

invaders" on the other, and no doubt, "with great atrocity," much to be deplored. Since that time, measures had been adopted to stop these "Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians." "I will merely repeat," he concluded, "that the information *which we have at various times received* does not justify the statements made in the journal which he has named."\*

I must add Lord Derby's concluding sentence:—

"*As the noble Duke has thought the evidence in this matter sufficient to justify him* in bringing the subject before the House, I will make further inquiry, and communicate the result to your Lordships."

There were reasons enough why others besides the Duke of Argyll, should have thought the evidence sufficient to require some notice. For, in the statement of the "Daily News," there were contained the ominous words: †—

June 16.—"Even now it is openly asserted by the Turks, that England has determined to help the government to put down the various insurrections. England, says a Turkish journal, will defend us against Russia, while we look after our rebels."

So much for the first attempt to throw light into these dark places.

On the 8th of July, the "Daily News" inserted a second communication from its correspondent at Constantinople, confirming and extending the purport of the first. On the 10th, Mr. Forster renewed his inquiries. Mr. Disraeli stated, that there had not yet been time to receive any reply to the inquiries made. And this, though the Telegraph passes in a few hours, and the statement in question had appeared on the 23rd of June. Even now the only efficient instrument was not put in action, nor did this happen until July 24th;‡ and within five days after that date, a British agent was on his way to the bloody scene. It is absolutely necessary that Her Majesty's Government should explain why the Telegraph had not at once been employed on the 26th or 27th of June.

But other parts of the First Minister's reply require notice. He hoped, "for the sake of human nature itself," that the statements were scarcely warranted. There had without doubt been atrocities in Bulgaria. This was a war "not carried on by regular troops, in this case not even by irregular troops, but by a sort of *posse comitatús* of an armed population." "I doubt whether torture" . . .

\* 'Times,' June 27.

† Parl. Papers, Turkey, 1876. No. 3, p. 336.

‡ Papers No. 5, p. 1.