

after her, as, however, he came back saying he could not find her, the man was told that if he wanted his wife, he must get her himself.

Of course what took place at Batak may also have taken place elsewhere, though I only heard myself one more case, viz. of a woman of Prasadum Derwent, who said her daughter was in the house of a Turk belonging to a neighbouring village.

The question of the tortures said to have been inflicted on the prisoners is one most difficult to decide, the evidence on the subject being so very conflicting. The Bulgarians in Philippopolis absolutely assert that the greater portion of the evidence given at the trials was extracted by torture; the Turks as absolutely deny that anything of the sort has taken place.

During my journey I saw two men who declared to me that they had been tortured.

One of these, a native of Philippopolis, was arrested and imprisoned for seventy-eight days, nineteen of which he passed in what is known as the "Polizza," a dark damp little dungeon, in which there is only just room for a man to lie down. He said he was taken out at night and asked by two zaptiehs about one Tzocow and other notables of the town, and also whether he had taken arms to Peroustitza; on his declaring that he had no information to give, an iron ring was fastened round his neck which was attached to a chain passed through another ring in the ceiling, and he was then gradually drawn up till his toes only just touched the ground, and kept in that position till he fainted. He was never examined before the Court, and at the end of seventy-eight days was released.

This is the man's story as I heard it from his own lips, but of course I have no means of proving its correctness or incorrectness; only it appears somewhat strange to me that this man should have been tortured by two common zaptiehs without any superior official being present to take down what might be extorted from him.

The other man I saw was a priest who said that, having been arrested, he was sent to Bazardjik, and on the way was brutally beaten by the zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks who escorted him, till, to save himself, he signed a paper implicating certain persons. He was then sent to Philippopolis, where he was confined for thirty-five days, during part of which time he was chained to the bars of a window and iron hooks placed in his mouth.

The medical man attached to the prison at Philippopolis; Dr. Vlado, a Greek gentleman, with whom I conversed on the subject, declared that he utterly disbelieved these stories of torture. At any rate, though the prisoners had not been behindhand in complaining of other things, not one of them had said he had been tortured; he had free access to the prisons, and if torture had been used it is more than probable that some one would have made a complaint to him. A priest had complained of having been beaten on the road and showed his bruises. Confinement in the "Polizza," he said, though no doubt extremely disagreeable, could not be regarded as actual torture.*

Though I am unable positively to decide whether prisoners were or were not tortured for the purpose of extracting evidence, there is no doubt that, while they were being conveyed to Philippopolis from the places where they were captured, they were in many cases most brutally ill-treated. This was especially the case with 400 men, who were marched heavily chained from Bazardjik to Philippopolis, and who, on their entry into the latter place, were mercilessly beaten by their escort, and pelted and insulted by the Mussulman mob.

Again, eighty prisoners were sent from Philippopolis to Sofia; five of them died on the road.

Immediately after the suppression of the insurrection, when the feeling against the Bulgarians was strongest, the zaptiehs even beat the prisoners while escorting them from the prison to the place of trial.

When the great mass of prisoners came in from the surrounding country, there is no doubt that the overcrowding in the prisons at Philippopolis was terrific; 265 men were confined for four days in a bath, in which there was not the smallest attempt at drainage, the stench becoming so fearful that the guards could not even sit in the ante-room, but had to stay in the street. One prisoner died here of typhus fever, and, it being represented to the authorities that a pestilence might break out in the town, they had the prisoners removed to a khan.

* Since writing the above I have seen another priest, who declares he was confined for seven days in a privy, during three of which he had neither food nor water, and for twenty-one days in the "polizza," from whence he was only released the day I visited the prison.