

and Adil Pasha arrived with troops and irregulars, the resistance they met with was very slight, and they entered the town and made it pay dearly for its attempts at revolution.

Both the churches, two schools, the whole of the market-place, and the best houses, in all between 400 and 500, were burnt, and the whole town pillaged from one end to the other. Nothing of the smallest value was left, and between 30,000 to 40,000 Turkish pounds' worth of property are said to have been carried off. Unfortunately the Turks did not confine themselves to pillage; over 700 people belonging to the village, among whom were many women and children, were killed, and a large number of strangers also perished. The number of these latter was stated to me by the inhabitants to have been about 1,000.

Great numbers of women were also no doubt ravished, but considering the natural unwillingness that, of course, exists among respectable people to give evidence respecting this class of crime, it is not very easy to obtain reliable information on the subject. One woman, however, did come forward, and declared that her daughter, fourteen years of age, had been violated, and then murdered in her presence.

Two little children were brought to me wounded, one in the foot and one in the thigh. A child is said to have been impaled on a standard, and paraded in the streets.

Other fearful horrors are spoken of as having been committed, but I am not in a position to prove or disprove them, and would, therefore, prefer to draw a veil over them.

I have, however, stated sufficient to prove that Hafiz Pasha suppressed the insurrection in this place with a severity not in the least called for. As a centre of what, no doubt, might have turned out eventually to be a serious rising, an example was called for; but a chastisement, sufficient to strike terror into the population, might have been inflicted without ravishing, pillaging, slaughtering women and children, and indulging in cruelties worthy of Red Indians.

The case is not improved by the fact that these deeds were committed not only by Bashi-Bazouks, but also by regulars, the Arab soldiers, in particular, distinguishing themselves by their licentiousness and ferocity.

Much has been said about the case of Raika Popova, school-mistress of Otlou-keui, and surnamed the "Queen of the Bulgarians." One day, at the beginning of the insurrection, this very young woman was taken by her fellow-townpeople, mounted on a horse, and paraded about the streets, while the crowd shouted, "Long live the Queen!" The whole affair appears to have been really nothing but a drunken frolic, yet the girl was imprisoned for some time at Philippopolis, and only released during my stay there.

She is said to have been violated by the Mudir of Otloukeui, in whose house she was at first confined, and also by other Turks; but though her female companions declare such to have been her fate, the girl herself stoutly denies it, and has even expressed her willingness to submit to medical examination. Perhaps natural modesty may cause her to shrink from speaking the truth, but I do not quite see how, in the face of her own positive denial, the Turkish Government can be called upon, as some seem to think they ought to be, to disprove her statement.

*Avrat Alan.*—A large village some four hours from Otlou-keui, also took an active part in the insurrection. Some *zaptiehs* who had gone there to effect some arrests were besieged in the Konak, but after twenty-four hours' resistance succeeded in cutting their way through the mob. The Mudir, his secretary, and three *zaptiehs* were killed, as also were sixty-six gipsies and one Turkish girl.

The village was not attacked by Hafiz Pasha till after he had been to Otlou-keui, and as the inhabitants made immediate submission, and even arrested some suspected persons, not a house was burnt. The place, however, was completely pillaged, and the inhabitants say 130 people, including strangers, were killed. Many of the houses were simply gutted, and in one that I saw the boards had been torn up in places and the divans ripped open in the search for valuables.

It is said that a boy of this village was so brutally outraged that he died.

On the whole, Avrat Alan, the most guilty village of all, suffered less than any of the others, and one is led to ask why the punishment which was considered sufficient here should have been considered insufficient elsewhere.

*Sandjak of Slimnia.*—The insurrection in this province seems to have been a most extremely insignificant affair, but Mussulman feeling had been a good deal excited by the occurrences at Eski-Zaghra in the autumn, and had it not been for the firmness and impartiality of Haydar Bey, Mutessarif of Slimnia, whose conduct it is impossible to praise too highly, the Christians would have fared badly.