

At last the Government at Constantinople having become alive to the fact that there was an insurrection in Bulgaria, despatched some troops from the capital, while others under Hassan Pasha came down from Nisch. On the 7th May the latter entered Vetren, burnt 130 houses out of 400, and arrested a certain number of men. He then went through Bazardjik to Bratzigovo, the inhabitants of which had been fighting against the Bashi-Bazouks for about a week, during which time 50 houses were burnt, and called upon them to surrender. The villagers accordingly laid down their arms, and Hassan Pasha made 50 prisoners. The Bashi-Bazouks, as usual, wanted to burn and pillage the village, but this the Pasha refused to allow, threatening to fire upon them if they attempted anything of the sort. Unfortunately, after Hassan Pasha left, a certain Mehmet Ali Bey, a fanatical notable of Bazardjik, returned to Bratzigovo with a number of Bashi-Bazouks and plundered it, cartloads of stolen property being taken away.

Other troops under Hafiz Pasha marched upon Otlou-Keui and Avrat-Alan, and, arriving at the former village on the 12th of May, without the smallest difficulty reduced the insurgents to obedience.

Raschid Pasha went from Philippopolis to Peroustitza, and, after encountering some resistance, entered the village and burnt it to the ground on the 13th of May.

No sooner did the regular troops appear on the scene than the insurrection was at an end, and much bloodshed and useless destruction of property would have been spared had they only been despatched somewhat earlier.

In this imperfect sketch of the outbreak I have not entered upon the subject of atrocities committed, or said to have been committed, as it will be necessary hereafter to give a more detailed account of what took place in each of the principal villages.

I have stated above that the insurrection was suppressed; it is now necessary to examine the manner in which this was done.

The most appalling stories were spread abroad respecting the atrocities committed on the Bulgarians, and, finding their way into the English papers, naturally created a feeling of intense indignation against the perpetrators.

It was said that cartloads of heads had been paraded about the streets of different towns.

That women and children had been publicly sold in the streets of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik.

That horrible tortures had been practised upon the prisoners.

That forty young girls had been ravished and then burnt alive in a barn.

That at least 25,000 perfectly innocent persons had been massacred.

That a large number of villages, differently stated as being between 60 and 100, had been burnt.

It is utterly untrue that cartloads of heads were ever paraded in the streets of any town; but I think I can trace the origin of the story, which was telegraphed to England from Servia. During the insurrection about 150 insurgents crossed over from Roumania in the "Radetzky," and were encountered and defeated by Bashi-Bazouks to the north of Sofia. Some of the dead were decapitated by the conquerors, who brought the heads into Sofia on bayonets and poles, and took them to the konak, where the Pasha told them that he wanted not dead men's heads, but live prisoners, from whom he could obtain evidence.

It is not true that women or children have been publicly sold in the streets under the very eyes of the authorities at Philippopolis or Tatar Bazardjik.

During the terrific confusion that followed the insurrection there is no doubt that many children were lost; some of these have been taken into the houses of charitable persons, and others have now been recovered by their parents. Some may be in the houses of Mussulmans, but I have not heard one single properly authenticated case of sale. In fact respectable Bulgarians themselves at Philippopolis and elsewhere have told me that these stories of sales are only fabrications.

As regards young women, a certain number have no doubt been carried off from different villages by the Bashi-Bazouks, who keep them in their harems; *e.g.* after the awful massacre of Batak about 80 young women and girls were taken to the Mussulman villages of Nevrokop, Inipliza, Alanjevo, Kara Boulak, Yeni-Mahalle, Rekitvo, Dorkovo, Bania, Corsova, Babiak, Kozak, and Fotentzi, where they still are.

One man of Batak who knew his wife was in the house of a Turk named Alihko of Bania, applied to the authorities at Tatar Bazardjik, and a zaptieh was sent to look