

Under these circumstances, one must come to the regrettable conclusion that if the troops are not the actual perpetrators of the outrages, they have allowed them to be perpetrated under their eyes, or that they keep so strict a watch only on honest people coming under a Government escort, and not on marauding parties. In all cases they have sadly failed in the execution of their duties.

The troops we met at Galata belong to the contingent from Syria.

I told his Excellency Shakir Pasha that, however regrettable they might be—the occurrences connected with our visit at Galata—they would have for result to enable his Excellency to take measures for preventing similar incidents between the troops and the inhabitants of Christian villages.

Keramia was occupied at first by Anatolian troops, and their relations with native Christians were most friendly.

Although the whole Christian population is animated with the most pacific intentions, the recurrence of murder and wounding, as at Keramia, on the part of Syrian troops, may cause Christians to lose confidence in all the Turkish troops on the island.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 2.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—  
(Received September 17.)

My Lord, *Canea, September 7, 1889.*

IN the case at Keramia military officers of high rank express the opinion that, owing to the distance from the camp to the spot where three Christians were fired upon, one being wounded and another killed (reference to my No. 57 of the 3rd instant), the outrage cannot have been committed by soldiers.

A first inquiry, and the review of the company having failed to bring home to the troops the deed, a second inquiry was ordered by Shakir Pasha, who holds that, in the presence of a murdered and a wounded Christian there should be as evident facts to prove that the outrage cannot be attributed to soldiers.

With regard to the profanation of Christian tombs at Perivalia, the officer sent to make the inquiry reported that cemetery walls were destroyed, but that no tombs had been opened.

I pointed out to Shakir Pasha that the officer might not have been shown the real spot, and his Excellency said that he readily accepted my suggestion to make, with the assistance of the Orthodox Bishop, a fresh inquiry, which proved the truth of the profanation, the perpetrators of which are searched for, but are not likely to be ever discovered.

Regarding the incidents that took place during our late visit at Galata, a military Pasha hinted to myself that we might have misunderstood the offensive language used towards us by two soldiers, and that the one who had spit on the picture was maintaining that he had only been cleaning it.

But Shakir Pasha, to whom no doubt similar suggestions were made, imprisoned the two soldiers, strongly reprimanded the commanding officer, and withdrew from Galata the Syrian company, in whose stead were sent Anatolian troops. Furthermore, his Excellency allowed the inhabitants of that village to return to their homes and look after their property.

The same Pasha having hinted to me that Christians themselves may have opened the sepulchres at Galata in order to inculpate Mussul-

mans, I observed to him that as Bashi-Bazouks occupied the roads, and troops the village, it was quite impossible for Christians to have reached the spot without being detected.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 3.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—  
(Received September 17.)  
*Canea, Crete, September 9, 1889.*

My Lord,

ON persistent rumours that Christians were setting fire to the olive trees of Mussulmans in different parts of the country, I called on Saturday last on Shakir Pasha for the purpose of urging on his Excellency the necessity of hastening the return of the emigrants to their villages as the only means of preventing the destruction of their property.

As the burning of olive trees belonging to Mussulmans, by depriving the latter of all means of subsistence, would have for consequence to render impossible for ever their return home, I suggested to his Excellency to provide them with tents, an arrangement facilitating their immediate settlement, as well as the rebuilding of their houses.

Shakir Pasha, who on his side had come to an identic conclusion, was wiring at that very moment for 1,000 tents, and also for timber for the use of emigrants.

Active measures are being taken by the authorities all over the island for sending back Mussulmans in their villages.

Christians and Mussulmans have re-entered their respective houses in the district of Selinos.

A certain number of Mussulmans who have the means of starting again in life, and a few whose property may not have been completely destroyed in other districts, may do so shortly; but the bulk of the Mussulman emigrants will not be able to move with the same facility.

The village of Galata is inhabited by the whole of its population, and Christians in most parts return to their villages in the vicinity of the towns, in which those take refuge whose houses are destroyed by fire.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 4.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—  
(Received September 24.)  
*Canea, Crete, September 17, 1889.*

My Lord,

HIS Excellency Shakir Pasha having kindly invited the French Consul and myself to accompany him to Selinos, we embarked on board his Excellency's yacht "Ismail" on the 14th instant, and returned here last night.

We landed at Paliophora (Selino Castetti) and proceeded to Condanos, the residence of the Kaïmakam, and from thence overland to Kissamo Castetti, where we embarked on board the "Ismail."

The greatest tranquillity prevails all over these two districts.

Shakir Pasha halted wherever we met Christians and Mussulmans, and inquired whether they had to formulate any complaint.

The answer was invariably negative, not only on the part of Mussulmans, but also on that of Christians, both expressing their satisfaction at being reinstated in their villages.

The number of houses destroyed at Selinos is greater than previously reported to me, several