

The facts of this tragedy are now in the possession of the Turkish Government, and it is their bounden duty, by making a striking example of Achmet Agha and Mohammed Agha, to prove to the world that it thoroughly disapproves of their infamous conduct.

On my way to Batak I passed through the burnt village of Radilovo, consisting of 177 houses. Here 25 men and women had been killed, and 150 yoke of oxen, 20 horses, and 3,000 sheep carried off. Through the intervention of the authorities, the villagers had recovered 30 yoke of oxen and 350 sheep. Some of their cattle they knew to be at Tchanahdji, but on going to claim it the Turks drove them off with pistol shots.

I also visited Peshtera, a mixed village. Here the Bulgarians said they had lost 200 head of cattle, and that there had been cases of plunder, but no ill-treatment. One man had been killed in the fields.

On the road between Tatar Bazardjik and Otlou-keui, I passed a number of villages totally or partially burnt, viz., the Bulgarian villages of Vetren, Dene-Harman, Tzerovo, Caramousal, Lesitchovo, and Bania; and the Mussulman villages of Palanka, Ouroutchli, and Djafferli.

*Vetren* was partially burnt by the troops of Hassan Pasha, the inhabitants having cut the telegraph wires, fired upon the post, and aided in burning the little Mussulman village and guard-house of Palanka. 130 houses, including the church, are burnt out of 400; the school is not burnt.

At *Dene-Harman* the villagers, having all taken to the mountains, were unable positively to say who burnt their village.

*Tzerovo*.—80 houses burnt out of 180. Part of these were burnt by the insurgents, but the Circassians who came afterwards burnt the church and carried off a quantity of cattle. Some of the oxen have been recovered at Sofia, but no sheep.

A Tchorbadje of this village wanted to massacre some gipsies, who were, however, saved by the intervention of one Nicola Kodouk, a Bulgarian. This man has been rewarded by being imprisoned at Philippopolis.

*Caramousal*.—120 houses was totally burnt by the Turks of Elenene, and 600 yoke of oxen carried off. 50 people were killed here and there on the hills.

*Lesitchovo* was evacuated by the inhabitants at the instigation of some rebels, and was then partially burnt, probably by the Turkish villagers.

*Bania*.—Hafiz Pasha burnt six houses here belonging to persons implicated in the revolution. Several women were violated. A boy watching cattle in the neighbourhood was shot through the leg by the troops or Bashi-Bazouks, who happened to pass by, a wanton act of cruelty.

*Ouroutchli* and *Djafferli*, purely Turkish villages, situated near one another, were burnt by the insurgents. In the former I saw the ruins of the mosque, but I cannot say whether there was one in the latter or not.

*Otloukeui*, in Bulgarian Panagurishti.—A large and wealthy village of 2,000 houses; may be looked upon as the centre of the insurrection. It was here that Benkowsky held meetings of insurgents, at which their plan of action was drawn up. Altogether, the inhabitants tell me, he stayed in the town nearly four months, telling everyone that the Turks were going to massacre the Christians, and promising Russian aid. When the rising really did take place, the people killed the "Multezim," a zaptieh, and some other Turks, and imprisoned the Mudir's Vekil and others, who, however, were not harmed. The newly-appointed Mudir was to occupy his post at the time, and was murdered outside the village.

Two Turkish women were also killed outside, though apparently one of them only met her fate after she had slashed an insurgent across the head with a knife.

While at Otloukeui I conversed with many of the villagers, and none of them denied that the Mudir was murdered outside; but some persons who wish to be more Bulgarian than the Bulgarians, and whose only object it is to make the Turks appear as odious as possible in the eyes of the world, so as to lead to the speedy dismemberment of their Empire, do not hesitate by a most unworthy piece of special pleading to acquit the people of Otloukeui of this murder.

They say the village had no Mudir, so how could he be killed in the village?

It is true he was killed not inside but outside, which, as far as he was concerned, makes no material difference.

The insurgents erected fortifications which are erected with greater care than any others I saw in the country, and prepared for resistance. When, however, Hafiz Pasha