

given ear to those baneful counsels which have brought his country to the brink of ruin, delayed sending the aid asked for. It was then that Aziz Pasha had recourse to the dangerous expedient of calling an ignorant and fanatical population to arms.

Aziz Pasha actually issued this fatal order, but Mahmoud Pasha stands none the less plainly convicted of culpable negligence for not having sent troops the moment they were asked for, and the enemies of Turkey may have the satisfaction of knowing that the neglect of that one man has done her more real harm than twelve months un-suppressed insurrection in the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

As regards the importance of the insurrection, it was neither so formidable as the Turks in their first panic thought it was, nor so utterly insignificant as many people wish to make it out to be.

The principal instigators came entirely from abroad; and without foreign intrigue no revolution would have broken out; but it is not easy to say really to what degree they succeeded in indoctrinating the people with their revolutionary and Panslavistic ideas.

The Bulgarian as a rule is not made of the stuff which produces a revolutionist; he is rather conservative, hard working, thrifty, somewhat apathetic, and far from courageous. The priests and schoolmasters were probably those who lent the most ready ear to revolutionary teachings, and some of the "tchorbadjis" were also drawn into the affair, but I believe the majority of the respectable Bulgarians took no real part in it.

Had the province been peopled by Greeks, the scenes of the Cretan insurrection would have been repeated, and the rule of the Mahomedans would have been placed in serious jeopardy.

Wherever there is Turkish rule, there, owing to its inherent faults, there will be Christian discontent. Last spring this was naturally heightened by the total failure of Mahmoud Pasha's high-sounding firman of reforms, by the deaf ear turned by the Porte to petitions from Bulgaria, and by the heavy pressure of taxation. Add to this the difficulties in which the Turkish Government was involved, and latterly, also, the fear of some outbreak of Mussulman fanaticism, which prevailed more or less throughout Turkey.

The foreign agitators and those natives whom they had succeeded in seducing seized upon this apparently favourable opportunity to strike a blow: the peasants were deluded into leaving their villages by being told that the Turks were going to massacre them, and the population of the small towns was induced to take part in the insurrection by threats and by the most extravagant promises of foreign aid.

The revolution was well planned, but miserably executed. The heart of the people was evidently not in it; and many of them apparently thought that all that was necessary for success was a green flag, with a lion rampant, and "Liberty or death" embroidered on it.

The insurgents put themselves in the wrong by killing defenceless Turks and committing other acts of insurrection, but the resistance they made when actually attacked was hardly worthy of the name.

The Turks gained an easy victory, and abused it most shamefully, the innocent being made to suffer for the guilty in a manner too horrible to think of. Moreover, unscrupulous persons did not hesitate to gratify private vengeance on this occasion, and many a debtor got rid of an importunate creditor by denouncing, or threatening to denounce, him as a "Committee dji."

A thousand regulars sent to Otlou-keui, Avrat-Alan, and Bratzigovo, and a few more to Bellova, where the presence of Benkowsky gave the insurrection rather more importance, would in a few days have stamped out every vestige of revolution. The really guilty might have been punished, and a suitable example made, and the world would not have been horrified by the accounts of massacres of women and children and of wholesale burning and pillaging.

The Porte has, moreover, given a powerful handle to its enemies and detractors by the way it has treated those who took an active part in the suppression of the insurrection. Those who have committed atrocities have been rewarded; while those who have endeavoured to protect the Christians from the fury of the Bashi-Bazouks and others have been passed over with contempt; *e.g.*,

Shefket Pasha holds high office in the Palace.

Hafiz Pasha has a command in Servia.

Achmet Agha has been decorated; so have Tossoun Bey and Nedjib Effendi, Kaimakam of Plevna.

On the other hand, has any reward been given to Hafiz Effendi, who saved