

borrowed thirty more on such security as he had to offer.

The Turkish Pasha to whom he appealed did not know officially of the existence of any brigands but he promised to write to Stamboul for instructions.

Then Stephanos and Calliope went round the village. The children were known and loved by all no less for their own than their parents' sake.

From nooks and crannies, old bedsteads, old stockings the villagers brought forth their contributions to the fund, and by this means fifteen pounds more were raised, In all with Calliope's heirloom coins a hundred pounds; just half what Niko had demanded.

When Abdallah the Ziebeck returned they gave it to him saying it was all they had and begged Niko to accept it and send back their children. They would pay the rest, if he would not take less, when and as they could. Calliope's entreaties would have touched a heart of stone.

Abdallah the Ziebeck gave no sign. He went away taking the money with him. Twenty four hours afterwards as arranged with him Stephanos was to be at a certain place outside the village. Calliope was not to be allowed to come.

Stephanos waited and true to time an hour before sunset he heard the sound of horse's hoofs. Twenty minutes later a strange voice, not Abdallah's, called out: