

Armenian girl's evidence the troops were seen from the upper church, and they certainly made their presence known during Friday by firing cannon into the lower one.

I do not see, therefore, how the villagers' story of their not being aware of the presence of regulars can be maintained, though on the other hand it does not appear that Reschid Pasha ever sent them any summons to surrender.

The reasons given by the Turks for the arrest of Wrangel are as follows:—

When in Philippopolis he gave some information respecting a village which he said had been burnt: but his story being contradicted, men were sent after him to make him come to the konak to explain himself, and they, while looking for him, met two individuals carrying a quantity of powder, who, on being stopped and questioned, said they were taking it to Peroustitza by Wrangel's orders. He was therefore arrested.

I should add that a Commission composed of two Turks and a Bulgarian was sent to Yustina and Peroustitza, where matters were beginning to look serious, to try and allay the ill-feeling existing on both sides, and two men from Peroustitza were given as hostages to the people of Yustina, but unfortunately no really good result followed this mission.

From all the conflicting evidence I think one may fairly deduce that the spirit of revolt existed at Peroustitza; but on the other hand the punishment inflicted was severer than the crime merited. The burning of the village was neither necessary nor politic, and, of course, the wholesale plunder here or elsewhere cannot be excused for a moment.

Surely also Reschid Pasha might have advanced his troops right up to the town church on Friday instead of on Saturday, whereas he bombarded it for the whole of one day, although he must have known that it was full of women and children. There were certainly armed men in it who were resisting the Bashi-Bazouks with a certain amount of vigour, but the resistance that would have been offered to his regulars would probably not have been severe.

In the school which was burnt during the fighting two girls are said to have perished in the flames.

There is no doubt that when the prisoners were being taken to Philippopolis numbers of the women were violated on the road.

Peroustitza was a most flourishing village producing annually 2,000,000 okes of wine and a large quantity of silk and grain; of course the place is now completely ruined, and the surviving inhabitants are in the greatest misery.

I have given elsewhere my estimate of the number of killed, among whom there are many women and children.

*Batak.*—I have now to give an account of the most fearful tragedy that happened during the whole insurrection, and about which, till a very short time ago, little or nothing had been said.

The Medjliss of Tatar Bazardjik hearing that preparations for revolt were going on in this village ordered Achmet Agha of Dospat to attack it, and this individual having joined his forces with those of Mohammed Agha of Dorkovo, proceeded to carry out these orders. On arriving at the village he summoned the inhabitants to give up their arms which, as they mistrusted him, they refused to do, and a desultory fight succeeded which lasted two days, hardly any loss being inflicted on either side. On the 9th of May the inhabitants seeing that things were going badly with them, and that no aid came from without, had a parley with Achmet, who solemnly swore that if they only gave up their arms, not a hair of their heads should be touched. A certain number of the inhabitants, luckily for them, took advantage of this parley to make their escapes. The villagers believed Achmet's oath and surrendered their arms, but this demand was followed by one for all the money in the village, which of course had also to be acceded to.

No sooner was the money given up than the Bashi-Bazouks set upon the people and slaughtered them like sheep. A large number of people, probably about 1,000 or 1,200, took refuge in the church and churchyard, the latter being surrounded by a wall. The church itself is a solid building, and resisted all the attempts of the Bashi-Bazouks to burn it from the outside, they consequently fired in through the windows, and getting upon the roof, tore off the tiles and threw burning pieces of wood and rags dipped in petroleum among the mass of unhappy human beings inside. At last the door was forced in, the massacre completed, and the inside of the church burnt. Hardly any escaped out of these fatal walls. The only survivor I could find was one old woman who alone remained out of a family of seven. When the door