

Murders are of constant and every day occurrence ; and the life of no Turk in the villages is worth a moment's purchase. If the whim takes his Bulgarian neighbor, he is butchered on the spot. Lately, aroused by the indignant remonstrances of the consuls, and especially of the able and courageous representative of England, the Russian authorities have begun to issue rations of bread to the refugees—half an oke a day to those who can come to get it. This bread is made of maize and so badly prepared as to be revolting to the taste. The Turks repeatedly complained to me that it made them ill, and that they could not eat it. Another step was apparently gained since the beginning of May, and pay at the rate of three piastres—*i. e.*, about 6d.—a day was promised to the Turkish forced laborers. This, however, they did not receive, and, on remonstrance being made to the general in command, he stated that on a certain day the men were to be paid in a lump sum. So ingrained, however, is the shameful corruption of the Russian subordinate officials, that they managed to retain even the pittance of these wretched creatures. On the morning of the appointed day, most of the able-bodied Turks were ordered to leave Philippopolis and go to their villages, so that when the moment came there were but few to pay.

An English physician, Dr. Stoker, confirms this representation and tells of 600 Turkish refugees confined in an abominable marsh till they all died except about 200. The Bulgarian police is regarded as leading in outrage and violence. Horrors and abomination in great numbers are detailed. The representatives of England, France, Italy, and Austria appear to have taken steps to investigate these reports.

A number of Bulgarians recently presented an address to Mr. Gladstone, thanking him for his services to their cause. His reply is as follows :

“ LONDON, July 11, 1878.

“ Gentlemen.—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th April, which was posted in Constantinople only on June 26, and in which you were pleased to refer to my conduct during the last two years with an approval highly gratifying to my feelings. It is alike my duty and my pleasure to contribute in any humble measure to the defeat of oppression and the advance of freedom in Turkey. I contend that these purposes should be promoted in a manner that would import as little shock as possible to the territorial arrangements of the East. Other counsels prevailed, and the expulsion of the Turkish power from Bulgaria has been brought about with acts of misery and slaughter which might have been and ought to have been avoided. Power was in the hands of those professing friendship to the Ottoman Government, and they have contrived to use it in such a way as to leave to the Porte but a fraction of its European territory, and to render it a question whether in Asia it will or will not henceforward be a power at all. So far as the changes decreed at Berlin, and principally due to the agency of Russia, shall put an end to deeds of shame and give to the provinces now or lately Turkish the opportunity of peaceful development, I rejoice in them from the bottom of my heart ; but I earnestly hope that the new life of these provinces is not to be disgraced by a revival of the old and abominable course of crime which has led to the downfall of Ottoman Government over so wide a space. To me for one it will be no consolation to find that any of those who once were the sufferers have now become the criminals and the tyrants. It is bad that Christians should be oppressed by Mussulmans ; it is far worse that Mussulmans should be oppressed by Christians, who were born under the law of love, and whose duty it is to exhibit the efficacy of that law to the less favored adherents of other religions.