

posals of Mr. Green and M. Lippich were telegraphed to your Excellency:—

“All military posts recently erected by the Turks in an offensive sense against Podgoritzza to be destroyed.

“The frontier line to follow the thalweg of the Boyana from its mouth to the point where stream from Lake Sas falls into it, thence in a direct line to furthest eastern projection of the frontier proposed by the Russian Commissioner last year, and marked in Captain Sale's map of ‘the frontier between the lake and the sea,’ to follow the Russian line up to 11th point voted by the Commission, thereabouts join Commission's line and descend it to point 18 on the lake, the waters of which to be divided by a direct line from points 18 to 19 in Captain Sale's maps of 1879.

“The Frontier voted by Boundary Commission from points 19 to 23 to be maintained, and thence follow red line to points 24 and 24*, and be continued by Russian blue line as far as Suka-Gruda, and thence along southern frontier of the Kuci Kraina, as verified by Boundary Commission, up to its termination at Planinica; from that locality Count Corti's line to stand good.

“The Consuls to be enabled to assure the North Albanians that their legitimate aspirations will not be disregarded, and an Imperial Proclamation in this sense to be issued by Turkish authorities.

“These administrative reforms should, in the opinion of Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General, be limited for the present to the Vilayet of Scutari.

“The Governor-General of the Scutari Vilayet to be an Albanian Mahomedan, to be chosen, if possible, in the vilayet; the Vice-Governor to be a Roman Catholic. A Christian Kaimakam of the Roman Catholic tribes of the Great Mountain to be appointed to reside at Touzi.

“The proposed form of Administration to be submitted for consideration to the North Albanians.”

On the 26th June the new proposal was laid before the Porte in an identic note which, referring to the last paragraph of the Porte's note of the 24th, indicated as an equivalent for the Agreement of the 18th April a rectification of the frontier east and west of Lake Scutari, comprising Dulcigno. The note stated that this arrangement had the incontestable advantage of leaving no doubt as to the possibility of its execution, and that, moreover, in order to increase the favourable chances which this proposed exchange of territory presented from this point of view, it would be in the interest of the Porte to grant to the Albanians of the Province of Scutari administrative arrangements which, while maintaining their connection with the Ottoman Empire, would sufficiently satisfy their legitimate aspirations. As the Porte still continued bound by its previous engagements until the new arrangement had been completely carried out, if it refused to consent to the last proposal, it would be under the necessity of immediately fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement of the 18th April.

On the 15th July the Porte replied that it was resolved to use, as far as possible, every means to promptly execute the Agreement of the 18th April. At the same time, it was ready to take into consideration the arrangement proposed by the Ambassadors, although it was surrounded by difficulties. According to the reports received by the Turkish authorities, the Montenegrins were willing to consent to the greater part of the cession under the April Agreement, and the

Porte proposed that this part should be surrendered, and compensation for the remainder given in the Dulcigno district, excluding the town of Dulcigno, which was inhabited by Mussulman Albanians.

With regard to the administrative arrangements for the Albanians of the Province of Scutari, Abédine Pasha observed that the inhabitants of that province had shown themselves satisfied with their condition, and had never thought of asking the Porte for any privileges beyond those which they already enjoyed. Moreover, the Turkish Government was at the time preparing, in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, a Statute applicable to all the provinces of European Turkey, the advantages of which would of course be extended to Albania.

Your Excellency and your colleagues informed the Porte in the collective note of the 3rd August, that the Powers could not accept these proposals as satisfactory or agree to a continuance of the system of postponement which had led to the actual situation, and were under the necessity of urging the Ottoman Government to put an end to it. After further recommending the cession of Dulcigno as most in conformity with the interests of the Porte, and as being the arrangement most advantageous for all parties, the note proceeded to state that, in case the Porte preferred to execute the engagements taken under the Agreement of the 18th April, it was warned that if, at the expiration of a delay of three weeks, the Agreement had not been fully carried out, the Powers would expect it to join them in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district, in order to give effect to the alternative plan proposed in the note of the 26th June.

On the 9th August the Ambassadors communicated unofficially a memorandum to the Porte, explaining in detail the new frontier-line proposed, including the cession to the east of the Lake of Scutari as well as the district around Dulcigno, in the terms recommended by Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General.

On examining this memorandum, the Turkish Minister stated that it involved the cession of Dinosi and some part of the Gruda district in the occupation of the Albanians, and on the 12th Abédine Pasha went round to the Ambassadors to announce to them that the Turkish Government would accept the Dulcigno proposal on two conditions:—

1. That Dinosi should not be included in the cession.

2. That further delay should be granted.

On the following day the Ambassadors addressed a *note verbale* to the Porte requesting that they might be informed officially of the resolution at which the Porte had arrived.

On the 18th August the Porte replied to the collective note of the 3rd that it consented in principle to the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro, and that as regards the east of the Lake of Scutari on the side of Podgoritzza, it was ready to conclude a Convention to the effect that the frontier should be drawn according to the points indicated in the Treaty of Berlin. It, at the same time, requested that the delay of twenty-one days should be prolonged for some weeks. If the Powers did not accept the proposals the Turkish Government would be unable to join in any way in assisting Montenegro to occupy Dulcigno by force. In agreeing to the cession of Dulcigno the Porte desired to give a new proof of its deference to the counsels of Europe, and thus remove every reason for taking extreme measures.