

Nothing appears to have happened till after the insurrection had been pretty well quelled in the Province of Philippopolis, when a few idle and worthless fellows from Slimnia betook themselves to the Balkans to join some bands which had been formed in the neighbouring vilayet.

The Bulgarians themselves gave information of this to the Mutessarif, a body of men went in pursuit of these rebels, and coming up with these dispersed them, killing several and brought a few heads into Slimnia.

Here the whole business might, and ought to, have ended, but the arrival of Shefket Pasha entirely altered the aspect of affairs.

The Vali of Adrianople had sent orders to the Mutessarif of Slimnia to call out the Bashi-Bazouks, but the latter, who was fully alive to the danger of such a course, did not at once obey. No sooner did Shefket Pasha arrive, however, than without consulting anybody, he sent orders right and left for the general arming of the Mussulmans. Many of these Bashi-Bazouks came to Slimnia, and they, and Shefket Pasha's troops, spread terror among the Christians. Three men were murdered in the streets, and a few others wounded, and had it not been for the admirable conduct of the Mutessarif, far worse things would undoubtedly have happened.

I will now endeavour to give some description of what Edib Effendi calls "*la défaite infligée aux insurgés à Boyadjikeui.*"

About the 24th or 25th of May some Turks of Korfale went to the village and extorted about 20*l.* Turkish from different villagers and ravished one man's wife and daughter. The inhabitants accordingly met together to consider what steps they could take to prevent the recurrence of these outrages. Upon this two or three Mussulmans who happened to be in the village sent to Slimnia and told the Mutessarif that Boyadjikeui was in a state of rebellion. The Mutessarif mistrusted their information, and told them plainly that they only wanted an excuse for plunder. They left him and went to Shefket Pasha, who, in his turn, went to the Mutessarif, and urged him to take measures to suppress this incipient rising.

The Mutessarif therefore telegraphed to Hachen Effendi, Kaimakam of Yamboli, which is two hours from Boyadjikeui, to go and inquire into what was going on.

This functionary went to the village, but the inhabitants having really no confidence in him, said they did not want his protection, and if only a single zaptieh were sent from Slimnia they would do anything they were ordered to do.

Hachen Effendi consequently sent off a messenger to Slimnia to say that the inhabitants of Boyadjikeui *had refused to admit him.*

This message somehow or other got into the hands of Shefket Pasha, who immediately ordered his troops out and marched to the village. On his approach the elders came out to meet and salute him, and to assure him of their loyalty. He entirely refused to listen to them, and drove them away with insulting language, and ordered the attack.

Out of 139 houses all but 20 were burnt; 143 men and 6 women were massacred; 5,500 oxen, cows, horses, &c., and 7,600 sheep were carried off, as well as quantities of other property. This happened on the 30th of May.

The villages of Mouslouk Hodja, Bouzoundjou, and Emirli were plundered, but not burnt, and Besch Tepe was only saved from destruction by the troops of Shefket Pash by the earnest intercession of the Bishop of Slimnia.

At Yamboli also the troops under Shefket Pasha behaved most disgracefully, they plundered many houses and ill-treated the Christians, though I could not discover that anybody had been killed.

I had been told that the daughter of one Hadji Elia had been violated and murdered before his eyes. I made inquiries and discovered that the man had but two daughters before these occurrences, who are both still alive. Whether, however, one of them was outraged or not is more than I can say. There is little doubt that Shefket Pasha intended to treat Yamboli as he had treated Boyadjikeui. The Kaimakam of the town ordered the people to give up their arms, which they were doing quietly enough, when Shefket Pasha interfered and said he must have all the arms that instant. The Kaimakam being bullied completely lost his head, and said the people would not give up their arms, upon this Shefket Pasha ordered his troops *to take them*; a great many houses were thus pillaged and the place was only saved from destruction by the interference of a Mussulman named Hafiz Effendi, a most noble and liberal minded man. Braving the opinion of his co-religionists he took as many Christian families as he could into his house, and going to Shefket insisted that the plundering should be stopped.

I am aware that as regards the killed at Boyadjikeui my figures do not tally with