned reasons, but he demurred to the notion that this formed the object of the Envoy's visit, which, he said, occurred subsequently to the proposal on the part of Montenegro of sending more emigrants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th instant, I have the honour to say that very little further information of any importance has reached me within the last week with respect to Major Panitza's conspiracy, although rumours of various kinds have been maliciously circulated both here and in the foreign press on the subject.

Major Panitza and his immediate accomplices are detained in close confinement here, and have been dismissed from the ranks of the regular army by Princely Rescript. This latter measure gave rise to a belief that they would be tried in a Civil Court of Justice, and much dissatisfaction was, I understand, expressed in military circles on this account; but it now seems to be decided to try the conspirators before a Military Tribunal, which will shortly be constituted here.

I am glad to be able to report, at the same time, that perfect order and tranquillity have existed in the capital as well as in the provinces during the last fortnight, and that I have received no information tending to show that the plot had any ramifications either among the garrison at Philippopoli or those of other important military centres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 17, 1890.

AS reported to your Lordship by Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade in his despatch of the 3rd instant, M. Voukovitch, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been sent here by the Prince of Montenegro on a Special Mission.

He arrived here a week ago and has seen the Ottoman Ministers, and has had an audience of the Sultan. He tells me he proposes spending three weeks here, and that the object of his visit is to come to an understanding with the Sublime Porte as to the means of making embankments, so as to protect efficiently the banks of the River Boyana from inundations.

He says that there is an Austrian Company ready to incur the expense of doing this properly without any cost to the riverain States, and merely by remunerating itself by a rate to be levied from the lands recovered to cultivation; but the consent of Turkey is required for this purpose, and this the Montenegrin Minister says he has come to obtain. Questioned as to the desirability of rendering the Boyana navigable, M. Voukovitch replied that this was no object for his country, as most of its soil was unproductive.

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

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, February 22.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with regard to my despatch of the 20th instant, that M. Stamboloff told me this morning that the question of the Russian claim for payment of the arrears due on account of the Russian military occupation of the Principality of Bulgaria in 1877 and 1878, which had not been paid since 1885, was considered in the Council of Ministers last night, and that it was decided to request Baron de Wangenheim to inform the Russian Government that this sum would be paid without any delay by the Bank of Bulgaria in Sophia upon a receipt being given to them in due form; but that with regard to the claim for 572,988 roubles for munitions of war handed over to the Bulgarian Government in 1878, Baron de

Wangenheim should be requested to furnish details of the various military materials making up this amount.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 86.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

My Lord,

Salonica, February 23, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report by Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley, relative to the outrages perpetrated at Bruznik, a Bulgarian village in the vicinity of the town of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, February 12, 1890.

WITH reference to the inquiry contained in your letter of the 6th instant, on the subject of the reported murder of two or three persons at a wedding in a village in the immediate vicinity of Monastir, I have the honour to inform you that the report in question is true and that the murder took place on the 17th November last at Bruznik, a Bulgarian village on one of the slopes of the Peristeri, a little over half an hour's distance from the town.

The following are the details of the affair:—

It appears that on the day in question a wedding had been celebrated at the house of a certain Traitcha, an inhabitant of the above-mentioned village. In the evening, as the wedding guests were engaged in the usual dance in an inclosure in the vicinity of Traitcha's house, they were deliberately fired into from behind a high wall by a band of men whose approach, owing to the festivities, had been unperceived. Three of the guests, a man and two girls, were killed on the spot by the discharge, and two others, a man and a woman, were wounded, fortunately, I believe, not dangerously. The names of the women killed are Dosta Seculé and Petkana Ognen, aged 16 and 14 years respectively, and of the man, Stoyan Petré. In the confusion which ensued the miscreants, it appears, succeeded in making good their escape, the villagers from motives of prudence refraining from making any attempt to follow them up.

Though the assassins, owing to the obscurity of the night, do not appear to have been identified individually, the villagers assert unanimously that they were Turks from Dihovo and Nizopolé, two neighbouring villages with a mixed Christian and Turkish population, the former of which, Dihovo, is barely twenty minutes distant from Bruznik. A vindictive feeling, it is known, had been entertained for some time past towards the inhabitants of the latter place by the Turks of Nizopolé owing to a dispute about a horse or some such trivial matter which occurred during the Governor-Generalship of Rifaat Pasha, and in which the Turks had been obliged to give way. The more immediate cause, however, of the outrage, is supposed to be the following. A Christian Bulgarian girl of Dihovo, the village above alluded to, had been desired in marriage by a Turk residing in the same place. On the parents objecting, the girl, I am told, was subjected to most unwelcome attentions on the part of her Turkish admirer, and it was in order to escape these that she was finally sent to Bruznik, to the house of a friend, who had expressed himself willing to receive her. As the girl was to be married on the very day on which the outrage took place (there were several weddings in the village on the day in question), it is felt by the inhabitants of Bruznik that this coincidence was more than accidental, and that the object of the authors of the outrage was no other than to revenge themselves for not having been able to prevent the celebration of the marriage referred to.

A few days after the occurrence I sought an interview with the Governor-General of the vilayet, Faik Pasha, and strongly urged his Excellency to take every possible step to discover and bring the criminals to justice. I regret, however, to say that nothing beyond the arrest of one or two individuals of Dihovo—subsequently released

—has been done, and that the affair, as far as the authorities are concerned, appears practically to be forgotten. The individuals above referred to were, it is true, released because nobody came forward to bring any evidence against them; but this circumstance, though apparently excusing the inability of the authorities to bring the guilty persons to account, is in reality only a stronger condemnation of their inaction, for it is certain that if the villagers on this occasion do not come forward to give their evidence, it is because they have no confidence in the ability of the former to protect them from future outrage. It is feared by them that even if they should succeed in obtaining a conviction against their aggressors, the latter would, after a short term of imprisonment, find means to be set at liberty again and would then wreak a double vengeance on their accusers. There would thus seem to be every likelihood that the perpetrators of the Bruznik outrage will eventually escape the punishment they richly deserve, and this is the more to be regretted, as I need scarcely say that, unless a stern example is made of law-breakers such as the above, whether Mussulman or Christian, it is hopeless to expect any improvement in the spirit of anarchy by which a certain portion of the population in Macedonia seems to be affected, and by which, I am bound to say, the Christians are the chief sufferers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

No. 87.

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

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 28, 1890.

SINCE the discovery of the recent conspiracy in Bulgaria that Principality is again attracting attention at Constantinople, and the Turkish press, inspired from some mysterious quarter, is ventilating the idea that the Porte cannot much longer continue indifferent to what is going on there, and points to England and Austria as the two Powers sympathizing with the Bulgarians, and thus preventing the re-establishment of a legal state of things in that vassal State.

Whilst this is going on here, the Bulgarian Agent, Dr. Voulcovitch, says (and he has told the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Ministers so very frankly) that the Government at Sophia, having preserved order and tranquillity during three and a-half years, constructed several lines of railway, &c., are entitled morally and equitably to more consideration on the part of the Suzerain Power, and that the Sultan, who ought to have the prosperity and tranquillity of that important vassal Principality at heart, should now at last take the initiative in getting Prince Ferdinand properly recognized by the other Powers.

I need not trouble your Lordship with arguments on either side, as they are well known, but it is my duty to notice some symptoms which might at any moment bring this delicate question of recognition again to the front.

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

No. 88.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Salonica, February 26, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my Report of this date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople upon the situation in Macedonia and Epirus, with particular reference to the state of affairs on the Bulgarian and Greek frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 88.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Salonica, February 26, 1890.

DURING my recent visit to the Vali, Galib Pasha, his Excellency, in the course of conversation, told me that tranquillity prevails on the Bulgarian and East Roumelian frontiers, and that the most recent Reports from the Kaimakams of Djuma-bala, Razlog, and Nevrocop state that the Bulgarian authorities continue to act in concert with the Turkish authorities in preserving order on these frontiers. His Excellency admitted that it was in a great measure owing to this co-operation that the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama are no longer infested by brigands.

The other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica have also for some time past enjoyed comparative immunity from these pests; the military authorities, loyally aided by the country people, having pursued with success several bands of lawless characters who, as reported in my despatch of the 26th September, 1889, were causing mischief in the districts of Ghevgheli, Tikvesh, and Kiuprulu. One band of eight Albanians, having kidnapped and held to ransom a Turkish land-owner of Ghevgheli, was pursued by the gendarmes, who succeeded in rescuing the captive, and in eventually killing two and apprehending six of his captors.

In the month of November last another band, composed of eleven Albanians and one Vlach, plundered the Turkish mail from Salonica to Serres, after ruthlessly murdering the "Tatar" (courier) and the two zaptiehs escorting him. The fact that this daring outrage was perpetrated at a point of the road in the immediate vicinity of Salonica naturally created great alarm in this place, which, however, was allayed by the prompt and vigorous action of the authorities. In less than ten days after the occurrence the military, who had been sent in pursuit, captured and brought to Salonica eight of the brigands. These offenders, who are now being tried by the court-martial here, have made a full confession, and disclosed the names and whereabouts of their confederates.

The district of Veria and the coast districts of Cassandra and Caterina continue to be very quiet and free from brigands.

With regard to the latter district the Second Dragoman of this Consulate-General, who has just returned from visiting his farm there, informs me that he had observed a very great improvement in the condition of this district. He says that brigandage has been suppressed, and public peace and security re-established in the country, mainly through the active and sustained co-operation of the rural volunteer police which the local authorities have organized on the same footing as the police in the Monastir Vilayet. It is a welcome and significant fact, that not a single act of brigandage or highway robbery has been perpetrated in Caterina since this volunteer system of police was introduced, now a little over a year ago; whereas formerly the whole district was persistently overrun by numerous brigands, who were harboured by the villagers either from fear or favour, owing to their exposed position near the mountains and the absence of proper means of defence.

The Province of Epirus has also enjoyed relative tranquillity during the last three or four months, owing more, I am told, to the severity of winter than to any special efforts of the authorities.

Moreover, I hear from various sources that manifest anxiety and uneasiness prevail in that direction as to passing events in Greece; and I may add that I observe in Turkish circles here similar disquietude and a growing apprehension that the excitement in Greece against Turkey, fomented as it is by the Greek press, may ere long lead to a revival of brigandage, if not to more serious disturbances on the frontier.

The report that the manœuvres of the Greek army will take place in Thessaly this spring has also contributed to disturb still more the public mind, and revive misgivings as to Hellenic intentions.

The only local incident I have heard of as tending to confirm these misgivings is the discovery, by the authorities of Veria, of letters recently sent from Athens, inclosing newspaper cuttings with violent articles against Turkish administration, and exhorting the Christians to prepare for a general rising, which will be sustained by arms and other assistance from Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 27, 1890.

A SHORT time ago thirty-two young Bulgarians of Macedonia arrived at Sophia to complete their educational studies in the University, which was opened here last autumn, and, referring to the reports which had appeared in the newspapers on the subject, M. Stamboloff gave me the following information this morning.

He said that for the last twelve months the Servian Government had carried on an active political propaganda in the neighbourhood of Salonica and other parts of Macedonia where the Bulgarian population was largely in the ascendant, and that they had induced about 200 young Macedonians to come to Belgrade, where they would be received at the Servian College of Saint Sava, and afforded the means of subsistence during the period of their collegiate course. Shortly after their arrival in the Servian capital, they were asked to make a formal statement that they belonged to the Servian nation by race and creed, whereupon a certain number of them protested on the ground that they were Bulgarians, and requested to be sent back to Macedonia. The Servian Government apparently refused to give them the expenses of their return journey, upon which about thirty, who were distinctly Bulgarians, appealed to the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires and received from him the means of proceeding to Sophia, where those who were qualified were admitted into the University, and the others, whose education was less advanced, offered a small annual subsidy while prosecuting their studies in the Gymnasium. The Bulgarian Government had taken very little interest in the question, as they had no fear of Servian political propagandism in Macedonia taking any hold of the Bulgarian population in that province, and they had reluctantly consented to receive these students, who would be a considerable burden on the limited revenues at the disposal of the Minister of Public Instruction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 1, 1890.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron von Wangenheim, the German Acting Consul-General, received a note from the Bulgarian Government yesterday informing him that the sum of 8,867,000 fr. was deposited in the National Bank of Bulgaria for payment of the arrears due to the Russian Government on account of the expenses of the Russian occupation, and that the money would be paid over to him, or forwarded to Vienna, Berlin, or Paris on his giving a receipt to the Bank.

On the supposition that the money due on this account was deposited at the Bank in half-yearly sums since January 1886, the value of the rouble was calculated at the rate of exchange prevailing during this period, thus effecting a considerable saving in the gross amount.

Baron von Wangenheim was at the same time requested to be good enough to procure the details of the claim for arms, ammunition, &c., ceded by the Russian Government on the evacuation of the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 3, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 23rd December last, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the rupture of the negotiations between the "Société des Raccordements" and the Bulgarian Government for the purchase by the latter of the railway section from Bellovo to Vakarel.

I now learn on reliable authority that the Sublime Porte has agreed to enter into negotiations for the lease of this line by the Bulgarian Government, and that Reshid Bey, the Acting Turkish Commissary, will shortly be empowered to conclude an agreement with the Bulgarian Government in this matter.

Although the section is only about 30 miles long, it will still be of some advantage commercially to the Bulgarians, while politically the agreement will imply a more open recognition of the *de facto* character of the Bulgarian Government than has heretofore been accorded by the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 92.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord,

Salonica, March 8, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th June, 1889,* I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have just heard that the Ottoman and Servian Governments are about to carry out the following measures, which have been recommended by the Commissioners they appointed last year for inquiring into the recurrent disorders on the Servian frontier, with a view to their prevention:—

1. To establish guard-houses at closer intervals, and increase the number of picket-posts between them.

2. To make clearings in the thickly wooded parts on both sides of the frontier.

3. To repair and strengthen the "palissades" all along the frontier.

The Commissioners, I am also told, recommended that the Servian frontier-guard, which is chiefly composed of irregulars recruited from Albanian, Bulgarian, and Montenegrin fugitives, should be removed from the vicinity of the frontier, and replaced by regular troops; but the authorities of Salonica have not yet been informed if this desirable measure will be carried out by the Servian Government.

I may add that all the frontier posts on the Turkish side are occupied by regular troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 93.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 19.)

My Lord,

Serajevo, March 14, 1890.

WITH reference to the alleged extensive emigration from the Herzegovina of the Orthodox population, alluded to in my despatch of the 6th January last, I am now able to furnish your Lordship with further details.

In the course of the year 1889 only twenty peasant families are said to have emigrated from Bosnia and Herzegovina to Servia and Montenegro. When the bonds of race, religion, and relationship existing between the people of Servia, Montenegro, Bosnia, and the Herzegovina are taken into account, when one considers the ease with which such emigrations are effected by a primitive people, whose wants are of the simplest and goods and chattels of the scantiest, and, finally, when one remembers the constant passing to and fro of the populations of the aforesaid provinces which has occurred from time immemorial, twenty cannot be regarded as an important number.

Some families are also reported to have passed into Montenegro during the winter to occupy the lands of those who emigrated to Servia, but even persons who are prone to exaggerate such movements do not pretend that the number was great.

The local Government did much in the Herzegovina during the past winter to assist the needy, especially in the districts of Gacko, Bilek, and Nevesinje, and organized relief works to give employment to the able-bodied men. Hundreds might have found employment throughout the winter on the line of railway in the course of construction between Serajevo and Konjica, but whole gangs of men from the Herzegovina, sent up for that purpose at the expense of the Government, had to be returned to their homes from Konjica again at the expense of the Government, because they resolutely refused to go beyond the frontier of the Herzegovina to work in Bosnia.

District money-chests have also been established, from which the peasants can obtain loans on the most favourable terms for the purchase of seed and food until next harvest.

That any further emigration is likely to take place at this season I much doubt. The winter is now past, and with the experience before them of their neighbours the Montenegrins who passed into Servia, many of whom have already returned to their country through these provinces in a state of utter destitution, and been temporarily relieved by the local Government, it is hardly likely that the peasants of the Herzegovina will at present risk a change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 94.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Salonica, March 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report from the British Vice-Consul at Serres on the state of affairs in that sandjak, as well as a translated copy of a letter of Mr. N. Bizzo, the Second Dragoman of this Consulate-General, relative to the improved state of public security in Caterina, with particular reference to the volunteer rural police that has been organized in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 94.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, le 28 Février, 1890.

JE me permets de vous faire un rapport abrégé sur l'état de ce sandjak pendant l'année 1889, écoulée :—

Administration.—Rien de changé dans le système qui régit le sandjak.

Sécurité Publique.—Depuis que neuf brigands ont été tués à Lailjà (le 27 Octobre, 1888), la seule bande Bulgare, celle de Stoïtcho, qui est restée dans les districts de Serres et Zichna, s'est tenue plutôt tranquille; aussi dans le reste du sandjak on n'a pas eu à enregistrer des faits des brigands d'importance.

Commerce.—Stagnation générale. Les produits agricoles étaient dépréciés et donnèrent lieu à peu d'exportation. Le seul coton exporté l'a été pour les fabriques de Salonique. Dans des pareilles conditions l'importation a dû être considérablement réduite.

Travaux Publics.—Seulement, pendant toute l'année, une étude a été faite d'un chemin de fer Dédéagatch-Salonique *viâ* Serres.

Santé Publique.—Le sandjak a été aussi envahi par l'influenza, laquelle a cependant été d'un caractère plutôt benin; et les quelques cas de mort pendant le mois de Décembre ne doivent être imputés à l'épidémie.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Serres, February 28, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to submit a short Report on the state of this sandjak during the past year, 1889 :—

Administration.—No change in the system obtaining in the sandjak.

Public Safety.—Since nine brigands were killed at Lailjà (on the 27th October, 1888), the only Bulgarian band, that of Stoïtcho, which survives in the districts of Serres and Zichna, has kept quiet; in the rest of the sandjak, too, there have been no acts of brigandage of importance to record.

Commerce.—General stagnation. Agricultural products have been depreciated, and this has resulted in little exportation. The only cotton exported has been for the Salonica factories. Under such circumstances, importation necessarily was much reduced.

Public Works.—The only thing that has been done during the whole year has been a scheme for a railway from Dédéagatch to Salonica viâ Serres.

Public Health.—The sandjak has suffered from influenza, but of a mild character; and the few deaths which occurred during December cannot be put down to the epidemic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. CAPETY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 94.

M. Bizzo to Consul-General Blunt.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Salonique, le 2 Mars, 1890.

IL y a plus d'un mois que m'étant rendu à Caterina pour visiter mes propriétés qui se trouvent dans ce district, j'ai trouvé le pays tranquille et ses habitants, dont la plupart sont des paysans Chrétiens, occupés de leurs travaux en parfaite sécurité. J'ai pu moi-même seul, sans escorte, visiter mes propriétés, ce que je n'avais pu faire avant pour plusieurs années à cause du grand nombre des brigands. Cette amélioration est due en grande partie aux mesures prises par le Colonel de Gendarmerie, Hassan Bey, qui y avait été expédié à cet effet par le Vali de Salonique, Galib Pacha, il y a déjà plus d'un an. Cet officier après avoir bien étudié la situation et les causes du mal qui depuis si longtemps opprimait les habitants, s'est décidé à organiser un corps de police rurale armé et formé de 120 paysans Chrétiens, qu'il a divisé en sept détachements. Chaque détachement auquel il a adjoint deux gendarmes pour représenter l'autorité, est placé sous les ordres d'un chef capable, et les chefs comme les hommes, ont été choisis, et sont payés par les villageois. Ces détachements agissent de concert et sont autorisés à poursuivre et tuer les brigands, et à saisir et amener à l'autorité centrale à Caterina tout individu suspect ou qui porte des armes sans permis, &c. Depuis la formation de cette police le brigandage a été extirpé de ce district; quelques brigands ont été tués, entre autres Tollio, frère du fameux Nico; d'autres ont été saisis, ou ont fait leur soumission aux autorités, et le reste a pris la fuite en Grèce ou en Épire, et ainsi le pays a été délivré d'un fléau qui le dévastait depuis si longtemps.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) N. BIZZO.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général,

Salonica, March 2, 1890.

MORE than a month ago, on the occasion of a visit to my property at Caterina, I found the district quiet, and the people, for the most part Christian peasants, pursuing their avocations in complete tranquillity. I myself was able to visit my property without an escort, a thing I have been unable to do for many years on account of the great number of brigands. This improvement is due in great part to the measures taken by Hassan Bey, Colonel of the Gendarmes, who was sent there for that purpose more than a year ago by Galib Pasha, Vali of Salonica. This officer, after carefully studying the situation, and the causes of the evil which has so long oppressed the populace, decided to organize a body of armed rural police, consisting of 120 Christian peasants, and divided into seven detachments. Each detachment with two gendarmes, added to represent the central authority, is placed under the command of a capable leader, and these leaders, like the men, were chosen and paid by the villagers. These detachments act in concert, and have authority to pursue and kill brigands, and to seize and bring before the central authority at Caterina any suspicious individual, or one carrying arms without permission, &c. Since the formation of this police, brigandage has been extirpated in that district: some brigands have been killed, amongst others Tollio, brother of the notorious Nico; others have been captured or have surrendered to the authorities, and the rest have fled to Greece or the Epirus. In this manner the country has been delivered from a scourge by which it had so long been devastated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) N. BIZZO.

No. 95.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 18, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 1st instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the Bulgarian Government had requested the German Representative, Baron von Wangenheim, to be good enough to furnish them with the details of the claim preferred on behalf of the Russian Government for arms and munitions of war ceded to the Bulgarian Government after the evacuation of the country by the Russian troops.

Baron von Wangenheim has now presented a statement of the details, from which it appears that the sum originally due amounted to 1,300,000 roubles, of which about 700,000 roubles were paid previous to the events of 1886.

Of the balance remaining due, 550,000 roubles are debited to the Government of the Principality, and 14,000 roubles to that of Eastern Roumelia.

The payment of the latter sum is now officially demanded from the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 96.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received by telegraph, March 21.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 21, 1890.

M. STRANSKY told me yesterday that M. Petkovitch, the Servian Chargé d'Affaires, had informed him, under instructions from M. Gruitch, the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, that, in consequence of his action with regard to the Bulgarian students from Macedonia who were studying at the Saint Sava College at Belgrade, M. Minchovitch, the Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires, had forfeited the confidence of the Servian Government, and that his Government hoped he would be recalled from Belgrade.

M. Petkovitch, in conversation with me the same day, confirmed M. Stransky's statement, and said that he had requested M. Stransky to be good enough to inform him of the decision of the Bulgarian Government with respect to the communication which he had made to him.

In referring to the subject M. Stransky said that he did not consider that there was anything irregular or any just cause of complaint in what M. Minchovitch had done, that he had not interfered with the Bulgarian students until they had applied to him for relief, and that he had then only given them the expenses of their journey and a permit to the frontier authorities on the Bulgarian frontier in the same way as he was authorized to do in the case of any distressed Bulgarian applying to him for travelling expenses. M. Gruitch had, however, inserted a Notice in the Servian official Gazette of the 8th March, stating that M. Minchovitch had expressed his regret and admitted the impropriety of his conduct, and that the Bulgarian Government approved of his making this apology.

Upon learning this, he had been obliged to instruct M. Minchovitch to request a correction of these statements, and to refrain from any direct intercourse with the Servian Government pending a satisfactory explanation. M. Gruitch had then instructed M. Petkovitch in the sense above mentioned. He regarded the demand of the Servians as quite unjustified by facts or by the importance of the incident, and he was certainly not disposed to accede to their request.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. F. R. St. John.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 22, 1890, 7:30 P.M.

MR. O'CONNOR'S telegram of 21st instant repeated to you.

You might urge the Servian Government unofficially not to imperil the maintenance of good relations with Bulgaria by insisting on recall of Bulgarian Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 24.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, March 18, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that there is no foundation in the newspaper rumour of the Servian Government having asked the Bulgarian Government to recall their Agent, M. Mintchévitch.

According to a statement made to me by the Secretary-General of the Servian Foreign Department, it has simply been notified to the Government of Bulgaria that confidence in their Agent here is shaken by his connection with the recent incident of the repatriation of the Bulgarian students, and by what he reported to his Government that he had told the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, which is here alleged to differ from that which he really did say.

On the other hand, the Bulgarian Agent assures me that the sense of his language was distorted in the Servian Government's *communiqué* to the newspaper.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(Extract.)

Athens, March 18, 1890.

YOUR Lordship will certainly have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica a report of the desperate encounter between the Turkish troops and a band of Greek brigands, which occurred on the 5th instant at a place called Perivolaki, near the Monastery of the Assumption, three hours from Elassona, and four hours from the frontier, and which resulted in the extermination of most of the band. There have been several reported movements of brigands along the Greco-Turk frontier recently, and the "Acropolis" of yesterday contained an article upon the manner in which these outlaws find shelter and protection amongst the Greek peasants south of the frontier during the winter, and take advantage of the approach of spring to cross the line and commit devastation upon the inhabitants of the Turkish provinces north of the line, who are just as much Hellenes as their near southern neighbours.

An Opposition Deputy, M. Typaldo, formerly Secretary-General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, took this subject as a text yesterday for a long attack upon the Government for its toleration of a system of harbouring such as is above referred to, and a very warm exchange of assertions and denials ensued between the Opposition and Ministerial Bench. Both M. Tricoupi and M. Dragoumis flatly denied that any such protection was extended in Greece to the brigands, and M. Tricoupi referred to the fact that during his administration the law has been amended in the sense of power being given to the Government to prosecute individuals for acts of brigandage committed on foreign territory.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 28.)

Sir,

Salonica, March 22, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have heard, from a well-informed source, that no further disturbances have occurred at the Monastery of Detchani, in Upper Albania; that Pope Raphael, Prior of the monastery, and Pope Sophronios, Prior of the Monastery of Ipek, are both detained by the authorities of Ipek under police surveillance; and that the Sublime Porte has issued orders requiring the Greek Archbishop of Prisrend to proceed to the election of other Priors in their stead.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 101.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 24, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the money due by the Bulgarian Government on account of the Russian occupation of the Principality has been paid in full to the German Representative, acting on behalf of the Russian Government; that the first instalments have already been transmitted to the account of the Russian Government at the "Banque des Pays-Bas," in Paris, and that the whole amount will be paid over by the end of the month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 102.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 31.)

My Lord,

Sophia, March 24, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that the semi-official newspaper "Svobodá," states that Captain Mincheff of the infantry, and Captain Ivanoff and Lieutenant Stamenoff of the cavalry, have been dismissed from the active army for suspected complicity in the Panitza conspiracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 103.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 31.)

Sir,

Salonica, March 26, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th May, 1888, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Ali Nizami Effendi, Kaïmakam of Demir-Hissar, in the Sandjak of Serres, after a protracted trial, has been sentenced to be dismissed from service, and to forfeit the salary due to him for the whole period of his suspension from office, and pay the costs of his trial.

I have also the honour to report that Sadik Effendi, Kaïmakam of Vodina, has been recalled by order of the Porte, in consequence of neglectful conduct in connection with the outrages perpetrated in his district (*vide* my Report of the 29th August, 1889); and that the leading Mohammedan and Christian inhabitants of the district of Yenidjé-Vardar addressed to the Sultan, on the 21st instant, a Memorial, by the telegraph, complaining that the provincial authorities have taken no notice of the accusations which they had lodged against their Kaïmakam, Mehmed Djemil Effendi, and praying His Majesty to issue orders that he should be brought to trial.

I am assured that this Sub-Governor is charged by the Signatories of the Memorial (82 in number) with corrupt and tyrannical practices of a grave character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 104.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

My Lord,

Athens, April 2, 1890.

THE newspaper the "Acropolis" publishes this morning the following telegram from Trikkala in Thessaly:—

"A band of brigands formed in the village of Castania, near the frontier, went two days ago into Turkish territory; was attacked by Turkish detachments near Metrovo, and completely broken up, six of the brigands having been killed."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord,

Cettinje, April 3, 1890.

IN my despatch of the 15th November last I had the honour to report on the unsatisfactory state of affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, and added that though, in all probability, there would be a cessation of outrages during the winter months, fresh troubles would break out in the spring.

Unfortunately, this forecast appears to have turned out pretty correct, for the Turkish Minister informed me yesterday that a band of Montenegrins, numbering about twenty-five men, had crossed over into Hotti by Trebshi, and had prepared an ambush. The Albanians, however, discovered their intentions, and advanced to attack them. Shots were exchanged, but Tewfik Bey had not heard whether there had been any loss of life.

Tewfik Bey told me that unfortunately the agreement drawn up about two years ago by Djevad Pasha and the Voivode Radonich, and signed by the tribal Chiefs, was evidently now considered a dead letter. The Montenegrins had been the first to violate it, and the Albanians no longer thought themselves bound by its terms. His Excellency is no doubt sincerely anxious to come to some arrangement with the Montenegrin Government with a view to preventing frontier outrages, but the plan he appears to favour does not seem to me to be a very practical one. His idea is to stop intercourse between the frontier populations as much as possible by the introduction of a vigorous passport system. No one would be allowed to pass the frontier except at certain points to be agreed upon by the authorities. The passport system already exists in Turkey, but it does not exist in Montenegro, and Tewfik Bey is of opinion that the Montenegrin Government should allow no Albanian across the borders without a passport.

A vigorous passport system, as far as I am aware, hinders the movements of respectable people, but does not prevent suspicious characters from going where they please. I do not suppose that the twenty-five Montenegrins who recently made a raid into Hotti took care to have their passports in order before they started. A Regulation may be issued that people can only cross from Montenegro into Albania at certain points, but it would be a dead letter unless the whole frontier were carefully guarded, and how this is to be done is not clear.

I did not gather from Tewfik Bey that he had as yet placed any proposal of this sort officially before the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER BARING.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Sophia, April 11, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Bulgarian Government has remitted the whole sum claimed by the Russian Government on account of the military occupation of Bulgaria; a receipt for the same on behalf of the Russian Government has been given in the form published by the "Bulgarie," copy of which I beg to inclose to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Extract from "La Bulgarie" of April 10, 1890.

FRAIS DE L'OCCUPATION RUSSE.—Quelques journaux étrangers, dont la malveillance à l'égard de la Bulgarie est incurable, se sont permis de prétendre que le Gouvernement Princier n'a pas encore pu payer les échéances des frais de l'occupation Russe. Pour couper court à ces racontars ridicules, nous publions ci-après le texte même de la quittance que le Représentant d'Allemagne à Sophia, agissant au nom de

la Russie, a délivré, le 8 (20) Mars dernier, au Gouvernement de Son Altesse Royale le Prince. Voici ce document :—

“ *Consulat-Général de l'Empire d'Allemagne en Bulgarie,*
“ *Sophia, le 8 (20) Mars, 1890.*

“ En vertu du pouvoir qui lui est délégué par le Gouvernement Impérial d'Allemagne sur la base de la note en date du 13 Février, 1890, du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, d'encaisser pour le compte du Gouvernement Russe les annuités qui, conformément à la Convention du 16 (28) Juin, 1883, pour le paiement des frais d'occupation de la Principauté par les troupes Russes, sont échues jusqu'aujourd'hui ;

“ Le Soussigné, Gérant du Consulat-Général d'Allemagne, chargé de la protection des intérêts Russes en Bulgarie, déclare avoir reçu de la Banque Nationale Bulgare à Sophia, au nom et pour compte du Gouvernement de la Principauté de Bulgarie, la somme 8,867,000 fr. en or, représentant la contre-valeur de 3,600,000 roubles, afférente au paiement des annuités suivantes :—

					Roubles
“ Pour le 1 ^{er} (13) Janvier, 1886	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Juillet, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Janvier, 1887	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Juillet, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Janvier, 1888	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Juillet, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Janvier, 1889	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Juillet, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” Janvier, 1890	..	..	..	..	400,000
En total	..	..	..	..	3,600,000

“ Et par la présente, donne quittance pour la dite somme aux fins qu'elle serve auprès de qui de droit.

“ Le Gérant du Consulat-Général d'Allemagne, chargé
de la protection des intérêts Russes en Bulgarie,
(Signé) “ WANGENHEIM.”

(Translation.)

COST OF THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION.—Some foreign newspapers whose malevolence towards Bulgaria is incurable have gone so far as to declare that the Prince's Government has not yet paid the instalments due for the Russian occupation. To put an end to these ridiculous rumours, we publish below the text itself of the receipt which the German Representative, acting in the name of Russia, delivered on the 8th (20th) March last to the Government of His Highness the Prince. This document is as follows :—

“ *Consulate-General of the German Empire in Bulgaria,*
“ *Sophia, March 8 (20), 1890.*

“ In virtue of the power delegated to him by the Imperial German Government by a note dated the 13th February, 1890, from the Imperial Russian Government, to receive, on behalf of the Russian Government, the annual sums which, in conformity with the Convention of the 16th (28th) June, 1883, for the payment of the cost of the occupation of the Principality by Russian troops, have fallen due up to this day ;

“ The Undersigned, Acting Consul-General for Germany, charged with the protection of Russian interests in Bulgaria, declares that he has received from the National Bulgarian Bank at Sophia, in the name and on behalf of the Government of the Principality of Bulgaria, the sum of 8,867,000 fr. in gold, representing an equivalent value of 3,600,000 roubles, made up of the following annual payments :—

					Roubles.
“ For the 1st (13th) January, 1886	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” July, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” January, 1887	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” July, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” January, 1888	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” July, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” January, 1889	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” July, ”	..	..	..	..	400,000
“ ” ” January, 1890	..	..	..	..	400,000
Total	..	..	..	..	3,600,000

“And hereby gives a receipt for the said sum for the use of those whom it may concern.

“The Acting Consul-General for Germany, charged with the protection of Russian interests in Bulgaria,
(Signed) “WANGENHEIM.”

No. 107.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, April 14, 1890.

AS regards the position created for the Bulgarian Acting Agent at Belgrade in consequence of the incident of the Macedonian students, I have the honour to state that M. Stransky's choice for this post appears to be M. Dimitroff, the present Prefect of Philippopoli, and to have been dictated in the hope that the appointment of so well-known and experienced an official would be agreeable to the Servian Government, and tend to maintain the friendly relations with that country which the Bulgarian Government had so much at heart.

The Acting Servian Agent here, M. Petkovitch, as also I believe M. Minchovitch, are both absent for the moment from their posts.

No. 108.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, April 13, 1890.

MY Turkish colleague has remonstrated with the Servian Government in consequence of a serious raid by about 200 Montenegrin immigrants, assisted by some Servian frontier Pandours, upon a Turkish village, all the cattle being driven off over the frontier while the Mussulmans were at mosque two Fridays ago. The Servian Government were apparently quite unaware of these facts, but Mahmoud Nédim Bey was yesterday informed by the Servian Government that the reported circumstances had since been inquired into and confirmed, with the result that all the ringleaders are now imprisoned and awaiting trial before the District Court of Prokouplia.

I must mention an incident on the occasion of this raid, namely, the slaughtering of a number of cattle at the place of capture, as corroborative of the reported famished state of the raiders.

No. 109.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, April 20, 1890

I YESTERDAY spoke again with the Minister and the Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs on the subject of terminating the present tension in the relations with Bulgaria by reciprocal and simultaneous appointments of titular Agents, and I urged the advisability of a good understanding between two kindred and neighbouring peoples whose community of interests had been singularly exemplified by an identity of views at the recent International Railway Conference of Vienna, as well as by the arrangement entered into between them some months previously with eminent success for cheap rates for carriage of Bulgarian wheat northwards through Servia, in consequence of the inordinate charges maintained on the Turkish railways for such carriage southwards.

I also drew the attention of both gentlemen to the readiness evinced by the Bulgarian Government to appoint a titular Agent if a similar course were adopted here.

General Gruitch professed as usual much concern for the maintenance of friendly relations with all neighbours; but his Excellency was reticent, and apparently doubtful as to the precise manner in which so desirable an end could be attained in the present instance, while his subordinate only repeated to me the plea put forward

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K 2

by his chief some time ago, that there was no one at the disposal of the Government just now fit to be intrusted with a so delicate mission.

To this I observed that, provided the person selected were generally unobjectionable, his special suitability was a minor point, as he might afterwards be changed at any moment; but what I thought of paramount importance at the present juncture was the principle involved, by promptly filling up the vacant posts.

No. 110.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April .)

Sir,

Salonica, April 21, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius has been recently dispatched to Uscup by the Bulgarian Exarch to reside in that town, and exercise spiritual jurisdiction over the Bulgarians in the Vilayet of Cossova.

He was the bearer of an order of the Porte directing the Vali of Cossova to recognize and support his Episcopal authority, and I hear that he has been installed in his office with the customary ceremonies.

The small Greco-Vlach community, and the Greek Archbishop of Uscup, at the instigation of the Greek and Servian Consuls, tried to get up an agitation against Bishop Theodosius, but met with no encouragement from the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 111.

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

(Extract.)

Constantinople, April 19, 1890.

I HAVE to report to your Lordship a circumstance which has lately occurred in connection with the old grievance of the Bulgarian Church in relation with its dioceses in Macedonia.

Your Lordship will possibly bear in mind that the Bulgarian Exarch repeatedly claims, but without success, the re-establishment of Bulgarian Sees in that province. His Beatitude rests his claim on the Imperial Firman constituting the Bulgarian Church, and the Exarch as its ecclesiastical chief in Turkey, and I believe that two Sees had actually Bulgarian Bishops up to the breaking out of the late Russian war, but the Porte has persistently resisted allowing Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia ever since, and has received an unofficial support in that resistance from some foreign Embassies, and an open one from the Œcumenical Patriarch, who, as well as the Greeks, looks upon the Bulgarian Church as schismatical, while the pressure exercised by Russia up to 1885 in favour of these Bishoprics proved itself inefficient to overcome this resistance.

A few weeks ago I heard privately that the Grand Vizier, moved by the repeated representations of the Exarch, had given his consent to allow his Beatitude to send a Bishop to Uscup in Macedonia on a visit, so as to consecrate different Bulgarian churches lately constructed, and administer those ecclesiastical ritual functions which can only be performed by a Bishop in the Eastern Churches, of which the Bulgarian is one.

The absence of any Bishop for so many years is a constant matter of complaint to members of that Church in Macedonia, and I admit that personally I consider this decision of the Grand Vizier to have been in the right direction, and both in the spirit and in the letter in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, which, in Article LXII, specially provides "that no hindrance should be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the various communities, or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs."

The Bulgarian Church, in the Ottoman dominions, is a community organized by Imperial Decree, and its chief, the Exarch, resides at Constantinople, and is a Turkish subject.

I have recently heard that the Porte have since regretted this decision, and that

the Vali at Uscup is throwing obstacles in the way of the visiting Bishop to prevent him from carrying out his episcopal functions.

I am, however, unable to say what truth there may be in this allegation.

No. 112.

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

(Extract.)

Constantinople, April 19, 1890.

WITH reference to the subject of the Bulgarian Church in Macedonia, mentioned in my despatch of this day, immediately preceding, it may be as well for me to mention that agitators in Bulgaria are trying to persuade the people that it is owing to the illegal character of the present Government at Sophia, and to the want of Russian support, in consequence, at Constantinople, that the religious privations of their co-religionists in Macedonia are to be entirely ascribed.

No. 113.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, April 28, 1890.

GENERAL GRUITCH informed me to-day that he had received an intimation from the Bulgarian Government of their intention of appointing M. Dimitroff, the Prefect of Philippopoli, as their Agent at Belgrade.

No. 114.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord,

Sophia, April 26, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Stransky informed me this morning that M. Petkovitch had called upon him on his return from Belgrade yesterday afternoon, and had given him assurances, on the part of the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, of the desire of his Government to maintain friendly relations with Bulgaria, and to put an end to the discussions arising out of the proceedings of M. Minchovitch with regard to the Macedonian students.

M. Stransky said that he was most anxious for an amicable settlement, and that he had accordingly requested M. Petkovitch to ask whether it would be agreeable to the Servian Government to receive M. Dimitroff, at present Prefect of Philippopoli, as Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent at Belgrade. In case of an affirmative answer, of which he had no reason to doubt, he would at once appoint M. Dimitroff to that post, and rest satisfied with the assurances of the Servian Government that they would at an early opportunity also appoint a titular Agent at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 115.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 5.)

Sir,

Salonica, April 28, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the presence at Uscup of the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius appears to have produced some discontent and agitation in the Greco-Vlach community of that place.

I inclose a translated extract from the Greek newspaper the "Pharos of Macedonia," as well as the copy of a letter from a Bulgarian correspondent at Uscup, on the subject.

It is now rumoured here that the Bulgarian Exarch is trying to obtain the permission of the Porte to send Bishops to Kiuprulu (Velès), Monastir, and Ochrida, three important Bulgarian centres in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Extract from the "Pharos of Macedonia" of April 23, 1890.

(Traduction.)

ON nous écrit bien des choses sur la conduite des Bulgares à l'arrivée de leur Evêque.

Malgré que cet Evêque n'est pas muni d'un Bérat, et n'est pas par conséquent officiellement reconnu, tout de même les Bulgares ne peuvent pas dérober leur joie qu'ils manifestent; tout au contraire, publiquement d'une manière provoquante et scandaleuse à la fois, notre correspondant nous notifie les injures qui sont lancées en pleine rue contre l'Archevêque Païssios, et les Hellènes en général, injures que nous dédaignons d'énumérer, et que seul les dignes descendants de Kroum sont capables de prononcer.

Nous n'aurions pas fait mention de ces actes du fanatisme sauvage des Bulgares si l'indignation avec laquelle notre correspondant parle de la façon d'agir de ces Bulgares vis-à-vis de leurs concitoyens Orthodoxes et leur Evêque ne nous permettait pas de les passer sous silence.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Letter from a Bulgarian Correspondent.

Uscup, le 22 Avril, 1890.

L'ÉVÊQUE Bulgare, Mgr. Theodosius, est arrivé à Uscup tout à fait tranquillement. Il s'est rendu immédiatement chez son Excellence le Vali, et lui a remis les lettres dont il était muni de la part de son Altesse le Grand Vizir. Sa réception a été cordiale. A la suite l'Évêque a été dans l'église Bulgare, où la population Bulgare l'attendait, et a fait des prières pour la conservation du Sultan, et un discours plein de bons conseils.

Jeudi soir, quand l'Évêque a voulu officier dans l'église, le Vali l'interdit, ce qui a fort inquiété la population Bulgare; et la communauté Bulgare a adressée des plaintes télégraphiquement à Sa Majesté le Sultan, à son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et à Sa Béatitude l'Exarque Bulgare. Samedi, la veille de Pâque, le Vali a fait savoir à la communauté que l'Évêque était libre de célébrer les offices, et qu'il devait se borner à exercer ses devoirs ecclésiastiques sans s'immiscer dans les affaires politiques et administratives du pays, vu qu'il ne pouvait le reconnaître comme Métropolitain, mais simplement comme Evêque.

Dimanche, le jour de Pâque, l'Évêque s'est rendu à l'église, qui était remplie d'une foule énorme d'assistants, et a solennellement célébré la Messe de la Résurrection au milieu de la plus parfaite tranquillité.

Le bruit court à Uscup que les Consuls de Grèce et de Serbie ont fait tout leur possible auprès du Vali, et ailleurs, afin que l'Évêque Bulgare ne soit pas reconnu par les autorités; et on dit même que le Métropolitain Grec Païssios a protesté par une lettre au Vali contre la présence d'un Evêque Bulgare dans son Diocèse.

Le Consul Serbe est parti pour Belgrade.

Le jour de Pâque beaucoup de ceux des Bulgares qui reconnaissent le Patriarche Grec se sont rendus auprès de l'Évêque Bulgare pour lui exprimer leurs hommages, et le saluer avec "Christos Voskressé" ("Christ est ressuscité").

Le jour de Pâque un grand scandale a eu lieu dans l'église Grecque. Le Métropolitain Grec Païssios, pour cajoler quelques Bulgares-Grécomanes, a ordonné le prêtre de lire l'Évangile d'abord en Slave et puis en Grec; mais M. Chondrodimos, Chef du parti Grecque, d'accord avec le Consul Hellénique, a poussé des cris dans l'église contre le Métropolitain Païssios et le prêtre, proférant même des menaces contre ce dernier, les assistants, dégoûtés de ce scandale, ont quitté l'église.

Les Bulgares sont très heureux d'avoir un Evêque pour administrer les affaires

de leurs églises, et qui les protégera par son appui moral contre les intrigues du Métropolitain Grec.

(Translation.)

Uscup, April 22, 1890.

MGR. THEODOSIUS, the Bulgarian Bishop, has arrived at Uscup quite safely. He immediately visited his Excellency the Vali, and handed to him the letters with which he had been furnished by his Highness the Grand Vizier. He was cordially received. The Bishop then went to the Bulgarian church, where the Bulgarian populace was waiting for him, and offered up prayers for the preservation of the Sultan, and preached a sermon full of good counsel.

On Thursday evening when the Bishop wished to officiate in the church, the Vali forbade him to do so. This disturbed the Bulgarian populace very much, and the Bulgarian community addressed telegraphic complaints to His Majesty the Sultan, to his Highness the Grand Vizier, and to his Beatitude the Bulgarian Exarch. On Saturday, Easter Eve, the Vali informed the community that the Bishop was at liberty to celebrate the offices, and that he must confine himself to performing his ecclesiastical duties, without mixing himself up in the political and administrative affairs of the country, seeing that he could not be recognized as Metropolitan, but simply as Bishop.

On Sunday, Easter Day, the Bishop went to the church, which was filled by an enormous crowd, and solemnly celebrated the Mass of the Resurrection, without the least disturbance.

A report is current in Uscup that the Greek and Servian Consuls have used their best endeavours, with the Vali and elsewhere, to prevent the recognition of the Bulgarian Bishop by the authorities; it is even said that the Greek Metropolitan Païssios has protested, in a letter to the Vali, against the presence of a Bulgarian Bishop in his diocese.

The Servian Consul has gone to Belgrade.

On Easter Day many of those Bulgarians who recognized the Greek Patriarch went to the Bulgarian Bishop to present their respects, and to salute him with the cry of "Christos Voskressé" ("Christ has risen").

On Easter Day a scandalous occurrence took place in the Greek church. The Greek Metropolitan Païssios, in order to cajole some Bulgarians favourable to the Greeks, ordered the priest to read the Gospel first in Slav and then in Greek; but M. Chondrodimos, Chief of the Greek party, in concert with the Hellenic Consul, cried out in the church against the Metropolitan Païssios and the priest, even using threats to the latter. The people present, disgusted by this scandal, left the church.

The Bulgarians are very fortunate in having a Bishop to administer the affairs of their churches, and one who, by his moral support, will protect them against the intrigues of the Greek Metropolitan.

No. 116.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 12, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the trial of Major Panitza and his accomplices in a plot for the dethronement of Prince Ferdinand and the overthrow of the existing Government is announced to begin on the 15th instant before a special Military Tribunal.

The indictment, published in the semi-official newspaper "Svobodá" of the 10th instant, states that the plot originated at an interview at Giurgevo in 1887 between a Secretary of the Russian Legation at Bucharest, named Viliamoff, and Major Panitza, and that the negotiations were subsequently continued by other officials of that Legation, and the Russian subject Kalobkoff, who, together with nine officers and four civilians, is now in prison awaiting his trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 117.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 16.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 12, 1890.

WITH reference to the information reported to your Lordship in my despatch of the 26th ultimo, that the Bulgarian Government had inquired at Belgrade whether the Servian Government would be willing to receive M. Dimitroff, at present holding the post of Prefect of Philippopoli, as Bulgarian Agent and Consul-General, I have the honour to state that M. Stransky informed me on the 10th instant that he had received a favourable answer from the Servian Government, and that the Princely Decree appointing M. Dimitroff to Belgrade had just been signed by His Royal Highness Prince Ferdinand.

M. Stransky added that he hoped this proof of friendly feeling on the part of the Bulgarian Government would be reciprocated as soon as possible by the appointment of a titular Servian Agent to Sophia, and that, for his own part, he would be glad to see the renewal of the negotiations for a Commercial Treaty between the two countries, which he was well aware would do much to cement their good relations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 118.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the continuation of the indictment in the Panitzza case states that the letters and papers found prove conclusively that Kalobkoff was carrying on his plot for the overthrow of the present Government, not only with the full knowledge and countenance of the Russian Legation at Bucharest, but also that M. Zinovieff, the Head of the Asiatic Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry, and even "higher officials," were privy to it; also that M. Dragan Zankoff was, at the same time, carrying on similar intrigues.

It appears that the return of Prince Ferdinand from Europe on the 3rd November last was to have been the occasion for carrying out the plot, but owing to the arrangements being changed at the last minute, and also to the absence of the Ministers of War and Finance, the plan failed; the design was to arrest the Prince and Ministers at the railway station (the guard of honour having been won over to the plot), confine them in some secret place, and form a Coalition Ministry, the country being meanwhile governed by the Russian General Domontovitch (who was awaiting the signal to leave for Sophia) until the election of a new Prince; this latter task had already been facilitated by Russia, by whom three candidates had been proposed.

A second and determined attempt was made on the night of the 23rd-24th January last, when Panitzza and Rizoff proceeded at midnight to the house of Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff, the Brigade-Commandant, and offered him the supreme army command if he would join. But upon Colonel Kissoff's refusing, the conspirators retired with vague designs of an attempt to execute the plot on the occasion of a ball to be given at the Palace on the night of the 30th; the disclosure of the plot, however, by Colonel Kissoff, put an end to these plans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 119.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch immediately preceding, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the trial of Major Panitzza and his fourteen accomplices was begun to-day before a special Military Tribunal. The Court was presided over by Major Drandarevski, Commandant of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, and consisted of the

following officers : Majors Marinoff, Commandant of the 1st Infantry Brigade ; Petroff, Commandant of the 6th Infantry Brigade ; Tsoncheff, commanding the 6th Infantry Regiment ; and Andréeff, commanding the Pioneer Regiment. The Military Procureur, Major Markoff, appeared to prosecute ; the prisoners were represented by civil counsel (with the exception of Stefan Matéeff, a barrister, who elected to carry on his defence himself) ; military counsel were also named by the Tribunal for each prisoner.

After the Tribunal had taken the usual oath, the prisoners were interrogated as to their age, nationality, &c. Upon Kalobkoff's stating that he was a Russian subject, the Procureur requested the Court to invite the German Consulate-General (representing Russian interests) to cause the usual delegate to attend, whereupon the German Consular Dragoman, who was in Court, announced that he was delegated to represent the Consulate.

The counsel for the defence having declared that the indictment had only been communicated to them on the day preceding, and that in consequence it had been materially impossible to prepare their defence, the Procureur agreed to an adjournment of the case, and the Court fixed Tuesday next, the 8th (20th) instant, for the proceedings to commence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 120.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(Extract.)

Sophia, May 17, 1890.

I FOUND M. Stamboloff in a great state of exasperation to-day in consequence of news which he had received of the expulsion from Uscup of the Bulgarian Bishop, Mgr. Theodosius, lately appointed by the Exarch, with the consent of the Porte, to that See.

Had I not called upon him he proposed, he said, in the course of the day calling upon me and my Austrian and Italian colleagues to request that we would earnestly beseech our respective Governments to use their influence with the Sublime Porte to stay that Government in a course of action which could only result in disastrous consequences.

I endeavoured to impress upon M. Stamboloff the imprudence of any hasty or precipitate action, which, instead of leaving room for negotiations based on the permission lately accorded by the Porte in favour of Mgr. Theodosius, would put the Bulgarian Government in the wrong, and probably result in making the Sultan regret that he had even accorded a temporary concession.

The incident has caused a very disagreeable impression here, and the semi-official press is loud in its complaints of the action of the Porte.

No. 121.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord,

Salonica, May 16, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius, who was lately appointed to the Vilayet of Cossova, has been summoned by the Exarch to Constantinople. He took his departure from Uscup last week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 122.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 25, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the concluding part of the Government indictment against

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Major Panitza and the other officers and civilians accused of a plot against the Prince and the Bulgarian Government shows that Major Panitza tried to persuade his accomplices that the dethronement of Prince Ferdinand was the only means of avoiding a Russian occupation, and that the revolution would be approved by the Russian Government. It concludes:—

1. That Major Panitza, while serving in the army, organized and conducted a plot against the life of His Royal Highness the Prince and the Ministers, with intent to effect a revolution.

2. That Major Panitza entered into negotiations with a foreign State hostile to the Prince and Government, with intent to furnish it with means to accomplish its hostile intentions.

3. That Major Panitza on the 11th (23rd) January, 1890, with his adherents, Arnaoudoff and Sub-Lieutenant Rizoff, attempted to carry out the plot.

4. That Major Panitza, even after his unsuccessful attempt on the 11th (23rd) January, did not give up his intentions, but continued to work for the realization of the plot.

5. That Major Panitza compelled Dr. Mirkoff, Chief Army Surgeon, to write a letter to persuade the Commandant of Sophia, Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff, to join in the plot; and

5. That Major Panitza otherwise sought to induce Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff to take part in the plot and to cause the army to mutiny.

It further states that the Russian subject, Porfiri Kalobkoff, wilfully and knowingly intrigued between Major Panitza and the Russian Legation at Bucharest respecting the negotiations and conditions for the organization and realization of the plot, and that he sought to persuade Bulgarian officers and civilians to effect a revolution, and adds that the Public Prosecutor hands over the accused to the Military Court specially constituted for judging the case, and asks that the proper penalty be pronounced against each of the accused.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 123.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 26, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report, with regard to the proceedings in the trial of Major Panitza and the other accused on the 21st, 22nd, 24th, and 26th instant, that, after some discussion as to the competency of the Tribunal, the counsel for the Russian subject, P. Kalobkoff, protested against the competency of the Court to try his client, on the ground that he was described in the official "Acte d'Accusation" as a trusty and accredited agent of the Russian Legation at Bucharest, and therefore entitled, by the Capitulations, to extritorial immunity, but the Military Procurator denied that the fact of Kalobkoff's having been employed by the Russian Legation gave him diplomatic privileges, and the Court rejected the protest.

Major Panitza denied that he was anxious to bring back the Russians, or that he had any intentions against the life of the Prince. He admitted, however, that if the Revolution had succeeded General Demontovich was to be appointed Russian Agent, but he believed himself that the country would have recalled Prince Alexander. He implicated very seriously Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff, the Military Commandant of Sophia, in the conspiracy, but stated that when he ascertained on the 12th (24th) January last that he could not absolutely count upon him, he renounced all further ideas of Revolution.

P. Kalobkoff admitted the cyphered correspondence between him and Jacobson, Dragoman to the Russian Legation at Bucharest, referred to in the "Acte d'Accusation," and which will probably be published later on *in extenso*, and it was pretty well established that M. Hitrovo was aware of this correspondence. At the same time, Kalobkoff very cleverly tried to embarrass the Government by repeatedly asserting that the allusions to Revolution, remittances of money, &c., mentioned in his correspondence, referred to political agitation in Macedonia, and to his contract for Berdan rifles; but the Procurator pointed out that in this case it was difficult to understand the references to the Sobranjé, Stambouloff, and the necessity of winning over the

Deputies, &c. Kalobkoff's manœuvre, however, strangely diverted the attention of the Court from the direct matter at issue to the agitation in Macedonia, and elicited a statement from Major Panitza that he had acted there with the knowledge of the Ministers.

The rest of the accused denied their guilt, and Major Panitza exculpated them from all participation in his plot, by stating that his real associates had not been summoned to the bar of the Court.

The proceedings will probably continue till the end of the week, when Judgment will be delivered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 124.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 30.)

(Extract.)

Belgrade, May 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here of M. Peter Dimitroff as Diplomatic Agent of Bulgaria, and that he was officially received on the 24th instant by the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom M. Dimitroff was accredited by a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria.

No. 125.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord,

Salonica, May 28, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Shipley relative to the revival of brigandage in the Vilayet of Monastir.

I fully indorse Mr. Shipley's statements with regard to the peaceable and industrious disposition of the Bulgarians in Macedonia, as well as with regard to the danger to public tranquillity which will result from a return to the old system of "poljaks," or village guards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Vice-Consul Shipley to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Monastir, May 17, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that on the 3rd instant, as a party of "kiradjis," or local carriers, were proceeding from Monastir to Salonica with merchandize, they were stopped by a band of twelve men on the high road at a spot not far from the Pass of Fornitchovo, and robbed of a sum of 300 Turkish liras, the property of certain Monastir merchants, which had been intrusted to them for conveyance to Salonica.

As this is the second highway robbery which has taken place in the vilayet during the past two months, perfect immunity being in both cases enjoyed by the robbers, the inhabitants fear, not unreasonably, that the province is entering upon a period of insecurity and disorder such as existed some four or five years ago, when it was scarcely considered safe to venture more than half-an-hour's distance from the town. Only some five or six weeks ago a Christian was found murdered in broad daylight just outside the village of Dihovo, in the immediate vicinity of Monastir, and though too much stress perhaps should not be laid on this and one or two other similar outrages which have undoubtedly occurred during the past winter, it is impossible to ignore the gravity of the fact, that in no single instance have the criminals been punished in a manner at all adequate to the offence, whilst in the majority of cases they have escaped punishment altogether. The outrage at Bruznik, reported in my despatch of the 12th February, is a case, an extreme one no doubt, in point, but others

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could be mentioned, such as, for instance, the murder of a Christian last year at Christofor, a village also in the vicinity of Monastir, and where the murderer, a Mussulman, was set at liberty after a short term of imprisonment, for what reason I have been unable to discover.

It is no doubt true, as I had the honour to state in my despatch above referred to, that the unwillingness of the villagers to come forward with their evidence is a serious hindrance in the way of the authorities in their efforts towards the suppression of crime. Nominally, indeed, the system of "fakhry," or honorary local police, is still in existence, but unless greater encouragement is extended to it by the authorities than is at present the case, it will very shortly become practically inoperative as far as any aid towards the suppression of brigandage is concerned. In this case, I cannot help thinking that a very grave responsibility will rest upon the authorities; for whilst the resources at their disposal for the maintenance of order are what they were in Rifaat Pasha's time, certain of the difficulties, such as the mountainous nature of the country, and the want of an Extradition Treaty with Greece, which in this vilayet, unfortunately, are peculiarly favourable to the existence of brigandage, have by no means diminished. It is, I am aware, urged by the objectors to the "fakhry" system, that to arm some 6,000 or 7,000 Bulgarians is a dangerous experiment, and must eventually lead to their total emancipation. I endeavoured in my despatch of the 14th February of last year to show that these fears, whatever justification, ultimately speaking, there might be for them, were, at all events, premature; and I would now venture to add, after a longer experience of the vilayet, that it is difficult to see by what method, short of absolute extermination, the opponents of Rifaat Pasha's policy propose to prevent the eventual emancipation of an element which forms, in the northern part of the vilayet at least, the vast majority, I might almost say four-fifths, of the agricultural part of the population. The ultimate strengthening and development of an element such as this, which is in the main peaceable and industrious, can scarcely, whatever its political direction, be anything but a matter of time.

Unfortunately, these and similar considerations are likely to have very little weight with those interested in the maintenance of abuses in Macedonia. As it is, one or two "poljaks," or village guards, have, I am informed, been already reappointed, and applications, I understand, are being made on behalf of others. It is sincerely to be hoped that the authorities will give as little encouragement to this movement as possible, for there can be little doubt that a return to the above system, with its attendant abuses and oppression of the people, would constitute a real danger to the tranquillity of the vilayet, and would not improbably lead to a revival of the old "comitats," with a repetition of the scenes described by Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter in 1885. It should, moreover, be remembered that the population, though to a degree patient and long-suffering, cannot have remained entirely ignorant of what has been going on around them during the past few years; and it may at least be questioned whether the same passive submission which has hitherto characterized them may be looked for in the future. I have certainly no wish to represent them as being otherwise than what they really are, viz., essentially peaceable and well disposed, but it is, nevertheless, possible that in isolated cases the villagers might be tempted to offer resistance to the more obnoxious forms of oppression; and though the movement would, no doubt, very speedily be suppressed with more or less severity by the Turkish authorities, it could scarcely fail to lead to complications which would be turned to account for their own purposes by the various political agitators who from time to time make their appearance in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. S. SHIPLEY.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have learned that, thanks to the energy of Mehmet Pasha, the Commandant of Gendarmerie of the vilayet, the majority of the individuals concerned in the Fornitchovo robbery have been captured.

H. S. S.

No. 126.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 30, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th instant, I have the honour to report that the Military Tribunal pronounced its verdict in the Panitza plot at half-past 2 o'clock this mornig, having sat uninterruptedly for about sixteen hours.

The Court found Major Panitza guilty of entering into negotiations with the Russian Legation at Bucharest, through the Russian subject, Kalobkoff, with intent to dethrone the Prince; of preparing a plot to seize the person of the Prince and Ministers by means of the military guard at the railway station on His Royal Highness' return from abroad; of proceeding at night to commence the execution of the plot; and of forcing Dr. Mirkoff, by threats, to write to Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff.

Under Articles 49 and 55 of the Ottoman Criminal Code, the Court sentenced Major Panitza to be shot, with power to appeal to the Prince to commute the sentence to fifteen years' penal servitude.

The Russian subject, Kalobkoff, was found guilty of intriguing with officials employed in the Russian Legation at Bucharest with intent to effect a plot in Bulgaria to dethrone the Prince; and of seeking to gain over Bulgarian subjects, civil and military, to take part in the plot. He was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.

Several of the other accused were condemned to imprisonment varying from six to three years, and six were acquitted.

The sensation produced in Court and amongst the public by the sentence of death pronounced against Major Panitza was very great, especially as the Public Prosecutor had laid great stress on the services rendered to the country by the accused; and he himself had largely won public sympathy by his chivalrous conduct in assuming all the guilt of the conspiracy, and earnestly repudiating connivance with the Russians.

It seems to be doubted whether Major Panitza will personally appeal to the Prince for a commutation of his sentence, but I understand that an appeal against the sentence will be made by the legal channel to the Military Court of Cassation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 127.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury. — (Received June 6.)

My Lord,

Sophia, May 31, 1890.

M. STRANSKY, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, told me this morning that he had heard from M. Dimitroff, the newly-appointed Diplomatic Agent at Belgrade, that he had been received in a very friendly way by the Regents and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who gave him satisfactory assurances of their desire to maintain intimate relations with this country.

The formation of a band of sixty or seventy Bulgarian refugees, Montenegrins, &c., near Trn, with the object of raiding across the Bulgarian frontier, afforded the Servians a good opportunity of giving immediate effect to their friendly dispositions by warning them of the impending danger, but they had preserved a discreet silence; the news had been received from their own authorities on this side of the frontier.

It was evidently impossible that such a large band of filibusterers could exist without the cognizance of the Servian Government, and their silence had made a disagreeable impression here. However, full precautions had now been taken, and he trusted the military contingent dispatched to the district would have a chance of inflicting summary punishment on the aggressors.

It was a curious fact, that at the same time the Servian Government were professing to be seriously alarmed by the presence of a few additional regiments at Koula (Adlie), a place situated close to Viddin, and not far from the Servian frontier, and asking for explanations.

In remarking on this and somewhat similar information communicated to me from time to time by the Bulgarian Government, I have strongly advocated the policy of not allowing such incidents to lead to reprisals, or seriously to disturb the official relations between the two countries. I have urged that allowance must be made for the present political situation in Servia, of which the ultimate outcome was at present difficult to foretell, and that the Bulgarian Government would gain in the estimation of Europe by exercising prudence and self-control, and score politically by being able at any moment to take advantage of any favourable dispositions springing up amongst the Radicals towards this country, and tending towards common action for mutual defence.

The projected raid mentioned by M. Stransky coincides curiously with news from the Roumanian Government of unusual activity among the Bulgarian refugees collected

in large numbers opposite Rahovo, Sistovo, Roustchouk, and Silistria, and rather leads to the belief that these movements were timed in connection with the Panitza trial, in the hope of producing a feeling of uneasiness in the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 128.

Mr. Baring to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 9.)

(Extract.)

Cettinjé, June 2, 1890.

IN a previous despatch I alluded to the presence here of a certain number of Turkish subjects who had probably been attracted by the hope of obtaining relief from the Russian charitable fund. Since that time more of these inhabitants of the Vassojevich have, for one reason or another, come up here, and it is reported that a good many of them when leaving for their homes were recently supplied with arms by the Montenegrin Government.

It is well known that the country about Gussinjé, Plava, Ipek, and Berana is always in a state of chronic disturbance, but I believe that of late the state of affairs has been peculiarly bad. According to one report, the Christian village of Gorazda, near Berana, was attacked a short time ago and completely destroyed by the Mussulmans of Rugovi, who inhabit the country between Ipek and Berana, near the Mokra Planina, and have the reputation of being the most lawless people in a totally lawless country. I believe I am right in saying that their district has never been traversed by a foreigner. Fortunately, the clan is not very numerous.

It is not easy to discover what really takes place in these districts, and the accounts that reach us here are invariably confused and unsatisfactory, but though accurate details may be wanting, enough is known to prove pretty clearly that the country is in a disturbed state.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Connor.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 10, 1890.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 31st ultimo, containing a report of your conversation with the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the attitude of the Servian Government towards Bulgaria, and I approve the advice which you have given to the Bulgarian Government, that they should exercise prudence and self-control in dealing with petty aggressions and disturbances on the frontier between the two countries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord,

Sophia, June 9, 1890

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Major Panitza and the other officers and civilians referred to in my despatch of the 30th ultimo as condemned to various penalties for complicity in a plot to overthrow the Prince, have decided to appeal to the Military Court of Cassation, which can either confirm the sentences, or send the case for re-trial to another Military Tribunal constituted for the purpose in the same way as the previous Court.

The trial has naturally engaged almost exclusively public attention here for the last few weeks, but, as far as I can gather, the general impression it has made throughout the country has been favourable to the Government, inasmuch as it has shown an active vigilance in the detection of conspiracies against the existing régime, and at the same time afforded the Government an opportunity to get rid of some superior officers of whose fidelity they were doubtful. It has also, no doubt, inspired others with

a wholesome fear of M. Stamboloff, and afforded them a remarkable proof that no personal feelings, however deep, will influence him in mitigating punishment due to attacks against the safety of the Prince.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

No. 131.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 14, 1890.

IN consequence of private dissensions the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Finance have handed in their resignation, as also the Minister of Justice, who is, however, expected to remain in the Cabinet.

The business of the Departments thus vacated will be temporarily conducted by the members of the Cabinet who still remain.

No. 132.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 16, 1890.

YOUR Excellency has received a copy of Mr. O'Connor's despatch of the 17th ultimo upon the subject of the expulsion from Uskub of the Bulgarian Bishop Theodosius.

If a favourable opportunity occurs, your Excellency should recommend the Porte to give favourable consideration to the wishes of the Bulgarian Government for the regular Episcopal visitation of the Bulgarian communities in Macedonia, provided that your Austro-Hungarian as well as your Italian colleague makes a similar communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 133.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 17, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the resignations of the Ministers of Finance and Foreign Affairs have been accepted by the Prince.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs will be temporarily carried on by M. Stamboloff, and the Ministry of Finance by M. Jiffkoff.

No. 134.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 17, 1890.

I AM informed by M. Stamboloff of his intention to present to the Porte an official complaint against the course of hostility followed by the Ottoman Government in respect to Bulgaria. The note will ask that Prince Ferdinand and the present Government be recognized officially, and that the Bulgarians in Macedonia be treated in the same manner as all the other inhabitants of that country. The rejection of these demands will compel the Bulgarian Government to adopt such means as it deems necessary for the protection of its interests. These means are understood to be the following: that the Eastern Roumelian tribute be stopped, the Orthodox Greek Bishops in Bulgaria expelled, and the independence of Bulgaria eventually proclaimed.

I took pains to point out to M. Stamboloff how impolitic it was that menaces of this nature should be addressed to the Suzerain Power, and how likely it was that the favourable feelings existing in Europe towards Bulgaria would be weakened by such a course. I also strongly impressed on him the necessity of postponing, for a few days at least, sending the note.

Should the views which I have expressed meet with your Lordship's approval, and should I be instructed by your Lordship as to my further attitude in this matter, it will be possible for me to confer again with M. Stamboloff before his departure, on Thursday, from Sophia.

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1890.

I ENTIRELY approve the language which you have used in speaking to M. Stamboloff, as reported in your telegram of to-day.

No. 136.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 18.)

Sir,

Salonica, June 12, 1890.

IT is rumoured here that serious disturbances have recently occurred on the Turco-Servian frontier, and in North Albania, but I regret that, owing to the absence of my correspondents from Uscup and Pristina, I am unable to get at the facts. Both the Vali, Galib Pasha, and the Mushir, Hussein Fevzi Pasha, told me that, according to the meagre information in their possession, nothing more serious has occurred than some cattle-raids across the frontier by Albanians and Servians. On the other hand, I have gathered from persons who have recently come here from Uscup and Prisrend that Ipek is again disturbed by one of the periodical fits of sedition to which that district is subject.

An attempt of the Vali of Cossova to instal a new Kaïmakam over the Nahié of Drenitza was met by armed resistance on the part of the mountaineers.

The Kaïmakam, with some zaptiehs, has taken refuge in the Slav monastery of Djevitch, and the Ferik Eadhem Pasha, the Commander of the troops in Cossova, has marched to the spot with six battalions of infantry.

The districts of Dibra and Mat, included in the Vilayet of Monastir, are again in a state of anarchy. Bands of armed Albanians are roving about cattle-lifting and committing other depredations in the neighbouring districts.

Much unrest also prevails in the Sandjak of Prisrend, caused by the tyrannical treatment which the loyal part of the population suffers from some Albanian Chiefs, from Rusto (Rustem) Cabash in particular. This man is a daring adventurer, a sort of "Roi des Montagnes," who, at the head of his clan, composed of desperate and hardy mountaineers, levies blackmail from the Turkish and Christian villages in the plains, and subjects them to every kind of extortion and outrage.

He has established himself at the village of Cabash, about two hours distant from the town of Prisrend, the seat of the Mutessarif of the province, from where he actually defies the Ottoman authorities, and directs his criminal exploits in the neighbouring Nahiés of Podrimyé, Opolyé, Gora, and Prisrend.

About ten days ago a deputation of some thirty Christian and Mahommedan villagers from the above-named nahiés proceeded to Prisrend and begged the Mutessarif to permit them to expose by telegraph their condition to the Sultan, in the hope of securing efficient protection against the above-named Chief.

The Mutessarif dissuaded them from so doing, and, upon his suggestion, six of their number, three Christians and three Mahommedans, went to Uscup to lay their complaint before the Vali of Cossova.

The above information on the situation in North Albania cannot be regarded as altogether trustworthy, as it is chiefly derived from native sources, but I may add that most of it is in harmony with the accounts received by some of my colleagues who are generally well informed on passing events in that province.

With regard to the condition of the southern districts of Macedonia, I am glad to

say that, with the exception of some murders committed by Albanian shepherds while returning in spring with their flocks to their mountain pastures, no serious acts of brigandage have occurred this year. Most of the localities in the Sandjak of Salonica which were formerly infested by brigands now enjoy comparative immunity from this scourge. A newly-formed band of eight robbers made its appearance last month in the district of Caterina, but before it had time to commit any outrage it was energetically pursued and destroyed by the volunteer rural police.

The latest accounts which I have received from the interior state that tranquillity prevails on the Bulgarian as well as on the Greek frontier.

I inclose a copy of a recent report from Mr. Vice-Consul Capety on the state of the Sandjak of Serres. No reports have reached me this month from the other British Vice-Consuls in my district, and their recent private letters do not mention any serious occurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Vice-Consul Capety to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le 7 Juin, 1890.*
ON m'informe que Dina Savjakli, chef brigand d'ancienne date qui se trouvait en Bulgarie, est entré avec trois brigands dans ce sandjak du côté de Perin.
Stoitcho, un autre brigand, a été vu dans le District de Zichna.
Ni l'un ni l'autre n'ont pas encore commis quelque acte de brigandage.
Par contre, un certain Mersin, Albanais, avec quatre brigands Albanais aussi, a capturé un pâtre dans les environs de Melnik.
Un détachement de gendarmerie à cheval a été immédiatement envoyé à la poursuite.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. CAPETY.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, June 7, 1890.*
I AM informed that Dina Savjakli, a brigand chief of long standing, who was in Bulgaria, has come into this sandjak, together with three brigands from the neighbourhood of Perin.
Stoitcho, another brigand, has been seen in the district of Zichna.
Neither the one nor the other has yet committed any act of brigandage.
On the other hand, a certain Mersin, an Albanian, with four brigands also Albanians, has captured a shepherd in the neighbourhood of Melnik.
A detachment of mounted gendarmes has been immediately sent in pursuit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. CAPETY.

No. 137.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.) *Sophia, June 13, 1890.*
THE day before yesterday M. Stamboloff referred to the discredit brought upon his Government by the expulsion of the Bishop Theodosius from Uskub creating a general impression that he could not obtain even the most reasonable concession for his co-religionists in Macedonia. Sooner or later he would be forced to retaliatory measures; and he proposed shortly addressing an official note to the Porte, of which copies would be sent to the Powers, protesting against the policy of the Ottoman Government in regard to ecclesiastical matters, as well as the question of the recognition of Prince Ferdinand, and foreshadowing that the probable consequences in the near future would be the stoppage of the Eastern Roumelian tribute and the declaration of Bulgarian independence. The tribute was a considerable item in their small Budget, but, personally, he was averse to the repudiation of any pecuniary engagements, and he would unwillingly have recourse to such an expedient. It was, however, quite as much a political as a financial question, and its resumption, though necessitated by

political exigency, had been very unpopular in the country and only voted by the Sobranjé on his personal assurances that it would secure the good-will of the Ottoman Government in important political questions.

I regard the cessation of the tribute as a contingency likely to occur in the near future, but capable of being delayed or hurried on by the action of the Porte towards this country. But I observed to M. Stamboloff that I thought it very unwise to publicly address threats to the Suzerain Power, which would make any concession more difficult by placing the *amour-propre* of the Ottoman Government at stake, and that menaces of a declaration of independence tended to alienate most decidedly the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government, who believed that there was sufficient vitality in the Bulgarian race to enable them to sustain their national existence under the present favourable conditions secured to them by the friendly attitude of certain Powers.

No. 138.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 19, 1890.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the note therein referred to has been forwarded by the Bulgarian Government to the Sublime Porte; but I am informed that its terms are not so menacing as at first.

No. 139.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 20.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 20, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Dr. Voulcovitch, the Bulgarian Agent here, presented yesterday to the Grand Vizier and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a note expressed in very determined language from the Bulgarian Government, in which, after an enumeration of their various causes of complaint against the Sublime Porte, they conclude by declaring that, unless the claims of Bulgaria concerning the recognition of Prince Ferdinand and the rights in Turkey of the Bulgarian Church are satisfied by the Sublime Porte, the Bulgarian Government will be forced to the conclusion that the Suzerain Court has withdrawn its protection from the vassal Principality, and that they must henceforward depend upon their own strength to find a means of escaping from the uncertain and perilous position in which they are at present placed.

No. 140.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 21.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, June 15, 1890.

I QUESTIONED yesterday the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the reported wholesale massacre of Christians by Mussulmans in Macedonia.

His Excellency said this was greatly exaggerated, that according to information which he had received from the Servian Consul at Prishtina there were doubtless instances of oppression exercised by Turkish troops, who, in order to house themselves, are apt to eject the Christian occupants, whereby these are induced to cross the border into Servia, but are, when detected, driven back with harshness by the Turkish frontier guards.

It is difficult, however, added General Gruitch, for Servia to complain to the Porte of the behaviour of troops sent, at the solicitation of Servia herself, to control the unruly Arnauts who voluntarily quitted the districts annexed to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin; but who, nevertheless, continue, though they pay no taxes, to look upon such districts as still their own. Hence the raids across the border whenever attempt is made by Servians to settle near the frontier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

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

(Extract.)

Cettinje, June 13, 1890.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to me to-day about the state of things on the Turkish frontier, which he said was becoming intolerable, and requested me to lay the case before your Lordship, and to beg that instructions might be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to make representations on the subject to the Porte.

He said that great numbers of Christians were coming over into Montenegro from Lower Kolashin, Berana, and Ipek, in order to escape the exactions and ill-treatment to which they were constantly subjected by the Mussulman Albanians. These refugees were naturally a source of embarrassment to the Montenegrin Government, which could ill afford to provide for them. He asked M. Bakich, who was present, to read me a Memorandum on the subject of these complaints which had been sent unofficially to the Turkish Minister, and which was a sort of abstract of the depositions of a number of these refugees. It contained a series of charges against Mussulmans of murder, robbery, violence, excessive taxation, &c.

In my despatch of the 4th instant, I mentioned that a number of Montenegrin women had been attacked and robbed by the people of Rugova when on their way from Gusinje to Ipek, but that the Turkish Minister had told me that the stolen property had been restored. M. Vukovich gave a different version of the story; he said the outrage took place quite close to Ipek, almost under the eyes of the authorities, that the women had been brutally maltreated, that only a portion of the stolen property had been restored, and that no one had been punished for the offence. M. Vukovich also denied that any Turkish troops had been sent to Ipek, or that anything was being done by the authorities to preserve order among the Albanians.

I have already had the honour to point out to your Lordship how difficult it is to get reliable information respecting what goes on in these districts; but if we only accept as true one-half of the Montenegrin account of what is taking place, there remains enough to cause some uneasiness. The condition of the Vilayet of Kossovo has unfortunately always been bad, and though the Montenegrin version that complete anarchy reigns there should be accepted with caution, I am inclined to think that the state of affairs is somewhat worse than usual. Little information is to be procured from Scutari respecting what goes on in the neighbouring vilayet, as for many reasons the communications between the two provinces are now very limited. It is possible that at Salonica more information might be obtained by way of Mitrovitza and Uscup.

Besides complaining of what was taking place beyond the frontier, M. Vukovich spoke of the impunity with which Albanians committed crimes on Montenegrin territory, and then returned to their own country, where no one attempted to arrest them. When, on the other hand, a Montenegrin killed an Albanian, he was invariably at once punished. There is no doubt a good deal of justice in these complaints, as it is perfectly undeniable that the Ottoman authorities are powerless to arrest a criminal in Albania, particularly one who is accused merely of killing a neighbour in pursuance of a blood-feud. The mountaineers all of no Government interference in such matters, and a fugitive from justice is as safe among them as is a Persian criminal inside the Mosque of Iman Reza at Meshed.

The difficulties with which the two countries, Turkey and Montenegro, have to contend in regard to these matters are not to be compared; but the Montenegrins say that this is no business of theirs, and that it is not fair that they should suffer because the Sultan fails to make his writ run in Albania. M. Vukovich said that the arrangement with regard to the extinction of blood-feuds was really a mistake, as it was completely one-sided, and that it would be better to return to the old state of things, and to allow the frontier Montenegrins to take the law into their own hands. I told M. Vukovich that I totally disagreed with him, and that I regretted to hear him advocate a return to barbarism; but I know as a fact that he is merely re-echoing the sentiments expressed by some leading Montenegrins, especially by the older men, who are inclined to sigh for the good old times when the heads of decapitated Mussulmans graced the tower which overlooks Cettinje. I believe, however, that the Prince has hitherto steadily resisted these arguments, and has declared that, having once made an arrangement, he will carry it out.

I told M. Vukovich that I would report all he had said to your Lordship.

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I need not point out to your Lordship how very desirable it is that the Porte should take measures to put an end to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in these frontier provinces, as though the offences committed and the disputes which occur may appear insignificant, one can never tell to what they may eventually lead.

When the Montenegrins qualify the situation as unbearable, impossible, and hopeless, I take the epithets for what they are worth. I do not say that their complaints are all groundless, but I do say that they are only too delighted to make their voices heard. They wish for nothing better than to have an excuse for interfering in their neighbours' affairs, and it is just this that constitutes the danger of the situation. As things are at present, Montenegro can always get up a cry, and one would think that the Porte would be anxious to stop this.

With the example of the Herzegovina outbreak still fresh in its memory, the Turkish Government should endeavour to remove all cause of legitimate complaint, and it is to be hoped it will not allow its habitual tenderness for Albanians to stand in the way of the evident interests of the Empire.

No. 142.

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

My Lord,

Cettinje, June 14, 1890.

I CALLED at the Foreign Office to-day, and, as M. Vukovich was absent, I asked M. Bakich to give me some further information with respect to the murders said to have been committed by Albanians on Montenegrin territory. He replied that, not long after the execution of the two Montenegrins at Rieka for the murders on the Lake of Scutari,* a Montenegrin had been killed by an Albanian of the Hotti clan, but that the murderer had never been arrested, though the Montenegrin Government knew that he was living quietly among his own tribe. A short time ago, again, a shepherd had been shot dead, near Podgoritz, in broad daylight.

M. Bakich went on to explain that the arrangement for the extinction of blood-feuds was held by the Turkish Government only to apply to the Vilayet of Scutari, and not to that of Kossovo, as the Albanians in the latter district were violently opposed to it. The Montenegrin Government, and, he believed, also Djevad Pasha, had always been of opinion that the whole of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier was included in the arrangement, and the Prince had caused all Montenegrins guilty of offences against their neighbours to be arrested. The authorities of the Vilayet of Kossovo had, however, done nothing; and though several Montenegrins had been killed in the Vassojevich district, not a single murderer had been arrested.

M. Bakich said they would arrest and imprison Montenegrins, but that they would not execute them unless the Turkish authorities showed some disposition to deal more energetically with their own subjects.

When I was leaving, M. Bakich informed me that the Turkish Minister had just communicated the reply of the Porte to the Montenegrin representations. The Turkish Government undertook to construct a line of block-houses along the frontier, so as to keep the Albanians in check. M. Bakich expressed no opinion with regard to this measure, but I cannot help thinking that it will not be altogether pleasing to the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER BARING.

No. 143.

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

(Extract.)

Cettinje, June 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatches of the 13th and 14th instant, in which I reported on the complaints of the Montenegrin Government respecting frontier outrages, I have the honour to state that I to-day had some conversation on the subject with the Turkish Minister.

* See "Turkey No. 3 (1889)," p. 278.

In my despatch of yesterday's date I mentioned to your Lordship that M. Bakich had told me that the Porte had engaged to construct block-houses on the frontier. Tewfik Bey gave me some explanations with regard to the scheme. Fifteen block-houses were to be constructed along the frontier from the Tara to Tusi; each block-house would be garrisoned by twenty men, making a total of 600 frontier guards.

In order to avoid the inconvenience of a divided command, this force would be placed under the command of Mehmet Bey, the present Kaimakam of Berana, an officer whose energy is acknowledged even by the Montenegrins. The frontier guards would be picked men, and Tewfik Bey said that as at least half must, of necessity, speak Albanian, he was endeavouring to get these men chosen from the Southern Albanian contingents, so that they should have no connection with the populations among whom they had to serve. He thought that the remaining guards should be Circassians.

In my opinion Tewfik Bey's scheme is a good one, and cleverly devised. I need hardly say that it cuts both ways, but it should not be depreciated on that account. If something like order is to be established in a wild and mountainous country like the Turco-Montenegrin frontier, block-houses must be erected. The only other alternative that I know of is a military expedition on a large scale every few years.

Again, if the Montenegrin complaints are sincere, and if they really wish to see peace established on the frontier, they should be pleased with a scheme which would give them what they wished for. If, on the other hand, they express dissatisfaction, they will show that they were not in earnest, and that they had some ulterior motive in complaining of the conduct of their neighbours.

Tewfik Bey told me that the Prince, on receiving the communication of the Porte's decision, had expressed the greatest satisfaction, and had thanked him most warmly, and that no Montenegrin official had raised any objection to it.

The only objection to this scheme that I can see is that the number of block-houses is too small. Instead of 15, I would gladly see 30, with 1,200 guards instead of 600. The patrols would then more easily keep touch. Of course the block-houses must be properly kept up, and not allowed to fall into ruin like most other things in the Turkish Empire.

I told Tewfik Bey that I was very glad to hear that the Porte had decided upon doing something on the frontier, as the state of affairs there appeared to me unsatisfactory. I have on previous occasions pressed on him the desirability of active measures being taken, and have pointed out to him the risk his country incurred in giving Montenegro ground for complaint. He has always seemed to me to be fully alive to this danger.

Tewfik Bey went on to speak to me about the Montenegrin complaints. He positively declared that they were grossly exaggerated. The immigration into Montenegro had been insignificant, and when he came to question the Montenegrin Government about the depositions of the refugees, alluded to my despatch of the 13th instant, he found that the outrages complained of extended over a number of years. Some of the refugees had even been settled in Montenegro for a considerable time. He positively assured me that there were troops at Ipek, Berana, Djakova, Rugova, and elsewhere in the vilayet, and he counted up either nine or ten battalions, I forget now which.

I fear I have written at inordinate length on the subjects I have dealt with in this and in foregoing despatches, but I would ask to be allowed to sum up the situation in a few words.

An unsatisfactory state of affairs does exist on the Montenegrin frontier owing to the lawless character of the inhabitants and the weakness of the authorities.

The Montenegrins are, for one reason or another, making the most of the situation.

A scheme has been put forward by the Porte which, if properly executed, should lead to good results. At any rate it should be tried before it is condemned.

The Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs has requested that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should make representations to the Porte on the subject of the general situation.

It appears to me that as the Porte has already taken measures more or less in the sense desired by the Prince of Montenegro, for the present, at least, strong representations are not necessary, but I would beg to be allowed most respectfully to suggest that Her Majesty's Ambassador should say a word of friendly advice to the Porte, and should point out the advisability of keeping unremitting watch on the doings of the inhabitants near the Montenegrin frontier.

No. 144.

Mr. F. R. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, June 17, 1890.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 15th instant, and to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch of the same date, which reached me under flying seal, on the subject of disturbances in Upper Albania, close to the Servian frontier, I have the honour to report that, according to a conversation which I had to-day with the Secretary-General of the Department for Foreign Affairs, it is not on the Turkish troops, who are ostensibly employed in controlling the turbulent Albanians, that can be laid the charge of oppressing the Christians whom they are sent to protect, but on the above-mentioned marauding Mahomedan element in those districts.

"What we have to reproach the Turkish troops for, according to the account of Christian refugees into Servia," observed to me M. Milovanovitch, "is not that they are themselves guilty of the outrages complained of, but that they passively look on while their co-religionists commit them;" and he corroborated the statement made to me by the Minister, that when these unfortunate Christians succeed in approaching the frontier with whatever property has been saved from pillage, they are, when detected, harshly turned back by Turkish frontier-guards, and exposed for a second time to insult and pillage at the hands of their oppressors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 145.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord,

Sophia, June 19, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of the note which the Bulgarian Government have addressed to their Agent at Constantinople, for presentation to the Porte to-day, on the subject of the relations between the Principality and the Suzerain Power.

The note begins by complaining that the Suzerain Power has withdrawn its support from the Principality in the trying and difficult circumstances through which Bulgaria has passed of late years. It gives a historical sketch of the circumstances attending the refusal of the Ottoman Government to recognize the election of Prince Ferdinand, or even to recognize the Bulgarian Government in the same degree as other Powers, while at the same time exacting the payment of the annual Tribute, and requiring Bulgaria to fulfil all her obligations towards the Suzerain Power, and it states that the consequences of this policy provoked political agitators, paid by the enemies of Bulgaria to revolt, and endangered the existence of the country.

It compares the favourable treatment accorded to Mussulmans in Bulgaria with the policy followed with regard to members of the Bulgarian Church in Macedonia, and lays stress upon the fact that, while there are three Greek Metropolitans in Bulgaria, which contains only 60,000 Greeks, there is not a single Bulgarian Metropolitan in Macedonia, where there are 2,000,000 of Bulgarians, and it invites the redress of this grievance in order to prevent the complications which would be as prejudicial to the Empire as to the Principality.

It further alludes to the military force and fortifications on the Turkish frontier as hostile measures which can only be injurious to the good relations that ought, in the common interest of both countries, to exist between the Suzerain Power and the vassal State.

After stating that the foregoing observations are respectfully offered with a view to prevent the disastrous consequences that would result from a continuance of the present state of things, the note concludes as follows:—

"The Principality urgently presses ('insiste') upon the Suzerain Power to abandon the reserve hitherto maintained towards them, to enter into direct relations with their Government, and to afford them that moral support to which they have a right, and which is necessary to their existence.

"The Government of the Principality begs the Sublime Porte to modify its attitude towards the Bulgarians in the other provinces of the Empire, and to accord

them the same rights and privileges which are guaranteed by the Imperial laws and International Treaties, by which all the other nationalities largely profit.

"If, after this appeal, which is addressed to its feelings of justice and humanity, the Sublime Porte should refuse to listen to the voice of the Principality, and to satisfy their legitimate demands in regard to the recognition of the Prince and his Government, and to recognize the rights of the Bulgarian Church, it will be a proof that the Suzerain Power has from this time forward withdrawn all protection of the vassal Principality by abandoning them to their own lot, and the Government of the Principality will find themselves, to their great regret, obliged to seek in their own strength ('dans ses propres forces') the means of freeing themselves from a state of things full of uncertainties and dangers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Dr. Stransky to Dr. Voulcovitch.

M. l'Agent,

Sophia, le 4 (16) Juin, 1890.

DEPUIS cinq ans la Principauté de Bulgarie s'est constamment efforcée de remplir ses obligations internationales et ses devoirs envers la Cour Suzeraine dans les limites qui lui sont tracées par les Traités; et, durant cette période, elle a donné des preuves de sa ferme et vigoureuse résolution de défendre son indépendance et de sauvegarder l'ordre et la tranquillité du pays. Dans la lutte qu'elle a soutenue pour son existence et pour la paix, elle se croyait donc en droit de compter sur l'appui moral et matériel de la Sublime Porte, d'autant plus que la position de la Bulgarie n'est pas sans importance pour la propre sécurité de l'Empire Ottoman. Et pourtant après tous les sacrifices qu'elle s'est imposés pour concilier ses intérêts avec les intérêts généraux de l'Empire, après les soins jaloux qu'elle a mis à mériter la confiance et l'appui bienveillant de la Cour Suzeraine, elle se voit, à son grand regret, obligée de constater que la Sublime Porte, loin de répondre à son attente et à ses espérances, s'est soustraite aux devoirs de la suzeraineté, et qu'en s'effaçant dans les questions où son concours était nécessaire à l'État vassal, le Gouvernement Impérial a rendu plus difficile encore la tâche du Gouvernement Princier.

Un rapide exposé de faits mettra en évidence l'action de la Sublime Porte et du Gouvernement Princier, dans l'exercice de leurs droits respectifs, et dans l'accomplissement de leurs devoirs réciproques, en face de la crise politique que le pays traverse.

Fort du droit que lui confère l'Article III du Traité de Berlin, la Principauté a élu un Prince, et, en l'élisant librement, elle a donné la preuve qu'elle voulait fermer la voie à des combinaisons politiques qui auraient compromis son indépendance et lésé les intérêts du peuple Bulgare. Comptant dès lors sur l'appui de la Cour Suzeraine, elle avait la conviction que la Sublime Porte reconnaîtrait le Gouvernement issu de la volonté nationale, et ne manquerait pas d'intervenir auprès des Grandes Puissances pour obtenir leur adhésion à l'acte de reconnaissance. Mais au lieu de faire des démarches en ce sens, la Sublime Porte a agi dans un sens contraire aux vœux du pays, en adressant au Gouvernement Bulgare le 5 Mars, 1888, une déclaration qui était de nature à ébranler la situation que la Principauté avait acquise au prix de tant d'efforts et de sacrifices.

En ce qui concerne les rapports nécessaires qui s'imposent aux États dans les affaires qui les intéressent, on a vu se produire ce fait caractéristique que le Gouvernement Princier reconnu par la Sublime Porte lorsqu'il payait les redevances dues au Trésor Impérial ou qu'il exécutait ses autres obligations envers la Cour Suzeraine, était ignoré par elle toutes les fois qu'il revendiquait ses droits. Et en définitive, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman n'est pas entré jusqu'à ce jour en relations directes avec le Gouvernement Bulgare tandis que d'autres Puissances qui n'ont pas avec la Principauté les liens politiques qui unissent celle-ci à l'Empire, entretiennent avec elle des rapports plus directs et plus intimes.

Cette attitude de la Cour Suzeraine à l'égard de la Principauté a eu pour résultat de jeter le trouble dans les esprits et l'inquiétude dans les affaires en Bulgarie. Devant les incertitudes de l'avenir, le commerce et l'industrie ont souffert, le développement matériel du pays a subi un temps d'arrêt funeste, les mécontentements ont augmenté. Profitant de ces circonstances, les agitateurs politiques, à la solde des ennemis de la Bulgarie, ont exploité la situation difficile qui est faite au Gouvernement Princier

au point de vue international, et, ne pouvant provoquer un soulèvement parmi la population qui a confiance dans le Gouvernement national qu'elle s'est donné, ils sont parvenus au moyen de promesses fallacieuses à surprendre les esprits faibles pour les entraîner à organiser des complots et à tenter des aventures qui, si elles avaient réussi, auraient causé la ruine de la Bulgarie.

Au lieu d'avoir à constater un pareil état de choses, on aurait vu le pays, confiant en l'avenir, marcher dans la voie du progrès par la paix si la Sublime Porte avait reconnu le Prince de Bulgarie et entretenu avec le Gouvernement Princier des relations directes et intimes.

D'ailleurs, en s'abstenant jusqu'à ce jour de remplir cet acte requis de la Puissance Suzeraine, la Sublime Porte a mis le Gouvernement Bulgare aux prises avec un autre ordre de difficultés non moins graves que celles qui viennent d'être signalées. Il s'agit des Bulgares qui habitent les provinces placées sous la domination de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et dont la triste situation a son contre-coup dans la Principauté, à tel point que, en dehors des critiques véhémentes des partis de l'Opposition, ainsi que des agitations étrangères, il s'établit un courant très fort parmi le peuple, qui commence à se demander si la politique du Gouvernement est nationale ou contraire aux intérêts de la nation Bulgare.

Cependant, s'il est des questions où les intérêts de la Cour Suzeraine sont intimement liés à ceux de la Principauté vassale, c'est, sans contredit, la question des Musulmans en Bulgarie et celle des Bulgares en Turquie.

La situation des Musulmans de Bulgarie a été de tout temps l'objet des préoccupations du Gouvernement Princier. Les communautés Musulmanes y sont traitées plus favorablement que les autres nationalités, par ce seul fait que vingt-trois Muftis sont payés par le Budget de l'État. Les communes où la majorité de la population est Turque font, à l'instar de toutes les autres communes, partie du corps politique et administratif du pays; elles ont leurs Députés à l'Assemblée Nationale, et exercent, dans leur plénitude, leurs droits dans l'Administration Municipale. Entre tous les citoyens de la Principauté les Musulmans ont seul la faculté de s'exonérer du service militaire; malgré cela, il y a des Musulmans qui sont officiers dans l'armée Bulgare.

Ainsi, le Gouvernement Princier a toujours tenu à honneur de se conformer aux stipulations de l'Article V du Traité de Berlin: non seulement il garantit aux Musulmans la liberté du culte et de l'enseignement, mais encore il leur accorde des subsides pour l'entretien de leurs mosquées et de leurs écoles, il les admet aux fonctions publiques et leur assure l'exercice de leurs droits politiques et communaux. Au surplus, toutes les fois que la Sublime Porte a signalé à son attention certaines questions spéciales qui intéressaient la population Musulmane, le Gouvernement Bulgare s'est empressé d'en faire l'objet de propositions législatives lorsqu'elles ne pouvaient pas être résolues par voie administrative. Aussi bien, est-il notoire que, par l'effet de cette sollicitude constante dont ils ont été entourés, les Musulmans ont moins émigré de la Bulgarie que des autres provinces Impériales qui ont subi des changements politiques à la suite de la dernière guerre et qu'un grand nombre de ceux qui avaient émigré lors de la guerre, reviennent en Bulgarie réintégrer leurs foyers qu'ils avaient abandonnés.

En présence de la situation privilégiée qui a toujours été faite aux Musulmans en Bulgarie, le Gouvernement Princier était en droit d'espérer que la population Bulgare des provinces placées sous la domination de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan serait traitée, sinon plus favorablement, du moins sur le même pied d'égalité que les autres nationalités qui se trouvent dans ces provinces, et que la tolérance religieuse, qui a été si noblement pratiquée par les Empereurs Ottomans, serait également étendue à la nationalité Bulgare.

Deux millions de Bulgares vivent sous l'égide de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et se plaignent de ce que, depuis un grand nombre d'années, malgré les Firmans Impériaux, la Sublime Porte a toujours refusé de leur donner leurs chefs spirituels.

Sa Béatitudo l'Exarque qui d'après le Firman Impérial de 1870 et de l'Article 39 de la Constitution est le Chef de l'Église Bulgare, n'a plus la situation qu'il avait autrefois auprès de la Sublime Porte; il se voit réduit à l'impuissance dans l'œuvre qui lui incombe de diriger l'Église et de répandre l'enseignement dans les provinces de l'Empire habitées par les Bulgares.

Le prétexte mis en avant que le Patriarcat de Constantinople s'oppose à la mission de l'Exarchat, est insoutenable.

La Sublime Porte n'ignore pas que, lors de la promulgation du Firman Impérial, le Patriarcat avait frappé d'excommunication les Bulgares qui ont reconnu l'Exarchat;

il s'ensuit que le Patriarcat n'a plus le droit de s'occuper de ceux des Bulgares qui refusent de ressortir à sa juridiction et qui veulent remettre entre les mains de l'Exarchat l'administration de leurs églises et de leurs écoles.

Du reste, la Sublime Porte sait que le Patriarcat Grec a trois Métropolitains en Bulgarie pour l'administration ecclésiastique de 60,000 habitants qui reconnaissent son autorité spirituelle, et que le Gouvernement Bulgare est le seul dans la Péninsule Balcanique qui ait maintenu intacts les droits des diverses communautés religieuses, les États voisins n'ayant permis à aucun des Évêques relevant de l'Exarchat d'avoir des relations avec eux pour les besoins spirituels des populations qui, avant les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, ressortissaient à la juridiction de l'Exarchat Bulgare. Malgré ces témoignages de bienveillance et de tolérance du Gouvernement Princier, le Patriarcat Grec fait tous ses efforts et emploie les manœuvres de toutes sortes pour empêcher que 2,000,000 de Bulgares, sujets fidèles de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, aient des chefs religieux qui administrent leurs églises et leurs écoles.

L'absence du haut clergé au sein de la population Bulgare, la méconnaissance des droits les plus essentiels des communautés Bulgares, les difficultés faites par les Commissions d'Instruction Publique à l'entrée en fonctions des instituteurs et institutrices Bulgares, l'état d'infériorité où sont relégués les Bulgares qui ne sont admis ni comme boursiers dans les écoles du Gouvernement, ni comme fonctionnaires de l'Empire, et à qui même il est interdit d'avoir un journal dans leur langue, tandis que sous tous ces rapports les autres nationalités ont tous privilèges et faveurs, cet ensemble de faits a son retentissement dans la Principauté et y crée une agitation qui rend plus difficile le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité.

Dans ces conditions la Sublime Porte, qui n'ignore pas qu'en Bulgarie, où le pouvoir procède du peuple le peuple a une action souveraine sur le Gouvernement, se convaincra que le Gouvernement Princier faillirait à ses devoirs s'il ne tenait pas compte de la volonté nationale et des intérêts du pays; et s'il se permet aujourd'hui d'élever la voix en faveur des Bulgares de la Turquie, c'est dans le but de prévenir toutes complications qui seraient également préjudiciables à l'Empire et à la Principauté.

Dans le même ordre de faits qui démontrent de quelles dispositions est encore aujourd'hui animée la Sublime Porte à l'égard de la Principauté, il est nécessaire de signaler le déploiement des forces militaires et le développement des fortifications échelonnées le long des frontières Ottomanes, et dirigées contre ce pays comme s'il était un ennemi de l'Empire. Le Gouvernement Princier ne peut s'expliquer de pareilles mesures qui portent atteinte à l'accord et à l'union qui, dans l'intérêt commun, doivent présider aux relations entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté vassale.

En présentant respectueusement les observations qui précèdent, le Gouvernement Bulgare prie le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman d'être bien persuadé qu'elles lui sont dictées par le désir sincère de prévenir tous les malentendus, de resserrer les liens qui existent entre la Cour Suzeraine et la Principauté, et d'arriver ainsi à écarter les conséquences désastreuses qui résulteraient de la continuation d'un état de choses aussi dangereux pour l'Empire que pour la Bulgarie.

La Principauté insiste auprès de la Cour Suzeraine pour que celle-ci sorte de la réserve où elle s'est placée à son égard, qu'elle entre en relations directes avec son Gouvernement et lui apporte l'appui moral auquel elle a droit et qui lui est nécessaire pour son existence.

Le Gouvernement Princier prie la Sublime Porte de modifier son attitude envers les Bulgares des autres provinces de l'Empire et de leur accorder les mêmes droits et immunités qui sont garantis par les lois Impériales et par les Traités Internationaux et dont profitent largement toutes les autres nationalités.

Si après cet appel, qui est adressé à ses sentiments de justice et d'humanité, la Sublime Porte refuse d'entendre la voix de la Principauté et de satisfaire à ses demandes légitimes touchant la reconnaissance du Prince et de son Gouvernement et la reconnaissance des droits de l'Église Bulgare, elle donnerait la preuve que la Cour Suzeraine a désormais retiré toute protection à la Principauté vassale en l'abandonnant à son propre sort et le Gouvernement Princier se trouverait, à son grand regret, obligé de chercher dans ses propres forces les moyens de sortir d'une situation pleine d'incertitudes et de dangers.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. l'Agent, à donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Étrangères et à lui en laisser copie si son Excellence la demande.

Veillez, &c.
(Signé) DR. STRANSKY.

N

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent,

Sophia, June 4 (16), 1890.

FOR five years the Principality of Bulgaria has constantly endeavoured to fulfil its international obligations and its duties to the Suzerain Court within the limits defined by the Treaties; and, during this period, it has given proofs of a firm and vigorous resolution to defend its independence, and to preserve order and quiet in the country. In the struggle for existence and for peace which Bulgaria has carried on, she considered she had the right to count on the moral and material support of the Sublime Porte, the more so, that her position is not without its importance as regards the security of the Ottoman Empire itself. And yet after all the sacrifices which she has made in order to bring her interests into agreement with the general interests of the Empire, after all the care she has taken to merit the confidence and kindly support of the Suzerain Court, she finds herself to her great regret forced to record the fact that the Sublime Porte, far from responding to her hopes and expectations, has evaded the duties by a Suzerain, and, by holding aloof in questions where support was necessary to the vassal State, has rendered still more difficult the task of the Prince's Government.

A short summary of events will show the action taken by the Sublime Porte and the Prince's Government in the exercise of their respective rights, and in the fulfilment of their reciprocal duties in the political crisis through which the country is passing.

On the strength of the right conferred by Article III of the Treaty of Berlin the Principality has elected a Prince, and, in freely electing him, has given proof of a desire to put a stop to political combinations which would have compromised its independence and injured the interests of the Bulgarian people. Counting, therefore, on the support of the Suzerain Court, Bulgaria was convinced that the Sublime Porte would recognize a Government emanating from the will of the nation, and would not fail to intervene with the Great Powers for the purpose of obtaining their assent to the act of recognition. But instead of acting in this sense, the Sublime Porte acted contrary to the wishes of the country in addressing to the Bulgarian Government, on the 5th March, 1888, a declaration which was of a nature to imperil the position which the Principality had attained at the cost of so many efforts and sacrifices.

As regards the relations which matters of common interest render unavoidable for States, this characteristic fact has to be recorded that the Prince's Government, though recognized by the Sublime Porte when it paid sums due to the Imperial Treasury, or executed its other obligations towards the Suzerain Court, was ignored by the latter whenever it claimed its rights. As a matter of fact, the Imperial Ottoman Government has never to this day entered into direct relations with the Bulgarian Government, whilst other Powers who have not the political ties with the Principality which unite the latter to the Empire hold more direct and intimate relations with it.

This attitude of the Suzerain Court towards the Principality has resulted in causing uneasiness and anxiety for the people and affairs of Bulgaria. In face of the uncertainties of the future commerce and industry have suffered, the material development of the country has sustained a disastrous check, and discontent has increased. Profiting by these circumstances, political agitators in the pay of Bulgaria's enemies have taken advantage of the difficulties in which the Prince's Government is placed from an international point of view, and, unable to provoke a rising among the populace, which has confidence in the Government chosen by it, have by means of deceptive promises induced weak-minded men to engage in plots and embark on enterprises which, had they succeeded, would have ruined Bulgaria.

Instead of having to record such a state of affairs, the country would have been confident in the future, advancing in the path of progress by means of peace, if the Sublime Porte had recognized the Prince of Bulgaria, and entered into direct and intimate relations with the Prince's Government.

Moreover, by abstaining from fulfilling this requisite act on the part of the Suzerain Power, the Sublime Porte has involved the Bulgarian Government in other difficulties not less grave than those recorded above. I refer to the case of Bulgarians who inhabit the provinces ruled by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and whose sad lot causes such a strong feeling in the Principality that, apart from the vehement criticisms of the Opposition and of foreign agitators, people are beginning to ask themselves whether the policy of the Government is a national one, or one contrary to the interests of Bulgaria.

Nevertheless, if there is a question in which the interests of the Suzerain Court are

intimately bound up with those of the vassal Principality, it is without doubt the question of the Mussulmans in Bulgaria and of the Bulgarians in Turkey.

The position of the Mussulmans in Bulgaria has always been a subject anxiously considered by the Prince's Government. The Mussulman communities are treated more favourably than other nationalities in Bulgaria, as is alone proved by the fact that twenty-three Muftis are paid by the State. The communes where the majority of the population is Turkish form in the same way as all the other communes part of the political and administrative body of the country; they have their Deputies in the National Assembly, and exercise full rights in the Municipal Administration. Of all the citizens of the Principality the Mussulmans alone have the privilege of being excused from military service; in spite of this, there are Mussulmans serving as officers in the Bulgarian army.

In this manner the Prince's Government has always considered it an obligation of honour to conform to the stipulations of Article V of the Treaty of Berlin. Not only does it guarantee to Mussulmans freedom of worship and education, but it also grants them subsidies for the maintenance of their mosques and schools; it admits them to public functions, and assures them the exercise of their political and communal rights. Moreover, whenever the Sublime Porte has called attention to certain special questions interesting the Mussulman population, the Bulgarian Government has hastened to make them the subject of legislative proposals when they were unable to be solved by administrative means. It is also well known that in consequence of the constant care given to them, the Mussulmans have emigrated less from Bulgaria than from the other Imperial provinces which underwent political changes as a result of the late war, and that a large number of those who emigrated at the time of the war are returning to Bulgaria to reconstitute the homes which they had abandoned.

In view of the privileged position which has always been accorded to Mussulmans in Bulgaria, the Prince's Government had the right to expect that the Bulgarian population of the provinces ruled by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan would be treated, if not more favourably, at least on an equal footing with the other nationalities in those provinces, and that religious toleration which has been so nobly practised by the Ottoman Emperors would likewise be extended to the Bulgarian nationality.

Two million Bulgarians live under the rule of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and complain that for a great number of years, in spite of Imperial Firmans, the Sublime Porte has always refused to grant to them their religious chiefs.

His Beatitude the Exarch, who, in accordance with the Imperial Firman of 1870, and Article 39 of the Constitution, is the head of the Bulgarian Church, no longer enjoys the position he formerly occupied with the Sublime Porte; he finds himself reduced to powerlessness in the task which is imposed upon him of directing the Church, and spreading instruction in the provinces of the Empire inhabited by the Bulgarians.

The pretext put forward, that the Patriarch of Constantinople is opposed to the mission of the Exarchate, is not tenable.

The Sublime Porte is not ignorant of the fact, that at the time of the promulgation of the Imperial Firman the Patriarchate excommunicated the Bulgarians who had recognized the Exarchate; it follows that the Patriarchate has no longer the right to interfere with those Bulgarians who refuse to be under its jurisdiction, and who desire to place in the hands of the Exarchate the administration of their churches and their schools.

Moreover, the Sublime Porte knows that the Greek Patriarchate has three Metropolitan in Bulgaria for the ecclesiastical administration of 60,000 inhabitants, who recognize its spiritual authority, and that the Bulgarian Government is the only Government in the Balkan Peninsula which has maintained intact the rights of the different religious communities, the neighbouring States not having allowed any of the Bishops belonging to the Exarchate to maintain relations with them as regards the spiritual needs of the populations, who, previous to the decisions of the Congress of Berlin, were under the jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Exarchate. In spite of these proofs of the goodwill and toleration of the Government of the Principality, the Greek Patriarchate directs all its efforts and employs every kind of means to prevent 2,000,000 Bulgarians, faithful subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, from having religious chiefs to administer the affairs of their churches and schools.

The absence of higher clergy among the Bulgarian population, the refusal to recognize the most essential rights of the Bulgarian communities, the difficulties placed by the Commissions of Public Instruction in the way of Bulgarian schoolmasters and mistresses entering upon the discharge of their duties, the inferior position to

which the Bulgarians are reduced who are neither admitted to scholarships in the Government schools nor as Government employés, and who are even forbidden to have a newspaper in their own language. whilst in all these respects the other nationalities obtain privileges and favours, all these facts find an echo in the Principality where they create an agitation which renders the maintenance of order and tranquillity more difficult.

Under these circumstances, the Sublime Porte, who knows that in Bulgaria, where the power emanates from the people, and the people, therefore, has supreme influence over the Government, will be convinced that the Prince's Government would fail in its duty if it did not take account of the national will and of the interests of the country; and if it allows itself to-day to raise its voice in favour of the Bulgarians of Turkey, it is with the object of preventing all complications which would be equally prejudicial to the Empire and to the Principality.

In connection with such facts, which show the disposition with which the Sublime Porte is still animated with regard to the Principality, it is necessary to call attention to the distribution of the military forces, and the development of fortifications along the Ottoman frontiers, which are directed against this country, as if it was an enemy of the Empire. The Government of the Prince cannot understand such measures, which are hostile to the agreement and union which, in the general interest, should govern the relations between the Suzerain Court and the vassal Principality.

In respectfully presenting the above observations, the Bulgarian Government begs to assure the Imperial Ottoman Government that they are dictated solely by a sincere desire to prevent all misunderstandings; to draw closer the ties existing between the Suzerain Court and the Principality, and thus to obviate the disastrous consequences which would result from a continuation of the present state of things, as dangerous for the Empire as for Bulgaria.

The Principality must strongly urge the Suzerain Power to abandon the reserve which she maintains with regard to it, and that she will enter into direct relations with its Government, and will accord to it the moral support to which it has a right, and which is necessary to its existence.

The Governor of the Prince begs the Sublime Porte to modify its attitude towards the Bulgarians of the other provinces of the Empire, and to accord to them the same rights and immunities which are guaranteed by the Imperial laws and by International Treaties, and by which all the other nationalities greatly profit.

If after this appeal, which is addressed to its sentiments of justice and humanity, the Sublime Porte refuses to listen to the voice of the Principality and to satisfy its legitimate demands with regard to the recognition of the Prince and of his Government, and the recognition of the rights of the Bulgarian Church, this would constitute a proof that the Suzerain Court has from this moment withdrawn all protection from the vassal Principality, by abandoning it to its own fate; and the Government of the Prince would find itself, to its great regret, compelled to seek in its own forces the means of escape from a situation full of uncertainty and danger.

You are authorized, M. l'Agent, to read this despatch to his Excellency the Imperial Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of it if his Excellency asks for it.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) Dr. STRANSKY.

No. 146.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord,

Salonica, June 15, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to submit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translated extract from a letter which I received this morning from a correspondent at Vucitrin relative to the late disturbances at Drenitza, in Upper Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Letter addressed to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Vucitrin, June 13, 1890.

EDHEM PASHA, the Mutessarif of Pristina, and another Pasha whose name I do not know, had gone with the two battalions, composed of 865 men, 37 officers, and 125 horse, to the village of Laoucha,* where they summoned before them the Notables of the villages of the Nahié, of Drenitza to inquire into their conduct and inform them that they must submit to the law, and accept the establishment of a Kaïmaklik, having its head-quarters at Djevitch, and pay, like all the subjects of the Sultan, all taxes imposed by the Government. Up to the present there have been no hostilities, and it is believed there will be no need of the services of the troops to put down these refractory Albanians, who were perpetrating all sorts of crimes, such as robbery, on the Turco-Servian frontier, and assisting brigands who fled from the authorities of the neighbouring districts and took refuge at Ipek in company with malefactors from Louma, Tanta, and elsewhere. Already twenty Notables, ringleaders of the movement against the Government, have been imprisoned at Pristina, and it is said that others will follow them. It is also believed that, on this occasion, the Government will reduce to submission not only Drenitza, but also Louma and other disturbed districts in Upper Albania.

No. 147.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir W. White.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 24.)

Sir,

Salonica, June 19, 1890.

WITH reference to my preceding reports on the state of affairs in Upper Albania, it is rumoured here that the Greek Archbishop of Prisrend has been assassinated by Albanians in that town; but from the inquiries which I have made it appears that it is not the Archbishop, who is absent from Prisrend visiting Berana and other districts in his Diocese, but his brother-in-law and Major-domo, who has been murdered by some unknown person or persons. The Turkish authorities have apprehended a number of individuals whom they suspect of being implicated in the crime.

My informant also states that the murdered man made himself very unpopular with the Albanians by using the Archbishop's influence in recovering money he had advanced to them at usurious rates of interest.

With regard to the reports published in the Continental press of the massacre of a number of Christians by Arnauts in the Vilayet of Cossova, I am assured by railway officials who arrived here yesterday evening from Jibeftehe and Mitrovitza that they have not heard of any such massacre, and that they believe there is no foundation for the reports in question. I am, however, making further inquiries into this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 148.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. O'Conor.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 24, 1890.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch of the 13th instant, reporting a conversation with M. Stamboloff, when his Excellency informed you that it was his intention to address a note to the Porte, remonstrating against their attitude upon the question of Prince Ferdinand's recognition, and their treatment of the Bulgarian population of Macedonia in ecclesiastical matters.

Your language upon the occasion, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

* Lausa.

No. 149.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord,

Sophia, June 19, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the official journal states that the Minister of War has retired from active service eleven officers, amongst whom is one Major and two Captains.

The reported reason for this measure is that these officers were more or less implicated in the Panitza conspiracy, but I understand that a good deal of discontent has been caused by the Minister of War not making public the grounds of their dismissal and trying them before a Military Court of Justice.

The journal further states that Dr. Mirkoff, Surgeon-Major of the Bulgarian army, has been dismissed from the service, and that a Commission of Inquiry has been appointed to investigate the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Kissoff, late Commandant of the Sophia garrison, in connection with the Panitza plot.

Other officers are also spoken of as suspected of intriguing against the present régime, and as likely to be retired from the active army; and there is no doubt that these reports are creating a dangerous feeling of uneasiness among the officers, many of whom, though discontented by the absence of impartiality in military administration, are, at the same time, at heart loyal to the present régime.

Stringent measures are, however, inevitable if the army is to be made thoroughly reliable and purged of the infection carried into its ranks by the 200 cadets who took an active part in the dethronement of Prince Alexander, many of whom are now Lieutenants and Captains.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 150.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

My Lord,

Sophia, June 20, 1890.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the appeal to the Court of Military Cassation in the Panitza case came on for hearing on the 19th and 20th instant, and resulted in a simple confirmation of the previous Judgment.

The Public Prosecutor in the late trial, Lieutenant Markoff, only appealed against the sentences of Major Panitza and Kalobkoff, maintaining that the former should not have been recommended to mercy, and that Kalobkoff should have been sentenced to penal servitude for life.

The Chief Public Prosecutor, Major Agoura, refuted the appeals of Lieutenant Markoff as well as of the prisoners, and argued that the irregularities complained of did not afford ground for reversing the previous finding, which he hoped the Court would confirm.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 151.

Mr. O'Conor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 27, 1890.

I HAVE the honour to report that Prince Ferdinand proceeded yesterday to Vienna from Widdin. His Royal Highness was accompanied as far as Turn Severin by M. Stambouloff, from whom a telegram has been received announcing his return this evening. His Excellency will act as Lieutenant while the Prince is absent, and the Decree appointing him will be promulgated to-morrow.

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No. 152.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 27, 1890.

THE support of Her Majesty's Government is earnestly requested by the Bulgarian Government to the demands addressed to the Sublime Porte in their note dated the 16th instant, and my Austrian and Italian colleagues have been asked to forward to their respective Governments applications of the same nature.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Fane.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 27, 1890.

I LEARN from Mr. Baring that he has forwarded to you a copy of his despatch of the 15th instant, upon the subject of the state of affairs on the Turco-Montenegrin frontier; and I should wish you to take an opportunity of urging upon the Porte, in a friendly manner, the importance of maintaining a strict supervision over the frontier population.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154.

Mr. O'Connor to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received June 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, June 28, 1890.

THE sentence of capital punishment on Major Panitza having been confirmed by the Prince, he was to-day executed at the military camp close to the town.

TURKEY. No. 2 (1891).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in
the East.

[In continuation of "Turkey No. 3 (1889)."
C. 5824.]

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-
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