

a disgraceful document ; confirmatory, in its moral effect, even of the worst parts of the charges. After all that has happened, it would have been too much to expect a word of penitence or shame ; but it does not contain a word of sorrow or compassion. The reporting Commission, which was armed with the powers of the State, wonders that the Bulgarians should have risen against their " paternal " government ; describes them as a peaceable, primitive, and docile people ; † and then charges them largely with murdering, burning, impaling, roasting, men, women, and children indiscriminately, with the extremest refinements of cruelty. ‡ One of the most definite statements it contains is this ; it cites, § as a proof of the " barbarous devastations " committed by the insurgents, the destruction of—a great bridge over the Railway. It is full of laudations of the humanity and consideration of the troops, the commanders, and the Mussulman population. || It denounces those who have opened the eyes of Europe to this Turkish *Inferno*, as the " fantastic story-makers of dismal episodes." ¶ It takes no notice of the attested fact, that the bodies of slain women and children lie in multitudes, unburied and exposed ; except indeed by alleging that at Prestenitz some of the insurgents slew their own women and children. Dated three months after the first outbreak, and full of horrible accusations, it contains hardly in a single instance such verifying particulars as would allow of the detection of falsehood by inquiry into the statement. And it winds up with a particular account of a Panslavic pamphlet, printed at Moscow in 1867 !

Then, by way of Appendix, comes one original document in proof, which contains, in the form of a sort of Catechism, the plans and instructions of the great Bulgarian conspiracy. They are signed by twelve names of individuals, without profession or employment specified ; who may, for all we know, have been the most insignificant men in the country. The Report, however, states that the Insurgents had instructions to massacre the Mussulman population. ** The sole document appended in proof of its charges contains, together with very severe provisions against such as should resist, the following passage : ††

" *Question* 13. What course is to be pursued with regard to those Turks who submit ?

" *Answer*. They should be put in charge of our agents, who will

* P. 17.

† Pp. 8, 17.

‡ Pp. 9, 10.

§ P. 9.

|| Eg. p. 15.

¶ P. 15.

** P. 5.

†† P. 22.