

Four monasteries have also been burnt and pillaged :—

Kritchma	..	..	The Virgin	..	..	Abbot killed ; 1 monk missing.
Ditto	..	..	St. Kosma and Damian	..	..	Abbot and 3 monks missing.
Peroustitza	..	..	St. Theodore	..	..	No information.
Kaloyero	..	..	St. Nicholas	..	..	1 monk killed ; 1 missing.

It is now necessary to give a short account of the circumstances which attended the destruction of some of the largest of these villages.

Prasadam Dervent, called in Bulgaria Klissoura.—This village situated at the foot of the Balkans, in the district of Philippopolis, was completely destroyed by Bashi-Bazouks under Tossoun Bey, a Turkish notable of Karlovo, on the 7th of May ; but as I have already given some description of what took place there in a previous report, it will only be necessary to say a very words about it now. I find the number of Turks killed there amounts to thirteen and not to three, as I had previously stated. There cannot be the smallest doubt that the inhabitants of this village did revolt, otherwise why did they erect fortifications, which, though they are far from formidable, are conclusive evidence that resistance against an enemy was intended. The inhabitants themselves do not deny offering some slight resistance to Tossoun Bey's men, though, as I have said before, I totally disclaim the story of the Bashi-Bazouks having summoned the villagers to surrender. The burning and pillaging, however, were acts of wanton destruction and cruelty, as not only were 250 people killed, but the whole population is now condemned to misery and starvation during the approaching winter. The people are now huddled together in tents sent from Avrat Alan, but as far as I could judge only one house was being rebuilt.

When the Bashi-Bazouks entered a woman had just been confined ; they went into the house where she lay helpless and murdered both her and the newly-born infant.

Dervent produced yearly 7,000 Turkish pounds worth of attar-of-roses ; the revenue on this sum is now, of course, lost to Government.

I believe Tossoun Bey has received a decoration, but it is not true, as is stated in some quarters, that he has been made Mudir of Karlovo. This latter official I saw myself, and he is by no means ill-spoken of by the inhabitants ; in fact, to him and to the "Mutevelli" of the Mosque the people of Karlovo owe their safety.

The village of Sopot saved itself from sharing the fate of Dervent by making Tossoun a present of 300 Turkish pounds.

At Kalofer, a large village to the east of Karlovo, 130 cattle and sheep had been taken by the Turkish villagers ; during my first visit there the inhabitants complained that they dared not stir from the village, and also of the conduct of the Mudir towards them. On my return to Philippopolis I laid these and other complaints before the Mutessarif, and on passing through Kalofer for the second time, I was glad to find that the Mudir had been changed for a man who was better spoken of by the inhabitants than was his predecessor, and that there were 100 soldiers in the village.

Tcheunlek Yenikeui—called in Bulgaria Staro Novo Selo—a village of 300 houses, in the district of Philippopolis, was visited on the 22nd of April by one Basily, of Philippopolis, and others, who told the inhabitants the story repeated everywhere to these unfortunate peasants, viz., that the Turks were going to massacre them, and that their deliverers, the Russians, were just on the other side of the Balkans. The villagers accordingly killed some Turks of Ayvanli, who happened to be in the village, and fled to the mountains. About a week afterwards the Bashi-Bazouks came, burnt the village and carried off everything they could lay hands on. The inhabitants thinking themselves safe after this returned to their burnt houses ; they were, however, again set upon by the Turks, who killed sixty of them.* Before the insurrection they had 500 yoke of oxen and 10,000 sheep, all the latter have been taken, and they have only 100 yoke of oxen left. The worst thing in the present condition of these villagers is that their neighbours of Ayvanli, whose violent enmity they have of course incurred, now leave them no peace. They engaged as kouroudji ("garde champêtre") a man named Shakir, of Ayvanli, to guard them, which he does by inflicting every species of forced labour on them, and a few days before my arrival he made some of them cart 300 loads of stone for him. Further, having found out that a woman had some money left, he went to her tent and forced her to give it to him. On my bringing this atrocious conduct before the Mutessarif he sent some zaptiehs to correct the man, but just before leaving Philippopolis I heard that

* Sixty killed in the village, others missing, but inhabitants cannot say how many.