

Be this as it may, rightly or wrongly, they are terrorized; and they take the precaution of putting themselves out of the reach of the troops until they see how those arrested will be dealt with.

I am told that in some villages of Apokorona nothing but old men, women, and children remain at present.

There is a general outcry even at Canea among Christians of all classes, who are beginning to fear a general rising if the present motives of complaint are allowed to continue. They do not object to the state of siege so long as they are not ill-treated and put in prison without an inquiry taking place.

Should panic, which is so contagious, spread in more places, there may be within a short period on the mountains thousands of armed Christians, without distinction of political party.

Under these circumstances, it is most essential that, without the least loss of time, efficient measures should be adopted in order to restore between the Imperial Government and the Christian population that confidence which existed since the arrival of his Excellency Shakir Pasha, and which has been so seriously endangered within the last few days.

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

No. 7.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—
(Received October 15.)
Canea, Crete, September 25, 1889.

MY LORD,

I JUST had the honour to wire to your Lordship as follows:—

"A Christian who left the district of Selinos yesterday, has confirmed to me the statement that the Christians who are arrested are invariably beaten by the soldiers even when they offer no resistance, but he has not heard of women having been ill-treated. Both Mussulmans and Christians are generally arrested on orders issued by the Governor, but it sometimes happens that the Christians are arrested on the simple requisition of the native Mussulmans who accompany the troops as guides.

My informant praises the impartiality of the Governor of Selinos, who is a Mussulman, but he states that there is on the whole a tendency on the part of the authorities to favour the Mussulman element. The real grievance is the indiscriminate manner in which the prisoners are flogged. Several Christians have fled from their houses at the approach of the soldiers for fear of being beaten, and return when they are gone, but none have gone to the mountains from that district. I consider that the state of things in other districts is much the same.

"The Vali, whom I have just seen, is unwilling to believe that the soldiers have behaved so badly. But he will send the Military Commander to Selinos to-morrow, and will himself proceed to Apokorona to make inquiries and to put a stop to ill-treatment if it is proved to exist. His Excellency has given orders for the release of the seventeen prisoners who were brought from Apokorona."

On my first interview with the Vali on the subject of ill-treatment of Christian prisoners by soldiers, I suggested to his Excellency that, true or not, the rumours afloat should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. But Shakir Pasha, believing I was misinformed, delayed until he heard identic statements from other sources.

The measure which he has adopted to release the seventeen prisoners, and to order an inquest as

to the treatment they received at the hands of soldiers, has produced a most favourable impression.

Judging from precedents, I am certain that Shakir Pasha will not try to conceal the truth, and that in all cases, after the steps he is now taking, there will be no serious motive for further complaints.

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

No. 8.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—
(Received October 15.)
Candia, Crete, September 27, 1889.

MY LORD,

AS Christians hinted that ill-treatment to prisoners was the consequence of superior orders, and as it was quite impossible to find out the truth under this head, as well as to the extent of cruelties, without comparing reports from different places, I made up my mind to proceed as far as Sitia, and to make inquiries on my way there and back.

I was the more induced to visit the eastern districts that there are no representatives of any Power that might report on the subject of cruelties to Christians.

Besides, I consider most desirable to show the flag at Sitia and St. Nicola, where there are British commercial interests of some importance.

Her Majesty's ship "Fearless" having left for Morocco some time since, I embarked on board a mail-steamer for Candia.

On my passage at Rethymo yesterday, the 26th, I wired to your Lordship that I was proceeding as far as Sitia, and that there was not the least complaint in that province of the ill-treatment on the part of troops.

Apokorona Christians coming very often to Rethymo, I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli to gather from them information which will enable me on my return to investigate the cases that may be brought to his knowledge.

Typhoid fever prevailing on board Her Majesty's ship "Starling," which is stationed here, and there being no steam communications, I am under the necessity of postponing my visit to the western districts—making, in the meanwhile, an inquiry in this town.

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

No. 9.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—
(Received October 15.)
(No. 74.)

Candia, Crete, September 22, 1889

MY LORD,

I HAD the honour to transmit last night the following telegram which I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"I have received your Excellency's telegram of the 27th instant. I myself strongly suspected that there was a good deal of exaggeration in the rumours which had reached me as to the ill-treatment of Christians, and in more than one case they appeared to be mere inventions. I accordingly determined to proceed to the places mentioned, in order to ascertain what had really happened. As the Vali himself was going to Apokorona, and a General was being sent to make inquiries at Selinos, I thought it best to visit the eastern districts. I reported from Rethymo that no complaints had been made to the Vice-Consul. Both at Canea and in this town, I observe that owing to the excitement