

Stcherkovo, 1 church, 1 school.

Kaloyerovo.

Lusitchovo, 1 church, 1 school.

Mitchka, 1 church, 1 school.

Petritch.

Lishnitzo.

Panagurishta (Otluk-keui), 3,000 houses, 2 churches, 3 schools.

This list may not be entirely correct, as many towns have both Turkish and Bulgarian names, and they may be repeated in one or two instances. Some villages, too, are probably omitted. Owing to the absence of statistics it is impossible exactly to ascertain the population of each village, and in many cases I have not been able to learn the number of houses. In general as long as the patriarch, or father of a family, is alive his married sons live with him, so that there are frequently families of 15, 20, and even of 39 persons. The population of a village would be, therefore, larger than for the same number of houses in other countries. In the larger villages the lower stories of the houses are of stone, the roofs are tiled, the streets are paved, and there is a general air of comfort and well-being. Particular attention was given by the troops to the churches and schools, which in some cases were destroyed with petroleum and gunpowder. The altars were overturned, the pictures painted on the walls scratched and pierced, and the holy places defiled and desecrated.

Besides the villages four monasteries were burnt: St. Teodor, near Perushtitsa, the Penagia, and the Bezsrabrinitza, near Kretshma, and St. Nicholas, near Kaloyerovo.

The Turks allege that many of these villages were burnt by the insurgents for the purpose of compelling the Bulgarian inhabitants to join them. I am unable to find that such was the case in more than two or three instances, and even here the proof is very weak. At Bellova the insurgents burnt the railway station in which some *zaptiehs* had taken refuge.

It is very difficult to estimate the number of Bulgarians who were killed during the few days that the disturbances lasted, but I am inclined to put 15,000 as the lowest for the districts I have named.

The manner in which the troops did their work will be seen from a few details gathered on the spot from persons who escaped from the massacre.

*Perushtitsa*, a town of 400 houses, and between 3,000 and 4,000 inhabitants, took no active part in the insurrection. Becoming alarmed at the attitude of the Turks in the neighbouring villages, the inhabitants sent a deputation to Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, for regular troops to defend them. He returned them a written message that he had no troops to send, and that they must defend themselves.

When the *Bashi-Bazouks* appeared before the town, they, therefore, refused to surrender, entrenched themselves in a church, retreating, finally, to another, and held out for five days, until they saw the regular troops under Raschid Pasha, when the remainder gave themselves up. Many of the inhabitants escaped at the beginning of the struggle, but many were shot down. The church was bombarded, and about 1,000 in all were killed, many of them women and children. The town was pillaged and completely burnt, not a single house being now standing. Many women were violated. The floor of the church, the church-yard, and many of the gardens were dug up afterwards in search for buried treasure. The *Bashi-Bazouks* here were commanded by Ahmed Aga of Tamrysh, who was subsequently rewarded with a silver medal.

*Klissura* was nearly twice the size of *Perushtitsa*, and proportionately richer, as many of the inhabitants were engaged in the manufacture of attar-of-roses, and many were merchants travelling through the country. The insurrectionary movement began here on the 2nd of May, but it was not until the 12th that the *Bashi-Bazouks*, under the command of Tussum Bey of Karlovo, attacked the place. A few shots were fired when the villagers surrendered and fled to *Koprishtitsa* and to the mountains. More than 250 Bulgarians were killed, chiefly women and children. The Turks claim that 14 Mussulmans, in part gypsies, were killed before and during the fight. As soon as the *Bashi-Bazouks* entered the town they pillaged it and burnt it. Among other things 450 copper stills used in making attar-of-roses were carried away to the Turkish villages. Subsequent parties carried off all that was left, even to the nails from the doors and the tiles from the roofs. The church was desecrated and blown up. Tussum Bey for this exploit was decorated with the *Medjidié*.