

having been burnt subsequently, as well as a number of olive and chestnut trees.

Shakir Pasha has given orders to draw up lists of the property destroyed, but it is reckoned that the loss is equal on both sides.

At Kissamo Castetti Mussulmans have burnt down a few Christian villages and houses near the town, and Christians all Mussulman villages in the district, as well as a good many olive trees, all of which are to be returned.

So far as I have been able to find out, three Christians and one Mussulman were murdered at Selinos, and six Christians at Kissamos.

At Selinos Christians and Mussulmans have nearly exchanged all the property mutually stolen, and orders to do the same have been left by the Vali at Kissamo.

My impression is that should these instructions be carried out all over the island, as they have already been in some parts of the district of Candia, the losses on both sides will be so greatly reduced, especially among Mussulmans at large, as to facilitate to a certain extent their reinstatement in their villages.

Shakir Pasha has had occasion to personally ascertain that the construction of peasants' houses is not the great impediment to the return of the emigrants in their villages.

Temporary shelter during the rebuilding of the houses by the peasants is the great difficulty for an immediate return. But it may be overcome, even in the absence of tents, by erecting shelters with the timber expected from Constantinople.

The more I see of Shakir Pasha the more I am convinced that with so able and so well-disposed a functionary as he is, present difficulties will disappear one by one.

Shakir Pasha has spoken at Selinos and Kissamos for the substitution of a fixed contribution in money to the tithe, and this proposal was most favourably received in both districts.

As we travelled, his Excellency paid great attention to the natural conformation of the ground, as he intends to avail himself of the presence of troops here for making roads, a work in which it would be but just that Cretans should assist.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino reports that villages (Mussulman) at Monofatsi are not so much damaged as it was believed.

Some mosques are burnt, and many Christian churches damaged.

In the villages partly burnt several Mussulmans are located in the same house and also in neighbouring villages, but they do not know how to manage at Remirio and Pyriotissa, where the Turkish villages are altogether destroyed.

The greater part of Christian property stolen by Mussulmans in the town and in the village of Daphnes was recovered by the authorities, who are returning it to their owners. All is quiet in the Province of Candia.

Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli reports two murders, one of a Mussulman in the village of Fatimi, in retaliation for which a Christian was soundly beaten near the town, and that of a Christian at Armenous.

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

No. 5.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—  
(Received October 1.)

(Extract.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 21, 1889.*  
NOTWITHSTANDING the personal exertions of his Excellency Shakir Pasha, the few cases of in-

justice or oppression which cannot be avoided in the exceptional circumstances in which this island is placed, and which cannot fail to be highly exaggerated, coupled with the sudden check of the unbounded licence which Christians have been allowed to enjoy for so many years, may cause a reaction among Christians, who, in that emergency, would find a number of armed men ready to support fresh malcontents.

I cannot allow to pass unnoticed two cases which bear out in a most striking manner the impartiality and goodwill animating his Excellency Shakir Pasha in the difficult mission which he has to perform in this island.

It was rumoured a short time since that some fifty peasants had been robbed near Canea by soldiers of all their money and provisions. The number of Christians, which before the evening was reduced to thirty, happened to be only five, who handed a petition to the Governor-General. His Excellency ordered the commanding officer to make an inquiry, which proved negative; but as one of the peasants had stated in what coins consisted the 5 piastres of which he had been despoiled, Shakir Pasha, convinced of the truth of the accusation, ordered a second inquiry, which resulted in the discovery of one of the culprits.

The soldier was immediately arrested and punished, and the commanding officer called to render an account of his conduct.

He stated that he had considered it his duty not to make public so reprehensible an act.

Shakir Pasha replied that officers concealing the shortcomings of a few soldiers were throwing discredit on the whole army, and that, as he had failed to do his duty, he suspended him from his functions, and sent him back to Constantinople.

The second case is as characteristic.

The Christian Justice of the Peace at Kisamos was apprehended under the inculpation of having excited people to revolt. However, the President of the court-martial informed the Vali that, whenever the prisoner was brought into the Court, he was crying and begging that his wife should be saved, and that he suspected some mystery in the case.

In fact, it would appear that the Justice of the Peace had, only a fortnight before, married a pretty and rich girl, whom the Christian Governor of Kisamos was coveting for his son; but it is not yet known whether the accusation against the prisoner is a base act of revenge.

In the meanwhile Shakir Pasha, having heard that there was an intention of carrying off the bride, and, being unable to see her himself, begged me, when we were at Kisamos, to ask her whether she had any apprehension, in which case his Excellency was offering to convey her to Canea in his yacht, but she happened to be in a village.

Before his departure Shakir Pasha told the Governor of Kisamos that he had heard of a plot for carrying off the person in question, and that he held him personally responsible for her safety.

In consequence of similar examples, I am certain that the only outrages that may remain unpunished will be those not coming to Shakir Pasha's knowledge, or whose perpetrators cannot possibly be discovered.

There is but one voice among Christians and Mussulmans for praising Shakir Pasha's conduct; but, at the same time, complaints against the treatment inflicted by the troops on Christians in the districts are so repeated and increasing, that I consider it my duty to submit to the Vali what I hear on the subject.

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