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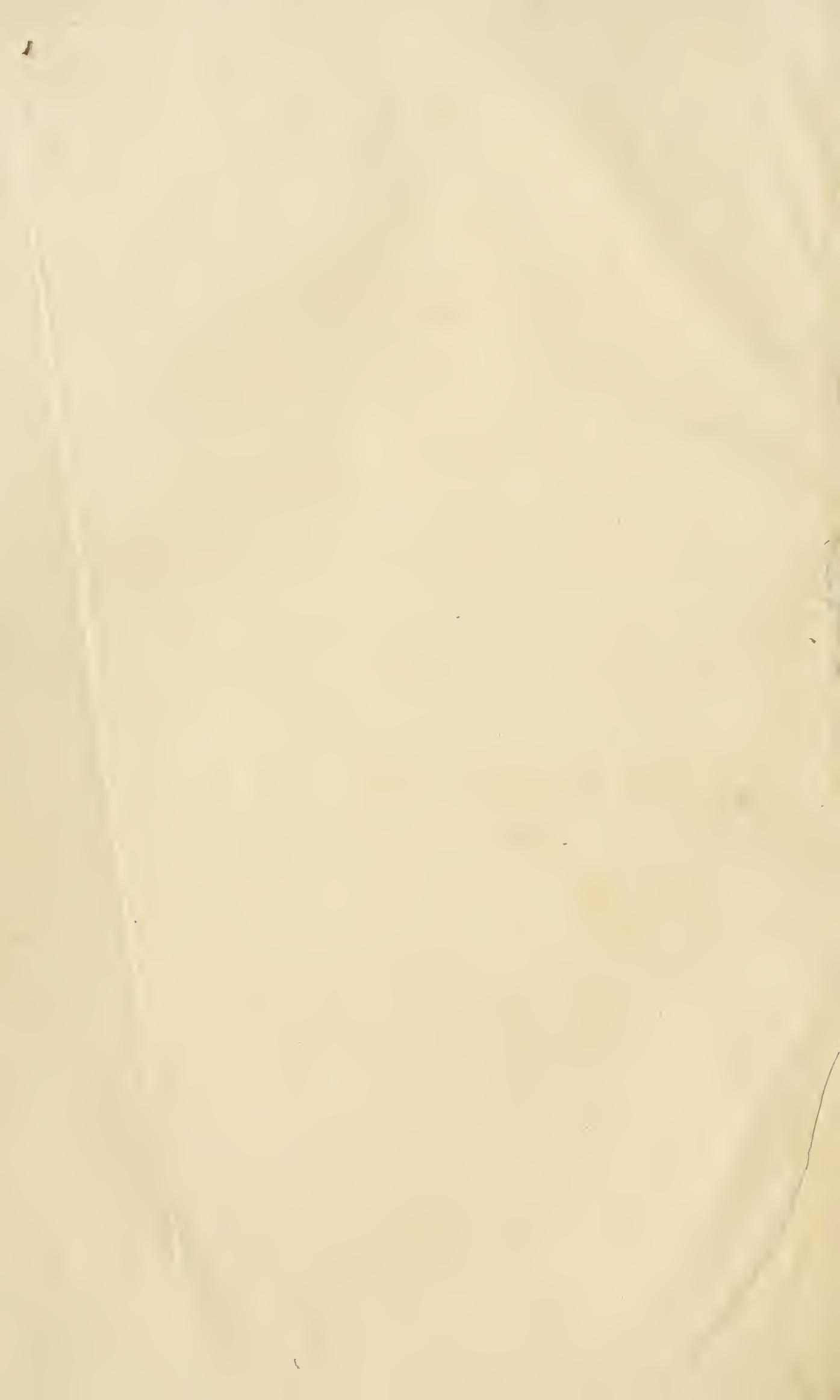


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PART I.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

*Wing, Graham, & Co., Stationers,
London 15th December 1852.*

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Address to Her Majesty of the 28th February, 1843.*

LONDON:

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PART I.

CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE,

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

No. 1.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, May 23, 1841.

I HAVE this evening, (and fortunately in time for the messenger,) extremely bad news from Syria. I must be as brief as possible. Rechid Pasha sent as Governor to Damascus Hadji Nejib Pasha, a man who had been during many years Kapou Kiaja to Mehemet Ali (Pasha of Egypt). He has ordered the Christians not to enter Damascus on horseback, and prohibited the wearing any coloured clothes of a light and gay colour, and to dress in black as in former days. He has appointed Sheik Abdul Hadi Governor of Gaza and Muhassil of the surrounding districts. Abdul Hadi is the man who first assisted Ibrahim to take St. Jean d'Acre, and lately, as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent of the fortress, defended it against the Sultan. He is known to be a traitor and a friend to Mehemet Ali. This appointment made by Nejib gives Abdul Hadi the opportunity of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali, and aiding in restoring Syria to him. Nejib is attacking some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon because they have refused to tax the inhabitants above their means to pay. Thus Nejib is betraying the Sultan. I write solely to request that you will send for Chekib Effendi, and desire him to write to the Porte and insist upon the punishment of Nejib; his dégradation is not enough. An example is absolutely necessary, and one too of great severity. I entreat you to speak in the strongest terms to Chekib, for it is too bad that Nejib should be permitted to insult the Christians to whom his Sovereign is indebted for Syria, and be the cause of undoing all that we have done with so much trouble, for assuredly Syria will revolt if these men are allowed to act so as to irritate the whole Syrian nation.

I will here speak in the strongest terms to the Porte, and I dare say I shall succeed, but I shall want the assistance of your declaration to Chekib, and pray remember to tell him that you inform me of all you have said to him.

I will give you other details of the ill conduct of the men sent to Syria.

No. 2.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 23rd of May, written as the messenger was about to be despatched from Therapia, containing accounts of the unsatisfactory state of things in Syria, in consequence of the injudicious appointments made by the Turkish Government and its subordinate authorities, and I have in consequence addressed to Chekib Effendi, the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, a note of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 2.

*Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.**Foreign Office, June 15, 1841.*

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government have just received with great concern the following information, which, as it bears upon the stability of the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, the Undersigned hastens to communicate to Chekib Effendi.

It appears that Hadji Nejib Pasha has been appointed by the Porte to be Governor of Damascus, although he had been many years in the service of Mehemet Ali, Pasha of Egypt, and was on that account not the fittest person to command in an important city in Syria; and Her Majesty's Government have been informed that Nejib Pasha has begun his administration by edicts offensive to the Christians, whom he has ordered not to appear in the streets of Damascus on horseback, and not to wear clothes of any light or gay colour, but to dress themselves entirely in black.

Hadji Nejib Pasha has, moreover, appointed Sheik Abdul Hadi to be the Governor of Gaza and the Muhassil of the neighbouring districts; and this Sheik Abdul is stated to be the individual who first assisted Ibrahim Pasha to take the fortress of Acre, and who lately, as Mudir, or Supreme Superintendent, defended that fortress against the arms of the Sultan; he is also considered to be still attached to Mehemet Ali. Abdul Hadi, by the situation which he holds, has the power of delivering up Gaza to Mehemet Ali whenever he pleases, and of thus assisting to restore Syria to the Pasha of Egypt.

Hadji Nejib is further accused of oppressing some of the Emirs of Mount Lebanon, because those Emirs have refused to tax the inhabitants of their districts beyond their means of payment.

If these allegations be true, and there is good reason to believe them to be so, there can be no doubt that Hadji Nejib is employing the influence which he derives from his situation as Governor of Damascus, to undermine the Sultan's authority in Syria; and the Undersigned cannot too urgently press Chekib Effendi to advise his Government, not only to dismiss Hadji Nejib from his office, but also to submit his conduct to legal inquiry, in order that he may be duly punished, if it should be proved that he has transgressed the law or violated his duty towards the Sultan.

Her Majesty's Government feel especially called upon to address the Turkish Government on this matter, because of the oppressions which Hadji Nejib is stated to practise upon the Christians. For England having, in conjunction with other Christian Powers, succeeded in restoring Syria to the

Sultan, she is entitled to expect that the Sultan, in return for such assistance, should secure his Christian subjects from oppression. The Undersigned, moreover, need scarcely point out to Chekib Effendi, that if a system of oppression is practised against the Christians in Syria, the consequence will be that the people will revolt against the authority of the Sultan; and such a revolt would be an encouragement to the discontented of all classes to rebel. And how could the Sultan expect the countenance or support of the Christian Powers in maintaining his authority, if the opposition to his authority was provoked by severities and cruelties inflicted on his Christian subjects?

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to call the serious attention of his Government to these matters without delay; and he has the honour to inform Chekib Effendi that a messenger will be despatched to-morrow evening to Constantinople, by whom any communication which Chekib Effendi may think proper to make to his Government on these matters might be conveyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 3.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received June 26.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, June 8, 1841.

ON the 4th instant I had an interview at Pera with the Internuncio and Monsieur de Titow, to concert the measures to be adopted with regard to Syria. Mr. Wood and Monsieur Laurin were present. It was agreed to advise the Porte:—

1. To remit all illegal taxes, in accordance with the promises made to the Syrians.

2. To appoint a Governor of Jerusalem for the special purpose of affording protection to Christians, and of adjusting the disputes that might arise between the different sects.

3. To issue positive orders to all Ottoman functionaries in Syria, to abstain from opposing any impediment whatever to the free exercise by Christians of the rites of their religion.

4. To allow the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, in order to establish a direct communication between him as Governor of Lebanon and the Ottoman Ministers.

5. To procure from the Sublime Porte acknowledgments of the services rendered by various Syrians in the late war, and rewards.

It was agreed between us that our object should be to obtain from the Porte security for every right enjoyed by the Syrians, and to endeavour to establish as far as possible something like justice in the administration of the affairs of Syria, by the Pashas and other officers of the Porte.

It was agreed that each of us should take his own measures with the Porte in furtherance of the general principles above stated, and on the 5th in the morning, Mr. Wood carried to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a report I had caused him to make upon the subject. The Internuncio has also acted in perfect concurrence with these principles, and the result is that the Minister has agreed to our propositions, with the exception of one point, that relating to the Kapou Kiaja of the Emir Beshir, namely, the Minister declines permitting the Emir to appoint his Kiaja, and insists upon the nomination of a Turk by the Porte to occupy that post.

It is impossible to give details of these affairs with any accuracy until they have been finally settled, but I inclose for your Lordship's information copy of a letter, dated this day, from Mr. Wood. Your Lordship will be so good as to bear in mind that Mr. Wood had no idea his letter would be made known to you, and he is to be excused, therefore, for expressing his opinion with a freedom to me which I authorize and encourage in all whom I have to employ in the public service.

I regret to say that the reports I receive of the state of affairs in Syria are very unpleasant.

Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus, has reimposed upon the Christians many of the restraints upon their actions by which the old Government of the Turks was rendered odious to them. He has ordered that the Christians shall not enter Damascus on horseback, nor wear clothes of any light and lively colour, and that they shall observe some particular modes of salutation expressive of inferiority, when any Turkish functionary is in question; but these vexatious follies are light in comparison with the demand he has caused the Defterdar to make upon the mountaineers for a large sum of money as an impost; a sum, which the Emir Beshir has refused to ask the mountaineers to pay, saying, that the power of the Seraskier and his own united is not sufficient to force them to submit to the exaction.

The moment I heard of this conduct I applied to Rifaat Pasha for his interference to put an end to it, but I regret that I found little disposition to take the necessary steps, and I have been obliged to repeat several times and in very strong language, a demand that Syria should not be thrown into rebellion for the sake of pleasing Nejib Pasha. At last I learn that Rifaat has got the Sublime Porte to write to Nejib saying that strong complaints have been made against his conduct, and ordering him in the most peremptory manner to conduct himself towards every description of subjects with the greatest kindness.

I have desired to be furnished with a copy of the letter.

I beg your Lordship will tell Chekib Effendi that you demand the recal of Nejib Pasha. It is necessary that the British Government should take a very high tone with the Porte, or Syria will be lost by the timidity of the Ottoman Ministers, who are afraid of giving offence to individuals like Nejib, or his protectors, and the loss of Syria will be the consequence. I think things of minor importance had best not be asked for and that details should not be dictated, but assuredly England has the right to insist that Syria—the restoration of which to the dominion of the Sultan is the work of England—should not be thrown away to gratify the will of a Pasha, and that the Syrians who acted upon the faith of Englishmen's declarations, should not be defrauded or robbed of their rights to gratify the avarice of a few Turkish agents.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extract.)

Pera, June 8, 1841.

AFTER I had the honour of writing yesterday to your Lordship, the Baron de Stürmer desired to see me; and in order to convince him that the propositions made to the Porte were in accordance with what was agreed at his house to be done, I took with me the Turkish memorandum I gave Rifaat Pasha. I remained with him an hour, and gave him all the information he desired. He appeared perfectly satisfied with my explanations, for he gave his dragoman orders before me to assure Rifaat Pasha that he perfectly embraced your Lordship's propositions and views, which were also his own.

Immediately after I repaired to the Porte, to ascertain the Council's reply to the propositions, and was told by Rifaat Pasha that it had adopted all, except the one relating to the Emir and the Patriarch's Kapou Kiajas. MM. Pisani and Testa were with me, and we positively remained four hours with Rifaat Pasha arguing the point.

The Porte objects to their having a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, and proposes that they should have each one with the Defterdar in Syria. I told them that I felt certain that neither the Emir nor the Patriarch would consent to it, as their object was to have an agent at the Porte to communicate the misconduct of the Defterdar and of the Pasha, if necessary. Every argument was used to convince them of the erroneous view they had taken of it; and it was agreed finally that another Council should be held on Wednesday to reconsider the matter under certain modifications: which are, that in the

event the Porte consents to the Emir's having a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, he shall be appointed by the Porte, and shall be moreover a Turk. M. Testa said he could not oppose this, though his original instructions were that the Kapou Kiaja should be elected by the Emir. I replied that my instructions were the same, and that I would not consent to the modifications before I communicated with your Lordship. The Kapou Kiajas of the Pashas are appointed by the Porte and of course Turks. The Emir ought not to expect to enjoy any right the other Pashas do not enjoy; the object would be attained equally as well, and the Porte would make fewer objections to it; but I am very anxious to have your Lordship's directions thereon. Rifaat Pasha declared again that only the Princes of Servia, Wallachia, and Moldavia, and Samos, had the right of selecting and appointing their own Kapou Kiajas, and that the Porte would never consent to place the Emir in the same independent condition, which affected the independence of the Turkish Government.

I shall see the Grand Vizier to-day respecting the Kapou Kiaja of the Patriarch. I expect to meet with less opposition in procuring the consent of the Porte; but in the event it refuses its assent, and proposes that he should have one with the Defterdar in Syria, what does your Lordship direct me to do in that case? for M. Testa and myself are determined, if possible, to get these affairs settled before the departure of the next steamer.

No. 4.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 3, 1841.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of what is stated in your Excellency's despatch of the 8th of June, respecting the exactions of Nejjib Pasha in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, July 2, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that since the date of the note which he addressed to his Excellency on the 15th of June, Her Majesty's Government have received further information, by which it appears that Nejjib Pasha, of Damascus, not content with inflicting many intolerable vexations upon the Christian population of Damascus and its neighbourhood, has called upon the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon to pay large sums of money, far exceeding what they are able to pay, and notwithstanding that Selim Pasha, the commander of the Sultan's forces in Syria, had, as the people of Lebanon allege, promised, at the commencement of the struggle with the Egyptian forces, that the district of Lebanon should be free from taxes for three years, if the people should cordially and effectively assist the Sultan in expelling the troops and authorities of Mehemet Ali.

The Undersigned earnestly requests Chekib Effendi to represent to the Porte that such exactions must alienate the minds of the Syrian people from the Sultan, and must necessarily incline them to listen to designing men who seek to overthrow the authority which the Sultan, by the assistance of his Allies, has re-established in Syria.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 5.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 15, 1841.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha, Governor of Damascus, written in consequence of representations made to the Sublime Porte of the misconduct of that Pasha. It will appear that the despatch is wanting in precision in stating the orders of the Porte peremptorily, but I am assured that this has been done designedly, to save offering an indignity to a high officer, in a document that is necessarily public, and that secret orders have been sent to Nejib, and the other Pashas, much more precise and much more rigorous.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure in No. 5.

The Grand Vizier to Nejib Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS nous occupons des réponses qu'il sera nécessaire de donner à plusieurs dépêches de votre Excellence.

Dans une de vos dépêches que nous venons de recevoir, il est dit que, considérant que ne pas accepter les chevaux donnés par quelques Sheiks à votre Excellence, ainsi qu'au Defterdar Envery Effendi, ce serait établir un usage, ce qui ne serait pas convenable, vous les avez reçus en donnant une compensation.

Mais dans une lettre que je vous ai écrite dernièrement, je vous ai parlé longuement et dans une manière particulière du bruit qui court que vos gens et ceux du Defterdar se font donner de l'argent (comme moyen de corruption) pour faire aller certaines affaires. Je vous ai dit en même temps, que nous ne croyons pas que votre Excellence fasse une chose pareille, mais que cependant si vos gens ou ceux du Defterdar se trouvent avoir pris quelque argent comme ci-dessus, il fallait que cet argent fût rendu sur le champ à ceux qui l'avaient donné, en prenant soin que des choses pareilles n'arrivent plus ; choses contraires à notre attente.

La bonne opinion et la confiance que nous avons en vous, ne nous permettent pas de croire que, sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, votre Excellence daignera faire des choses qui sont contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte ; et il est clair que dans toutes les occasions vous aurez soin de donner des preuves de désintéressement et d'honnêteté. Mais on vient de nous faire savoir de nouveau, que vos gens et ceux du Defterdar prennent actuellement encore de l'argent, (présent servant à corrompre,) et que c'est par ce moyen là que l'on a donné des places à Suliman Abdul Hadi, à Mohammed El Hadi, à Abdul Fetah, et au Sheik Said ; que l'on maltraite les hommes qui ont des affaires à représenter ; qu'on traite les Chrétiens avec mépris,—on les moleste par rapport à leur habillement, et on les empêche de monter à cheval ; qu'il y a d'autres abus semblables ; que toutes les affaires sont dans les mains de vos gens ; et que vous avez pris des environs de Damas jusqu'à 160 chevaux.

Les véritables intentions de Sa Majesté Impériale et de tous les Ministres de la Sublime Porte, sont que toutes les classes de sujets,—sans exception, soient également protégés contre toute injustice et à l'abri de toute vexation ; et particulièrement que dans ces pays là, on observe tous les principes de justice, et l'on tienne les procédés les plus doux, les plus bienveillans, afin de ne pas donner lieu à la moindre plainte. Enfin, nous tenons beaucoup à ce que la meilleure administration soit exercée, et que les rayas soient protégés.

Votre Excellence est un homme sage et éclairé ; un des plus illustres Vizirs de l'Empire. Elle ne souffrira donc pas que dans les temps délicats où nous nous trouvons, il arrive des choses contraires à la volonté souveraine ; et votre sagacité nous est garante que dans chaque occasion vous vous conformerez aux circonstances et mettrez vos soins à répandre les bienfaits de la protection et de la justice. Supposé, par exemple, que des hommes à votre service prennent de l'argent comme prix de corruption, vous les leur défendrez, vous les chasserez, vous les en punirez. Et après tout, puisqu'on parle de ces choses là, il se peut bien qu'elles ne soient point tout-à-fait dénuées de fondement. L'acceptation, d'ailleurs, des chevaux dont il a été parlé plus haut, corrobore les faits dont on parle. Si vos gens, ou ceux du Defterdar, ont pris des cadeaux de corruption, il faut qu'ils soient restitués à ceux qui les ont donnés ; et nous avons donné au Defterdar d'Acre, Edhem Bey, les instructions nécessaires à cet égard ; celle-ci étant une affaire de grande importance.

Il n'est pas possible que les communications faites par les agens de quelques Puissances amies soient destituées de fondement d'un bout à l'autre ; or, quand une petite partie en serait vrai, croyez quel tort cela fait à nos intérêts.

Votre Excellence tâchera de faire tout ce qu'il faut pour rendre aimable aux yeux des populations l'administration exercée par la Sublime Porte.

Quoiqu'il en soit, considérant que les chevaux reçus sont déjà reçus, et voulant conserver votre influence morale, on vous dispense de rendre des chevaux pris il y a déjà quelque temps, et pour lesquels on a donné une compensation. Mais on rendra sans délai les autres objets, en donnant à chacun le sien. Vous arrangerez désormais chaque affaire suivant les règles de l'équité et comme elle mérite de l'être ; et vous aurez soin qu'il n'arrive plus des choses contraires à la volonté de la Sublime Porte. Désormais, ni votre Excellence, ni le Defterdar, ni vos gens, ni les siens, ne recevrez ni des chevaux ni d'autres objets. Et comme alors aucune compensation ne sera nécessaire, vous ne donnerez rien en retour ; votre Excellence ne négligera point les affaires de l'un et de l'autre : elle s'en occupera elle-même ; elle répandra les bienfaits de la justice, et en agissant de la sorte, elle fera bénir, avec son administration particulière, celle de la Sublime Porte.

Votre Excellence aura soin de prendre des mesures énergiques tendant à ce que les gens à son service particulier se comportent de manière à ne causer aucun préjudice à qui que ce soit ; et surtout, à ce qu'ils ne reçoivent point des cadeaux (faits pour gagner ceux à qui ils sont donnés), des cadeaux de cette nature étant une chose abominable, une chose nuisible et dans ce monde et dans l'autre. Et, de concert avec le Defterdar, vous vous efforcerez dans toutes les occasions, de faire en sorte à ne vous attirer dans les affaires que vous aurez à traiter, aucune responsabilité personnelle ; étant à ces fins que je vous écris cette lettre.

(Translation.)

WE are occupied with the answers which it will be necessary to give to several of your Excellency's despatches.

In one of your despatches which we have just received, it is stated that, considering that not to accept the horses given by some Sheiks to your Excellency, as well as to the Defterdar Envery Effendi, would be to establish a custom, which would not be proper, you have taken them, giving compensation for them.

But in a letter which I lately wrote to you, I spoke at length and in a particular manner of the report which is current that your people and those of the Defterdar get money given to them (as a means of corruption) to make certain affairs proceed. I said to you at the same time, that we do not believe that your Excellency would do such a thing, but that, nevertheless, if your people, or those of the Defterdar, are found to have taken any money, as above stated, that money should be returned immediately to those who had given it, taking care that such things should not occur again ; things contrary to our expectation.

The good opinion and the confidence which we have in you, do not allow us to believe that, under the auspices of His Highness, your Excellency will condescend to do things which are contrary to the will of the Sublime Porte ; and it is evident that on all occasions you will take care to give proofs of disinterestedness and honesty. But we have just been again informed, that your people and those of the Defterdar actually still take money, (presents serving to corrupt,) and that it is by such means that places have been given to Suliman Abdul Hadi, to Mohammed El Hadi, to Abdul Fetah, and to the Sheik Said ; that persons are ill treated who have affairs to represent ; that the Christians are treated with contempt,—are molested as to their dress, and are prevented from riding on horseback ; that other similar abuses exist ; that all affairs are in the hands of your people ; and that you have taken 160 horses from the neighbourhood of Damascus.

The real intentions of His Imperial Majesty and of all the Ministers of the Sublime Porte are, that all classes of subjects, without exception, should be equally protected against all injustice and sheltered from all oppression ; and particularly that in those countries all the principles of justice should be observed, and that the mildest and kindest conduct should be pursued, in order that no cause might be given for the slightest complaint. In short, we are very anxious that the best Government should be carried on, and that the Rayahs should be protected.

Your Excellency is a wise and enlightened man ; one of the most illustrious Viziers of the Empire. You will not therefore suffer that in the critical times in which we find ourselves, circumstances should occur contrary to the sovereign will ; and your penetration is an assurance to us that on every occasion you will conform to circumstances, and will use your efforts to diffuse the benefits of protection and justice. Suppose, for instance, that men in your service take money as the price of corruption, you will prohibit them from doing so ; you will discharge them ; you will punish them for it. And, after all, as these things are spoken of, it is possible that they may not be quite destitute of foundation. Moreover, the acceptance of the horses above-mentioned corroborates the facts spoken of. If your people, or those of the Defterdar, have accepted presents of corruption, they must be restored to those who gave them ; and we have given to the Defterdar of Acre, Edhem Bey, the necessary instructions in this respect ; this being an affair of great importance.

It is not possible that the communications made by the agents of some friendly Powers should be destitute of foundation from beginning to end ; but, if a small part of them should be true, think what injury that does to our interests.

Your Excellency will endeavour to do all that is necessary to render the Government carried on by the Sublime Porte agreeable in the eyes of the people.

However, considering that the horses are already accepted, and wishing to preserve your moral influence, you are excused from returning the horses taken some time since, and for which compensation has been given. But the other articles shall be restored without delay, every body being given his own. You will henceforward arrange every affair according to the rules of justice, and according to its merits ; and you will take care that circumstances contrary to the will of the Sublime Porte do not again occur. Henceforward, neither your Excellency, nor the Defterdar, nor your people, nor his, will accept either horses or other articles. And as in that case no compensation will be necessary, you will give nothing in return ; your Excellency will not neglect the affairs of any body ; you will yourself attend to them ; you will diffuse the benefits of justice, and, acting in this manner, you will cause the Government of the Sublime Porte, as well as your particular Government, to be blessed.

Your Excellency will be careful to take strong measures in order that the people in your private service may conduct themselves so as to cause no injury to any body whatever, and, above all, in order that they may not accept presents (made to gain over those to whom they are given), presents of that nature being an abomination, hurtful both in this and in the other

world. And, in concert with the Defterdar, you will endeavour on all occasions, to act so as not to incur any personal responsibility in the affairs which you will have to deal with; it being for these objects that I write this letter to you.

No. 6.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 9.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 16, 1841.

I THINK the affairs of Syria are settled in a satisfactory manner. I will report to your Lordship on the subject next week.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 7.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)

My Lord,

Therapia, June 21, 1841.

I THINK it proper to lay before your Lordship materials for the better formation of a judgment of the arrangements made for Syria, and of the difficulties that have been encountered and overcome. These materials are some letters and reports by Mr. Wood, explanatory of affairs, and also of his execution of my instructions to him. I beg leave to say that whilst I assign to Mr. Wood the merit of these arrangements, for the most stringent and effective parts of them are due to him, I will not refuse the entire responsibility of what has been done, as every bit of it was carefully examined by me, and alterations made where I thought change necessary.

I trust your Lordship will perceive and be contented with the ability and courage shown by Mr. Wood.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSONBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Memorandum of Propositions agreed upon at a Conference at Therapia, respecting Syria.

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer and M. Titow, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte:—

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians, of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges, in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formally its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers, to allow the Syrians, and particularly the Christians, to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to remit all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above

effect, but as it does not appear they were properly understood, a new Defterdar has been appointed, with extraordinary powers, to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaja, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman Ministers.

4. That a "Ferik" should be appointed to the Government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war.

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded, to his Excellency the Defterdar, with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Therapia, May 12, 1841.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Memorandum on Syrian Affairs.

LETTERS from Syria that have reached to-day, contain the following particulars:—

"Nejib Pasha has ordered that the Christians are not henceforward to enter Damascus on horseback. He has ordered them besides to wear black instead of white turbans, and never to appear in clothes of a light colour.

"He has appointed Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi, Governor of Gaza and Mubassil of the surrounding districts; Sheik Mohamed Abdul Hadi assisted Ibrahim Pasha in 1831 to take Acre, and has, in the late campaign, defended that fortress personally against the allied forces. He is known to be a traitor, and a friend of Mehemet Ali. Nejib Pasha, therefore, by appointing him Governor of Gaza, which is on the borders of Egypt, has given him the facility of betraying Syria a second time into the hands of Ibrahim Pasha."

Nejib Pasha is about to deprive Emir Said-el-Deen and Emir Effendi of the command of their districts in Anti-Lebanon, because they refuse to tax the mountaineers beyond what they can pay.

These two Emirs served most gallantly in the late campaign against the Egyptians, have a right to the command of their districts, and will not give them up without a struggle.

The Musteshar Effendi has asked the Emir Beshir to pay him a tribute of five thousand purses annually, but the Emir has refused to accede to the demand, stating that, were the attempt made to tax so heavily the mountaineers, they would revolt, in which case neither the Seraskier nor himself possessed the means of appeasing them. The Musteshar Effendi, however, persisted in his demand and the Emir offered his resignation; fortunately a third party interfered, and an arrangement was entered into. Should the Musteshar Effendi force the Emir to resign his government of Mount Lebanon, a civil war will immediately ensue between the Christians and Druses.

The discontent is growing general in Syria; the causes are too numerous to detail here; but the information received from different parts of the country tends to show that a revolt is not far distant.

Therapia, May 23, 1841.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Mr. Wood to Rifaat Pasha.

(Extrait.)

Therapia, 23 Mai, 1841.

JE m'empresse de répondre à la demande de votre Excellence de signaler par écrit quelques renseignemens sur la Syrie, ainsi que sur la conduite de quelques uns des employés de la Sublime Porte.

Le "Rishwet" (subornation) n'a été nullement aboli, et les Syriens se plaignent fortement qu'ils ne peuvent demander l'assistance des autorités locales pour leurs affaires sans qu'ils soient obligés de leur donner de l'argent en cadeau ; ce système est général, et quoiqu'il faut excepter quelques uns des hauts fonctionnaires, cependant presque la totalité de leurs employés sont susceptibles à être corrompus. Le Divan Effendissy et le Kiaya d'Ali Pacha, Ex-Gouverneur de Damas, se sont enrichis par ce moyen, et on dit que les employés d'Assaad Pacha, Gouverneur d'Alep, en font autant. Mais c'est de la vente des charges qu'on a le plus à craindre, puisqu'il en résulte trois graves inconvéniens : 1°. Le peu d'attention qu'on met dans le choix du nouveau employé. 2°. Ce dernier ayant acheté sa charge, il emploie sa nouvelle autorité, sans aucune peur, pour s'embourser des frais qu'il a faits. 3°. Le mécontentement que ces vexations cause parmi le peuple.

Outre que l'Armée en Syrie est extrêmement négligée, elle est dépourvue de tous les nécessaires. Elle a cinq mois d'arriérés à recevoir et elle n'a presque pas de commissariat, qui est du reste très mal organisé. Or, l'approvisionnement des troupes devient extrêmement difficile ; les paysans se trouvent forcés de fournir des vivres, et ils se plaignent à haute voix qu'ils ont à recevoir déjà 3,000 bourses que son Excellence le Moustéchar Effendi ne leur paie pas. Ils prétendent, par conséquent, que sur ce point ils sont tout autant vexés qu'ils l'étaient pendant l'administration Egyptienne.

J'en ai fait plusieurs représentations au Moustéchar Effendi, mais il m'a répondu toujours qu'il n'avait pas d'argent ; cependant je suis convaincu que son Excellence aurait pu faire des arrangemens qui auraient créé moins de mécontentement.

Les officiers de la Sublime Porte en Syrie traitent avec trop de dédain les habitans, ils ne font aucun cas de leurs représentations, et ils ne leur accordent pas l'assistance dans leurs affaires qu'ils ont le droit de réclamer. Cette conduite provenant des hauts fonctionnaires, a beaucoup aliéné l'affection des Syriens, et il est à craindre qu'il pourra bien finir par rendre leur dévouement à la Sublime Porte moins sincère qu'il ne l'était au commencement de la campagne. En outre, l'ignorance des Pachas de la langue, des mœurs et des usages du pays qu'ils sont appelés à gouverner, accélère beaucoup le mal que je viens de signaler. L'indifférence qu'ils témoignent pour tout ce qui se passe autour d'eux, ainsi qu'aux besoins du peuple, ajoutera à son mécontentement, et donnera lieu à beaucoup de confusion et d'anarchie à l'avenir. Déjà l'autorité Turque est moins respectée de ce qu'elle l'était il y a environ quatre mois.

La Sublime Porte devrait instruire ses officiers et ses Pachas de montrer plus d'activité, de faire plus d'attention aux besoins des Syriens, et de les gouverner avec plus de justice et de modération, mais de déployer de l'énergie et de la fermeté quand il le faut ;—car ce serait manquer à la confiance que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu me faire l'honneur de me témoigner, si je cachais à votre Excellence que le premier coup de fusil qui partirait en Syrie sera le signal d'une révolution générale,—et comme ce pays est formé de montagnes et de déserts, le Gouvernement Turc s'apercevra trop tard que ses moyens militaires et pécuniaires sont tout-à-fait insuffisans pour l'apaiser.

Les Pachas et les autres employés devraient montrer plus de zèle et de la bonne foi dans l'exercice des fonctions des charges qui leur ont été confiées, et par là acquérir la confiance et le respect du peuple au lieu de les perdre, et augmenter l'influence de leur Gouvernement.

Le montant du revenu de la Syrie s'élevait pendant l'administration Egyptienne à 362,000 bourses ; c'est-à-dire :

Miri	102,000 bourses.
Ferdé	60,000
Moubaaya	200,000 à peu près.

362,000 Bourses.

Maintenant que le Moubaaya, le Ferdé, et autres impôts sont abolis par le "Tanzimati Haïriyé," le revenu se réduira à 72,000 bourses seulement, tandis que le montant des dépenses et des frais du Gouvernement en Syrie, d'après un calcul approximatif, s'élève à 140,000 bourses par an, ce qui occasionnera un déficit annuel de 68,000 bourses. Dans une entrevue que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec leurs Excellences Selim Pacha et le Moustéchar Effendi, il a été décidé de ne point établir le Tahrire Mal, ou l'impôt de 10 pour cent sur la valeur des propriétés. La pleine conviction que la perception de cet impôt causerait de grands inconvéniens dans le pays (une insurrection), nous a fait adopter cette décision. Comme pourtant les frais montent à peu près le double du revenu, j'ose suggérer à votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte continue à percevoir le demi du Moubaaya à la place de l'impôt sur les propriétés, ce qui donnera une rente annuelle de 100,000 bourses.

Cette somme augmentera le total du revenu à 172,000 bourses, et par ce moyen,—malgré les énormes dépenses qu'il a été dit plus haut s'élèvent à 140,000 bourses,—il restera toujours la somme de 32,000 bourses pour ses frais extraordinaires.

Il est à regretter que la Sublime Porte ait cru nécessaire d'envoyer un si grand nombre de hauts fonctionnaires en Syrie. En les augmentant, on n'a fait qu'augmenter dans la même proportion les moyens d'opprimer et de vexer le peuple. Leurs salaires montent déjà à 1,600 bourses par mois, ou bien à un quart du revenu de la Syrie.

Il ne sera pas difficile de diminuer leur nombre en adoptant un autre forme d'administration ; mais je me réserve l'honneur de soumettre plus tard à votre Excellence mes observations sur ce sujet important.

Quoique la conduite du Lieutenant-Général Réchid Pacha a été jusqu'à présent irréprochable, cependant comme j'ai raison de croire qu'il se propose d'user des mesures violentes envers les habitans, je me fais un devoir d'en prévenir votre Excellence, afin que des instructions lui soient transmises pour lui servir de guide dans l'exercice de ses fonctions. Il serait convenable que de semblables instructions soient envoyées aussi à tous les Pachas et Defterdars,—car la Sublime Porte a plus à craindre de l'insouciance et du manque de tacte de ses employés que des actes des Syriens contre son autorité.

J'ai appris avec peine que son Excellence Nejib Pacha vient de proposer Mahmoud Abdul Hadi pour être nommé Gouverneur de Nablous. Cet individu est l'oncle du Gouverneur actuel, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et tous les deux, par leur tyrannie et leur oppression, ont portés les Nablousiens au comble de désespoir.

Les membres de la famille d'Abdul Hadi ont toujours soutenu les intérêts de Méhémet Ali. Ce sont eux qui ont aidé Ibrahim Pacha de s'emparer de St. Jean d'Acre, et c'est bien eux qui l'ont défendu jusqu'au dernier moment contre les forces des Alliés. Je prends la liberté de transmettre des différens documens en idiome Turc qui m'ont été donnés par le Séraskier Selim Pacha, qui prouveront à votre Excellence que Mahmoud et Suleiman Abdul Hadi sont des traîtres. Suffit-il de dire qu'il y aurait eu dernièrement une révolution dans la Montagne de Nablous si son Excellence Hassan Pacha et moi nous n'y étions pas rendus pour apaiser les montagnards qui demandent à haute voix la destitution de leur Gouverneur, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, et son remplacement par un officier de la Sublime Porte. Je leur ai promis de soumettre leur demande à votre Excellence à condition qu'ils resteraient tranquils. Or la confirmation du Gouverneur actuel, ou son remplacement par Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, son oncle, sera le signal d'une sédition immédiate. La Sublime Porte en accordant la demande des habitans de Nablous profiterait en même tems de l'occasion d'y nommer un de ses propres officiers, et ainsi elle parviendrait d'y établir pour toujours son autorité et son influence.

Le gouvernement local est tout-à-fait dépourvu d'argent pour faire face

aux dépenses de l'armée, et comme quelque tems s'écoulera avant qu'il puisse percevoir les impôts et le Miri, il est à craindre qu'il se verra forcé de vexer le pays pour son approvisionnement. Ceci pourrait bien faire naître des mésintelligences sérieuses entre lui et le peuple, qu'il appartient à la sagesse de la Sublime Porte de prévenir à tems.

Si toutefois votre Excellence me le permettra, je me ferai un véritable plaisir de vous soumettre quelques pièces détaillées sur les sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

Agréé, &c.,
(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

(Translation.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, May 23, 1841.

I HASTEN to answer the request of your Excellency that I would communicate to you by letter, some information on the subject of Syria, as also respecting the conduct of certain of the officers of the Sublime Porte.

The Rishwet [suborning] has been in no respect done away with, and the Syrians loudly complain that they cannot ask for the assistance of the local authorities in their affairs, without making them presents of money; this system is general, and although one must except some of those high in office, almost all those employed by them are open to corruption. The Divan Effendissy and the Kiaja of Ali Pasha, ex-Governor of Damascus, have enriched themselves in this way, and it is said that the officers of Assaad Pasha, Governor of Aleppo, do as much. But the most alarming fact is the sale of employments, inasmuch as three great inconveniences arise out of it. 1. The little attention which is paid to the selection of the new officer. 2. The latter having bought his office, will fearlessly employ his new authority to reimburse himself for the expense which he has incurred. 3. The discontent which vexations of this character excite amongst the people.

In addition to the army in Syria being extremely neglected, it is in want of all necessaries. It is five months' pay in arrear, and has scarcely any commissariat, what there is being very ill organized. For this reason, the provisioning of the troops has become exceedingly difficult; the peasantry find themselves forced to contribute provisions, and complain aloud that they are already entitled to 3,000 purses, which his Excellency the Musteshar Effendi does not pay them. They assert, in consequence, that they are in this respect treated as ill as they were under the Egyptian rule.

I have made several representations to the Musteshar Effendi about this, but he has always answered me that he had no money; I am, however, convinced that his Excellency might have made his arrangements in a manner which would have given rise to less discontent.

The officers of the Sublime Porte in Syria treat the inhabitants with too much disdain, they do not attend to their representations, and do not grant them that assistance in their affairs to which they are entitled. This conduct on the part of the high functionaries, has in a great degree alienated the affection of the Syrians, and it is to be feared that it will end by rendering their devotion to the Sublime Porte less sincere than it was at the beginning of the campaign. In addition to this, the ignorance of the Pashas as regards the language, the manners, and customs, of the country which they are called upon to govern, hastens very much the evil which I have above pointed out. The indifference which they show to all that is going on around them, as well as to the wants of the people, will add to the discontent of the latter, and will hereafter give rise to much confusion and anarchy. The Turkish authority is already much less respected than it was four months back.

The Sublime Porte should instruct her officers and Pashas to show greater activity, to pay greater attention to the wants of the Syrians, and to govern them with more justice and moderation, but to show energy and firmness when it is required. For I should exhibit a disregard for that confidence with which the Sublime Porte has been pleased to honour me, were I to conceal from your Excellency that the first shot which is fired in Syria will be the signal of a general revolt, and as this is a country of mountains and deserts, the Turkish Government will discover too late, that its military and pecuniary resources are too slender to put it down.

The Pashas and other officers should exhibit greater zeal and earnestness in the exercise of the duties of the offices confided to them, and by this means acquire instead of lose, the confidence and respect of the people, and increase the influence of their Government.

The revenue of Syria amounted, under the Egyptian rule, to 362,000 purses: *i. e.*,

	Purses.
Miri	102,000
Ferdé	60,000
Mubaaya, about	200,000
	<hr style="width: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"/>
	362,000

Now that the Mubaaya, the Ferdé, and other duties, are abolished by the "Tanzimati Haïriyé," the revenue will be reduced to 72,000 purses only, while the gross amount of the expenditure and cost of Government in Syria, may be estimated at 140,000 purses, thus causing an annual deficiency of 68,000 purses. In an interview which I had the honour of having with their Excellencies Selim Bey and the Musteshar Effendi, it was decided not to establish the Tahrire Mal, or tax of 10 per cent. upon the value of property. The firm conviction that the collection of such a tax would cause great inconveniences [an insurrection] in the country, made us come to that decision. Inasmuch, however, as the expenditure amounts to nearly double the revenue, I venture to suggest to your Excellency that the Sublime Porte should continue to collect half of the Mubaaya in place of the property tax, which will give an annual sum of 100,000 purses.

This sum will bring the revenue up to a total of 172,000 purses; and by that means, notwithstanding the enormous expenditure, which, as has been already said, amounts to 140,000 purses, there will always remain the sum of 32,000 purses to meet extraordinary expenditure.

It is to be regretted that the Sublime Porte has thought it necessary to send so large a number of officers of high rank to Syria. The increase in their number has been but an increase in the means for the oppression and annoyance of the people. Their salaries already amount to 1,600 purses a month; that is to say, to a quarter of the revenue of Syria.

It will be no difficult matter to diminish their number, provided that another form of administration be adopted; but I reserve to myself the honour of submitting to your Excellency, at a later period, my observations upon this important subject.

Although the conduct of Lieutenant-General Rechid Pasha has been up to the present time irreproachable, yet, inasmuch as I have reason to believe that he proposes to use violent measures against the inhabitants, I consider it my duty to warn your Excellency on the subject, in order that instructions may be sent to him which may serve to guide him in the execution of his functions. It would be well that like instructions should be sent to all the Pashas and Defterdars, for the Porte has more to fear from the negligence and want of tact of her officers than from the acts of the Syrians against her authority.

I have learnt with regret that his Excellency Nejb Pasha has just proposed that Mahmoud Abdul Hadi should be named Governor of Nablous. That individual is the uncle of the present Governor, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, and both of them, by their tyranny and oppression, have brought the inhabitants of Nablous to the lowest depth of despair.

The members of the Abdul Hadi family have ever supported the interests of Mehemet Ali. They aided Ibrahim Pasha in seizing St. Jean d'Acre, and they also defended it to the last moment against the allied forces. I take the liberty of transmitting several documents, in the Turkish language, which have been given to me by the Seraskier Selim Pasha, and which will prove to your Excellency that Mahmoud and Suleiman Abdul Hadi are traitors. Let it suffice to say, that there would lately have been a revolution in the Mountain of Nablous if his Excellency Hassan Pasha and myself had not gone there for the purpose of appeasing the mountaineers, who call aloud for the removal of their Governor, Suleiman Abdul Hadi, and his being replaced

by an officer of the Sublime Porte. I have promised to submit their request to your Excellency, on condition of their remaining quiet. Consequently, the confirmation of the present Governor, or the appointment in his place of Mahmoud Abdul Hadi, his uncle, to that office, would be the signal of an instantaneous disturbance. In granting the request of the inhabitants of Nablous, the Porte might at the same time take advantage of the occasion to name to the post one of her own officers, and she would thus succeed in establishing there her permanent authority and influence.

The Local Government is completely without money to meet the expenses of the army, and as some time must elapse before it can receive the taxes and the Miri, there is reason to fear that it will be obliged to cause annoyance to the people in order to obtain supplies for it. This would not be unlikely to cause serious misunderstanding between it and the people, which it appertains to the wisdom of the Porte to guard against in time.

If, however, your Excellency will permit me, I shall have real pleasure in submitting to you some details with respect to the subject above treated of.

Receive, &c.,
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Memorandum on the Kapou Kiaja of the Emir Beshir, &c.,

LA Sublime Porte a proposé que l'Emir Béchir n'ait un Kapou Kiaya qu'auprès de son Excellence le Defterdar ; le Soussigné a l'honneur d'assurer son Excellence Rifaat Pacha, que l'Emir ne consentira jamais à cette mesure, puisque, d'après le firman impérial qu'il possède, il n'est nullement sous les ordres du Defterdar ou du Pacha de Saïda. L'objet de l'Emir est simplement d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya auprès de la Sublime Porte pour qu'il puisse s'entendre directement avec les Ministres de Sa Hautesse le Sultan dans les différends et les disputes qui peuvent bien avoir lieu entre lui et les Pachas. Dé plus, les Pachas et autres employés sachant que leur conduite peut être rapportée à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte, se verront obligés de se conduire avec plus de modération et de se comporter selon les désirs et les instructions du Gouvernement Turc. La Sublime Porte en refusant de lui accorder cette juste demande, obligera l'Emir tôt ou tard, d'interrompre ses communications avec les Pachas, et de se tenir isolé dans son Gouvernement du Mont Liban, ce qui n'est pas de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte.

Quant au refus de la Sublime Porte de permettre au Patriarche Maronite d'avoir un Kapou Kiaya à Constantinople, la question se résout ainsi. Est-il de l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte que le Patriarche continue sous une protection étrangère, ou bien qu'il s'entende directement avec le Gouvernement Turc ? Si la Sublime Porte persiste dans son refus de lui accorder sa demande, il continuera à jouir de sa protection étrangère, et lui avec toute la nation Maronite se tiendront, ainsi que le grand Prince, dans un état d'isolement.

La Sublime Porte ne devra pas perdre l'occasion de s'attacher ces deux hauts fonctionnaires, puisque c'est bien eux qui demandent ce rapprochement.

Ce 8 Juin, 1841.

(Translation.)

THE Sublime Porte has proposed that the Emir Beshir should have a Kapou Kiaja only near his Excellency the Defterdar ; the Undersigned has the honour to assure his Excellency Rifaat Pasha, that the Emir will never consent to such a measure, inasmuch as in virtue of the imperial firman which he possesses, he is in no wise subject to the orders of the Defterdar, or of the Pasha of Saïda. The object of the Emir is simply to have a Kapou Kiaja at

the Sublime Porte, in order that he may have direct communication with the Ministers of His Highness the Sultan in the differences and disputes which may arise between him and the Pashas. Furthermore, the Pashas and other officers, knowing that their conduct can be brought to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte, will find themselves forced to conduct themselves with more moderation, and to obey the wishes and instructions of the Turkish Government. The Sublime Porte, in refusing to grant this fair request, will sooner or later oblige the Emir to break off his communications with the Pashas, and to keep himself isolated in his government of Mount Lebanon, which is not consistent with the interests of the Sublime Porte.

As regards the refusal of the Sublime Porte to permit the Maronite Patriarch to have a Kapou Kiaja at Constantinople, the question comes to this. Is it most for the interest of the Sublime Porte that the Patriarch should continue under foreign protection, or that he should communicate directly with the Turkish Government? If the Sublime Porte persists in its refusal to grant him what he desires, he will continue in the enjoyment of foreign protection, and he, and the whole Maronite nation, will, like the Prince, be in a state of isolation.

The Sublime Porte should not lose this opportunity of attaching to herself these two high functionaries, as they themselves invite such connexion.

June 8, 1841.

Inclosure 5 in No. 7.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Pera, June 14, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a memorandum I drew up at his Excellency Rifaat Pasha's request, containing the propositions agreed upon between your Lordship, Baron de Stürmer, and Monsieur de Titow.

The Supreme Council consented to adopt the propositions, with unimportant modifications, with the exception of the one relating to the nomination of Kapou Kiajas to represent the interests of Emir Beshir and of the Maronite church and nation at the Sublime Porte.

So soon as I was made acquainted with the above objection, I endeavoured to remove it by submitting to the consideration of Rifaat Pasha, all the observations in my power, which, after a conference of four hours, made some impression on his Excellency, who desired me to furnish him with another memorandum on the subject, and which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I was, moreover, desired to see the Grand Vizier, and to convey the same observations to his Excellency, with which I complied immediately.

I availed myself of the opportunity thus afforded me to communicate your Lordship's opinions, and to ask his Excellency what answer the Ottoman ministers were prepared to give to their Sovereign and to Europe should they lose Syria, so recently conquered, through neglect in adopting the measures suggested to them for the redress of the Syrian grievances, for the security of the natives against the abuse of the authority of their own officers, and for the better establishment of the Sultan's authority, &c.

From the indirect remark made to me by his Excellency, that all the Mussulmans were soldiers, and would unite to suppress rebellion whenever it became necessary, I inferred the suspicion that the Sublime Porte entertained of our intention to support the rayahs of the Ottoman Empire in their resistance, and particularly the Syrian Christians; for I presume his Excellency intended to insinuate, that in the event of our attempting to countenance the rebellion of the rayahs, the Sublime Porte could, or would, have recourse to a levy *en masse* of the Turkish population.

Without betraying to the Grand Vizier that I had understood his insi-

uation, I replied that the very Mussulmans they intended levying *en masse*, were the same that were actually in open rebellion in Diarbekir, Orfa, Mesopotamia, Arabia, &c., and that, therefore, I thought the Sublime Porte had more to apprehend from its Turkish subjects than from the Christians. I remarked that the earnestness we showed in our endeavours to persuade the Sublime Porte to adopt measures for the entire pacification of its newly-conquered provinces, ought to be received as a further proof of our sincerity to preserve the tranquillity of the Empire, which we were desirous should prosper and acquire strength and stability, since, had our intentions been otherwise, we had only to remain quiet spectators of passing events until the Porte's officers in the interior accomplished, by acts of folly and oppression, its entire disorganization.

Without dwelling longer on the topics that formed the subject of a prolonged conversation of an hour, I will briefly state, that the Grand Vizier expressed his thanks for the friendly and open advice I gave him in your Lordship's name, which he said was a mark of the great sincerity that Her Majesty's Government had at all times taken in the well being and prosperity of the Ottoman Empire, and concluded by assuring me that the rejected proposition should form the subject of the deliberations of a Council to be held expressly.

His Excellency Rifaat Pasha has since communicated to me the resolution of the Sublime Porte to accede to the demand of the Emir Beshir to have a Kapou Kiaja, observing the same rules and formalities usual in similar nominations. The same privilege has been granted to the Maronite Patriarch, who has been, moreover, allowed to appoint to that office the individual of his own choice.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. WOOD.

Inclosure 6 in No. 7.

Memorandum containing the propositions agreed upon by Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. de Titow, and presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood at His Excellency's request.

(Translation.)

1. MR. WOOD in his verbal communications with Rechid Pasha, at that period Minister for Foreign Affairs, was desired by him to promise the Syrians the enjoyment of their ancient rights and privileges in case they returned to their allegiance to the Sublime Porte, and that, moreover, they should be exempted from all illegal taxation. The Musteshar Selamy Effendi having acted contrary to the above promises, the Sublime Porte should be advised in the names of the three Ministers as above, to observe the rights and privileges of the Syrians, and should remit all illegal taxes.

Besides the tithes, a property tax of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and a custom-house duty of 12 per cent. on silk, making in all 32 per cent. on property and produce, have been demanded. As the Syrians, however, are not in a condition to meet these demands, they should be made to pay only the tithes on grain, the "Miri," and the customs.

It will be difficult to establish the property tax; any attempt will most likely lead to an insurrection. In its stead, therefore, half of the "mubaaya" (fixed contributions in kind) may be levied for the supply of the troops.

2. His Excellency the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch request to have each a Kapou Kiaja (agent) at the Sublime Porte.

Disputes and unpleasant altercations often occur between the Emir Beshir and the Pasha. To obviate this evil the Emir should be allowed to appoint a Kapou Kiaja. By these means, whenever disputes occur between him and the Pashas, he will be able to refer them to the Sublime Porte, and both the Emir and the Patriarch will be thus put in direct communication with the Ottoman Ministers. It will have the effect besides of deterring the

Pashas from committing abuses when they are aware that their conduct is liable to be reported.

3. A Ferik should be appointed to the Government of Djebail Koodoos, Djebail Nablous, and Djebail Halil, who should reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and for the adjustment and settlement of their differences and disputes, as well as to prevent the various sects from interfering with each other, &c.

As many disputes exist between the Armenians, Latins, and Greeks, with regard to the possession of holy places and sanctuaries, the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs of Constantinople should be made to appoint each a commissioner to accompany the aforesaid Ferik to the Holy City, who, on his arrival, should request the Latins to nominate also a commissioner. These three Commissioners and the Ferik, with the assistance of the most respectable inhabitants of the city, should form a commission for the purpose of examining the respective titles of the three churches to the sanctuaries in dispute, so that each should be duly put in possession of what belongs to it by right.

The Sublime Porte should, moreover, issue firmans prohibiting any impediment from being offered to the Syrian Christians in the exercise of their worship, as well as the practice of extorting money from them. And in order that the good and benevolent intentions of the Sublime Porte should be made public, copies of the aforesaid firmans should be transmitted to the Greek and Armenian Patriarchs, and to the Lord Abbot of the Latins.

4. Their Excellencies the British, Austrian, and Russian Representatives alluded in their conference of the other day, to the propriety and justice of rewarding the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war. Their names and services, and the degree and kind of reward to which they were entitled, were specified in a memorandum presented some time ago. Their Excellencies, therefore, request and ask that they should be rewarded accordingly.

5. Notwithstanding that their Excellencies Selim Pasha, the Admiral, and others, promised the inhabitants that the Sublime Porte would reimburse them for the destruction of the mulberry plantations and houses that were destroyed at Djouni, at the landing of the Turkish troops, for the construction of an entrenched camp, still not an asper has been given them. The Musteshar Effendi has reported the amount of the damage on the aforesaid property, and the Sublime Porte is particularly recommended to take the claims of the mountaineers into consideration.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Constantinople, June 5, 1841.

Inclosure 7 in No. 7.

Memorandum presented to Rifaat Pasha by Mr. Wood.

LES nouvelles arrivées par le dernier vapeur de la Syrie, sont peu satisfaisantes; elles parlent beaucoup de l'effet que l'insurrection en Candie a eu sur les esprits des Syriens, et particulièrement des Chrétiens du Mont Liban, qui, trompés sur leur attente de se voir gouvernés avec justice et modération, se sont mis en communication secrète entre eux, pour aviser sur les moyens d'offrir de la résistance aux autorités locales, en cas qu'elles persistent de les opprimer et de leur enlever leurs droits et privilèges. Quelques agens et émissaires les encouragent dans cette idée en tachant de les persuader de la faiblesse de la Sublime Porte, du succès qu'ont eu les Candiotes jusqu'à présent, et du peu d'espoir qu'ils ont de se voir bien gouvernés. Ces mêmes émissaires disent ouvertement qu'il est dans leur pouvoir de soulever le peuple de la Syrie quand ils le veulent.

La conduite de Nejib Pacha contribue beaucoup à hâter un mouvement séditieux en Syrie. Il a donné des ordres de faire saisir injustement un Chrétien nommé Tamis Bahos, pour avoir exécuté les ordres de son chef

l'Emir Béchir. Cet acte est contraire aux droits des montagnards qui ne sont responsables qu'à l'Emir Béchir. Ils se sont par conséquent portés sur plusieurs points pour délivrer des mains des gardes Turques le susdit Tamis Bahos. L'indiscrétion donc de ce Pacha causera le premier acte des Syriens contre son autorité.

Nejib Pacha a aussi l'intention de destituer l'Emir Said-el-Deen et l'Emir Effendi, gouverneurs des districts de Hasbeya et Rasheya. Ces deux Emirs ont des droits à la reconnaissance de la Sublime Porte pour leurs services dans la dernière campagne. Leur destitution causera des troubles dans l'Anti-Liban où ils jouissent d'une grande influence et autorité. Il a fallu deux ans à Ibrahim Pacha pour les soumettre.

Les impôts auxquels le Moustéchar Effendi a voulu soumettre la Montagne a mis l'Emir Béchir dans le cas d'offrir sa résignation. L'Emir a déclaré ouvertement que si on l'obligeait de percevoir le chiffre de tribut qu'on lui demandait, il y aurait une insurrection difficile à apaiser puisque les moyens nécessaires lui manquaient totalement. Une guerre civile entre les Druses et les Chrétiens serait la conséquence immédiate de la résignation de l'Emir Béchir.

Malgré la convention ou pacte signé par les Sheiks Arabes du Sud de s'abstenir des hostilités les uns contre les autres (et que le Soussigné a eu l'honneur de remettre à votre Excellence avant hier), le départ de son Excellence Hassan Pacha de Jaffa, a été suivi d'une attaque des Arabes contre le tribu de Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby: tous les villages ont été pillés. Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby s'est rendu auprès de Nejib Pacha pour se faire rendre justice, et si le Pacha le lui refuse, il emploiera ses propres moyens pour se venger.

Dans le cas que la Sublime Porte se propose de nommer un "Ferik" pour gouverner les districts de Gébail Halil, Gébail Koodoos (Jérusalem), et Gébail Nablous, le Soussigné ose recommander Hassan Pacha pour remplir ce poste. Son intégrité, son zèle, et la connaissance qu'il possède de ces lieux, le rendent digne de cette préférence.

Les "Shouras" (Conseils Municipaux) refusent de recevoir le témoignage des Chrétiens. Ce refus, si humiliant pour cette partie des sujets de la Sublime Porte, est contraire aux volontés de Sa Hautesse le Sultan. Comme la loi Turque ne rejette pas toujours le témoignage des Chrétiens, ceux-ci demandent à savoir où existe l'égalité que le Hatti-Shériff de Gulhané vient d'établir entre tous les sujets Turcs sans rapport à leurs dogmes religieux.

Les Shouras ont commencé de plus à renvoyer presque toutes les affaires aux Mekkémes (cours de justice), qui de l'autre côté sont devenus extrêmement corrompus. La vénalité des juges est arrivée au point d'empêcher le monde d'avoir recours à eux. Or, les Syriens, outre l'humiliation à laquelle ils sont exposés, et l'enlèvement de leurs privilèges que Méhémet Ali même respectait, n'ont non plus les moyens de se faire rendre justice. Les événements qui viennent de se passer dans l'intérieur de l'Empire Turc, ne devraient point laisser douter à la Sublime Porte quel serait le résultat d'un pareil état de choses en Syrie.

Les impôts qui existaient dans le temps d'Abdallah Pacha existent toujours, tels que les taxes sur l'industrie, malgré qu'ils furent abolis pendant la guerre; et les habitans de Saida et de Sour ont refusé de payer la dîme.

Le Patriarche Maronite et son Excellence l'Emir Béchir prient la Sublime Porte de leur accorder le droit d'avoir chacun d'eux un Kapou Kiaya, (Agent). Le Soussigné prend la liberté de suggérer à votre Excellence la prudence et l'avantage qu'il y aurait en accordant à ces deux dignitaires le privilège dont tous leurs égaux jouissent auprès de la Sublime Porte. Les Pachas en Syrie se conduiront avec plus de discrétion et de prudence, de peur que leur conduite ne fût rapportée à sa connaissance par l'entremise des Kapou Kiayas. Cette proposition devrait être adoptée sans délai.

Le Soussigné vient de recevoir des lettres de Jérusalem qui l'informent de scènes honteuses qui ont eu lieu entre les Francs, les Grecs, et les Arméniens, pendant les fêtes de Pâques. Ces scènes souvent répétées peuvent mener à des conséquences fâcheuses, sinon à des reproches adressés à la Sublime Porte par les Cours de l'Europe. En cas que la Sublime Porte se décide d'envoyer à Jérusalem un Ferik pour y gouverner,

il ne sera pas difficile de trouver et de suggérer les moyens de mettre un borne à ces disputes et à arranger les différends de ces sectes à l'avantage exclusif de la Sublime Porte.

Des nouvelles récentes de Jaffa annoncent l'arrivée de Meneckly Ahmet Pacha à El-Arish, où il s'occupe actuellement à acheter des provisions en grande quantité, et à faire creuser plusieurs puits. Il est évident que Méhémet Ali se propose d'y placer un corps d'armée. La nomination par conséquent de Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi au gouvernement de Gaza devient plus dangereuse encore, puisque ce traître est capable de faciliter secrètement les mauvaises intentions du Pacha d'Égypte.

Les Grecs Catholiques de Nazareth se plaignent du mauvais traitement des Musulmans; et le Soussigné, en portant leurs justes griefs à la connaissance de votre Excellence, se permet la liberté de les accompagner de quelques observations générales.

Quand le Soussigné s'était rendu en Syrie, la Sublime Porte l'avait spécialement instruit de s'assurer de la coopération des Chrétiens contre les Égyptiens, et de leur promettre pour récompense le rétablissement et la confirmation de leurs droits et privilèges, et la mise en exécution des provisions du Hatti-Shériff de Gulhané à leur égard. Il est à présumer donc, que la Sublime Porte, en s'adressant aux Chrétiens, mettait plus de confiance dans leur loyauté, intelligence et courage. Malgré que par leurs services distingués ils ont démontré combien ils étaient dignes de la bonne opinion que la Sublime Porte avait formé d'eux, la Sublime Porte a-t-elle tenu ses engagements envers eux? Non! Mais il est pourtant de son intérêt de réfléchir que si ses Pachas leur ont fait perdre leur loyauté en ne pas exécutant les promesses solennelles de leur Gouvernement, que leur intelligence et leur courage leur restent intacts encore.

Dejà le Soussigné a signalé l'effet moral qu'a produit l'insurrection des Grecs de la Canée sur les esprits des Chrétiens en Syrie. Les Autorités Turques au lieu d'aliéner l'attachement des Syriens, devraient plutôt les contenter et les rendre heureux pour les intérêts mêmes de leur propre Gouvernement. La Sublime Porte ne devrait seulement se contenter d'envoyer des instructions à ses officiers en Syrie, mais elle devrait veiller aussi à ce qu'elles furent exécutées promptement et à la lettre,—puisque si une insurrection venait d'éclater, la Syrie est perdue, et Sa Hautesse le Sultan aura le droit de rendre responsables ses Ministres pour la perte d'un des bijoux les plus précieux de sa couronne, par la négligence ou bien par la faute de ceux dont le devoir est de le lui conserver en suivant les mesures qui leur ont été souvent indiquées à cet égard.

Le Soussigné s'est fait un devoir de transmettre par l'entremise de Hussein Pacha, sous date le 22 Février, une liste des personnes qui, par leur services pendant la guerre, s'étaient rendues dignes de la munificence de leur Auguste Souverain, en indiquant aussi le degré de récompense qu'ils méritaient. Dans la même époque, le Soussigné avait transmis aussi la prière de l'Emir Béchir que le terrain nommé Kourat-el-Tahta lui soit vendu, ou bien loué en ferme par le Gouvernement Turc. Le Soussigné ose prier son Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération les deux sujets ci-dessus mentionnés.

(Signé) RICHARD WOOD.

Therapia, le 27 Mai, 1841.

(Translation.)

THE intelligence by the last steam vessel from Syria, is but little satisfactory; it speaks much of the effect which the insurrection in Candia had had upon the minds of the Syrians, and more particularly upon the Christians of Mount Lebanon, who, deceived in their expectation that they were about to be governed with justice and moderation, have put themselves into secret communication amongst themselves, in order to consult as to the means of offering resistance to the local authorities, if they should persist in oppressing them, and in depriving them of their rights and privileges. Certain agents and emissaries encourage them in this idea, by endeavouring to

persuade them of the weakness of the Sublime Porte, of the success which the Candlots have had up to the present time, and of the little hope that they have of ever seeing themselves well governed. These very emissaries say openly that it is in their power to raise the people of Syria whensoever they desire.

The conduct of Nejib Pasha contributes much to hasten on the moment for sedition in Syria. He has ordered a Christian of the name of Tamis Bahos to be unjustly seized, because he had executed the orders of his chief, the Emir Beshir. This act is contrary to the rights of the Mountaineers, who are responsible to the Emir Beshir alone. They have accordingly proceeded to various points, with a view to rescue him, the said Tamis Bahos, from the Turkish guards. Thus the indiscretion of this Pasha will be the cause of the first act of the Syrians against his authority.

Nejib Pasha further proposes to remove the Emir Said-el-Deen and the Emir Effendi, the Governors of the districts of Hasbeya and Rasheya. These two Emirs have a claim upon the gratitude of the Sublime Porte on account of their services during the last campaign. Their removal will cause troubles in the Anti-Lebanon, where they have much influence and authority. It took Ibrahim Pasha two years to bring them to subjection.

The taxes which the Musteshar Effendi is desirous of imposing upon the Mountain, have brought the Emir Beshir to the point of offering his resignation. The Emir has openly declared, that should he be obliged to collect the amount of the tribute demanded of him, there would be an insurrection which he would find it difficult to quell, as the necessary means were totally wanting. A civil war between the Druses and Christians would be the immediate consequence of the resignation of the Emir Beshir.

Notwithstanding the convention or agreement signed by the Arab Sheiks of the south, that they would desist from hostilities against one another (which the Undersigned had the honour to send to your Excellency the day before yesterday), the departure of his Excellency Hassan Pasha from Jaffa, has been followed by an attack of the Arabs upon the tribe of Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby : all the villages were pillaged. Sheik Mohamed Abdul Neby has gone to Nejib Pasha to ask for justice, and if the Pasha refuses him, he will use the means at his own disposal to avenge himself.

If the Sublime Porte should propose to name a "Ferik" to govern the districts of Djebail Halil, Djebail Koodoos (Jerusalem), and Djebail Nablous, the Undersigned would venture to recommend Hassan Pasha for that situation. His integrity, his zeal, and his knowledge of those places render him worthy of this preference.

The "Shouras" [Municipal Councils] refuse to receive the evidence of Christians. This refusal, so humiliating to this class of the subjects of the Sublime Porte, is contrary to the wishes of His Highness the Sultan. As the Turkish law does not always reject the evidence of Christians, they would be glad to know where is that equality which the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané has lately established amongst all Turkish subjects without reference to their religious opinions.

The Shouras have further begun to remit nearly all cases to the Mek-kemés [courts of justice], who on the other hand are become extremely corrupt. The venality of the judges has now come to such a point as to deter persons from having recourse to them. Thus the Syrians, in addition to the humiliation to which they are exposed, and the deprivation of their privileges which Mehemet Ali himself respected, have no longer the means of obtaining justice. The events which have lately occurred in the interior of the Turkish Empire, should not allow the Sublime Porte to doubt as to the result of such a state of affairs in Syria.

The taxes which existed in the time of Abdallah Pasha, such as the taxes on industry, still exist, although they were abolished during the war; and the inhabitants of Saida and of Sour have refused the payment of tithe.

The Maronite Patriarch and his Excellency the Emir Beshir beseech the Sublime Porte to grant each of them the right of having a Kapou Kiaja, (Agent.) The Undersigned takes the liberty of suggesting to your Excellency, the prudence and advantage of granting to these two dignitaries a privilege enjoyed at the Porte by all their equals in rank. The Pashas in Syria will conduct themselves with more discretion and prudence, from a fear that

their conduct may be reported to the knowledge of the Porte, through the channel of these Kapou Kiajas. This proposition should be acceded to without delay.

The Undersigned has just received letters from Jerusalem, which detail to him the disgraceful scenes which have taken place amongst the Franks, Greeks, and Armenians, during the feast of Easter. Scenes such as these often repeated, are calculated to lead to disagreeable results, if not to reproaches being addressed by the European Courts to the Sublime Porte. If the Sublime Porte comes to the determination of sending a Ferik to Jerusalem to govern it, it will be an easy matter to find out and suggest the means of putting an end to these disputes, and of arranging the differences between these sects in a manner which would be exclusively advantageous to the Sublime Porte.

The late arrivals from Jaffa announce the arrival of Meneckly Ahmet Pasha at El-Arish, where he is occupied at the present moment in buying a large store of provisions, and in causing several wells to be dug. It is plain that Mehemet Ali proposes to place a division of his army there. Consequently the nomination of Sheik Mahmoud Abdul Hadi to the Government of Gaza becomes still more dangerous, inasmuch as this traitor is quite capable of secretly aiding the evil intentions of the Pasha of Egypt.

The Greek Catholics at Nazareth complain of the bad treatment they receive from the Mussulmans; and the Undersigned, in calling your Excellency's attention to their just complaints, takes the liberty of accompanying them by some general observations.

When the Undersigned went to Syria, the Sublime Porte had given him special instructions to make sure of the co-operation of the Christians against the Egyptians, and to promise them as a reward the re-establishment and confirmation of their rights and privileges, and also the execution of the provisions of the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané which regarded them. It is hence to be presumed that the Sublime Porte, in addressing herself to the Christians, put especial confidence in their loyalty, intelligence and courage. Although they have by their distinguished services, proved how worthy they were of the good opinion which the Sublime Porte had formed of them, has the Sublime Porte kept her engagements with them? No! But it behoves her to reflect that if the Pashas she has appointed have extinguished their loyalty, by the non-execution of the solemn promises of their Government, they still possess as much as ever intelligence and courage.

The Undersigned has already referred to the moral effect which the insurrection of the Greeks in Candia has produced upon the Christians of Syria. The Turkish authorities, instead of alienating the attachment of the Syrians, ought rather, if they considered only the interests of their own Government, to render them contented and happy. The Sublime Porte should not content herself only with sending instructions to her officers in Syria, but she should also watch that they are promptly and literally executed: for if an insurrection should chance to break out, Syria is lost, and His Highness the Sultan will have a right to make his Ministers responsible for the loss of one of the most precious jewels of his Crown, owing to the negligence, or at all events on account of the blunders, of those whose duty it is to preserve it to him, by following out the measures frequently pointed out to them in this matter.

The Undersigned considered it his duty to transmit, through Hussein Pasha, under date February 22, a list of persons who by their services during the war, had rendered themselves worthy of the generosity of their August Sovereign, stating at the same time the degree of reward to which they were entitled. At the same time the Undersigned transmitted the prayer of the Emir Beshir that the lands called Kourat-el-Tahta might be sold, or at least let to him by the Turkish Government. The Undersigned ventures to request his Excellency to take into consideration the two above-mentioned subjects.

Therapia, May 27, 1841.

(Signed)

RICHARD WOOD.

No. 8.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 8.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, June 21, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose documents, of which I subjoin a list.

They contain the official completion by the Sublime Porte of the measures recommended for the settlement of Syrian affairs.

If the measures are carried properly into execution I entertain no doubt of their being effectual for the reestablishment and for the future maintenance of tranquillity in Syria.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Firman addressed to Ferik Mehmed Tayar Pasha, Governor of Jerusalem and Gaza.

(Traduction.)

ATTENDU que depuis un ancien temps la mise en pratique par les Chrétiens de la Syrie et des environs de leur religion a été une chose conforme à la Sainte Loi, désormais aussi les concessions et les faveurs qu'ils ont obtenues à cet égard en vertu des bérats et des diplômes munis de Hatti-Shériff que nous leur avons accordés, mes augustes ancêtres et moi-même, seront en pleine vigueur.

Lorsque les prêtres et les curés des couvens auront recours à la Sainte Loi, ou bien, lors qu'ils auront à se plaindre de quelque violence qui leur aura été faite, les magistrats et autres officiers auxquels ils demanderont assistance, ne leur demanderont pas une seule obole, et ils ne permettront pas qu'il leur soit fait le moindre tort ni la moindre violence.

Si jamais il survient des contestations entre les prêtres, et que ces contestations soient difficiles à apaiser là bas, elles seront référées à Constantinople, afin qu'on y examine l'affaire soigneusement et avec équité.

Le plus grand soin sera apporté à protéger, comme cela se pratique *ab antiquo*, les prêtres, les couvens et les églises; ils doivent être à l'abri de toute molestation, de toute violence, de tout préjudice.

Comme les concessions faites et les anciennes immunités accordées aux églises et aux couvens, sont pleinement confirmées, il ne devra y avoir aucun empiètement, aucune contestation contrairement à ces concessions et à ces immunités.

Les prêtres Grecs, Arméniens, et Catholiques, se disputent de temps à autre entre eux en s'accusant à faux mutuellement, au sujet de l'église et de l'oratoire que leur ont été assignés par les Hatti-Shériffs et les firmans dont il a été parlé plus haut; il faut qu'ils se gardent bien de renouveler leurs anciennes disputes.

Les règles et le système observés dans l'Eglise Orientale, *ab antiquo*, touchant le rang et la classe des prêtres, seront également observés à l'avenir; il n'y aura à leur égard nulle innovation.

Lorsque le Patriarche de Constantinople ou celui de Jérusalem demandera l'autorisation de réparer les églises et les couvens qui auront été ruinés ou endommagés, soit par l'effet du temps, soit par des incendies qui sont si fréquentes, et qu'on se mettra à les réparer en vertu d'un firman qui sera donné de la manière voulue par la loi, accordant la permission de la restauration, les magistrats et les autorités locales ne prendront que les droits modérés qu'on est dans l'usage de prendre pour les Ilams et les Hogets qu'ils auront donnés, et il ne leur sera nullement permis de prendre, de leur propre chef, rien au-delà, ni cadeau, ni richevète, ni de se procurer des avantages par là.

Il sera défendu aux soldats chargés de la garde de la porte de l'Eglise de St. Sépulture d'y entrer; ils auront à témoigner aux évêques de Jérusalem toutes sortes d'honneurs.

Telle étant ma volonté souveraine, le présent commandement émané

auprès de ma Chancellerie Impériale, et sanctionnant et confirmant mes ordres souverains, a été orné d'un Hatti-Shériff, et donné à la nation Grecque comme il en a été donné aussi aux nations Arménienne et Catholique.

Vous, donc, Fériq et Juge susmentionnés, lorsque vous saurez que c'est ma volonté souveraine et positive que les Hatti-Shériffs, les bérats et les firmans donnés à la nation Grecque soient toujours en vigueur et mis à exécution, et qu'il ne soit jamais permis d'y contravenir, vous aurez soin d'agir conformément au même, et après l'avoir fait enregistrer dans les archives du Mekkémé, vous le laisserez entre les mains de la nation Grecque, en vous gardant bien d'agir d'une manière contraire à ce qu'il prescrit.

Donné au commencement de Djéhazi-ul-evel, 1257.—(20 Juin, 1841.)

(Translation.)

WHEREAS, for a long time past, the exercise by the Christians of Syria and the neighbouring countries, of their religion, has been conformable to the Sacred Law, for the future also, the concessions and favours which they have in this respect obtained, in virtue of bérats and diplomas bearing the Hatti-Sheriff, which we, that is to say, my august ancestors and myself, have accorded to them, shall be in full force.

When the priests and curates of convents shall have recourse to the Sacred Law, or when they may have to complain of any violence committed against them, the magistrates and other officers of whom they shall request assistance, shall not ask of them a single obole, and shall not permit the least injustice or violence to be done to them.

If disputes should ever arise amongst the priests, and these disputes should be difficult to be settled on the spot, they shall be referred to Constantinople, in order that the matter may be carefully and justly inquired into there.

The greatest pains shall be taken to protect, as has been the practice, *ab antiquo*, the priests, the convents, and churches; they are to be secure from all molestation, violence and injury.

Inasmuch as the concessions already made, and the ancient immunities granted to churches and convents, are confirmed in full, no encroachment must be made upon them, and no controversy stirred up contrary to these concessions and immunities.

The Greek, Armenian, and Catholic priests, have been in the habit of disputing, from time to time, amongst themselves, mutually accusing one another falsely, on the subject of the church and oratory which have been assigned to them by the Hatti-Sheriffs, and the firmans above mentioned; care must be taken that their ancient disputes be not renewed.

The regulations and system observed *ab antiquo* in the Eastern Church, touching the rank and class of the priests, shall be equally observed for the future; no innovation shall be made as regards them.

When the Patriarch of Constantinople or of Jerusalem shall ask for authority to repair the churches and convents which may have fallen into ruin or may have been injured, either by the action of time, or by the fires which are so frequent, and when the repairs shall have been commenced in virtue of a firman granted in the manner determined by law, permitting the repairs, the magistrates and local authorities will only exact the moderate duties which it has been usual to exact for the Ilams and Hogets which they shall have given; and they will on no account whatsoever be allowed to exact on their own authority anything beyond those duties, whether of the nature of present, or gratuity, or to procure any advantages for themselves on that account.

The soldiers in charge of the gate of the church of the Holy Sepulchre shall be forbidden to enter therein; it will be their duty to shew all possible respect to the Bishops of Jerusalem.

This being my sovereign will, the present commandment, issued from my Imperial Chancery, and sanctioning and confirming my sovereign orders, has been decorated with a Hatti-Sheriff, and has been granted to the Greek nation, in the same manner as it has been also granted to the Armenian and Catholic nations.

You therefore, Ferik and Judge as above-mentioned, when you are informed that it is my sovereign and positive will that the Hatti-Sheriffs, the berats, and the firmans given to the Greek nation, shall be ever in force and executed, and that nothing should be allowed to contravene them, will take care to act conformably to the same, and after having caused it to be registered amongst the archives of the Mekkémé, you will hand it over to the Greek nation, taking good care to act in no way contrary to that herein prescribed to you.

Given at the commencement of Djemazi-ul-evel 1257. (June 20, 1841.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Minute of a Vizirial Letter to the Pashas of Damascus, Aleppo, and Saida, and to the Feriks of Tripoli in Syria, and Jerusalem.

(Traduction.)

AINSI qu'il est à la connaissance de votre Excellence, le gouvernement des provinces de la Syrie ayant été retiré à Son Altesse le Pacha d'Égypte, et la Sublime Porte devant surveiller soigneusement à leur bonne administration à tous égards, le gouvernement de Damas a été conféré à votre Excellence.

Comme Sa Majesté Impériale veut, ainsi que l'exigent et les lois qui se rattachent au Califat, et les règles de l'équité qui sont inhérentes à la Souveraineté, que toutes les classes de sujets de l'Empire Ottoman soient, dans toutes les circonstances, protégés et défendus, vous employerez constamment vos soins à ce que tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte qui se trouvent établis dans les pays compris dans votre gouvernement, sans exception, et quels que soient leur religion et leurs rites, ayent à jouir, sous les augustes auspices de Sa Hautesse, de la sécurité de la vie et des biens, et de la conservation de l'honneur.

Si une autorité Ottomane, si d'autres se permettaient quelque mauvais procédé à ces égards envers les rayas, et les molestaient, qu'ils sachent qu'ils s'en rendraient responsables, et c'est ce que vous ferez savoir à ceux qu'il faudra.

Attendu que les évêques et les prêtres sont les chefs (spirituels) des Chrétiens de ces pays là, ils seront défendus et protégés.

Si les rayas, à quelque nation qu'ils appartiennent, ont recours en matière de droit ou autres, aux autorités judiciaires ou militaires, ces autorités auront soin de leur rendre impartiellement la plus stricte justice.

Lorsqu'au besoin les causes des sujets Ottomans devront être examinées et jugées, leurs chefs (spirituels) seront présents à l'audience ; et s'il s'agit de sujets des Puissances amies, leurs Consuls respectifs y assisteront.

La capitation légale sera perçue de la manière qui est établie par l'excellent système introduit par les réformes.

A la demande des Chrétiens, on leur accordera, en autant que la loi l'autorise, la permission de restaurer et construire leurs anciennes églises, leurs couvens, hôpitaux, cimetières et autres endroits, d'exercer leur culte, leurs usages et leurs opérations.

Si un nombre convenable de soldats de police était jugé nécessaire pour empêcher que l'asile des presbytères, des églises et des couvens ne soit violé, et pour leur sûreté, on les fera chercher des corps-de-gardes situés dans le voisinage.

Enfin, votre Excellence mettra tous ses soins à protéger et défendre de toutes les manières les sujets de quelque classe qu'ils soient, et à faire bénir le nom de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Quant aux affaires difficiles qui ne pourront pas être résolues là bas, vous demanderez, pour ce qui les concerne, des ordres d'ici.

(Translation.)

THE Government of the provinces of Syria having, as your Excellency is aware, been withdrawn from his Highness the Pasha of Egypt, and it being the duty of the Sublime Porte to provide carefully for their good adminis-

tration in all respects, the Government of Damascus has been conferred upon your Excellency.

Now, inasmuch as His Imperial Majesty desires, as indeed the laws attaching to the Kaliphat and the principles of justice inherent in sovereignty require, that all classes of subjects of the Ottoman Empire should be, in all circumstances, protected and defended, you will on all occasions use your utmost endeavours to secure to all the subjects of the Sublime Porte who may be established in the countries comprised in your Government, without any exception and whatever may be their religion and rites, the enjoyment under the august auspices of His Highness, of security of life and property, and the preservation of their honour.

If any Turkish authority, or any other person, should allow themselves to act wrongfully in these respects towards the rayahs, and should molest them, let them know that they will be responsible for the same, and you will make this known to those whom it may concern.

As long as the bishops and priests are the [spiritual] chiefs of the Christians in those countries, they shall be defended and protected.

If rayahs, whatever be the nation to which they belong, shall, either in a matter of law or of any other sort, have recourse to the judicial or military authorities, these authorities shall take good care to render to them, impartially, the strictest justice.

When it becomes necessary that the causes of Turkish subjects shall be examined into and decided upon, their [spiritual] chiefs shall be present at the hearing; and if it is a case where the subjects of friendly Powers are concerned, their respective consuls shall be present.

The capitation [tax] established by law, shall be collected in the manner established by the excellent system introduced by the reforms.

At the request of the Christians, permission shall be granted to them, as far as the law permits, to restore and reconstruct their ancient churches, convents, hospitals, burial-grounds, and other places, and to exercise their worship, their customs, and employments.

If a suitable number of police-soldiers should be thought necessary to protect from violation the asylums offered by presbyteries, churches, and convents, and to secure the same, it shall be obtained from the neighbouring guard-houses.

Finally, your Excellency will use your utmost endeavours to protect and defend in every way, people of all classes, and to cause the name of His Imperial Majesty to be blessed.

As regards difficult matters which cannot be settled on the spot, you will request instructions from hence on the subject.

Inclosure 3 in No. 8.

Analysis of what the Porte has done for the Syrians, written from the dictation of Rifaat Pasha.

1. LE Férik, Général de division, Tayar Pacha, est nommé Gouverneur Militaire de Jérusalem et de Gaza, pour la protection spéciale des Chrétiens.

2. Un firman accompagné d'un Hatti-Shériff a été adressé à Tayar Pacha afin qu'il lui serve de ligne de conduite.

3. Une circulaire vizirienne a été adressée à plusieurs Pachas, pour la protection en général des Syriens.

4. Sounouki Effendi, Secrétaire Officiel du Beylikgi, est nommé par la Porte Kapou Kiaya ou Agent Officiel de l'Emir Béchir près du Gouvernement Ottoman. L'Emir Béchir pourra avoir un Agent à Saïda pour les affaires courantes.

5. Elias Hawa, négociant de première classe, et Alepin de nation, est nommé Kapou Kiaya du Patriarche des Maronites.

6. On a donné au Mouhassil de Saïda, Edhem Bey, les ordres et les instructions nécessaires pour les récompenses à être données par la Porte à plu-

sieurs notables de la Syrie qui ont rendu des services au Sultan dans la dernière guerre.

7. On a écrit partout dans toute la Syrie pour ordonner que l'on observe envers le peuple et les Chrétiens la meilleure conduite possible, en défendant rigoureusement tout ce qui ressemble à la corruption, au mépris, à l'injustice.

8. D'après les représentations faites par Son Excellence Lord Ponsonby à la Porte, le Grand Vizir a écrit aujourd'hui une lettre de réprimande des plus fortes à Nejib Pacha pour lui reprocher ce qu'il a fait, et pour lui ordonner de ne plus donner le moindre motif de plainte à qui que ce soit, et de traiter très honorablement tous les Chrétiens, de ne plus les molester par rapport à leur vêtement, &c.

9. On a écrit en Syrie pour avoir des informations sur le Tribut, le Moubaya, &c.

La Porte établira, après qu'elle aura été bien informée sur ces choses là, un système qui sera tout-à-fait conforme à la stricte équité.

(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

1. THE Ferik, General of Division, Tayar Pasha, is named Military Governor of Jerusalem and of Gaza, for the special protection of the Christians.

2. A firman accompanied by a Hatti-Sheriff has been addressed to Tayar Pasha, to serve as a rule for his conduct.

3. A Vizirial Circular has been addressed to several Pashas, for the general protection of the Syrians.

4. Sounouki Effendi, Official Secretary of the Beylikgi, is named by the Porte Kapou Kiaja, or Official Agent, of the Emir Beshir at the Ottoman Porte. The Emir Beshir may have an agent at Saida for current affairs.

5. Elias Hawa, a merchant of the first class, and a native of Aleppo, is named Kapou Kiaja of the Maronite Patriarch.

6. Orders and the necessary instructions have been given to the Mubassil of Saida, Edhem Bey, as regards the rewards to be given by the Porte to several of the notables of Syria who rendered services to the Sultan in the late war.

7. Instructions have been issued in all parts of Syria, ordering the observance of the best possible behaviour towards the people and the Christians, and strictly forbidding everything in the shape of corruption, contempt, and injustice.

8. In consequence of the representations made to the Porte by his Excellency Lord Ponsonby, the Grand Vizier has to-day written a most strong letter of reprimand to Nejib Pasha, reproaching him for what he has done, and ordering him for the future to give no one cause of complaint, and to treat the Christians honourably, not molesting them further about their dress, &c.

9. Information has been written for from Syria on the subject of the tribute, the Mubaaya, &c.

The Porte will, after she is well informed upon these points, establish a system strictly in conformity with rigid justice.

(Signed) FREDERICK PISANI.

No. 9.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, July 15, 1841.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency* copies of two despatches from Colonel Rose, dated the 22nd and 28th of May, containing a report of the discussions which have taken place between the chiefs of Lebanon and the Turkish autho-

* Part II., Nos. 6 and 7.

rities respecting the amount of the taxation which is to be imposed upon the inhabitants of that district; and I have to instruct your Excellency to bring under the notice of the Porte so much of these despatches as relates to the errors and faults of the Turkish authorities.

Your Excellency should also strongly advise the Porte to settle the question as to the amount of the Lebanon taxes, in such a manner as to satisfy the reasonable wishes of the people; for it is very important that the Porte should avoid giving occasion for any joint or formal interposition of the European Powers in matters of this kind.

Her Majesty's Government would also recommend to the Porte to cause a public inquiry to be made as to the losses which the people in the neighbourhood of Beyrout sustained by the ravages committed by the Egyptian troops last summer, in order that the sufferers may receive compensation; and Her Majesty's Government understand that a few thousand pounds would cover the whole amount of such losses.

No. 10.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 20, 1841.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the steps which you have taken about the affairs of Syria, and the recommendations which have been made to the Porte with your concurrence respecting those affairs, as reported in your despatch of the 21st of June.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 11.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 30.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 13, 1841.

THERE can be no doubt of the critical and dangerous nature of the state of affairs in Syria, but I am certain nothing good can be done there whilst Nejjib Pasha is permitted to govern the country, and whilst the Porte acts with equal timidity and stupidity with respect to the administration there. What the Porte has undertaken to grant, and which has been reported to your Lordship, will, I hope, suffice, provided execution be given to those arrangements; but delay of it will produce evil of great magnitude.

No. 12.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.

I HAVE received from Colonel Rose a copy of his despatch to your Excellency of the 25th of June, respecting the refusal of the Mufti of Beyrout to admit the evidence of Christians against Mahometans; and I have, in con-

sequence, addressed to Chekib Effendi, the note, of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., has the honour to transmit to Chekib Effendi, &c., the accompanying copy* of a despatch from Colonel Rose, the Commanding officer of the British detachments in Syria, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, together with a copy of the letter therein referred to, which that officer, conjointly with Captain Waldegrave and Captain Pring of the British navy, and the British Consul at Beyrout, addressed to the Seraskier Selim Pasha on the 25th of June, on the subject of the refusal of the Mufti of Beyrout to admit the evidence of Christians against Mussulmans.

The Undersigned requests Chekib Effendi to communicate these papers to the Sublime Porte, and to state to the Ottoman Ministers, that Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the enlightened sense of justice which directs the Councils of the Sultan, will lead His Highness, without a moment's delay, to take the necessary measures for preventing the Muftis in Syria from acting upon the obsolete and antiquated doctrine laid down by the Mufti of Beyrout.

The Sublime Porte will see from the statements contained in the letter from the British officers to Selim Pasha, what intolerable injuries might be committed upon the Christians by the Mahometans, if the doctrine laid down by the Mufti of Beyrout were to prevail; and the Porte, in its wisdom, must perceive that injuries of this kind would be resented by the Christians of Syria, first, by acts of private vengeance against individual Mahometans, and at length by a general revolt of the whole people against the authority of the Sultan; and it cannot be doubted that such a revolt, so provoked, would have the sympathy of all the nations of Europe; and it would, in all probability, meet with active and effectual assistance from many quarters.

The Undersigned, &c. (Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 13.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further note which I have addressed to Chekib Effendi, in consequence of the accounts which I continue to receive from Colonel Rose of the oppressions practised by the Mahometans upon the Christians in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Viscount Palmerston to Chekib Effendi.

Foreign Office, August 9, 1841.

THE Undersigned, &c., regrets extremely to have to state to Chekib Effendi, &c., that Her Majesty's Government continue to receive reports of the tyrannical proceedings of the Mussulmans towards the Christians in Syria,

* Part II., Inclosure in No. 13.

and of the inability, or unwillingness of the Ottoman Authorities in that country, to preserve order, or to secure the Christians from oppression.

The Undersigned feels it incumbent upon him again to request Chekib Effendi strongly to impress upon the Sublime Porte, that if the Sultan does not take effectual measures for protecting his Christian subjects from oppression arising from religious bigotry and from the fanaticism of the Mussulmans, or from obsolete notions that the Turks ought to enjoy as a political privilege the right of oppressing their Christian fellow subjects, consequences of the most serious nature to the Turkish Empire will inevitably follow.

But the Sultan has, ever since he ascended the throne, given so many and such indisputable proofs of his fixed determination to protect equally all classes of his subjects, and to see that equal and impartial justice is done to all, that Her Majesty's Government are persuaded that when the Sultan learns how ill his paternal intentions are carried into execution by some of the persons whom he has placed in authority in his provinces, he will take the most prompt and effectual measures to cause his benevolent will to be more strictly obeyed.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 14.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 12.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1841.

I MADE known to Rifaat Pasha that I was acquainted with your Lordship's letter to Chekib Effendi upon the subject of Nejib Pasha.

His Excellency sent me word that the Sublime Porte had already sent the most precise orders to Nejib Pasha to avoid giving any cause whatever for dissatisfaction to the Syrians, adding, that if he failed in any degree whatever to obey those orders, he should be instantly removed from his post. I said in reply, that a man like Nejib Pasha would not alter his conduct.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) PONSONBY.

No. 15.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)

(Extraat.)

Therapia, July 27, 1841.

I HAVE been desirous of Mr. Wood's proceeding to Syria, where his presence might be eminently useful in consequence of the great influence he has enjoyed and exercised over the chiefs in that country, and because Rifaat Pasha has expressed his wishes that he should go back; but I have had information from Syria showing that not one of the promises made by the Sublime Porte of which Mr. Wood was the bearer, authorized by the Porte and by me, has been performed by the Ottoman Authorities in Syria, but that on the contrary, the Authority lately sent there, viz., the Defterdar, has denied the existence of some of those promises, although those promises have been avowed by Selim Pasha; and I have further learnt that the greatest dissatisfaction exists amongst the Mountaineers and others in consequence of the non-execution of the promises generally, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer. I have in consequence thought it right to detain here, Mr. Wood, knowing that his return to Syria must be very mischievous in its effects under such circumstances, for the Syrians would demand from him, why his promises are not performed, and Mr. Wood must either allow the Syrians to hold him a liar and deceiver, and to charge the British Ambassador and even Her Majesty's Government with deceit and falsehood, or Mr. Wood must declare that the Porte is guilty of breaking its promises, and by so doing there would be an end put to the respite from mischief that has been obtained by the suspense in which the Syrians have been still held and the hopes they have

still nourished that we here should succeed in obtaining for them what had been promised to them.

I thought it right to give the Ottoman Ministers credit for their repeated declarations that Nejjib Pasha and the other functionaries in Syria should be obliged to act in conformity with the spirit and letter of the promises of the Sublime Porte; but, day after day, week after week, months have passed away, and nothing has been done. I have therefore given in to the Sublime Porte an official note, pointing out the evils that would ensue from the return of Mr. Wood to Syria, and further stating that not one of the arrangements agreed upon at the meeting held by the Internuncio and the Russian Minister and myself, and which were communicated to the Sublime Porte and accepted by the Porte, had as yet been acted upon, and terminating with the request that the Sublime Porte will give me a clear and satisfactory answer.

No. 16.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 20.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 28, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to inclose M. Pisani's report of his Excellency Rifaat Pasha's reply to my official note referred to in my despatch of the 27th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) PONSENBY.

Inclosure in No. 16.

M. Pisani to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extract.)

Pera, July 28, 1841.

RIFAAT PASHA informs me that your Excellency's note about the promises made by the Porte has been duly read and discussed in the Council yesterday. His Excellency spoke in the most energetic terms in support of its interest. The result is, that they will send again by Tayar Pasha, who will leave this for Syria at the end of this week, most positive orders to Edhem Bey, the Defterdar of Acre, to reward, without any further delay, those persons who are known to have served the Sultan's just cause, and to indemnify those whose mulberries have been cut for carrying on the military operations. I asked for a copy of the orders that are to be sent to Acre.

No. 17.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 18.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, July 31, 1841.

I HAVE already had the honour to inform you, that the Sublime Porte has declared its fixed purpose to carry into effect the promises and engagements made to the Syrians.

I think it better to detain Mr. Wood here, till I see some result in proof of the execution of the above promises. I am of opinion that they will be substantially performed, and I expect that Nejjib will be recalled ere long; the Porte seems to wish to be allowed to save appearances with respect to him, and I see no reason for forcing the Porte, if what we desire be done, and tranquillity ensured in Syria.

No. 18.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received August 26.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, August 3, 1841.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from the Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey, Defterdar of Acre, dated the 29th July, and sent from hence to Syria, the 30th July.

This despatch is the consequence of an official note from me to the Sublime Porte, containing complaints that the promises of the Porte had not been performed in Syria. I hope the orders given by the Grand Vizier may be productive of good.

Inclosure in No. 18.

The Grand Vizier to Hadji Edhem Bey.

(Traduction.)

Le 29 Juillet, 1841.

IL est dit dans une note présentée par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, Lord Ponsonby, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, que les promesses faites par la Sublime Porte de récompenser quelques sujets fidèles parmi les Syriens, qui se sont empressés de rendre des services utiles, et d'indemniser les propriétaires des mûriers qu'on a coupés pour former un camp retranché à Djouni, n'ont pas été remplies, et qu'interrogée là dessus, votre Excellence a répondu qu'elle n'avait pas des instructions à ces égards.

Or, vous savez qu'on vous a remis une liste des gens qu'il faut récompenser, et que lorsque vous alliez partir d'ici, même dans un Conseil de Ministres auquel vous avez assisté, on vous a très fortement recommandé de donner ces récompenses conformément à la liste qui vous avait été remise, de payer la valeur des arbres en question, de prendre des renseignemens sur les taxes, et d'avoir soin que l'administration du pays se fasse suivant des principes sages et équitables. Voilà dans quel sens étaient conçues les instructions qu'on vous a données.

En conséquence, nous nous attendions tous que, serviteur éclairé de la Sublime Porte, doué de prudence et de sagesse, et connaissant la délicatesse des circonstances actuelles, non seulement vous mettriez tous vos soins à arranger toutes ces affaires, mais que, poussé par votre zèle naturel, vous rendriez plus de services que les autres employés du Gouvernement dans ces pays-là.

Nous avons donc lieu de nous étonner lorsque nous apprenons que vous feignez de n'avoir pas des instructions sur les affaires dont on vient de parler, et que nous voyons que vous ne nous écrivez rien, tandis que les Ambassades ne cessent de recevoir des lettres de Beyrout; ce qui fait que nous ne pouvons pas donner une réponse satisfaisante aux représentations qu'on nous fait sur des points auxquels la Sublime Porte prend un très grand intérêt. C'est pourquoi il est devenu nécessaire que nous vous donnions de nouveaux ordres à tous ces égards, en vous transmettant, en même temps, copie de la note de M. l'Ambassadeur Anglais, afin que vous preniez connaissance des faits dont il s'agit.

Il importe beaucoup que les indemnités soient faites sans le moindre délai, et il est de la dignité de la Sublime Porte, que les Nichans, les gratifications en argent, et les autres espèces de récompenses soient donnés un moment plus tôt. Ainsi, nous faisons confectionner les deux Nichans qui ont été recommandés, et que nous vous enverrons afin que vous les donniez vous-même; vous donnerez les gratifications à ceux qu'il faut, conformément à la liste qui en a été faite; vous payerez la valeur des arbres dont il a été parlé plus haut; et enfin, vous ferez tout ce qui est nécessaire afin que ces affaires, ainsi que toutes les autres affaires qui vous ont été recommandées, soient arrangées; et vous nous informerez, sans perte de temps, de ce que vous aurez fait.

Quant aux taxes, les Druses demandent à en être exempts pendant l'espace de trois ans; mais ils ont déjà été exempts du Ferdé, et d'autres

impôts vexatoires. Il se trouve seulement, d'après ce que nous apprenons, que Son Excellence Selim Pacha, ci-devant Mouchir de Saïda, a parlé aux habitans d'un à deux villages situés aux environs de Beyrout, de quelques concessions à leur être faites de la part de Sa Hautesse. Voyez donc ce qu'il en est, et écrivez nous là-dessus. Et comme, en cas que vous et les autres autorités agissiez avec lenteur, les affaires se compliqueroient de plus en plus, vous devez nous tenir constamment au courant de ce qui se passe, afin que vous ayez de nouvelles instructions sur chaque point.

Le Fériq de Jérusalem, son Excellence Tayar Pacha, qui part pour se rendre à sa destination, est chargé de vous transmettre les ordres nécessaires sur toutes les affaires dont il s'agit. Enfin, vous mettrez tous vos soins à arranger ces affaires, à nous écrire sans interruption sur tout ce qui se passe, et à ce que le pays soit bien administré, et vous ne devez jamais perdre de vue qu'il faut que vous mettiez toute votre sollicitude à assurer aux populations la jouissance de cette protection dont la Sublime Porte veut qu'elles jouissent, en évitant tout ce qui peut troubler leur repos et donner lieu à un mécontentement populaire; et c'est à ces fins que cette dépêche a été écrite exprès.

Le 11 Djémazi-ul-Akhir, 1257.

(Translation.)

IT is said in a note presented by his Excellency the Ambassador of England, Lord Ponsonby, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the promises made by the Sublime Porte to recompense some faithful subjects among the Syrians, who were eager to render useful services, and to indemnify the proprietors of mulberry-trees which were cut down to form an entrenched camp at Djouni, have not been fulfilled, and on being asked on this subject, your Excellency answered that you had no instructions on these matters.

Now, you know that a list has been sent you of the people whom it is necessary to recompense, and that at the time of your departure from hence, even in a council of Ministers at which you were present, it was strongly recommended to you to give these rewards conformably to the list which had been sent to you, to pay the value of the trees in question, to gain information respecting the taxes, and to be careful that the administration of the country should be conducted according to wise and just principles. This is the sense in which the instructions given to you were drawn up.

Consequently, we all expected that, being an enlightened servant of the Porte, gifted with prudence and wisdom, and knowing the delicacy of existing circumstances, you would not only apply all your care to arrange all these matters, but, urged by your natural zeal, would render more service than the other officers of the Government in those countries.

We have then room for astonishment, since we learn that you pretend not to have received instructions on the affairs which have just been mentioned, and see that you write nothing to us, although the Embassies do not cease to receive letters from Beyrout; which circumstance prevents us from giving a satisfactory answer to the representations which are made to us on points in which the Sublime Porte takes a very great interest. This is the reason why it has become necessary that we should give you fresh orders in all these respects, transmitting to you, at the same time, a copy of the note of the English Ambassador, in order that you may be acquainted with the facts of which it treats.

It is essential that the indemnities should be paid without the least delay, and it is for the dignity of the Sublime Porte, that the Nishans, the gratifications in money, and the other kinds of recompense should be given at the earliest moment. Thus, we are having prepared the two Nishans which had been recommended, and which we shall send to you in order that you may give them yourself; you will give the gratifications to the proper persons, conformably to the list which has been made of them; you will pay the value of the trees, of which mention has been made above; and, in short, you will do all that is necessary in order that these affairs, as well as all the

other affairs which have been entrusted to you, may be settled; and you will inform us, without loss of time, of what you shall have done.

As for the taxes, the Druses demand to be exempted from them for the space of three years; but they have already been exempted from the Ferdé and from other vexatious imposts. It only appears as far as we can learn, that his Excellency Selim Pasha, formerly Mushir of Saida, spoke to the inhabitants of one or two villages situated in the neighbourhood of Beyrout, of some concessions to be made to them on the part of His Highness. See then how the case stands, and write to us about it. And as, in case you and the other authorities should act with slowness, affairs will get more and more complicated, you ought to keep us constantly informed of what is passing, in order that you may have fresh instructions on each point.

The Ferik of Jerusalem, his Excellency Tayar Pasha, who is setting out for his destination, is directed to transmit to you the necessary orders on all the matters in question. In short, you will devote all your attention to settle these affairs, to write to us without interruption on all that is passing, and that the country may be well governed; and you must always keep in view that it is necessary that you should do your utmost to assure to the people the enjoyment of that protection which the Sublime Porte wishes they should enjoy, avoiding everything which can disturb their repose and give occasion for popular discontent; and it is for these ends that this despatch has been expressly written.

11th Djemazi-ul-Akhir, 1257.

No. 19.

Viscount Palmerston to Viscount Ponsonby.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1841.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have seen with great satisfaction by your Excellency's despatch of the 3rd of August, that the Grand Vizier has sent strict orders to the Turkish authorities in Syria to fulfil the promises made to the Syrians at the commencement of the rising against the authority of Mehemet Ali last year; and I have to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the measures which your Excellency has taken, and proposes still to take, to ensure the faithful execution of those promises by the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 20.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received September 3.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, August 11, 1841.

I INCLOSE a brief memorandum of what has been obtained from the Sublime Porte for the Syrians. I caused it to be prepared by Mr. Wood, to be communicated to his Excellency the Internuncio, which was done yesterday, when I had a long interview with him, at which Mr. Wood was present.

His Excellency approved of all that had been done, and said that the interests and objects of the Austrian and English Governments were identick upon the subject of Syria, and that their agents would act together with the most perfect cordiality. His Excellency expressed his wishes that Mr. Wood should proceed to Syria as soon as could be, where his influence and his knowledge of the people were required. His Excellency spoke also in strong, and handsome, and merited terms of commendation of the services already rendered by Mr. Wood.

The Sublime Porte desires to give Mr. Wood power to a certain extent, to superintend the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in the performance of the orders of the Porte relating to the arrangements in Syria intended to satisfy the wants of the Syrians of all denominations. I consider it my duty to empower Mr. Wood to act in pursuance of the wishes of the Porte in that matter.

There remains to be settled with the Porte an important question relating to the amount of the duty on silk, connected with other matters of fiscal nature. The Porte has been deceived upon the subject by its agents, but I hope we shall be able to settle the business satisfactorily by making the true facts known to the Porte.

I propose that Mr. Wood should leave this for Syria in ten or twelve days.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Memorandum of what has been obtained of the Sublime Porte for the Syrians.

AT a conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. de Titow, it was agreed upon, that the five following proposals should be made to the Sublime Porte in favour of the Syrians :—

1. The remission of all illegal taxes and imposts.
 2. The appointment of a Ferik to reside at Jerusalem for the special protection of the Christians, and the issue of firmans to the Governors to respect the rites and religious ceremonies of the various sects that inhabit Syria, as well as permission to repair and construct their churches, after the usual formalities have been observed, and a positive prohibition to the officers to accept or extort fees, beyond those fixed by the laws of the country.
 3. That the Emir Beshir and the Maronite Patriarch should each have a Kapou Kiaja to enable them to communicate direct with the Porte.
 4. That the Syrians who rendered services during the war should be rewarded
 5. That the proprietors of the plantations destroyed at Djouni by the allied forces should be indemnified for their losses.
- The Undersigned has obtained besides,—
6. The dismissal of the Civil Governor of Gaza, who was obnoxious to the people on account of his vexations during the Egyptian rule.
 7. The dismissal of Sheik Abdul Hadi, appointed Muhassil of the district of Gaza, Nablous, and Ramla, by Nejib Pasha, who was also obnoxious to the people, and a traitor to his sovereign.
 8. An order for the Defterdar of Saida to abolish the monopoly of provisions established by the late Musteshar.
 9. An order to Selim Pasha to desist from searching the tezkerahs of those who entered or left the towns, and from levying a piastre or thirty paras from each.
 10. A promise that a custom-house officer should accompany the Undersigned to regulate the custom-houses of Syria.
 11. Strict injunctions to Nejib Pasha and to the Defterdar of Damascus not to interfere henceforth with the costume of the Christians, and to allow them to ride on horseback, according to their custom.
 12. That the Miri, including the Haradj, the Djizrye, and other taxes, to be paid by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, shall not exceed the sum of 3,500 purses, and that the expenses of the administration, (also not exceeding 2,280 purses,) shall be deducted from the Miri.
 13. The confirmation of the Emirs Effendi, Said-el-Deen, and Hangiar, in their respective Governments of Rasheya, Hasbeya, and Baalbeck.
 14. The rejection by the Sublime Porte, of the proposal of Joussouf Pasha and the Musteshar, that the district of Djebail should be separated from Mount Lebanon, and added to the Pashalic of Tripoli.
 15. The rejection also, for the present, of the proposal of the Musteshar Effendi to divide the Government of Mount Lebanon between the Emir Beshir and the Druse Sheik Naaman, of the house of Djinblat, to prevent a civil war between the Maronites and Druses.

16. The Porte's assent to the request of the Maronites, that the ex-Emir Beshir shall not be allowed to return to Mount Lebanon.

17. The immediate recal of the late Musteshar.

18. Fresh and positive instructions to Nejib Pasha to change his conduct towards the people, and to exert himself to give general satisfaction.

19. A firman to the Emir Beshir, confirming him in his Government of Mount Lebanon.

20. A vizirial letter to the Maronite Patriarch announcing to him the good disposition of the Sublime Porte towards the Syrians.

21. A Nishan Iftihar for the Emir and the Patriarch.

22. Permission from the Sublime Porte to the Undersigned, on his return to Syria, to see that these proposed arrangements and instructions be carried into effect by its officers, and to report thereon.

(Signed) R. WOOD.

Pera, August 9, 1841.

No. 21.

Viscount Ponsonby to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received October 8.)

(Extract.)

Therapia, September 15, 1841.

I HAVE received a letter from Mr. Wood, dated Beyrout, the 29th August, where he had arrived on the 27th. Your Lordship is acquainted with the important matters committed to his charge by the Sublime Porte.

He says that he was received in the most amicable manner by the Seraskier and the Defterdar, and invited to reside with the latter till the termination of the business with which he is charged.

The Druses, that is, three or four of the Sheiks, Emir Raslan, Sheik Naaman, Sheik Joussof Talhook, &c., who were lately guilty of the murder of their relations, and of opposition to the Turkish Government, have sent messengers to Mr. Wood to say, they would unite with him to carry the orders of the Porte into execution if he would guarantee the safety of their persons at the meeting to be held to settle the affairs of the Mountain. Mr. Wood engaged to secure them from all danger, and promised that the Seraskier would receive them with courtesy, and would not allude to the past. These Chiefs have been endeavouring to excite the Druses against the Maronites, and have endeavoured to bring about a misunderstanding between us and the Maronites. Mr. Wood adds that his arrival has discouraged them, because they know he is aware of, and can expose their secret motives, and they have, therefore, for the moment, taken a new turn, and now only desire to be reconciled to the Emir Beshir and the Turkish authorities.

The Emir Beshir had arrived, and the other Chiefs of Lebanon were every moment expected to give their attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Wood had sent to the Maronite Patriarch and to Emir Haidar copies of the arrangement and of the concessions to which the Sublime Porte has agreed. He had pointed out the advantages to them of those arrangements, and urged those personages to exert their influence and power to persuade all parties to attend immediately, and to concur in them. Mr. Wood hopes that, before the end of the week, the principal points contained in my instruction to him will be carried into effect.

The Maronite Patriarch and the Emir Beshir have received their Nishans, of which Mr. Wood was the bearer, and were highly pleased with them.

I hope your Lordship may expect, with some confidence, that a desirable settlement will be effected by Mr. Wood. I, who know what he has effected before in Syria, do expect it.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, October 30, 1841.

SYRIA is that portion of the empire in the condition of which you will naturally feel the warmest interest, and which may justly claim all your solicitude. Recently brought under the dominion of the Sultan by the assistance of his Allies, we may reasonably desire to see that the restoration of legitimate government should not give any cause to regret the usurped rule of Mehemet Ali. The devastation of these provinces by the horrors of war, and the sufferings and privations of the inhabitants, may well demand sympathy and relief from the Turkish Government. It is understood that a remission of taxation has been already granted to a considerable amount; but the losses of the people, in consequence of the destruction of their habitations and property by their Egyptian oppressors, and their present state of destitution, call for the utmost indulgence on the part of their rulers. You will use your endeavours to prevent, if possible, the benevolence of the Sultan from being frustrated, and the succours intended for the Syrians from being otherwise diverted by the corruption and rapacity of local governors.

The condition of the numerous Christian population of these districts could never have been a matter of indifference, and is now become a source of lively interest. Different sects put forward their respective claims to our attention, but a portion of Syria, scarcely either Christian or Mahometan, is immersed in a state almost of pagan superstition. The efforts of pious and devoted men may perhaps lead to the blessings of a more enlightened and of a purer faith. But whatever may be done or attempted for the intellectual and moral improvement of these persons, the utmost care should be taken never to shake their allegiance or diminish their loyalty, but to endeavour to render them contented with their lot and obedient to the government of their lawful Sovereign.

It is understood that the Porte has already appointed a Governor of Jerusalem, who is specially charged with the protection of the Christian population. As he is independent of the local authorities, and will communicate on all occasions with the Government at Constantinople, much good may be expected from this nomination.

No. 23.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 11, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a note addressed by Lord Ponsonby to the Sublime Porte, upon the receipt yesterday by his Lordship of despatches from Syria, which contain the account of a collision between two villages in Lebanon, in which several men of both parties have been killed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CHARLES BANKHEAD.

Inclosure in No. 23.

*Viscount Ponsonby to the Grand Vizier.**Therapia, October 10, 1841.*

HIS Excellency Rifaat Pasha undoubtedly has received accounts from Syria by this post, showing that the Christian population in that country are in danger. The Undersigned knows that his Excellency cannot be ignorant that this danger proceeds from the conduct of Nejib Pasha; and the Undersigned therefore is compelled to say that the responsibility for any harm and injury that may befall the Christians there, must rest upon the Sublime Porte.

The Undersigned, &c.,

(Signed)

PONSONBY.

No. 24.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 5.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 13, 1841.

I BEG leave to apologize to your Lordship for not having sent by the messenger, Mr. Wood's account of the collision which, I regret to say, recently took place in the Lebanon between parties of Druses and Christians, in which many persons lost their lives.

I have now the honour of transmitting an extract of Mr. Consul Wood's despatch to Lord Ponsonby thereupon. His report likewise mentions some disturbance having taken place between the Arabs of the neighbouring desert and villages in the district of Nablous.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Mr. Wood to Viscount Ponsonby.

(Extract.)

Damascus, September 23, 1841.

ON the 14th instant a collision took place between the Druses of Bakalein and two other villages belonging to Sheik Naaman Djinblat and the Christians of Deir-el-Kammar. The enmity of these two sects to each other is very great; they almost seek the opportunity of evincing it; and I believe, in this instance, the collision originated in a dispute between some sportsmen. The following day the "Sout," or cry to arms, was resounded from mountain to mountain, but as I was crossing Mount Lebanon at the time, I sent immediately messengers to the Bishop of Zahlé, to request he would prevent the Christians from repairing to the scene of action, and I wrote a letter to the Emir of Hasbeya in Anti-Lebanon, to disperse the Druses that had collected for the same purpose. Fourteen Druses were killed in the affray, and thirty were wounded, and the Christians had five killed and fourteen wounded.

Great confusion and excitement seems to reign in the mountains of Nablous. At the death of Suleiman Effendi (the Governor of Nablous), Nejib Pasha appointed his brother, Mohammed Effendi, to the vacancy, much against the wish of the Nablousians, to whom the family of Abdul Hadi is particularly obnoxious, on account of their tyranny during the Egyptian administration. The other Sheiks commenced instantly to fortify themselves in their villages by reconstructing the forts that were demolished by Ibrahim Pasha. The Governor, Mohammed Effendi, marched immediately against them, and as the peasants shut themselves up in them he had recourse to force. Sheik Berkawy, one of the principal Chiefs of Nablous, fell into his hands, and is now in the prisons of Damascus.

An affray took place between the Arabs of the tribe of Sakr, and the Nablousians, near Ghor, in which the latter were beaten, and a great number of them killed, notwithstanding that they were supported by a body of irregular cavalry. In their flight Abdallah-el-Husseïn, son of the deceased Governor, and his uncle, Mahmud Abdul Hadi, took refuge with about thirty of their followers in one of the villages of Nablous, but such is the feeling against that family, that the inhabitants availed themselves of the confusion to murder the former with his suite, and wounded the latter in his attempt to escape.

The Government has sent a large body of irregular troops to drive back the Arabs, and to establish order in that district.

No. 25.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, November 25, 1841.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy* of a despatch from Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, stating the inconvenience which would result from the late Emir Beshir being allowed to return to Syria. This Chief, as your Excellency is aware, was removed from his command in the Lebanon, in the month of October, 1840, by virtue of a firman granted by the Sultan to the present Emir Beshir, whereupon the former gave himself up to Admiral Sir Robert Stopford, and was conveyed in a British ship-of-war to Malta, where he remained until the end of last September.

Her Majesty's Government would much regret that the Sultan should be prevailed upon to rescind the prohibition against the late Emir returning to Syria. For Her Majesty's Government consider that the tendency of such relaxation on the part of the Sultan would be, if possible, to increase the disorganization which is unhappily prevalent in Syria at the present time, and to render the eventual settlement of that country a matter of the greatest difficulty.

Her Majesty's Government are so fully sensible of the great importance for the Porte that tranquillity should be secured in Syria at the earliest possible period, that they earnestly recommend to the Porte not to suffer itself to be induced by any promises on the part of the late Emir, to admit of his return to Syria on any terms whatsoever. Above all the Porte should not forget that the agent by whom the firman of investiture was transmitted to the present Emir Beshir, was a servant of the British Government; and that Her Majesty's Government have a right to expect that the Porte will not wantonly deprive him of the authority so conveyed to him.

No. 26.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 27, 1841.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 25th of November respecting the late Emir Beshir, I have to state to your Excellency, that although Her Majesty's Government would deprecate the return of that person to Syria, Her Majesty's Government would not entertain the same objection to his son, the Emir Emin, who is with him at Constantinople, being appointed to the Government of Lebanon, if the Porte should desire to make a change in the Government of that district. From the accounts received from Her Majesty's servants in Syria, the capacity of the present Emir Beshir to administer the affairs of the Lebanon in the state of disorganization which unhappily prevails there, appears doubtful; and from the character which is given of the Emir Emin, it seems to Her Majesty's Government not improbable that the Porte may look upon him as a person likely to be an efficient successor to the present Emir Beshir. If this should be the case it would not be necessary that your Excellency should offer any objection to the Emir Emin's nomination to the Government of the Lebanon.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 27.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 8.)

(Extract.)

Pera, November 16, 1841.

I REGRET very much to find that there exists in Syria a spirit of animosity between the Druses and the Christians which has already led to one or two sanguinary conflicts, and which may be productive of still greater mischief. Both Colonel Rose and Mr. Wood agree in condemning the conduct of Nejjib Pasha, Governor of Damascus. His open dislike to Christians, and the certainty of his connivance at the late attacks upon them, together with the state of terror which he has inspired throughout the Lebanon, in consequence of his taking such a decided part with the Druses, induced me to present the other day a strong recommendation to the Porte to deprive him of his present post. I urged all these topics upon Rifaat Pasha in a conversation I previously had with his Excellency, who enjoined me to communicate some facts and suggestions in a memorandum to which he would give his *appui* in the Council, for from all sides the Government receive complaints against their Governor of Damascus.

I have not heard what determination has been taken upon my remarks, but I learn from a good source, that the Government is satisfied at the manner in which I have presented them to their notice.

P.S.—I yesterday evening had a conversation with the Internuncio on the above subject, and his Excellency promised to second my endeavours to procure the dismissal of Nejjib Pasha.

No. 28.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 22, 1841.

I HAVE to state your Excellency, that the accounts which Her Majesty's Government continue to receive from Syria, occasion them much pain and uneasiness. The active part which England took last year in the operations which led to the restoration of that province to the immediate rule of the Sultan, while it causes Her Majesty's Government to feel a more than ordinary degree of interest in the welfare of its inhabitants, authorizes them to address to the Porte, through your Excellency, the strongest representations, with the view of inducing the Turkish Government to take immediate measures for the restoration of order and tranquillity in Syria.

The whole country south of Beyrout appears to be in a state of disorganization. There is no security for individuals, and the authority of the Sultan is merely nominal. But it is especially in Mount Lebanon that disorder has been allowed to proceed to excesses, which can only be put a stop to by prompt and vigorous measures on the part of the Porte.

The enmity between the Druses and the Maronites of Mount Lebanon is of ancient date. A difference of religious belief, added to a struggle for political supremacy between two parties, the numerical superiority of one being more than counterbalanced by the warlike qualities of the other, has continually produced contests between them. Of late years the oppressive rule of Mehemet Ali, acting nearly equally upon both, maintained peace between the rival parties; but their jealousies and animosities revived on the departure of the Egyptians, and have brought about the warfare which has desolated the Lebanon.

It has been alleged that the recent outbreak was accelerated by foreign suggestion, acting upon minds too easily excited. But, be that as it is may, Her Majesty's Government have at least the satisfaction of knowing that no such accusation can be brought against any British agents, and that Her Majesty's servants in Syria have spared no pains, and have shrunk from no

risk, in endeavouring to prevent, and to put an end to, the disorders which have taken place.

Whatever may have been the immediate cause of conflict, whether it arose from foreign instigation or from old internal feuds, and whichever party may be chargeable with having commenced hostilities, it is unfortunately too certain that, in the progress of the contest, both parties have vied with each other in committing every species of enormity. Men, women, and children, have, on both sides, been the victims; houses, churches, and entire villages have been destroyed; and the outrages have only ceased on the expulsion of the vanquished party from the scene of conflict.

It might, indeed, have been expected that the authorities of the Sultan in the neighbouring districts would have taken effectual means to put a stop to such a state of things. But Her Majesty's Government regret to say that, as far as they can learn, those authorities not only did not exert themselves as they ought to have done to restore order, but actually supplied one of the contending parties with the means of carrying on hostilities. At all events it is notorious that a Chief, named Shibli-el-Arian, who was high in favour with the Pasha of Damascus, was actively engaged on the side of the Druses.

This supineness on the part of the Turkish authorities, and the little regard which they paid to the representations of the British agents who pointed out to them the most effectual means for separating the combatants, would almost justify the belief that the contest of the rival parties was a source of satisfaction to their common rulers. The known sentiments of the Pasha of Damascus render it probable that he at least would not refrain from any measures which might tend to the oppression of the Christians; and the instigation of a warlike sect to attack their Christian neighbours would offer the readiest mode of giving effect to his own views with the least risk of compromising himself with his sovereign.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that such are the sentiments of the Porte. They are satisfied that the Sultan has no desire to withhold from any class of his subjects, Mahometans, Christians, or Druses, the privileges which, in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané, he professed to confer equally upon all. They cannot but remember that one of the chief grounds alleged by the Porte, in justification of the resentment felt by the Sultan at the conduct of Mehemet Ali while ruler of Syria, was the oppression which he exercised towards the people of that province. But harsh as was the government of Mehemet Ali, he nevertheless maintained order in the country; and the Porte must not conceal from itself that the inhabitants of Syria may look back with regret upon the government of Mehemet Ali, if the power of the Sultan is insufficient to secure them in the enjoyment of the privileges which he has declared that he would bestow upon them.

The first point to which the Porte, under existing circumstances, should direct its attention, is to restore order in the Lebanon. That object will not be effected by fomenting the animosities of rival sects; but it may be brought about by teaching both parties to look up to the Sultan as their common protector. It may be difficult at once to allay the angry feelings which have been displayed in the late contest; but much may be accomplished, even in that respect, by compensating sufferers for losses which they may have sustained, and by reinstating them in the possessions from which they may have been ejected. Under any circumstances, however, it is indispensable that the Porte should place at the disposal of its authorities in Syria, a strong reinforcement of regular troops, sufficient to overawe all parties, but especially that party which has been victorious in the struggle. The Porte should order its military commanders to repress, at the outset, the first indications of a disposition, in any quarter, to renew the contest; and should enjoin them to maintain, on all occasions, the lawful authority of the Sultan. It is impossible to estimate at too high a value the importance to the Porte of the maintenance of order in Syria. But it cannot be expected that order will be preserved in Syria, unless the authorities of the Porte, in that country, demean themselves in such a way as to conciliate the good will of the inhabitants. Her Majesty's Government regret to say, that such has not hitherto been the case; and they do not hesitate, on the information which has reached

them, to pronounce that Nejib Pasha, the chief Turkish authority in Syria, is responsible for much of the evil which has occurred in that country.

Her Majesty's Government have more than once had occasion to point out to the Porte the disastrous consequences which must inevitably result from the maintenance of Nejib Pasha in his post of Pasha of Damascus. They have abstained of late from renewing the subject, because they relied on the assurances given by Rifaat Pasha to your Excellency's predecessor, as reported in his despatch of the 18th of July, that if Nejib Pasha failed in any degree whatever in obeying the orders of the Porte to avoid giving any cause of dissatisfaction to the Syrians, he should instantly be removed from his post. But Nejib Pasha still rules in Syria, notwithstanding that in defiance of those orders, he continues to oppress the Christian subjects of the Sultan, to interfere arbitrarily with the inferior governors, and to maintain in places of trust and influence persons notorious for the cruelties which have marked their conduct on former occasions, or known to be attached to the fortunes of Mehemet Ali.

Her Majesty's Government, therefore, feel themselves now entitled to claim from Rifaat Pasha, the fulfilment of the promise which he made to Viscount Ponsonby in July last; and they claim it with the greater earnestness at the present moment, because they are convinced that nothing but the most prudent and conciliatory conduct on the part of the Turkish authorities, can uphold the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and that an example is required, to show those authorities that the Sultan is determined to keep the promises which he made to his people in the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané, and to punish all those, however exalted may be their rank, who shall presume to thwart his gracious intentions in that respect.

Your Excellency will communicate to the Turkish Government the observations contained in this despatch.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 29.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 26.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 1, 1841.

THE late troubles in Syria having been brought to the serious notice of the Sublime Porte, as well by their own agents as by Her Majesty's Embassy, and the other Missions at Constantinople, it has been at length resolved to send a person whose position and weight of character will be likely to produce a satisfactory arrangement of the differences existing in that distracted province.

I received the day before yesterday, in common with my colleagues of Austria, Prussia, Russia and France, a message from Rifaat Pasha, announcing this determination of the Porte; and I have since learnt that the Sultan's choice has fallen upon Yacoub Pasha, at present Governor of Adrianople. He will be instructed to examine thoroughly the state of the country, the causes of the troubles that now agitate it, and to make a full report thereupon to the Sultan.

Rifaat Pasha expressed great concern at the present deplorable state of Syria, and the determination of the Government to put an end to it, by obliging their officers to abide by those promises of reform and justice which were freely given on the restoration of that province to the Turkish authority.

Yacoub Pasha will have a difficult task to perform, for he will find the country a prey not only to intestine dissensions, kept alive by active foreign partizans, but he will likewise be met by a disinclination on the part of the people to pay even such moderate contributions as were apportioned to them, upon a revival of their finances here some months ago.

I understand that the conduct of Yacoub Pasha during the late dis-

turbances in Roumelia, has given such satisfaction to the Porte as to induce the Turkish Ministers to appoint him on the present occasion, and much benefit, it is thought, will accrue to Syria from his character and discernment.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 30.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)

(Extract.)

Pera, December 17, 1841.

I HAVE received despatches from Mr. Consul Wood, and from Colonel Rose, of the 22nd and 30th ultimo.

The former describes the state of parties as still very unsatisfactory, and he urges again the necessity of Nejib Pasha's recall from the Pashalic of Damascus, as the first step towards a return to tranquillity. There seems to be no doubt that, through his emissaries, Nejib encouraged the Druses in their late attacks upon the Christians of Mount Lebanon, but his principal agent, a Druse chief, Shibli-el-Arian, having overstepped the cautious instructions of the Pasha, ventured to attack the Maronites in the town of Zahlé, which they defended with spirit, and drove the assailants away. The consequence of success on that occasion, by the Druses, would have been hostilities between them and the Turkish forces, for Reshid Pasha marched to the neighbourhood of Zahlé, with a strong force, for the purpose of restoring order, and he would have been obliged to have arrested the progress of the Druses had they succeeded in defeating the inhabitants of that city. Hence the difficulty in which Nejib has since found himself.

Colonel Rose's despatches are of a later date, and represent the Druses to have retired, and tranquillity to be for the time restored.

No. 31.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 19, 1842.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 17, 1841.

IN reference to my despatch of December 1, in which I mentioned to your Lordship the intention of the Porte to send Yacoub Pasha to Syria, as Commissioner to investigate into the various complaints of misgovernment existing in that country, I have the honour now to state, that at a Council of Ministers, held on Monday last, the Sultan decided upon revoking that appointment, and sending the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha instead. It is asserted, that His Imperial Majesty is influenced in this choice on account of the rank of the Seraskier being so much higher, and, as such, offering to the Syrians a greater proof of the interest His Majesty takes in the welfare of his subjects in that province. I understand, from good authority, that Mustapha Pasha will be furnished with authority to displace Nejib from the Pashalic of Damascus. I have all along been impressed with the necessity of this measure, and in obeying a request of Rifaat Pasha, to furnish him with the latest news from Syria, I availed myself of the opportunity of renewing to the Porte my opinions upon the subject. The Pasha sent me word that he approved of the memorandum thus furnished, and I know that it was to be read at the Council held on Monday last. It is decided that Tahir, the Capudan Pasha, is to be charged with the duties of the War Department during the Seraskier's absence. I believe there are other reasons than those ostensibly given for the appointment of Mustapha Pasha to Syria; complaints have been made of his want of activity (a failing ascribed to his present colleagues as well as to himself), and perhaps before the period of his return, circumstances may arise which will cause a person of greater vigour to be put in his place.

Mustapha Pasha is considered a man of good intentions; he is a strict

Mussulman, although not a bigot, but I doubt very much if his substitution for Yacoub Pasha may not turn out an unfortunate appointment, the latter being a man of very superior abilities to the Seraskier, and whose energy of character gave promise of some good being effected by his presence in Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 32.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 15, 1842.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 24, 1841.

SOME days before I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, addressed to Sir Stratford Canning, I thought it could do no harm to sound Rifaat Pasha as to the feelings of the Porte with regard to the Emir Emin, son of the ex-Emir Beshir.

I was induced to take this step in consequence of suggestions made on more than one occasion by Colonel Rose, that the nomination of that person as Emir Beshir might be of service in allaying the animosities existing in the Lebanon; and I was strengthened in my resolution in consequence of the character of the present Emir, who is acknowledged by all parties to be utterly unfit for his situation.

I beg leave to observe, however, that the remark thus offered to the Minister for Foreign Affairs was understood as a consequence of the Porte desiring such a change in the Government of Lebanon, and was not intended in any way to counsel such a measure, however necessary I might have thought it to be to do so. The Pasha received my remark in perfect good part, and I doubt not would have availed himself of it, had not his removal from office prevented any further communication upon the subject.

While steadily following the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch of November 25, respecting the ex-Emir Beshir, I shall not lose sight, at a proper moment, of expressing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to his son.

I feel the absolute necessity for some alteration in the Government of Mount Lebanon, and I know of no one more likely to effect that desirable change than the person mentioned by your Lordship; but if the Porte should determine upon his nomination, great care should be taken in the preparation of his instructions, and in prescribing the extent of his authority in that country.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

No. 33.

Mr. Bankhead to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25.)

My Lord,

Pera, December 29, 1841.

I RECEIVED yesterday letters from Mr. Consul Wood, dated Damascus, 15th instant, and I am happy to say, that from his accounts, the disturbances of which Syria was lately the theatre, have for the time subsided; and I trust that the presence of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, who is entrusted with full powers from the Sultan to examine and report upon the grievances of the Syrians, will insure a continuance of this truce.

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Mr. Wood, by which you will see that the fears entertained by him of acts of violence on the part of the Mussulman population of Damascus towards the Christians, have likewise much subsided since he addressed your Lordship on the 20th November last.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES BANKHEAD.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Mr. Consul Wood to Mr. Bankhead.

Sir,

Damascus, December 15, 1841.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of my reports to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, respecting the public insults offered to the Christians of Damascus, and the threats of the populace to massacre them indiscriminately.

I am happy in being able to state now, that there is no cause at present to make me apprehend any danger to the Rayahs residing here from the fanaticism of the Mussulman populace. The Grandees of the city and the Ulemas have assured me that they would afford them protection, in case the local Government was too weak to support them.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. WOOD.

No. 34.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 22, 1842.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government have been much surprised at learning, within these few days, that the Porte entertains an unfavourable opinion of the conduct of Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria. Her Majesty's Government are wholly at a loss to conceive what can have led to such an impression on the minds of the Turkish Ministers, and can have induced them to overlook the zeal and activity which Colonel Rose, from the first moment of his landing in Syria, has continually displayed for the service of the Sultan, and for the advancement of the true interests of the Turkish Government.

The Porte surely cannot have forgotten the gallant manner in which Colonel Rose, in the early part of his residence in Syria, led on a party of the Sultan's forces to the attack of a superior force of Mehemet Ali's followers, on which occasion he was wounded. Neither can the Porte have forgotten that Colonel Rose, from the time that the command of the British detachments in Syria devolved upon him, has unremittingly devoted himself to the maintenance of the Sultan's authority in the districts round Beyrout, by affording to the officers of the Sultan his advice and co-operation on all occasions, by impressing upon the native Chiefs that it was their bounden duty, under all circumstances, to maintain their allegiance to the Sultan, and by endeavouring to mitigate the animosities of rival sects which threatened to disturb the peace of the country, and to render unavailing the benevolent intentions of the Sultan for the happiness of his Syrian subjects. The Porte cannot have forgotten how much was due to the exhortations of Colonel Rose, when the question of the tribute to be raised in Mount Lebanon for the service of the Porte was in agitation; how zealously he exerted himself to bring about an adjustment of that difficult question in a manner satisfactory to the Porte; and how steadily he discountenanced all proceedings which could bear the appearance of disrespect for the sovereign authority of the Sultan. Least of all, can the Porte have forgotten the exertions which, during the melancholy contest which has recently desolated the Lebanon, Colonel Rose made to rouse the Turkish authorities to uphold the supremacy of the Sultan indifferently over all the inhabitants of the Lebanon; how earnestly he laboured to reconcile the contending parties; and how gallantly he exposed his life in attempting to put a stop to the calamities of civil war.

Whatever may be the opinion which the Ministers of the Sultan may have been led to entertain of Colonel Rose's conduct, the opinion of the

Turkish authorities on the scene of action, who have had the best opportunities of judging what that conduct was, is conclusive in his favour. Amidst all the perplexing difficulties with which he has had to contend, the Seraskier Selim Pasha has ever found in Colonel Rose a faithful counsellor and a zealous supporter, on all occasions when counsel and support were required by him for the maintenance of the Sultan's authority; and it is no wonder that, under such circumstances, Colonel Rose has succeeded in gaining the good-will of that commander.

The Porte cannot doubt that the British Government is anxious to promote the interests of the Sultan in all parts of his dominions; and the Porte cannot suppose that the British Government would have appointed Colonel Rose to the responsible situations of Commander of the British detachments, and afterwards of Consul-General, if it had not been convinced that Colonel Rose would faithfully act up to the intentions of his Government, by taking advantage of every opportunity which presented itself, for consolidating the dominion of the Sultan in Syria, and for rendering the possession of that country of real benefit to the Porte.

Your Excellency is aware that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of Colonel Rose's conduct; and the knowledge of that fact, if the Porte really entertains the opinion which it professes to hold of the disinterested attachment felt for it by the British Government, should convince the Turkish Ministers that any reports which may have reached them to the prejudice of Colonel Rose, originate in the malevolence of individuals who seek, by calumnious insinuations, to discredit the accounts which may reach the Porte, through Colonel Rose, of their own careless indifference to the interests, and disobedience to the will of the Sultan.

I have thought it right to apprise your Excellency, at the earliest period, of the feelings with which Her Majesty's Government would receive from the Porte any complaints against Colonel Rose's conduct up to the 7th of December last, the date of his last reports. Her Majesty's Government, approving, as they do, entirely of that conduct, would look upon any such communication as an evidence of distrust in the intentions of Great Britain towards Turkey.

After all, however, it is possible that the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, as to the feelings of the Porte with respect to Colonel Rose, is incorrect. Her Majesty's Government trust that they have been misinformed; but, if the contrary should be the case, I have to instruct your Excellency to seek an interview with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to cause my present despatch to be translated to him in your presence, and to add such other observations as may occur to you as likely to produce a suitable impression on the minds of the Turkish Minister, and of his Colleagues.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 35.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 19.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 24, 1842.

A TURKISH steam-vessel arrived this morning from Beyrout with despatches from the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, and also having on board the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, deposed and sent to Constantinople by that functionary. M. Pisani, whose attention I had directed to these circumstances, writes to me in the following terms:—

“After having ascertained the fact of the arrival of Emir Beshir El-Kassim, I saw Sarim Effendi, who gave me the following intelligence: ‘Yes; Emir Beshir is arrived; he has been deposed by Mustapha Nouri Pasha in virtue of discretionary power, and in consequence of petitions presented by the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, both Christians and Druses, asking as a favour the deposition of Emir Beshir El-Kassim, and

the appointment, as Prince of Mount Lebanon, of a Pasha who should be neither a Maronite nor a Druse, but of the Turkish nation. One, Omar Pasha, who has been some time in those parts, and knows the language of the country, has been appointed instead of Emir Beshir.' ”

M. Pisani adds, that Omar Pasha is a General of Brigade in the Turkish regular army.

I cannot, for the present, afford your Lordship any further information upon this subject, although it is not unreasonable to presume that the appointment of Omar Pasha may be connected with the deputation of Druses, who, it appears, arrived here about three weeks ago. Sarim Effendi, with whom I had some private unofficial conversation yesterday, told me that Mustapha Pasha was to send in his report to the Government here, and that authority to act conclusively would then be given to him. He also spoke in high terms of Nejib Pasha of Damascus, which leads me to apprehend that the execution of your Lordship's instructions respecting him will continue to meet with a degree of opposition not easy to be overcome.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 36.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 24, 1842.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 24th of January, reporting the arrival at Constantinople of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, and your conversation with Sarim Effendi respecting the removal of the Emir from the Government of the Lebanon.

Her Majesty's Government do not feel themselves entitled to call in question the propriety of the decision which the Porte has come to in this respect. The character of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim seems to be unsuited for the arduous task of governing the Lebanon in the present state of parties in that district. But Her Majesty's Government cannot forget the conduct of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, at the period when their efforts were united with those of the Turkish Government for the restoration of Syria to the direct authority of the Sultan. The alacrity which the Emir Beshir El-Kassim displayed in joining the standard of the Sultan, the zeal and the courage with which he co-operated with the allied forces, while they obtained for him from his Sovereign the important trust of Governor of the Lebanon, impressed Her Majesty's Government with a high sense of his merits. The Porte cannot have forgotten how much the Sultan is indebted to the example set by the Emir Beshir El-Kassim, and to his faithful services, for the speedy re-establishment of the Sultan's power in Syria; and Her Majesty's Government, therefore, feel confident that, although circumstances may have rendered necessary his removal from office, the Porte will secure to him an honourable asylum in any part of the Sultan's dominions in which he may choose to reside, and will take care that he has full enjoyment of his liberty and of his property.

Your Excellency will have the goodness to bear in mind, on all occasions, that so long as the Emir Beshir El-Kassim acts as a faithful subject of the Sultan, you will be authorized to exert your good offices with the Porte in his behalf.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1842.

THE present state of Syria is calculated to excite so deep an interest that, although I am not at liberty to enter completely into the merits of the question now, I am, nevertheless, unwilling to leave Her Majesty's Government in ignorance of what is passing here with respect to it. I therefore avail myself of the Vienna post to offer your Lordship a few words upon the subject, but rather in the way of statement than of remark.

I have felt from the first, that whatever may be the demerits of the late Emir Beshir El-Kassim, his sudden and arbitrary removal, accompanied with the appointment of a Turkish Governor in his place, would, sooner or later, call for the interference of some or all of the Allied Powers. I was reluctant, however, to put myself forward immediately on my arrival here, in a matter which would naturally place me in opposition to the Turkish Government. No step which I could have taken when the Emir Beshir was brought into the port of Constantinople, presented a chance of producing any immediate change, either in his position, or in that of the country from which he had been torn. It was evident that what had been done, had been done advisedly, and that any impression of a counteracting character to be made upon the Turkish Government, was more likely to be made with effect after an interval of reflection, than in the first heat of success. I therefore determined to wait for further advices from Syria, and to abstain from committing myself towards any of the parties who are immediately interested in the affairs of Mount Lebanon, and some of whom were not slow in applying for my assistance.

With respect to the Porte, I confined myself to making inquiries of the Reis Effendi in the first instance, and subsequently to submitting confidentially to him such objections to the plan adopted by Mustapha Pasha as might prepare his Excellency, after what I knew that he must have heard from the Austrian and French Legations upon the same subject, for some official declaration of opinion, should it become necessary for me to anticipate your Lordship's instructions in so important a matter.

Within the last three or four days I have found reasons to satisfy my judgment, that it would be neither safe nor creditable for Her Majesty's Embassy to remain in a state of apparent indifference to those interests which have been so deeply compromised by the late proceedings of Mustapha Pasha. But while I recognize the expediency, I might almost say the necessity, of taking some steps expressive of an opinion in support of the Christian privileges violated by the Seraskier, I am most anxious to manifest all due consideration for the sovereignty of the Porte, and to keep entire that cordial good understanding between Her Ministers and myself to which I naturally attach the highest importance.

The present occasion, as I have already observed, does not admit of my entering into a full explanation of the views and reasons which have guided me to a decision upon this point. Among the circumstances, however, which have exercised a powerful influence over my mind, the promises made in Syria, both at the close as well as in the beginning of the late contest there; the decided opinions of the Austrian and French Ministers; the opinions not less decisive of our own agents on the spot, especially of Mr. Wood; and the difficulty of longer postponing an answer to the applications of the deposed Emir and the Maronite Representatives, may be mentioned in general as taking a prominent place.

The suggestion, by which I have endeavoured to meet the views of my Colleagues, as well as the exigencies of the case, without overlooking what is due to the Porte, is simply this,—to take the recent change of Government in Mount Lebanon as a mere provisional arrangement, warranted by the exasperation of the conflicting parties, but to be fol-

lowed without loss of time by a return to the old form of government ; and to endeavour to obtain an assurance to that effect from the Porte for the satisfaction of our respective Governments. In order to carry out this idea, it has been necessary for me to communicate not only with the Internuncio, but with the Russian, French, and Prussian Representatives. The Internuncio and myself being both confined by indisposition to our respective houses, this has been rather a difficult matter to accomplish, especially as I am aware it is not your Lordship's intention to authorize the establishment of a conference of Ambassadors here ; but the result of our communication is an understanding that we shall each send our interpreters to read to the Reis Effendi, and to the Grand Vizier respectively, an instruction, not similar in expression, but identical as to the purport which I have already had the honour to describe.

This agreement will, I trust, be carried into effect in the course of to-morrow, and I inclose herewith, for your Lordship's further information, a copy of the instruction which I have myself drawn up for the guidance of M. Pisani.

I have only to express, in conclusion, the earnest hope that the course which I have thus ventured to adopt, under difficult and unforeseen circumstances, may meet with the approbation of Her Majesty's Government, and that in taking the lead which I should probably soon have been compelled to follow, I have best consulted the interests of my position here, as well as those considerations which affect the credit of the British name, and the welfare of the Christians, to say nothing of the Druses themselves, in Syria.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Instructions from Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

Monsieur,

Constantinople, 9 Février, 1842.

JE vous invite de vous rendre à la Porte, et dès qu'il vous sera permis de voir le Reis Effendi, vous ferez lecture à son Excellence de ce qui suit.

La même bienveillance envers la Porte Ottomane dont le Gouvernement Britannique a donné tant de preuves, surtout en ce qui regarde la Syrie, lui impose encore le devoir de veiller à ce que la tranquillité de cette province soit assise sur les bases profondes et solides qui ont été convenues. Fidèle à ce principe, l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté a appelé itérativement l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les troubles qui, nonobstant la conclusion de la paix, confirmée depuis par les Six Cabinets, ensanglantaient les flancs du Mont Liban, en menaçant de nuire à leur œuvre pacifique ; et la Cour de Londres devait apprendre avec plaisir l'envoi à Beirout du Seraskir Mustafa Pacha, accompagné de troupes et muni des pouvoirs nécessaires pour arrêter le cours du mal. En effet, la présence de ce haut fonctionnaire a suffi pour maintenir la cessation d'hostilités qui avait à peine devancé son arrivée sur les lieux. Mais d'autres événemens y sont survenus. Nous avons vu destituer par une sentence soudaine et arbitraire l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim, qui avait été appelé à gouverner les tribus de la Montagne dans une époque où la loyauté et la bravoure du prince et du peuple furent également mises à l'épreuve. Nous l'avons ensuite vu arriver à Constantinople non seulement destitué de sa charge, mais privé de sa décoration et de sa fortune, éloigné de ses foyers, de ses amis, de sa famille. En même temps nous apprenons, qu'en dépit des promesses faites avec beaucoup de solennité, et en violation des privilèges consacrés par l'usage de plus d'un siècle, un Pacha Musulman nommé par le Seraskir, a succédé au pouvoir délégué des Emirs, et réside pour la première fois, comme gouverneur, à Deir-el-Kammar.

On ne veut pas jeter une ombre de doute sur les bonnes intentions qui ont dû dicter ces divers actes de son Excellence le Seraskir. On aime à croire qu'ils étaient prescrits par l'urgence des circonstances,

et qu'ils sont même de nature à contribuer pour le moment au maintien de la paix en Syrie. Les explications officieuses dont le Reis Effendi a bien voulu honorer l'Ambassadeur à plus d'une reprise, font foi de l'exactitude de ces impressions.

Mais ce n'est pas assez d'étancher le sang, ou de tenir les passions en suspens par l'interposition de quelque nouveauté faite plutôt pour étonner que pour satisfaire les esprits à la longue. Il faut quelque chose de plus solide, de plus durable. Il faut consulter non seulement les convenances du moment, les haines d'un parti, ou l'intérêt de quelques chefs, mais les habitudes de la population, les besoins des lieux, les rapports naturels de l'ordre social, les sentimens intarissables du cœur humain, et les principes éternels de la justice ; par-dessus tout, faut-il prendre à tâche de bien juger la proportion qui existe entre les moyens de maintenir, et les motifs de renverser, une nouvelle autorité, ébauchée à la hâte, et opposée aux préjugés de la masse de tous les partis.

L'avenir que l'état actuel des choses offre à la vue, n'est guère riant. Il est à peu près certain, qu'après quelques momens de pause, le mécontentement des tribus éclatera avec nouvelle force. La présente union, si toutefois elle est la suite de la nomination d'un gouverneur Musulman, doit finir par réagir contre lui. Le Pacha, attaqué de tous côtés, sera forcé d'avoir recours à des actes de rigueur, qui ne feront qu'alimenter la fureur des montagnards. Il est à concevoir que, poussé par les exigences de sa position à des combats inégaux, il ne compromettra la dignité de son souverain, en même temps que ses efforts embarrassés doivent nécessairement épuiser le trésor de l'État.

C'est pour éviter ces malheurs et d'autres qui ne sont pas moins faciles à prévoir, que les véritables amis de la Porte croient devoir fixer son attention sur cette importante matière. Ils se sont faits une règle de ne pas critiquer le choix personnel que son Excellence le Séraskir a fait en nommant le premier un Gouverneur Musulman au Mont Liban, malgré que les circonstances les en auraient pleinement justifiés. Mais ils espèrent qu'ils ne portent pas trop loin leur confiance dans la sagesse et la justice de la Sublime Porte, quand ils déclarent leur conviction que l'arrangement actuel est entièrement provisoire, et que les mesures nécessaires seront bientôt prises, sous les ordres de la Sublime Porte, pour reconstruire le Gouvernement local du Mont Liban d'une manière permanente, conformément aux anciens privilèges de ses peuples, et les engagements contractés envers eux.

En quittant le Reis Effendi, Monsieur, vous vous rendrez chez son Altesse le Grand Vizir, à qui aussi vous ferez lecture de cette instruction.

A l'un comme à l'autre de ces Ministres vous aurez soin de manifester de ma part l'espoir que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse m'autorisera à porter à la connaissance de ma Cour, une réponse conforme aux vœux que je viens de lui adresser par votre canal.

Je suis, &c.,

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Constantinople, February 9, 1842.

I REQUEST you to go to the Porte, and when you are permitted to see the Reis Effendi, you will read to his Excellency what follows :—

The same good-will towards the Ottoman Porte of which the British Government have given so many proofs, above all in what concerns Syria, still imposes upon them the duty of seeing that the tranquillity of that province is settled upon the deep-rooted and solid bases which have been agreed upon. True to that principle, Her Majesty's Ambassador has repeatedly called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the disturbances which, notwithstanding the conclusion of peace, since confirmed by the six Cabinets, have deluged Mount Lebanon with blood, threatening to destroy their pacific work ; and the Court of London must have learnt with pleasure that the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha had been sent to Beyrout, accompanied by troops, and furnished with the powers

necessary for arresting the progress of the evil. In fact, the presence of that high functionary has been sufficient for the maintenance of the cessation of hostilities which had but just taken place before his arrival on the spot. But other events have succeeded. We have seen the deposition, by a sudden and arbitrary sentence, of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, who had been called upon to govern the tribes of the Mountain at a period when the loyalty and courage of the prince and of the people were equally put to the test. We have seen him afterwards arrive at Constantinople, not only stripped of his office, but deprived of his decoration and of his fortune, removed from his home, from his friends, and from his family. At the same time we learn that, in spite of the promises made with much solemnity, and in violation of the privileges rendered sacred by the custom of more than a century, a Mussulman Pasha, nominated by the Seraskier, has succeeded to the delegated power of the Emirs, and resides, for the first time, as Governor, at Deir-el-Kammar.

It is not desired to throw a doubt upon the good intentions which must have dictated these different acts of his Excellency the Seraskier. It is willingly believed that they were called for by the urgency of circumstances, and that they are even calculated to contribute, for the moment, to the maintenance of peace in Syria. The informal explanations with which the Reis Effendi has more than once honoured the Ambassador, warrant the correctness of these impressions.

But it is not sufficient to stanch blood, or to keep the passions in suspense by the introduction of some novelty, calculated rather to astonish than to satisfy the minds of people in the long run. Something more solid and more durable is necessary. It is necessary not only to consult the convenience of the moment, the hatred of a party, or the interest of some chiefs, but also the customs of the people, local necessities, the natural relations of society, the unquenchable feelings of the human heart, and the eternal principles of justice; above all, it is necessary to endeavour to judge well the proportion which exists between the means of maintaining, and the reasons for overthrowing, a new authority, hastily put forward, and opposed to the prejudices of the mass of all parties.

The prospect which the present state of things presents is not very cheering. It is almost certain that, after a few moments' pause, the discontent of the tribes will break out with fresh force. The present union, if, indeed, it is the result of the appointment of a Mussulman Governor, must end in a reaction against him. The Pasha, attacked on all sides, will be obliged to have recourse to acts of rigour, which will only nourish the anger of the Mountaineers. It is to be supposed that, driven by the exigencies of his position to an unequal contest, he will compromise the dignity of his Sovereign, while his embarrassed exertions must necessarily exhaust the treasury of the State.

It is in order to avoid these misfortunes, and others which it is not less easy to foresee, that the true friends of the Porte think it their duty to draw its attention to this important subject. They have made it a rule not to animadvert upon the choice which his Excellency the Seraskier has made of the person, on being the first to nominate a Mussulman Governor of Mount Lebanon, although the circumstances would have fully justified them in so doing. But they hope that they do not carry their confidence in the wisdom and justice of the Sublime Porte too far, when they declare their conviction that the present arrangement is entirely provisional, and that the necessary steps will soon be taken, under the orders of the Sublime Porte, for reconstructing the local government of Mount Lebanon in a lasting manner, in accordance with the ancient privileges of its people, and the engagements contracted towards them.

On leaving the Reis Effendi, Sir, you will repair to his Highness the Grand Vizier, to whom also you will read this instruction.

You will be careful to express to both of these Ministers my hope that his Highness's Government will authorize me to convey to my Court an answer in accordance with the wishes which I have expressed to them through you.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, February 11, 1842.

I INCLOSE, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, a copy of M. Pisani's report of what took place when he read my instruction to the Reis Effendi, and subsequently to the Grand Vizier. It comprizes the answer of those Ministers.

The tone and temper of the present Turkish Administration are sufficiently apparent from its tenor.

When the Grand Vizier, referring to the promises made to the chiefs and people of Mount Lebanon, confines his admission to those which were addressed to the old ex-Emir Beshir, he appears to have lost sight of the declaration made by Mr. Wood and Commodore Napier in the beginning of the Syrian operations, nor less so of those promises which Mr. Wood was authorized to renew to the Syrians in May of last year, as well by the Porte as by three at least of the Representatives of the Allies at Court, and of which I find the accompanying memorandum in the archives of the Embassy.

With respect to what his Highness has advanced concerning the Patriarch of the Maronites, I can only say that it does not agree with the language of his agent, who has urged me by verbal and written representations to exert my influence for the restoration of the old form of Government in Mount Lebanon. As bearing upon this part of the subject, I have made some extracts from a letter addressed by Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead on the 18th ultimo, and I beg leave to submit them to your Lordship's particular observation.

Exclusive of the considerations involved in the substitution of a Turkish Pasha for a Christian Prince of the family of Shehab, the personal character of the present Turkish Governor, appointed by Mustapha Pasha, cannot be entirely overlooked. It is enough to state of Omar Pasha that, besides being a renegade, and in that respect an object of contempt to the Turks themselves, I am assured that he was tried for peculation in Syria while the Grand Vizier was there, and that his trial issued in a sentence of condemnation.

Before this despatch can arrive in England your Lordship will probably be in possession of Mr. Wood's despatch of the 27th of January, of which a copy is now upon my table, and to that gentleman's report I may safely refer your Lordship for as just an estimate as can be obtained of the views of the Turkish Government in the whole transaction effected by Mustapha Pasha, of the real feelings of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and of the eventual consequences likely to result from the recent change.

In justice to Mr. Wood, I must remark, that he alone appears to have had the sagacity to penetrate into the designs of the Porte respecting Syria, before any decisive step had been taken by the Seraskier. In a despatch of the 12th ultimo, addressed to Mr. Bankhead, he observes, that the Commissioners appointed to settle the differences between the Christians and Druses, were taking "advantage of their dissensions to encroach upon their rights, and to establish a Turkish officer in Lebanon, in the room of a Christian Prince."

He goes on to say, that the present Grand Vizier, when Seraskier in Syria, had entertained a similar project, and that Nejb Pasha, of Damascus, was also a firm advocate of the plan; and he continues in the following words, which would seem to be worthy of particular attention: "Besides the probability of the Druses and Christians uniting ultimately, to oppose this new encroachment on their old rights and usages,—a disposition which they have already betrayed, notwithstanding their late differences,—it would be unprofitable, in a financial point of view, since, to maintain the authority of the Turkish Governor in the Mountains, it would require from 6 to 8,000 troops, the expenses of which would surpass four times the revenue of Lebanon."

Upon the whole, my Lord, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension, to the consequences of the new system adopted by the Porte in Syria, especially when I bear in mind the nature and spirit of Turkish authority, the ordinary character of its agents, and the very peculiar circumstances of the Mountain population, whose industry, poverty, and impatience of restraint are alike known to all Europe, and amongst whom the religion of Christ has found for ages a precarious, yet noble asylum, towards which the hopes of the good and the devout of more than one country, have of late been turned with peculiar zeal.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Pera, ce 10 Février, 1842.

J'AI l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence, que j'ai, conformément à ses ordres, vu Sarim Effendi, ainsi que son Altesse le Grand Vizir, et que je leur ai communiqué vos instructions en date d'aujourd'hui.

Sarim Effendi, voyant de quoi il s'agissait, m'a dit qu'il n'avait pas le tems de m'entendre, et qu'il devait rentrer dans la chambre du conseil, d'où il n'était sorti que pour un instant. Mais ce n'était là qu'un prétexte ; parceque je voyais bien, par certains mots qu'il laissait échapper, que le sujet des instructions lui faisait de la peine.

Cependant, sur quelques observations que je lui ai faites convenablement, il a consenti à entendre la lecture en Turc des instructions de votre Excellence. J'ai su depuis de mes collègues, MM. les Drogmans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie, qu'ils ont essayé les mêmes difficultés de la part du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Quoiqu'il en soit, Sarim Effendi a entendu la lecture de vos instructions, mais il s'est borné à dire qu'il les a parfaitement comprises, et qu'il fera une réponse, après avoir pris les ordres de son Gouvernement. Mais la promesse d'une réponse était faite de manière à ne laisser aucun doute qu'elle ne fût défavorable.

A l'issue du Conseil des Ministres et des Pachas, je suis entré chez le Grand Vizir, à côté duquel j'ai trouvé Sarim Effendi, qui n'a pas dit un seul mot pendant mon entrevue avec son Altesse.

Le Grand Vizir après avoir entendu avec attention les instructions de votre Excellence a pris la parole dans les termes suivans :—

“ Lorsque les troubles ont éclaté en Syrie, nous avons été conseillés par les Puissances, nos amies, de prendre des mesures propres à y rétablir la tranquillité. C'est dans ce but que nous y avons envoyé le Séraskir Pacha. Lorsque celui-ci arriva à Beirout, il y rassembla les notables des habitans des Montagnes. Ceux-ci ont représenté que l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim était un homme faible, incapable de gouverner ; que c'était à son incapacité qu'il fallait même attribuer les troubles et les hostilités qui avaient affligé le pays ; ils ont déclaré que jamais la tranquillité ne pourrait s'établir solidement parmi les populations des Montagnes, tant que le Prince du Mont Liban serait choisi parmi les Montagnards ; ils ont demandé la déposition de l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim ; et ils ont supplié la Sublime Porte, et de vive voix et par pétitions, de leur faire la faveur de nommer pour Gouverneur du Mont Liban un de ses propres employés. Or, comme il n'y a pas de moyens plus propres à établir le bon ordre et la tranquillité parmi les populations que d'accorder les demandes qu'elles font elles-mêmes, un Pacha a été nommé Gouverneur du Mont Liban.

“ Vous me parlez des privilèges ; les seuls dont j'ai connaissance sont ceux que l'Amiral Stopford et moi-même avons accordés sous notre signature au ci-devant Emir Béchir-el-Chéhab, s'il se soumettait à l'autorité du Sultan dans un délai de douze jours. On lui assurait, dans ce cas, sa fortune, son poste de Prince du Mont Liban, et ses prérogatives. Mais cet Emir n'a pas fait sa soumission dans le délai donné ; malgré cela, je lui ai accordé quatre jours de plus. Mais, contre mon avis, on s'est em-

pressé de remettre à l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim le firman qui le nommait Prince. Celui-ci se trouve, dites-vous, privé de sa décoration et de sa fortune. Quant à sa décoration, il a dû en être privé, car n'étant que la marque distinctive de son poste, il ne pouvait plus la conserver après sa déposition; et, pour sa fortune, si on la lui a enlevée, il n'a qu'à recourir, pour se faire rendre justice, à la Commission établie à Deir-el-Kammar pour les réclamations réciproques des deux partis.

“ L'état actuel des choses n'exige aucun changement. Cependant, si par la suite, il devient nécessaire d'opérer un changement dans le Gouvernement du Mont Liban, la Sublime Porte, ayant affaire à ses propres sujets, prendra à leur égard les mesures qui seront jugées les plus convenables pour opérer un changement.”

J'ai demandé au Grand Vizir si, par un changement, il entendait la nomination d'un Gouverneur pris parmi les tribus, et il m'a répondu affirmativement.

J'ai, &c.,
(Signé) F. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Pera, February 10, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, conformably to your orders, I have seen Sarim Effendi, as well as his Highness the Grand Vizier, and that I have communicated to them your instructions dated to-day.

Sarim Effendi, seeing what was the subject, told me that he had not time to listen to me, and that he must go into the council chamber, from whence he had come out only for an instant. But that was only a pretext; since I clearly saw, by certain words which he let fall, that the subject of the instructions caused him pain.

Nevertheless, on some suitable observations which I made to him, he consented to hear your Excellency's instructions read in Turkish. I have since learnt from my colleagues, the Dragomans of Austria, of France, of Prussia, and of Russia, that they encountered the same difficulties on the part of the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Be that as it may, Sarim Effendi heard your instructions read, but he confined himself to saying, that he perfectly understood them, and that he would give an answer, after having taken the orders of his Government. But the promise of an answer was made in a manner not to leave any doubt that it would be unfavourable.

When the Ministers and Pashas came out from the council, I went in to the Grand Vizier, with whom I found Sarim Effendi, who did not say a single word during my interview with his Highness.

The Grand Vizier, after having heard with attention the instructions of your Excellency, took up the conversation in the following terms:—

“ From the time that disturbances broke out in Syria, we have been advised by the Powers, our friends, to take proper measures for establishing tranquillity there. It is for this object that we have sent there the Seraskier Pasha. When he arrived at Beyrout, he assembled the chiefs of the inhabitants of the Mountains. These represented that the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim was a weak man, incapable of governing; that it was to his incapacity that were to be attributed the troubles and hostilities which had afflicted the country; they declared that tranquillity never could be established firmly among the people of the Mountain as long as the Prince of Mount Lebanon should be chosen among the Mountaineers; they demanded the deposition of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim; and they supplicated the Sublime Porte, both verbally and by petitions, to do them the favour to name as Governor of Mount Lebanon one of her own servants. Now, as there are no better means for establishing good order and tranquillity among the people than to grant the demands which they themselves make, a Pasha has been named Governor of Mount Lebanon.

“ You talk to me of privileges; those only which I know anything about,

are those which Admiral Stopford and myself granted under our signature to the former Emir Beshir-el-Shehab, if he submitted to the authority of the Sultan within a period of twelve days. In this case, his fortune, his post of Prince of Mount Lebanon, and his prerogatives were assured to him. But this Emir did not make his submission in the given period; notwithstanding that, I gave him four days more. But, against my advice, the delivery to the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim of the firman which named him Prince, was hastened. He, you say, is deprived of his decoration and of his fortune. As for his decoration, he ought to be deprived of it, because, as it was only the distinctive mark of his post, he could not keep it after his deposition; and as for his fortune, if it has been taken from him, he has but to appeal, in order to have justice done to him, to the Commission established at Deir-el-Kammar for the reciprocal claims of the two parties.

The actual state of things does not require any change. Nevertheless, if, hereafter, it becomes necessary to effect a change in the government of Mount Lebanon, the Sublime Porte, having to do with its own subjects, will take, with respect to them, the measures which shall be judged the most fit to effect a change.

I asked the Grand Vizier if, by a change, he meant the nomination of a Governor taken from among the tribes, and he answered in the affirmative.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) F. PISANI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Memorandum of the Propositions made to the Sublime Porte respecting Syria.

AT a Conference of their Excellencies the Viscount Ponsonby, Baron de Stürmer, and M. Titow, it was agreed upon that the following five propositions should be made to the Sublime Porte.

1. That the Turkish Government should execute faithfully the promises it made to the Syrians of re-establishing their ancient rights and privileges in the event that they returned to their allegiance, &c.

The Sublime Porte has declared formally its intention of doing so. Instructions and orders will be transmitted to its officers to allow the Syrians, and particularly the Christians, to enjoy the rights and privileges they enjoyed during the Egyptian Administration, with such modifications as the Turkish law requires.

2. That the Turkish Government should be persuaded to remit all illegal taxes in Syria, as well as all such taxes as were with justice obnoxious to the people.

The Sublime Porte had already transmitted instructions to the above effect; but as it does not appear that they were properly understood, a new Defterdar has been appointed with extraordinary powers to examine into the complaints of the Syrians, remit all illegal taxation, and report his opinion with regard to what ought further to be done to relieve them from unnecessary burdens, &c.

3. That as the Emir Besbir and the Maronite Patriarch requested each to have a Kapou Kiaja, the Sublime Porte should be prevailed upon to accede to their request.

The Sublime Porte has complied with their demand, and each is to have his agent to communicate direct with the Ottoman Ministers.

4. That a Ferik should be appointed to the government of Jerusalem, for the special protection of the Christians, &c.

The Sublime Porte has consented to make this special appointment for the tranquillity and happiness of its Rayah subjects, &c.

5. That the Sublime Porte should be induced to reward the Sheiks and other individuals who served faithfully during the war.

The Sublime Porte has given a list of the individuals to be rewarded to his Excellency the Defterdar, with strict orders to reward them on his arrival in Syria.

Therapia, May 12, 1841.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

January 10, 1842.

THE Christians urged that the Sublime Porte had been pleased to promise them, that they should be governed by a Christian Prince. The difference of opinion between Mustapha Pasha and the Christians has become so great, that the Christians wished to avail themselves of the right allowed them by the Sublime Porte, to address an "Ardhil Mahdar" to the sovereign on the subject of their governor, but Mustapha Pasha's representatives have informed them, that his Excellency is "Moostakill," Plenipotentiary, and that he will forward no such petition.

Further attempts have been made to induce the Christians to sign a paper, requesting the Seraskier to name a governor over them, that is a Turkish one over the mountain; and yesterday, a few of the Emirs here present did so, but only in terms which regarded themselves personally. I send you a copy of it. You will see how guarded it is. I understand that those same persons will sign a general petition of Christians for a Christian prince.

Mustapha Pasha overcame the most strenuous opponents, the representatives of the clergy, by placing them out of the list of persons qualified to act in worldly affairs. The Seraskier wrote, on the occasion of a report having been spread that he intended to make a prisoner of the Patriarch with two hundred horse, to his Eminence, to state that he had never intended so to act; but, in the letter, he twice warned the Patriarch to abstain, for the future, from politics, and to obey Omar Pasha; and he made the same intimations to Bishop Tubia and Father John, representatives of the clergy now here.

No. 39.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, February 16, 1842.

I THINK it advisable to submit to your Lordship a copy of the communication which I made upon the affairs of Mount Lebanon to Colonel Rose, immediately after I received the answer of the Grand Vizier to my message thereon. The Austrian and French Ministers, as well as the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, wrote in a similar sense, though with some shades of difference in the expression, to their respective Consuls. I also addressed a despatch of the same purport to Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus.

The object of these communications, as your Lordship will perceive on a perusal of mine, was to obviate the possible effect of any exaggerated reports of our proceedings here upon the tranquillity of the population of Mount Lebanon; and conceiving it, therefore, to be of importance that our statements should reach Syria without loss of time, I applied to Captain Stewart, of Her Majesty's ship "Benbow," to forward them direct to Beyrout, by means of the steam-vessel lying at Suda, and, with this application, I trust that he has by this time complied.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Constantinople, February 11, 1842.

I HAVE received the despatches which you addressed to Mr. Bankhead relative to the removal of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and the appointment of Omar Pasha in his place, as Governor of the tribes of Mount Lebanon.

Since his arrival here, I do not understand that the ex-Emir Beshir has experienced any further ill-treatment from the Porte; and, although I am not surprised at his removal from the high station which he appears to have filled so inadequately, I cannot but take an interest in his fate, and feel disposed to render him any assistance in my power towards the recovery of his fortune, and his restoration as a private individual to the land of his birth and connexions.

A greater interest than what relates to his person is, however, invested in the recent changes effected by Mustapha Pasha; I am fully sensible of the importance of that transaction, and cannot, I confess, look forward without anxiety and apprehension to the probable, though, I trust, not immediate consequences of so rash and unexpected an event.

So deep, indeed, are my impressions upon this subject, that, after mature deliberation, I have taken a step at the Porte expressive of my hope that the existing arrangement is not permanent, and that no length of time will elapse before the former system, founded as it was upon the practice of more than a century, and in harmony with the promises given to Syria, shall be substantially restored. A similar step has been taken at the same time, and upon a common understanding between us, though not in a collective form, by the Austrian, Russian, French, and Prussian Legations.

The answer which we have received from the Grand Vizier, though far from satisfactory, is by no means such as to close the door against a more favourable view of the subject at some future period. Much will, of course, depend upon the decision that may be adopted by our respective courts when they shall have obtained an adequate knowledge of the facts of the case, and considered the probable consequences involved in them.

In the mean time it would afford matter of deep regret and concern, if an exaggerated report of our proceedings were to be conveyed to Syria, and to have the effect of agitating the minds and influencing the passions of a too excitable population. It cannot be necessary for me to request that you will employ your best exertions to observe, and, if the case should unfortunately arrive, to counteract any dangerous impressions of this kind, by a temperate and judicious statement of the truth, addressed with every possible degree of caution, to some persons of influence in the mountain, and strictly confined to an unostentatious and confidential form of communication. Whatever be the prevailing sentiments of the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, whether Druses or Christians, it is not too much to expect that those who have either promoted or acquiesced in this plan of Mustapha Pasha should be content to wait, in tranquillity and with patience, until the allied Cabinets have time to take cognizance of their situation, and to adopt, should they choose to interfere, such resolutions upon the subject as their sense of duty and the general interest, under a due respect for the sovereignty of the Porte, may prescribe.

I have reason to believe that my colleagues, the Representatives of Austria, France, and Russia, write in a similar sense to their respective Consuls at Beyrout, and we all trust that the same conviction of the importance of acting in these matters with unanimity and uniformity of conduct, which has prevailed among us, will also have its due effect upon you in Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 40.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 16, 1842.

I SUBMIT to your Lordship's consideration the inclosed translation of a letter addressed to me by the ex-Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and of his memorial to the Grand Vizier. It would appear from an expression in the latter, which I have underlined, that the order for El-Kassim's removal to Constantinople had emanated from the Porte.

I have not thought it advisable to receive a visit from the Emir under the present circumstances, but I have seen his nephew, whom he sent to me for that purpose, and through him I have informed the Emir that, although I cannot interfere to effect his return to power, I should be happy to employ my good offices in hastening the period of his return to Syria, as a private individual, and in obtaining the assistance of the Turkish Government for the recovery of his fortune. This answer appeared to satisfy him, and I have, in consequence, directed M. Pisani to remind the Reis Effendi, and also the Grand Vizier, of the circumstances under which the Emir El-Kassim had been induced to take the Government of Mount Lebanon, and to express a hope that, in consideration of his loyal conduct and the part which Her Majesty's officers and agents had taken in putting him forward, justice and kindness would be exercised towards him on the present occasion.

The Grand Vizier's answer was by no means favourable in the first instance. He spoke harshly of the Emir, described him as a bad man, and accused him of crimes. I directed M. Pisani to remind him that no such charges had been made by the Seraskier, and that they were not borne out by anything which had come to my knowledge. To this representation the Vizier replied with less asperity. He admitted that the Seraskier had not written to him in recommendation of the Emir; he added that he had seen the latter, and had paid him the compliment of offering him a better house to reside in during his detention at Constantinople. There seems to be no disposition to allow of his returning home at present, and, perhaps, there are well-grounded objections to such a measure just now. With respect to his losses, he is referred to the Commission said to be appointed under the superintendence of Omar Pasha, for the settlement of all such questions arising out of the late disturbances in Mount Lebanon. The Reis Effendi asserts, that all property unjustly seized by the Druses will be restored; and, upon receiving a communication of the substance of your Lordship's instruction of December 22, upon the subject of Syria, his Excellency gave the most positive assurances of the benevolent intentions of the Porte towards all classes of its subjects, and defended his Government from the charge of having neglected the advice of Her Majesty's Agents in Syria; but, together with these assurances stand the facts of Omar Pasha's appointment, and of Nejjib Pasha's maintenance in office, notwithstanding the numerous representations which have been made against him.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

 Inclosure 1 in No. 40.
The Ex-Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Translation.)

After Titles and Compliments.

January 31, 1842.

IN expressing an attachment to your exalted Government, we beg to state to your Excellency that we have not ceased to perform our duties faithfully towards the British Government, according to the letter to us

of Commodore Napier and Mr. Wood herewith inclosed. We have promoted the service of the Ottoman Porte, and we have not ceased, during the last year and a half, to perform our duty faithfully towards it, as we were ordered. We inclose you a copy of our petition to the Grand Vizier on our grievances, for your Excellency's information, stating briefly what has happened to us, and there is no refuge for us, after God, but your Excellency. Therefore, we intreat your Excellency's good offices, for the performance of the promises to us for the restoration of our property, and we earnestly look to your Government for a recompense of our services.

Trusting you will grant our request, &c.

(Signed)

BESHIR SHEHAB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Petition presented by the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to the Grand Vizier.

(Translation.)

WE humbly make known to your Highness, that we your servant, from the time we received the royal firman nominating us to honourable service, have acted according to the obligations of our allegiance, and with all obedience and due respect.

We have done all in our power, according to the best of our ability, to act up to the wishes of the Sublime Porte, may the Lord of creatures protect and cherish it.

With the assistance of the Most High God, and presence of your Highness, the Egyptian troops were without difficulty driven from Syria, and every success obtained, as is well known to your Highness. After this, I remained in the field for about five months, but returned to the mountains, upon your servant receiving an order to that effect. We there restrained the lawless spirit of the inhabitants, and prevented any one having communication with, or receiving money (from the Egyptian Government). We established a free passage through the country, and secured the tranquillity of the inhabitants in conformity with the Imperial mandate, which was obeyed, and I have ever continued to act up to.

When the Royal mandate was received, ordering that certain measures should be taken for ameliorating the condition of the people and the country, the inhabitants of the mountains were assembled, and the Royal edict was read, and the Council resolved to act up to it. Afterwards their Excellencies Mahomed Reshid Pasha and Mustapha Pasha arrived, and assembled the Chiefs of the mountains, who (*i. e.* the Chiefs) came to the determination in their Excellencies' presence, not to pay to the Government any tribute, though they declared that, as servants of the Sublime Porte, they had the right of levying a tax upon the people, and that they could not accede to the orders (of the Sublime Porte), and to the regulations about paying tribute.

Your servant then spoke, in the presence of their Excellencies, to the following effect,—that it was urgent upon them to act in all matters, in conformity with the Royal and just mandates, and that every one should pay according to his means as was required in the Supreme mandate: this, my counsel, not being listened to, we went together to Beyrout, and to the Divan of Saida, at which the Mushir presided. It was then determined to pay 3,500 purses of tribute. After which decision, your servant was obliged to go to Deir-el-Kammar, to give orders about collecting this tax, and there, as soon as it became known to your servant, that the Chiefs of the mountains were disposed to conduct themselves in a rebellious manner, your servant petitioned the Mushir to send some troops from Beyrout and Saida to terrify the afore-mentioned rebels; his Excellency promised to accede to my wishes, but did not keep his promise. After this the Mushir came to the palace of your servant in Deir-el-Kammar, and I again begged his Excellency, on many occasions, to reinforce us with a battalion of troops, to assist in collecting promptly the taxes and to prevent rebellion,—our counsels were not listened to, and

from this negligence, the audacious Chiefs of the Druse nation assembled with their followers, and kindled the flame of war upon us, and upon our people. What followed of plunder, massacre, and destruction of property by fire, is well known to your Highness; and your servant made again a supplication to the Mushir for succour, which, if he had given, tranquillity would have been restored, and the flame of war extinguished; our petition was not listened to, and we were besieged and held our ground firm for four days; afterwards arrived his Excellency Ayoob Pasha, on the part of the Mushir, to put down the war,—the Chiefs of the Druses having then satiated themselves with plunder, &c., ceased from war, and his Excellency returned to Beyrout. We then again requested that a battalion of soldiers might be sent to protect our person and that of our followers, and to keep down the rebellion; but after two days Said-Abd-el-Salat Hamedi of Beyrout, and Selim Bey, having in their hands an order from his Highness the Mushir, desired me to go to Beyrout.

Not trusting to the rebels, I requested the aforesaid Bey and Muhassil to procure for me a pass from the chiefs of the Druses, Hamood and Nasif, to prevent our being molested. This pass was obtained, but they deceived us; for on leaving our palace, we and our followers were plundered of all we possessed in arms, clothes, and money, to the amount of 500,000 piastres; and this treachery took place in the presence of the Bey and the Muhassil.

On our arrival at Beyrout, we thought that his Excellency the Mushir would have made some arrangement for our security, as being in the royal service, but this hope was not realized.

Afterwards his Highness sent the Muhassil with some troops to Deir-el-Kammar; but from this measure no benefit accrued. War and troubles increased, and I was ordered to remain at Beyrout, which his Highness, at the desire of the Druse chiefs, had assented to; and they (the Druses) gained strength.

And after that we were at Beyrout, it became convenient for the Muhassil, without cause or necessity, to meet the wishes of the rebels, who formerly were in arms against the Sublime Porte, assisting the Egyptian Government; and it has been made known to your Highness that, notwithstanding the succour we had petitioned for to the Mushir, our wishes were not hearkened to; which, if they had been, all these troubles would not have taken place, neither would your servant, as an agent of the Imperial Government been dishonoured by being plundered.

I was the first to obey the Imperial mandate, even to the shedding of my blood, and have ever acted up to my duty; but the Mushir notwithstanding, has taken from me the Nishan, and confined me in prison for four days; and afterwards *arrived the Imperial order that I should go to Stamboul*, and I have since remained here, awaiting the orders of your Highness; and I beg you will regard me with favour, and that your Highness will do what you deem right for me, and restore to me what I have lost, as is the custom, in the clemency of the Sublime Porte towards their servants.

No. 41.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1842.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatches of the 9th and 11th of February, reporting the communications which your colleagues of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, at your instigation, and simultaneously with you, had severally made to the Porte, respecting the late change of Government in Mount Lebanon; and stating the reasons which had induced you to take the first step in that matter.

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which you have taken; and they

agree with you in considering that it was most advisable to treat the measure of the Porte as a temporary expedient, forced upon the Turkish Government by the absolute necessity of a decided conduct on their part, in attempting to re-establish order in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the sanguinary conflict which had recently been carried on in that district, and the violent animosity which had been displayed both by the Christians and the Druses, called for the powerful interposition of their common Sovereign. Whatever may be the amount of blame with which the Turkish authorities in Syria can be charged for their indifference to the contest while actually in progress, it can scarcely be questioned that the immediate establishment of the supremacy of one of the contending parties, before the passions which had actuated them had time to subside, would probably, at no distant day, have led to a renewal of the struggle. Viewing it, therefore, as a temporary expedient, Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to say that the Porte was not justified in assuming the direct rule over the whole of Mount Lebanon; but Her Majesty's Government would very much lament that the Porte should make any permanent change in the Government of the Lebanon which should have the effect of depriving the family of Shehab of the prominent position in that Government which it has so long enjoyed.

Her Majesty's Government are inclined to think that when the incapacity of the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim to govern the Lebanon had been made so evident, the Porte was not bound to maintain him in office, at the risk of rendering the re-establishment of order impossible; although they cannot but be of opinion that the Porte, in consideration of the eminent services of the Emir, ought not to have effected his removal in the harsh and abrupt manner in which it was brought about. They trust, however, that the representations which, in my despatch of the 24th of February, I instructed your Excellency to make to the Turkish Government in his behalf, will have produced an improvement in his condition, and have led to his being reinstated in his property.

Assuming, then, that the Porte may be willing, when peace is restored in the Lebanon, again to intrust the administration of affairs in that district to the family of Shehab, Her Majesty's Government conceive, from what they have heard of the character of the Emir Emin, that the selection of that person for the important office of Governor of the Lebanon would be a judicious act on the part of the Porte.

I acquainted your Excellency in my despatch of the 25th of November, that Her Majesty's Government strongly deprecated the reinstatement of the ex-Emir Beshir Shehab; and in my despatch of the 27th of that month, I apprized you that Her Majesty's Government would not wish to offer any objection to the nomination of his son, the Emir Emin, if the Porte should think it necessary to remove the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim. Since the date of those despatches, accounts have been received of the Lebanon having been convulsed with civil war; and there is no one, as far as Her Majesty's Government is informed, so well calculated to remedy the mischiefs which have resulted from that calamity as the Emir Emin, who would appear in Syria with all the influence which his family connexion and wealth would enable him to exercise, and with all the advantages which the reputation he is said to enjoy for a conciliatory spirit and talents for administration, would confer upon him.

But although Her Majesty's Government think the Porte would do wisely to appoint Emir Emin, they would not wish your Excellency to take a prominent part in recommending his nomination. Your Excellency is authorized strongly to urge upon the Porte the expediency and justice of conferring the Government of the Lebanon upon a Christian ruler of the family of Shehab; but, with regard to the individual to be selected, they conceive that it would be better for the Porte itself, and more conducive to the tranquillity of the Lebanon, that the Governor, whoever he may be, should owe his nomination to the spontaneous act of the Sultan. Therefore, all that Her Majesty's Government wish that your Excellency should do in that respect would be, to offer an opinion that if the Porte

should appoint the Emir Emin, it would be taking a course which, so far as your Government could judge, would hold out the greatest promise of advantage to all parties concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 42.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 23, 1842.

NO complaints of the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Rose having been addressed to me, either officially or confidentially, by any one of the Turkish Ministers, and not having been aware that such complaints had been addressed to the Embassy before my arrival here, I made inquiry, after reading your Lordship's instruction of January 22, both of Mr. Bankhead and of M. Pisani, as to the nature and occasion of any representations bearing that character, which might have been made to them by the Porte, either in the time of Rifaat Pasha, or during the administration of Sarim Pasha.

The result of my inquiry is, that Colonel Rose's name, although it was specifically mentioned, was only mentioned in company with those of the other British officers in Syria, at a time when the Porte gave some intimation of their conduct being deemed rather more inquisitive and exacting than was found to be convenient, after the cessation of hostilities in Syria; and that when his exequatur was applied for, so far was he from being made an object of censure or complaint by the Turkish Government, much good-will and civility were shown by Rifaat Pasha in acceding to the application for that instrument.

Under these circumstances, I have thought it advisable to avail myself of the latitude opened towards the close of your Lordship's despatch, and to abstain from making any direct communication upon this delicate subject to the Reis Effendi. I have been the more inclined to take this course from having a fair opportunity of doing justice to Colonel Rose, and, in substance, attaining your Lordship's object, incidentally, and without the hazard of raising a question, which, if heretofore raised at all, has latterly at least subsided of itself. I allude to a passage in the instruction which I had occasion to address yesterday to M. Pisani on the subject of Syria. Your Lordship will find a copy of it inclosed with another of my despatches; and in what I have there said of Colonel Rose, I trust that you will perceive the expression, though reduced to a smaller compass, of the principal ideas which your Lordship intended eventually to convey to the Reis Effendi respecting that meritorious officer and zealous public servant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 43.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 21.)

Extract.)

Constantinople, February 26, 1842.

AT midnight, on the 19th instant, Her Majesty's steam-ship "Phœnix" arrived here unexpectedly, from Beyrout, with several despatches addressed to me by Colonel Rose, who had returned from Jerusalem a short time before. His object in despatching the "Phœnix" was to inform me of an attempt which had been made under the influence of Omar Pasha, the Turkish Governor of Mount Lebanon, to get up petitions by means of fraud and menace, with a view to the confirmation of the new order of things.

The "Phœnix" was also the bearer of despatches to the Internuncio from the Austrian Consul at Beyrout. His Excellency communicated them to me, and I found that they corroborated the principal points of Colonel Rose's intelligence respecting the fraudulent petitions and rigorous treatment of the Christians.

Conceiving that I could not with propriety omit to bring the subject of Colonel Rose's complaints under the notice of the Porte, I availed myself of the opportunity to hazard a fresh experiment in support of the demand already made for a reconsideration of the late arrangements in Syria.

I did not venture upon this step without the concurrence of the Internuncio, who appeared to participate entirely and without reserve in my view of the subject.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my instruction to M. Pisani.

With respect to the French and Russian Representatives, we agreed that it would be more advisable not to invite them to partake of our proceeding. The "Phœnix" had come away without any despatches for them. I apprized them, however, in general terms, of the motives which had led Colonel Rose to despatch the "Phœnix" to Constantinople, and I have since imparted to them, confidentially, the contents of my instruction to M. Pisani.

Copies of Mr. Wood's despatches to your Lordship arrived in time to afford me some additional materials of intelligence respecting the dangerous state of affairs in Syria, and I have placed extracts of them also under the consideration of the Reis Effendi.

A week has now elapsed, and the only answer I have received from his Excellency is, that the whole of my communication to him will be deliberately examined by his colleagues before he can be authorized to give me an answer, and that he is convinced, in the mean time, by intelligence received at the Porte from Mustapha Pasha, that the accounts transmitted to me are altogether void of truth.

Whatever may come of these endeavours to rescue the Porte from a false step, I trust your Lordship will be of opinion that I have not unnecessarily committed Her Majesty's Government, or exceeded the limits marked out in my instructions.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

(Extract.)

Pera, February 21, 1842.

I HAVE to direct you to wait upon the Reis Effendi at an early hour to-morrow morning, and to make to his Excellency the following communication.

The Reis Effendi is aware of the arrival of a British steam-vessel express from Beyrout with intelligence of a very unsatisfactory nature. His Excellency needs not to be reminded either of the services rendered to the Sublime Porte in Syria by the united arms of England and Austria, or of the opinions lately conveyed to his Highness the Grand Vizier as well as to his Excellency, respecting the recent change of Government in Mount Lebanon, by the several Representatives of Russia, France, and Prussia, in addition to those of the above-mentioned Powers.

The British Ambassador has now to state, in virtue of the despatches received from Syria, that the conduct of Omar Pasha is such as to expose the Sultan's authority and the peace of the country to fresh and imminent danger. Without securing the permanent attachment of the Druses, it is calculated to oppress and degrade the Christian population. The Ambassador would fail in his duty if he were to allow these dangers to gather to a head in silence. As the Representative of a Power most friendly to the Porte he is bound to call the attention of the Turkish Ministry, and if need be, of the Sultan himself, to the effects of a conduct so utterly at

variance with justice and sound policy. The discharge of this duty is the more indispensable, as the measures adopted by Omar Pasha have a direct tendency to alienate the Christian Powers.

If the Porte be really anxious to repair the late calamities, to perpetuate the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, and to establish her sovereignty on lasting foundations, let those invested with her authority show some regard for long established privileges, confirmed by promise, let them deal equal justice to all parties, and respect the claims of humanity while they enforce obedience to the law. The conduct of Omar Pasha is the very reverse of this. By main violence he compels the Christians, who have given many proofs of their loyalty, to return, without protection or means of subsistence, to the ruins of their former houses; he corrupts, without gaining, the Druses, by leaving them in possession of their plunder; he obtains signatures by force and fraud to petitions at once deceptive and insulting; nor is he deterred by any sentiments of gratitude or of duty from rendering one of these petitions the vehicle of an offensive calumny against the subjects and Government of Great Britain.

In support of these allegations the accompanying extracts of despatches received from Beyrout are submitted to the candid and serious consideration of the Reis Effendi. They are the testimonies of the British Consul-General in Syria; of one, who, alike in battle and in council, has deserved the good opinion, the gratitude of the Porte; who enjoys the full confidence of his own Government; and who leaves no effort unmade to serve the interests of this empire in concert with the Turkish authority, and to strengthen the Sultan's hold upon the allegiance and affections of the mountain tribes in Syria.

The Ambassador, no less than Colonel Rose himself, is ready to pay the utmost deference to the sovereign authority of the Sultan. He advances no pretension inconsistent with that principle. But he must be allowed, in common with the Representatives of other Powers in friendship with the Porte, to raise a warning voice against measures which are evidently undermining the best interests of the Porte. He cannot renounce his just claims to interpose amicably on behalf of those to whom the word of his Government has been pledged, and who fought so nobly for the recovery of their Sovereign's rights.

The Ambassador trusts that these representations, wrung from him by a painful sense of duty, will not be made in vain, and that his Government will have the consolation of knowing that the Porte is seriously resolved to remedy the evils now pointed out, and to remove without delay so just a cause of complaint, and of deep dissatisfaction.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, February 6, 1842.

NO people certainly had ever stronger reasons than most of the Druses have, for wishing to be well with their rulers, for, protected by them, they preserve their persons and their plunder; but the part which they have to play has already become irksome to them. It has been intimated to the Druses, that they must pull down their helwee, or sacred houses, and burn their books, both of which the Druses declined to do.

About ten days ago, the son of Sheik Hamoud Abuneked, joint Druse Governor of Deir-el-Kammar, came here and requested Selim Pasha to send back immediately all the Christians who were here, and at Sidon, and who had fled from Deir-el-Kammar; to induce Selim Pasha to do so, he presented him with three fine horses. The Seraskier gave a peremptory order to the Christians to return to Deir-el-Kammar, or, in other words, to certain destruction or pillage.

The Druses are already beginning to show symptoms of mistrust of the Turks; Omar Pasha resides in the palace of the ex-Emir Beshir, at Ibtdeen, which, as the crow flies, is about half or three-quarters of a mile from, and commands Deir-el-Kammar; the greater part of the Turkish force is with Omar Pasha, the remainder in Deir-el-Kammar; the cannon are in position at Ibtdeen.

Five Christian women in Deir-el-Kammar, nearly starved and in despair, have embraced Mahometanism; they were all immediately married according to Mussulman custom, one of them to a black slave.

The acts and feeling of the Turks render daily the position of the Christians, in this country, more degraded.

Inclosure 3 in No. 43.

Colonel Rose to Mr. Bankhead.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, February 12, 1842.

THE most convincing proof of the collusion and good understanding betwixt the Turkish authorities has been furnished by the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslan, a Druse, to the governorship of the Plain of Beyrout and of the surrounding country. He was the agent and channel of communication between the Druses and the Turkish authorities, and one of the fomenters and principal actors in the civil war. In the beginning of November last, he came into Beyrout, having been sent for by Selim Pasha to deceive the Christians (this occurred at the height of the disturbances). Selim Pasha and the Defterdar gave him a severe reprimand in public for the part he had taken; the same evening he was with Selim Pasha, he was accompanied out of town by his cavasses, and took out of Beyrout with him four mules loaded with ammunition for the Druses.

Selim Pasha and the Turkish authorities have now created for him, the chief promoter of the civil war, an employment. They have made a new governorship for him, and given to him the command of the town, village, and property of the late Emir Beshir-el-Kassim; thus, whilst they, the Turkish authorities, send this unfortunate personage, deprived by them of his high office, as a prisoner to Constantinople, asserting, at the same time, that they have no cause of complaint against him, they decorate with a sabre, a cashmere shawl and a fur pelisse, the rebellious Chief who led on his followers against his Prince, and invest him moreover with an extensive government, which comprises the house and lands of that very Prince.

Emir Emin Raslan, availing himself of the authority and power which he derives from his office, has laid forcible hands on the lands and property of the wife of the unfortunate Emir Beshir, who was sent the other day to Constantinople.

The Princess, wife of the Emir Beshir, has sent me a petition, detailing the conduct of the Emir Emin Raslan; I gave it in person to Selim Pasha, and strongly supported its prayer; he said that he would send an order to Omar Pasha respecting it, but I have had too much experience of that description of order and of promise. Besides, the first act of the Government of Omar Pasha was the appointment of the Emir Emin Raslan, and he will naturally support him to the extent of his ability.

The determination with which the authorities still continue unduly to favour the Druses, is circumstantial evidence that the greater part of them have, as I stated, received large presents of money, part of the Christian plunder, from that people.

P.S. Half of the Church of St. Anne, near Nazareth, the oldest Christian establishment in Syria, has been destroyed by the Turks. According to tradition it was founded by the mother of the Virgin.

The Druses near Solyma have taken down the bells of the Capuchin Convent, and possessed themselves forcibly of land belonging to the convent.

No. 44.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, March 24, 1842.

WITH regard to the general question of the ill-treatment of the Syrian Christians by Omar Pasha and the other Turkish authorities, your Excellency will warn the Porte against the supposition that the Christian Powers will tolerate a system of persecution directed against that class of the Sultan's subjects. The Porte is under an obligation to the Powers who signed the Treaty of the 15th of July, 1840, to fulfil the promises which it authorized the Representatives of those Powers to make, not as the Porte has alleged, to the Emir Beshir Shehab alone, but to all classes who obeyed the call of their Sovereign, and assisted in reestablishing his authority; and the Porte cannot suppose that the Powers will be indifferent to the welfare of a people, whose fidelity and courage contributed so essentially to the successful termination of the contest in Syria.

Her Majesty's Government regret to see that, instead of evincing a disposition to respect its own engagements, and to enable its allies to fulfil those which, relying on the good faith of the Porte, they made on its behalf, the Porte seeks to evade the performance of its promises, by broadly alleging that the complaints of the Foreign Agents in Syria against the conduct of the Turkish authorities, are wholly destitute of foundation. The Porte will not succeed in persuading the Powers that such is the case, when the concurrent testimony of all persons who are not in the service of the Porte, and are, therefore, not interested witnesses, denounces the conduct of the Turkish authorities in Syria as unjust and oppressive towards the Christians, and calculated to perpetuate the dissensions and the calamities which have so severely afflicted the Lebanon districts.

With regard to the particular case mentioned in Colonel Rose's despatch to Mr. Bankhead, of the 12th of February, from which it appears that the lands and property of the wife of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim have been forcibly seized by a Druse Governor, on whom the Turkish authorities have conferred the administration of the Emir's property, your Excellency will state to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government confidently expect that the Porte will send immediate orders to Syria for the reinstatement of that lady in her possessions. The Grand Vizier, as reported in your despatch of the 16th of February, did not pretend that the Emir Beshir El-Kassim had committed any crime which would authorize the confiscation of his property. On the contrary, it appears that he is allowed to present to the commission about to be assembled at Beyrout, his claim to compensation for the destruction of his property during the civil war. It is the height of injustice, therefore, that the property which escaped from the fury of his enemies, should now be wrested from him and his family by the arbitrary interference of a Turkish Governor; and your Excellency will not disguise from the Porte, that this fresh act of violence and injustice committed against a person to whose loyalty the Sultan is so deeply indebted, is calculated to produce in this country a feeling of indignation, which it is certainly far from the interest of the Porte to allow to be entertained by the British nation or Government.

No. 45.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 4.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, March 9, 1842.

I WAS under the necessity of allowing the "Phœnix" to return to Beyrout without any decisive declaration of the Turkish Government on the Syrian question. Your Lordship will have the goodness to excuse me if I reserve my explanations for a few days. I propose to write more at length by an express, which, as far as I can foresee, will set out on the 15th. The present opportunity does not afford me sufficient time for the purpose.

The Porte has issued orders for sending four or five thousand Albanians into Syria. This reinforcement may be necessary for the maintenance of her authority in that country, but there is much reason to fear that it will prove a cruel scourge to the inhabitants of the mountain.

No. 46.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, April 6, 1842.

HER Majesty's Government have seen with regret, in the concluding passage of your Excellency's despatch of the 9th of March, that the Porte has issued orders for sending into Syria a large Albanian force. The excesses of which the troops of that description were guilty at the close of the Syrian campaign, and which gave occasion for strong remonstrances being made by the British agents in Syria to the Turkish authorities there, and by Viscount Ponsonby directly to the Turkish Government, fully justify the apprehensions expressed by your Excellency, that the presence of the Albanian reinforcements in Syria will prove a severe calamity to the inhabitants of that country.

Her Majesty's Government of course do not assume to themselves the right of prescribing to the Porte what peculiar description of force it should employ in any part of the Turkish dominions, but they consider that your Excellency may, without impropriety, take an opportunity of reminding the Porte of the just complaints which the conduct of the Albanians in Syria gave rise to a short time ago, and of expressing, unofficially, the hope of Her Majesty's Government, that measures will be taken for maintaining such a degree of discipline among the forces now about to be sent, as may secure the people of Syria from a repetition of the outrages which Albanian troops are in the habit of committing in the countries where they are employed.

No. 47.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 16, 1842.

I HAVE still sufficient motives to abstain from entering at any length upon the affairs of Syria, which continue to be under discussion at the Porte, and respecting which no recent intelligence of interest has reached me from Beyrout or Damascus. It is the intention of the Porte to send down a person of confidence, in the character of Envoy or Commissary, as a kind of assessor to Mustapha Pasha, with the view of obtaining fresh information, and reconsidering the whole question subsequently at Constantinople.

On being informed of this intention, I requested that it might be

communicated to the Representatives of the Five Powers, and Sarim Effendi has promised to comply with this request. He has already, indeed, announced it verbally to the Internuncio and the French Minister, as well as to myself.

I have earnestly and repeatedly endeavoured to prevail upon him to accompany the intended communication, which is to be in writing, with some satisfactory assurance as to the employment of the Albanian troops directed, to the amount of 4,000 or 5,000 men, upon Syria; and also, as to the restoration of the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, on the occasion of a definitive settlement. The language of Sarim Effendi induces me to hope that these recommendations have not been urged in vain; but I cannot venture to rely with confidence upon the impression which it is calculated to convey.

The Porte has exhibited so much reluctance to pledge itself, in the slightest degree, to the restoration of the deposed family, and its anxiety to send fresh troops into Syria is so apparent, that unless the assurances which I have recommended, be given, it will be difficult for me to abandon the suspicion, that her only object in sending a confidential agent to Mustapha Pasha is to gain time, and, by acting upon the fears of the people, whether Christians or Druses, to establish that appearance of tranquillity which may justify the assertion that her measures have succeeded, and that there is no reason to insist upon a return to the old state of things.

With respect to the Albanians, I have spared no pains to obtain, if not an entire change of their destination, at least such a distribution of their numbers along the coast of Syria, and principally at Acre, as might relieve the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from any immediate danger of being brought into contact with them.

I have reason to believe that the Internuncio has made very decided exertions for the same purpose, and the French Minister has also made similar representations to the Reis Effendi.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 48.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 17, 1842.

I AVAIL myself of an express despatched by the Internuncio to overtake the Vienna post which started this morning, in order to transmit to your Lordship the communication which the Porte had announced its intention of making to the Representatives of the Five Powers, respecting the affairs of Syria. I did not receive it till late in the evening.

On the subject of the Albanians, the Porte has thought proper to keep a profound silence as far as this paper is concerned; and with respect to the ancient privileges of Mount Lebanon, your Lordship will perceive that their eventual restoration is very faintly and imperfectly shadowed out. There is, nevertheless, enough to indicate the sense of a necessity, if not of an obligation, to keep them in view; and, with the twofold advantage now obtained, of a deliberate reconsideration of the whole subject, and of a friendly communication with the Allied Powers thereon, it remains with the Powers themselves so to press that sense of necessity home to the conviction of the Turkish Government, as eventually to produce a rational and satisfactory result.

Selim Bey is the son of Veli, formerly Pasha of the Morea, and son of Ali Pasha of Yanina. M. Pisani informs me that he was formerly Muhassil of Smyrna, and was lately sent down to Bosnia with a commission similar to that which is now intrusted to him.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Traduction.)

LES Ministres de la Sublime Porte ne font pas difficulté d'entendre les communications sincères faites de vive voix et par écrit, et uniquement en genre d'observation, par les Missions des Cinq Hautes Puissances amies et alliées de la Sublime Porte, relativement au Mont Liban.

La Sublime Porte ne cesse un instant de songer aux mesures permanentes et énergiques propres à assurer la tranquillité de la Syrie, et le repos de ses habitans.

Mais comme les notices que la Sublime Porte acquiert, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire des Missions, sur les affaires de la Syrie, ne s'accordent pas les unes avec les autres, il a été jugé à propos de se procurer là-dessus de nouveaux renseignemens, et son Excellence Veli Pachazadé Selim Bey, un des grands personnages de la Sublime Porte, a été chargé de cette mission spéciale.

Le Bey doit se rendre auprès de son Altesse le Séraskir Pacha avec des connaissances suffisantes et les instructions nécessaires, et retourner avec une connaissance parfaite de l'état des affaires. Alors la Sublime Porte fera connaître aux Missions des Cours amies et les renseignemens obtenus, et les mesures à prendre en conséquence; et l'on adoptera un système arrêté.

Quant à Omar Pacha, on ne tient guère à sa personne; ce qui a été fait était une mesure dictée par les circonstances, et adoptée par celui qui était chargé d'une mission.

Il est superflu de dire qu'après les renseignemens positifs qu'on aura pris, de la même manière que l'on ne perd pas de vue les faveurs accordées à toutes les classes de sujets dans les bases de l'administration qui seront établies conformément à l'indépendance de la Sublime Porte, on ne refusera pas non plus au Mont Liban des faveurs propres à le contenter; ce qui sera un effet de la souveraineté et de sollicitude pour le bien-être des Rayas.

Le 5 Safar, 1258 (17 Mars, 1842).

[N.B. Having referred the original paper to Mr. Alison, he gives the following version of the two last paragraphs, as being a more exact translation of the Turkish.

“With regard to Omar Pasha, personally, the Sublime Porte attaches no importance to the question. His appointment was viewed by the Seraskier as a matter of expediency; and His Highness the Sultan will, in like manner, graciously extend to the Lebanites the same favour and sentiments of duty, with regard to the form of administration to be hereafter established (consistently with the independence of the Sublime Porte), upon the intelligence received (by Selim Bey), as may prompt him to respect the Imperial concessions granted in favour of all classes of His Majesty's subjects.]

(Translation.)

THE Ministers of the Sublime Porte make no difficulty in listening to the sincere communications made verbally and in writing, and merely by the way of observation, by the Missions of the Five High Powers, friends and allies of the Sublime Porte, relative to Mount Lebanon.

The Sublime Porte does not for an instant cease to meditate on the permanent and energetic measures calculated to insure the tranquillity of Syria, and the repose of its inhabitants.

But as the advices which the Sublime Porte receives, whether directly or through the medium of the Missions, on the affairs of Syria, do not agree with each other, it has been deemed right to obtain

fresh information thereupon, and his Excellency Veli Pasha-zadé Selim Bey, one of the great persons of the Sublime Porte, has been charged with this special mission.

The Bey is to go to his Highness the Seraskier Pasha, with sufficient acquaintance with the matter and with the necessary instructions, and to return with a perfect knowledge of the state of affairs. Then the Sublime Porte will make known to the Missions of the friendly Courts both the information obtained, and the measures to be taken in consequence; and a fixed plan will be adopted.

As for Omar Pasha, no importance is attached to him personally; that which has been done was a measure dictated by the circumstances, and adopted by the person who had a commission to execute.

It is superfluous to say that, after positive information shall be obtained, in the same manner as the favours granted to all classes of subjects will not be lost sight of in the bases of the administration which shall be established consistently with the independence of the Sublime Porte, neither will favours calculated to satisfy it be refused to Mount Lebanon; which will be an effect of the sovereignty and of the solicitude for the well-being of the Rayahs.

The 5th Safar, 1258, (March 17, 1842).

No. 49.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 27, 1842.

PRIOR to the receipt of your Lordship's instruction respecting the deposed Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, I had already replied in terms of sympathy and kindness to his applications for support. I had also directed M. Pisani, on several occasions, to express both to the Grand Vizier and to Sarim Effendi, the interest which I felt for the unfortunate Emir. I have since renewed my representations in his favour, on the part of Her Majesty's Government; and having received a visit from the Emir himself, I availed myself of the occasion to assure him that my good offices were entirely at his disposal for the recovery of his property, and the acquisition of any other object which he might have to solicit at the Porte, for his protection or comfort.

I was careful, at the same time, to hold out no hope that Her Majesty's Government would be inclined to procure his reinstatement in the administration of Mount Lebanon, and, indeed, it was evident that he entertained no wish of the kind; and I was not sorry to observe that he appeared himself to be aware of the inexpediency, on political grounds, of his returning to Deir-el-Kammar, in the present unsettled state of affairs.

The Porte has required of him to name an agent for the verification of his claims before the tribunal appointed, or rather to be appointed, by Mustapha Pasha.

He told me that the Porte had made him an offer of pecuniary assistance, though in some way that implied more responsibility than advantage, for he declined the offer, and informed me that, as he had the whole of his appointments due to him while Emir to claim, he thought it better, under his present circumstances, to take nothing on account.

The Reis Effendi consented that he should be allowed to leave Constantinople, if he preferred to reside at Brussa for instance, but he purposes to remain for the present at Constantinople.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 50.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 29, 1842.

I FEAR there is but too much reason to apprehend that the Porte is mainly seeking to gain time, by the appointment of Selim Bey for the investigation of the affairs of Mount Lebanon. He is still here, and I have not heard that any day is fixed for his departure.

In the mean time, our latest accounts from Syria are as unsatisfactory as the preceding ones. Your Lordship will, no doubt, have received direct intelligence from that quarter, of the same dates as mine, before this despatch can reach England. I inclose, nevertheless, herewith, an abstract of the principal incidents communicated by Colonel Rose. I have sent it in to the Reis Effendi, and I have also made my colleagues acquainted with its contents, suggesting to them the expediency of making a similar communication to the Porte.

The Reis Effendi, satisfied with the statements transmitted by Mustapha Pasha, makes light of ours, as if they were exaggerated. It may be so, but it is singular that my colleagues should receive accounts of the same purport as mine. Monsieur Basili particularly mentions the emigration of nearly all of the Christian inhabitants from Deir-el-Kammar to Beyrout and Saïda.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Wood agree with Colonel Rose, and the other Consuls at Beyrout, in describing the revived fanaticism of the Turks, their mistrust and increasing hatred of everything Christian, and their secret preparations for defence against foreign aggression or internal commotion.

I quite despair of being able to effect any further change in the counsels of the Porte until the receipt of instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Substance of Colonel Rose's Despatches from Syria.

SINCE the arrival of Mustapha Pasha, disorder in this country is on the increase. A most violent outrage has been committed by the Druses upon the Christians at Deir-el-Kammar, in which many of the Christians were severely wounded by clubs, and 300 of them have been obliged to save themselves by flight. Omar Pasha, although having an ample force at his disposal, looked on with the greatest indifference, and Mustapha Pasha himself showed no sympathy for the Christians, but treated the affair lightly. The Druses despise the authority of Omar Pasha, in defiance of which they have usurped the lands of Emir-el-Kassim, and of numerous other Christians. The state of the Christians is most deplorable: 15,000 of them are houseless, and 20,000 have been compelled to desert their villages: 4,000 have already petitioned the Consuls for the merciful interposition, on their behalf, of the foreign Representatives at Constantinople. The Albanians and the irregular cavalry maltreat and plunder them. They have pillaged one of their churches, and the Christians dare not even perform their devotions in them.

Their petition for a Christian ruler, Mustapha Pasha has refused to forward to Constantinople. He excites the minds of the Turks against them by the most inflammatory language, and the greatest armed activity prevails among the Moslems, who are being organized for, it is said, the object of subduing the Christians entirely. In the mean time, several of their chief men have been confined by Omar Pasha as hostages, or for

purposes of intimidation; they are subjected to forced labour for the repairs of Acre; the Jesuit building has been stopped by Mustapha Pasha; and intelligence from Egypt would appear to sanction the belief that the Porte meditates the entire expulsion of the Shehab family from Syria. Everything indicates a return to ancient fanaticism. Christians are not admitted into the local shouras. Police measures for raising funds are enforced against them. Attempts have even been made to compel the European subjects to contribute to them; and it is asserted that secret orders have been received from the Porte for withholding justice from foreigners, so as to induce them to abandon the country, and leave their fellow-Christians to their misery and degradation.

No. 51.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 23, 1842.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 29th of March, inclosing an abstract of the reports which you have received from Colonel Rose, and stating that the accounts which the Ministers of the other Powers receive from their agents in Syria, agree with those which Colonel Rose has transmitted to your Excellency of the unsatisfactory state of affairs in that province.

As my despatches of the 16th and 24th of March, which your Excellency will have received by this time, contain full instructions for your conduct and language with regard to the affairs of Syria, I have only to refer you to those despatches, and to express my hope that the language which you are therein authorized to hold, may produce a salutary effect on the councils of the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 52.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 27.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 7, 1842.

I HAVE this moment received information upon which I can rely, that Nejib Pasha of Damascus is deposed, and most sincerely do I hope, though I cannot yet take upon myself to give the assurance, that it may prove the prelude to a wiser policy in the affairs of Syria, and particularly to a more satisfactory state of affairs at Damascus itself.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

P. S. Nejib Pasha goes to Bagdad in place of Ali Riza Pasha, who takes the Pashalic of Damascus. The Reis Effendi affirms that there is no other change whatever in the matter.

No. 53.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 6.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, April 13, 1842.

ACCORDING to the latest accounts from Syria, the affairs of that country remain nearly in the same state as before. The Porte continues to profess its satisfaction at the statements transmitted by Mustapha

Pasha; and not having myself received any intelligence by the last steamer from Beyrout, I can only reply, that the information received by my colleagues is not in harmony with the impressions apparently derived from his despatches.

Selim Bey is still here, and it is still the intention of the Porte to send him to Syria for the purpose already stated to your Lordship.

No. 54.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 13.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, April 20, 1842.

ON the 17th instant, the Turkish commissioner, Selim Bey, at length embarked in a Government steamer and proceeded to the coast of Syria. The Reis Effendi says that he expects him to return in less than a month.

On the 14th I waited upon that Minister, in consequence of his invitation, and I availed myself of the opportunity, to read to his Excellency those parts of your Lordship's despatches which advert to the late change of Government in Syria, to the recall of Omar Pasha, and to the restitution of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim's property.

I cannot affirm that, upon any one of these questions, I have met with decisive success. Upon the subject of the Shehab family, I am referred to the memorandum presented by the Porte some weeks ago to the Representatives of the Five Powers. The Government of Mount Lebanon may be restored to a member of that family, but it is a question of time and circumstances which cannot be decided till after the return of Selim Bey.

The removal of Omar Pasha is in like manner reserved for eventual consideration. The Porte attaches no importance to his continuance in office, but the Seraskier, who appointed him, is to decide upon his fate, or the question of his dismissal may be part of the final determination.

With respect to the lands of which the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim's wife has been forcibly deprived, I am assured by the Reis Effendi, that orders have been sent to include them in the legal inquiry respecting the Emir's own property, with a view to their ultimate restitution.

The distribution of the Albanian forces destined for Syria has again been the subject of some discussion between Sarim Effendi and myself. I understood him at one time to promise that they should be confined strictly to the fortresses on the coast, but he has since declared that, although they are to be quartered there in the first instance, they are to be placed at the Seraskier's disposal, and that he will employ them according to the exigencies of the service. Their arrival in Syria is expected with dread, but fortunately the difficulty of enlisting them, of finding transports, and of keeping them together, is so great, as to make it probable that few of the intended number will ever reach the coast of Syria. A detachment of them was driven a few days ago by stress of weather into Tenedos, and, the garrison being weak, the Governor of that island was compelled to tolerate their irregularities, and to compromise his authority for the sake of avoiding their violence.

No. 55.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 18.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 27, 1842.

ALTHOUGH, as your Lordship is aware, I have frequently urged the Porte either to abstain altogether from sending Albanian troops into Syria, or at least not to employ them in Mount Lebanon, I sent Mr. Alison this morning to communicate your Lordship's instruction of April 6, which

reached me yesterday, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. Nearly the whole of the despatch was read to Sarim Effendi; but his Excellency was so delighted with the news of the seizure of the Druse Sheiks by Omar Pasha, without the assistance of any Albanians, that he was more inclined to boast of that feat, than to give any assurances of the nature desired by me, in addition to those which, on former occasions, I have wrung from him and reported in my correspondence with your Lordship.

According to accounts from Prevesa and Salonica, I do not think that more than two thousand Albanians are already embarked, or indeed collected, for the service of Syria; and it is to be hoped, that the opinion and advice of Her Majesty's Government, so frequently urged, and founded on views of the Porte's own interests, will not remain entirely without effect.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 56.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 18, 1842.

THE latest advices from Syria, combined with the language of the Turkish Ministers, are not favourable to the hope of an early or satisfactory settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

No fresh disturbances had taken place in the country, but, on the other hand, no real progress had been made towards the restitution of the plundered property, or the restoration of the deposed family.

Selim Bey is described as being in dependence upon the Seraskier, and the latter as devoting his utmost efforts, not without success, to the corruption or intimidation of the Christian Chiefs.

The principal result of his labour is a petition, numerously signed, in favour of Omar Pasha; and since the receipt of this petition here, and of the despatches which, no doubt, accompanied it, the Porte has given indications of an intention to persevere in the Grand Vizier's policy respecting Syria.

It appears that some of the Christian Emirs have been induced to promise that they will even come up to Constantinople, if called upon to do so, and give evidence of the sincerity with which they have signed the above-mentioned petition. Colonel Rose informs me that promises and bribes have been freely employed to produce this demonstration in favour of the Porte.

On the other hand, the people of the mountain—thus partly abandoned by their leaders—have come forward to make a counter-declaration, which has also been transmitted to the capital, and of this paper I have now the honour to inclose a copy for your Lordship's information.

In reference to these circumstances, I had some conversation with my colleagues yesterday, and I was anxious to ascertain their sentiments with regard to the expediency of inviting the Porte either to hasten the return of Selim Bey, or to afford such further explanation as might lead to an early settlement of the Syrian affair. An understanding upon this subject would seem to be the more desirable, as the Internuncio is going, in a few days, on account of his health, to the baths of Brussa, and his absence may extend to a period of six weeks.

This morning, however, the Reis Effendi has himself thrown some light upon the question. He informed Mr. Alison of his intention to invite myself and the other Representatives, to a meeting at his house on the 20th instant, by which time an officer sent up to Constantinople by the Seraskier will be out of quarantine, for the purpose of conferring upon the affairs of Syria, and communicating thereupon with Selim Bey, previous to the return of the latter from Beyrout, which, he said, was to take place as soon as the Porte's instructions should reach him.

The proposed conference will, no doubt, enable me to judge more

clearly than I can pretend to do at present, of the real intentions entertained by the Porte; and the departure of the monthly messenger will afford me an early and convenient opportunity of reporting the result to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Translation of a Petition in Arabic, addressed by the Christian inhabitants of the Lebanon to His Highness the Sultan.

WE, Christians of the Lebanon, subjects of your Highness, prostrated at the feet of your throne, have the honour to represent, that our submission and obedience to your Imperial orders are well known to your Imperial Court:—That our fidelity to your Highness cannot be called in question, for we fought with those who revolted against your legitimate crown, and have shed our blood to defend your rights, as we are ready to do evermore, and till our last breath. We have respected your supreme authority, and tolerated, till now, the Druses, our enemies; and, instead of having recourse to force, for revenging the plunders, conflagrations, and great damages occasioned by that body, we have had recourse to the equity and justice of your Highness.

Your Highness, according to your promises, has ordered the different Pashas to give us help on this occasion, and to restore us to tranquillity. We infinitely thank your sovereign clemency, and we venture, through our Deputy, to make known to your Highness the pitiful state to which we are at present reduced. Scattered far from our habitations, we have not the least security nor tranquillity; and all that has been seized and plundered by the Druses has not, as yet, been restored to us. Mustapha Pasha and Omar Pasha, not only do not provide for the urgency of our situation, but rather abuse the power that has been conferred on them.

As soon as Omar Pasha was appointed Governor of the Lebanon, far from communicating to the Porte our petition, by which we implored your Highness that one of our Princes Shehabis should be appointed to the government of the Lebanon, he constrained our Chiefs, by terror, menaces, and force, to sign another petition, which he caused to be written according to his wishes, and in their name, in which it was declared that the election made in his person was of the general acceptance and satisfaction.

Conscious, most glorious Sultan, of your benignity and humanity, the Princes and Chiefs of the Lebanon have represented by a petition, contrary to that transmitted by Omar Pasha to the Sublime Porte, that the first was written against their will, and that the universal wish was, that the Lebanon should be governed by a Shehabian Prince.

Mustapha Pasha, on his part, after his return from Jerusalem to Beyrout, assembled some of the Chiefs of the Lebanon; and, though he ordered Omar Pasha to arrest and send to Beyrout five of the Drusian Chiefs, which Omar Pasha did, in order to deceive the hopes of the population of the Lebanon, and to prevent that as little credit as possible might be given to their last petition, he wrote one according to his own views, in the name of our Chiefs and the Druses, in the following terms:—That both of them, submissive and obedient to the Sublime Porte, requested the exclusion from the Government of the Lebanon of the family of the Shehabis, and that, satisfied with the government of Omar Pasha, they desired that the same should be confirmed in this post; that anything alleged against this declaration to the Representatives of the Allied Powers, or to others, is false; and that the petition was signed, not by force, but voluntarily.

Thus are we oppressed; our Chiefs were obliged by force and violence to sign petitions in favour of such Pashas, and against their will; and

these deliberations are brought to the notice of your Highness, instead of the real and voluntary ones.

In this state of things, we servants and subjects of your Highness, of one accord, and with unanimous consent, men and women, old and young, high and low, by the means of our Deputy, supplicate, O Emperor, that you should be pleased to turn your merciful eyes upon us, and to deliver us from this oppression. Restore us to peace and tranquillity; do not abandon us in the utmost of our wants and calamity; be so gracious as to elect to the principality of the Lebanon the Emir Emin Shehab, who is now in your capital. We will be quiet and happy under this Governor. He is faithful to your Highness, and endowed with prudence and wisdom in governing; his character is free from stain. He is impartial, known to all, and generous with the poor. He has acquired the love and good-will of everybody; all the population incline to him. Chosen by his father to administrate justice in the Lebanon, he has been, on account of his good qualities, praised by every one. No one ever said the least thing against his proceeding. He is, above all, capable to satisfy the Sublime Porte and the common wishes. If your Highness do not turn your eyes on us, and is not touched by our prayers, we shall be entirely ruined. Be moved for the sake of so many persons, and by the devotion and submissive conduct of the Lebanites. Raise, magnanimous Sovereign, that voice of mercy and clemency, in order that we should be happy under your empire. We shall pray God for your preservation, and for the prosperity of your State.

(Signed in the original, by forty persons of the Deputies from the population of all the provinces of the Lebanon.)

16 *Rebi-ul-evel*, 1258 (*April 27, 1842*).

No. 57.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, May 24, 1842.

THE conference, to which Sarim Effendi announced his intention of inviting the Representatives of the Five Powers with respect to the affairs of Syria, has not yet taken place. His Excellency informed Mr. Alison yesterday that he intended to propose it for the 27th instant. His intention, I believe, is to communicate to us the petitions and reports sent up from Syria by Mustapha Pasha, and to ascertain the impression which they make upon our minds. Another reference to Syria, and, consequently, a fresh period of delay, is to precede the return of Selim Bey, and a definitive settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

Deeply as I regret this continued procrastination, it is hardly possible to resist it effectually, without incurring the charge of pressing disrespectfully upon the Porte.

No. 58.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

THE want of a suitable conveyance, the incomplete nature of my communications with the Porte, and the pressure of daily business, have occasioned a certain degree of interruption in my correspondence with your Lordship.

Nearly a fortnight has now elapsed since the conference took place, which I had previously announced to your Lordship. It was held at Sarim Effendi's house on the Bosphorus, in pursuance of his Excellency's

invitation. The Capudan Pasha and the President of the Council were present in company with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Ministers of the Five Powers were attended by their respective Dragomans, and I lament to add, that a severe attack of fever deprived me of the valuable services of Mr. Alison.

For an account of what passed at the conference, I beg leave to refer your Lordship to the accompanying report, which was drawn up from memory by the interpreters, and revised, with a view to more complete correctness, by my colleagues and myself. It will be found to contain the principal statements and arguments produced on each side, and the result was such as would naturally follow from a conflict between adverse impressions and irreconcilable testimony. The question at issue remains where it was; the Shehab family is as remote as ever from the Government of Mount Lebanon; and the only assurance given by the Turkish Ministers was, that no conclusive decision should be taken before the return of Selim Bey, or without a fresh reference to the Representatives of the Five Powers.

Copies of the papers presented to us by Sarim Effendi in the opening of the conference are inclosed herewith; and I further submit to your Lordship the report derived from Colonel Rose, which I read out for the information of the Turkish Ministers, in the course of the discussion that ensued.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

*Substance of a Conference held at the house of the Minister for Foreign Affairs,
May 27, 1842.*

A UNE heure et demie, Arif Pacha, Président du Conseil de Justice et Tahir Pacha, Grand Amiral, se trouvaient réunis chez le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et, de concert avec lui, ils ont pris part à la conférence, à laquelle assistaient aussi l'Ametehi Effendi et le premier Interprète du Divan. Etaient présens d'autre part, son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, le Ministre de France, le Chargé d'Affaires de Russie, le Chargé d'Affaires de Prusse, et le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche.

Sarim Effendi a exposé la question en disant, que des troubles étant survenus dans les montagnes du Liban, la Porte avait jugé à propos d'y envoyer, il y a environ six mois, le Seraskir Moustapha Pacha, pour s'enquérir de l'état des choses, et prendre les mesures nécessaires en conséquence; que le Seraskir avait alors démissionné de ses fonctions et envoyé à Constantinople l'Emir Béchir-el-Kassim, et investi Omar Pacha du Gouvernement de la Montagne; que les Représentans des Cinq Puissances s'étaient prononcés contre l'opportunité de cette mesure, et, en demandant qu'elle fut considérée seulement comme provisoire, avaient insisté sur le maintien des anciennes institutions, et conseillé à la Porte la réintégration de la famille de Chéhab; que la Porte, par suite de ces démarches, avait annoncé à ces Représentans, qu'elle enverrait un commissaire *ad hoc* en Syrie, chargé de prendre les informations nécessaires sur l'état des choses, et qu'après le retour de ce commissaire, elle se prononcerait sur le système à établir; que Sélim Bey s'était acquitté de cette tâche, et qu'il avait adressé à la Porte un rapport sur le résultat de sa mission, accompagné de quatre requêtes signées par des Cheiks Maronites et d'autres notables du Mont Liban. Sarim Effendi a fait alors donner lecture de la traduction de ces pièces, et a ajouté, qu'il avait réuni MM. les Représentans pour prendre leur avis et pour conférer avec eux sur leur contenu. Traduction de ces pièces a été remise à MM. les Représentans.

Après quelques discussions sur l'objet précis de la communication qui venait d'avoir lieu, et après avoir reçu de Sarim Effendi l'aveu que, tout en désirant connaître l'effet qu'elle produirait sur l'esprit des Représentans, la Porte ne pensait pas à prendre une détermination immédiate sans leur participation, l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a pris la parole pour dire que les rapports qui lui avaient été adressés de la Syrie n'étaient nullement en harmonie avec ceux de l'autorité Ottomane. Il a ajouté

que ces rapports caractérisaient les pétitions transmises par Moustapha Pacha comme ayant été obtenues par des menaces et des promesses, et qu'il avait lieu de croire que des informations analogues avaient été adressées à ses Collègues par les Consuls de leurs nations. Les quatre autres Représentans se sont empressés de confirmer l'assertion de l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre.

D'après le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, les pièces lues à la conférence établissent complètement la vérité des rapports du Seraskir Pacha, leur conformité avec les faits, et la convenance qu'il y a, dans l'intérêt de la tranquillité et du bonheur des populations (objet commun des efforts de la Porte et des Puissances), à maintenir le nouveau mode d'administration du Liban sous un Pacha Turc. Selon lui, les populations sont unanimes pour repousser la famille Chéhab, et son retour serait le signal de désordre. La Porte, dit-il, a été obligée d'interposer son autorité pour empêcher grand nombre d'habitans du Liban de venir à Constantinople intenter un procès au vieux Emir Béchir pour des violences et des exactions dont ils ont été les victimes. Il fait remarquer que les pétitions lues aux Représentans sont signées par des personnes qui se font connaître, tandis que les rapports des Consuls sont fondés uniquement sur le témoignage de malveillance et de gens sans aveu, qui vont d'un Consul chez l'autre, raconter les mêmes fables.

L'unanimité des Consuls a été de nouveau objectée au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères par les Représentans des Cinq Puissances. On a également fait observer aux Ministres Turcs, que les requêtes par eux communiquées, ne portaient la signature que d'un petit nombre de personnes ; qu'il était notoire de plus, que pour recueillir ces signatures, on avait employé les promesses ou l'intimidation ; qu'il existait des pétitions demandant le retour de la famille Chéhab signées par les mêmes personnes dont les cachets figuraient au bas des présentes requêtes. Il a été donné lecture d'une pièce où sont consignés les détails les plus circonstanciés sur les manœuvres employées pour contraindre ou engager quelques Chefs du Liban à donner leurs signatures. On a fait remarquer au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, qu'il était difficile de s'expliquer comment, sans de pareilles manœuvres, les habitans du Liban auraient pu si subitement changer d'opinion, et oublier des usages anciens et des privilèges auxquels ils tenaient tant, et dont depuis peu, et à diverses reprises, ils ont si unanimement et si énergiquement demandé la conservation.

Les Ministres Turcs ont expliqué ce changement par la diminution des impôts, 4,000 bourses au lieu de 20,000 ; à quoi il a été répondu que cette diminution de charges n'était pas une chose nouvelle, se rattachant à la nomination d'Omar Pacha, mais qu'elle remontait au réglemeut de la question Egyptienne du tems de l'administration de l'Emir El-Kassim ; que d'ailleurs il n'était pas dit que si la famille Chéhab était rétablie, le tribut dût être augmenté, puisque l'augmentation ou la diminution de ce tribut dépendait uniquement de la Porte.

On a rappelé les promesses faites aux populations de la Montagne, de concert avec le Gouvernement Ottoman, lorsqu'on avait besoin de leurs services ; et après qu'on en avait tiré parti, ces promesses ont été niées en ce sens que, selon le Ministre Ottoman, elles n'auraient été que des promesses générales de bienveillance et de protection, qu'il était prêt à renouveler, ou des promesses particulières et conditionnelles à l'égard du vieil Emir Béchir, dont celui-ci ne peut réclamer l'accomplissement, faute par lui d'avoir rempli les conditions demandées.

Les cinq Représentans ont été unanimes pour déclarer l'insuffisance des témoignages produits par la Sublime Porte. On a rappelé que les Consuls de France, d'Autriche, et de la Grande Bretagne, à Beyrout, n'ont pas hésité à demander à Mustapha Pacha de se réunir chez lui pour discuter contradictoirement les renseignemens transmis par eux aux Représentans des Puissances à Constantinople, et les rapports adressés par lui au Gouvernement Ottoman ; que cette démarche des Consuls était une preuve de la confiance que l'on doit avoir dans leurs assertions.

On a fait observer de plus aux Ministres Turcs, que la paix et la tranquillité dont ils se prévalaient comme argument en faveur du nouveau mode d'administration, reposaient seulement sur des promesses

de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman dont l'effet ne serait que temporaire ; que la principale cause de cette tranquillité était la confiance des populations dans l'heureux résultat des efforts des Puissances amies pour leur faire rendre un ordre de choses qui leur est cher, et dont le rétablissement seul peut fonder une tranquillité durable. On a ajouté, qu'en mettant de côté les mouvemens locaux de la déchéance de la famille Chéhab, il y avait dans cette perturbation violente apportée à un régime ancien quelque chose de dangereux, et un mauvais exemple pour les autres populations de l'Empire Ottoman ; que les Puissances amies ont dernièrement encore manifesté dans un acte solennel, l'intérêt unanime qu'elles portent au principe de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'elles avaient à cœur que la Porte ne fit rien qui put entraîner des conséquences contraires à ce principe.

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires d'Autriche a lu le résumé d'une dépêche de son Altesse le Prince de Metternich, en date du 17 Mai courant, qu'il venait de recevoir immédiatement avant la conférence, renfermant des considérations élevées pour montrer la nécessité du retour à l'ancien ordre de choses en Syrie.

Les Ministres Turcs, en répétant que selon eux il n'existait pas l'ombre d'un doute sur la disposition des populations ; que demander le retour de la famille Chéhab, c'était demander l'impossible, parceque les populations n'en voulaient absolument pas ; ont fait la question suivante : " Dans le cas où la vérité des rapports produits par nous serait reconnue par vous-mêmes, insisteriez-vous encore sur la réhabilitation des Chéhab ? "

Il a été répondu qu'il faudrait d'abord que cette vérité fût réellement reconnue, et qu'il ne paraissait pas opportun de discuter dès à présent une question reposant sur une éventualité rendue si improbable par l'état actuel de leurs informations.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères a proposé alors d'envoyer d'ici dans le Liban, des commissaires accompagnés de délégués des Ambassades avec des listes pour recueillir les suffrages, et constater la majorité.

Un moyen semblable, lui a-t-on répondu, ne pourrait être conforme aux vœux des Puissances amies, que s'il était combiné avec les égards dus à la dignité du Gouvernement Ottoman, ces Puissances désirant avant tout que dans l'arrangement de la présente question le Sultan agisse toujours spontanément, et figure dans tout l'éclat de son autorité souveraine.

Plusieurs considérations appuyées d'exemples tirés de l'histoire, ont été présentées, pour montrer la nécessité des ménagemens et de la prudence à l'égard des populations montagnardes, et pour rappeler les égards que les Sultans les plus puissans ont eu pour celles du Mont Liban.

On a prié les Ministres Ottomans de ne point s'exagérer l'importance et l'étendue des modifications conseillées par les Puissances dans la nouvelle forme du Gouvernement de la Montagne, le Prince de la famille Chéhab qui sera nommé, ne devant en tout cas, exercer le pouvoir, que comme délégué et serviteur de Sa Hautesse. Le Seraskir Pacha a été représenté par les Ministres des Cinq Puissances amies, comme juge et partie dans la cause, et Selim Bey comme n'ayant pas à Beyrouth cette position d'indépendance et d'autorité que devait avoir un commissaire chargé de mettre d'accord ses assertions contradictoires, et comme n'ayant pas rempli les conditions nécessaires pour donner crédit complet à ses rapports.

Trois faits ont été cités à l'appui de cette opinion. 1. Selim Bey n'a point été admis à la réunion des Consuls chez Mustapha Pacha, quoique les Consuls l'eussent demandé.

2. Selim n'est point sorti de Beyrouth et n'a point pénétré dans la Montagne.

3. Selim Bey a refusé de recevoir, sans le consentement préalable de Mustapha Pacha, les pétitions qui lui ont été présentées en faveur du retour de la famille Chéhab.

Il a été répondu par les Ministres Turcs, que Selim Bey n'était point allé dans la Montagne parceque les Maronites s'étaient rendus en masse auprès de lui, et que c'est parcequ'il n'a point encore accompli sa mission, qu'il n'est pas revenu par le dernier paquebot.

Il serait inutile de reproduire en détail le long échange d'objections et de réponses où s'est toujours manifesté, d'un côté, la croyance absolue aux rapports du Seraskir et de Selim Bey, et de l'autre, une défiance correspondante.

Pour arriver à un résultat les Représentans des Cinq Cours ont fait au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères la question suivante :—

“ Repousseriez-vous toujours la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, dans le cas où, de concert avec la Sublime Porte, on trouverait une combinaison qui préviendrait les dangers que la Sublime Porte redoute ? ”

Cette question, à laquelle le Ministre Turc a refusé de répondre tant qu'on n'aurait pas répondu à celle qu'il avait faite précédemment, a été suivie de la part de MM. les Représentans d'une série de considérations propres à montrer à la Sublime Porte que ses craintes, en admettant même qu'elles fussent fondées, ne pourraient s'appliquer qu'à des circonstances partielles et passagères, et que l'on pourrait satisfaire au vœu des Puissances sans négliger les moyens suggérés par ces mêmes circonstances.

Les Ministres Turcs ont persisté à soutenir que la seule réapparition des Chéhab deviendrait le signal d'un soulèvement, non seulement dans la montagne, mais aussi dans les autres territoires habités par les Druses ; et que la compression de ces désordres nécessiterait de grandes dépenses, l'envoi d'une force militaire considérable, et l'emploi des moyens de rigueur repoussés par l'humanité et par le vœu des Puissances.

En dehors des moyens coercitifs, n'y aurait-il pas, a-t-on demandé, quelques mesures administratives, dans le sens déjà indiqué, qui pourraient prévenir les dangers signalés par la Porte, et satisfaire tous les partis ?

Les Ministres Turcs ayant paru désirer quelques développemens, on leur a demandé si la Sublime Porte serait contraire à une combinaison par laquelle les Druses et les Maronites seraient placés sous deux chefs séparés pris dans chaque nation respective ?

Les Ministres Turcs ont répondu que cette mesure était d'une réalisation impossible, parceque les Druses et les Maronites habitent confondus dans les mêmes villages.

On leur a fait observer que ce mélange n'existait que dans deux ou trois localités, mais que la majeure partie des Druses et des Maronites habitaient des districts séparés.

Les Représentans des Cinq Puissances ont exposé aux Ministres Turcs, que lors même que le système nouvellement établi serait maintenu, il y aurait toujours, d'après les pièces mêmes produites, une partie de la population qui lui serait contraire ; que dans le cas de la réhabilitation de la famille Chéhab, s'il y avait opposition, la Sublime Porte, outre le parti favorable aux Chéhab, pourrait compter toujours sur l'appui moral de ses alliés, dans le cas contraire, elle en serait privée ; et il ne faut pas qu'elle oublie que, partout et toujours, des populations de mœurs et de religion différentes ont de la propension à tourner leurs regards vers les appuis du dehors ; il est donc très important pour le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse d'avoir cet appui de son côté.

Les Ministres ayant parlé des dépenses que la Porte devrait faire pour maintenir un Prince de la famille Chéhab, des troupes qu'elle devait envoyer, du sang qui serait versé, on leur a répondu qu'on ne pouvait pas admettre la réalité des inconvéniens et des dangers qu'ils venaient de signaler, et qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une guerre que la Porte aurait à soutenir contre les opposans, puisque d'après les adresses mêmes lues à la conférence, la réhabilitation des Chéhab ne serait suivie que de l'émigration du parti contraire, mais nullement d'une levée de boucliers. Les Ministres Turcs ont fait observer, que c'était uniquement par respect des convenances que les signatures des adresses n'avaient point articulé le mot de résistance armée, mais que la Sublime Porte savait positivement par d'autres sources, que ces signataires et leurs adhérens étaient prêts à prendre les armes à la première nouvelle.

L'heure avancée, et la stérilité des efforts faits de part et d'autre pour arriver à un résultat, ont déterminé MM. les Représentans à déclarer que leur conviction de la vérité et de l'exactitude des rapports de leurs Consuls,

n'était pas détruite par les assertions contraires des Ministres de la Porte et les pièces produites par eux, et que pour être fidèles au système de franchise suivi dans leurs rapports avec la Sublime Porte, ils devaient la prévenir qu'ils ne pouvaient se dispenser de faire connaître leurs impressions à leurs Cours.

Les Ministres Turcs ont déclaré que rien aussi de leur côté n'avait été changé à leurs convictions.

Sarim Effendi a prié alors MM. les Représentans de ne point écrire à leurs Cabinets sous l'influence des impressions produites par la conférence du jour, mais de la faire seulement après une mûre réflexion ; de ne pas se borner à dire que la Porte persiste, mais de bien faire ressortir qu'elle prend en considération sa position, les temps, les lieux, et les circonstances.

Ensuite MM. les Représentans ont engagé la Porte, au nom de l'intérêt que leur Cours prennent au bien-être de l'Empire Ottoman, d'arranger l'affaire du Liban d'une manière satisfaisante, afin de faire cesser une divergence regrettable entre elle et les Grandes Puissances ses amies.

Les Ministres Turcs ayant répondu que la tranquillité la plus parfaite régnait en Syrie, et que, par conséquent, ils ne voyaient pas la nécessité urgente d'aviser à aucune mesure nouvelle, on leur a fait observer qu'il y avait urgence puisqu'il y avait complication de rapports de la Porte avec les Grandes Cours de l'Europe.

Les Ministres Turcs ont exprimé l'espoir que quant à ces rapports, la présente question n'y porterait aucune atteinte, à quoi MM. les Représentans ont répondu qu'ils se plaisaient à l'espérer.

Avant de séparer il a été convenu, qu'aucune décision ne serait prise en conséquence de cette conférence ; qu'il n'en serait point prise sans communication préalable ; et qu'il fallait attendre le retour de Selim Bey, et les informations ultérieures qui pourraient arriver à la Porte et à MM. les Représentans.

(Translation.)

AT half-past one, Arif Pasha, President of the Council of Justice, and Tahir Pasha, High Admiral, met at the house of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and together with him took part in the conference, at which, also, the Amedgi Effendi and the first interpreter of the Divan were present. On the other side were present, his Excellency the Ambassador of England, the Minister of France, the Chargé d'Affaires of Russia, the Chargé d'Affaires of Prussia, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Austria.

Sarim Effendi stated the question, saying, that troubles having arisen in the mountains of Lebanon, the Sublime Porte had judged it fitting about six months ago, to send there the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, to inform himself of the state of affairs, and to adopt the necessary measures in consequence ; that the Seraskier had, thereupon, dismissed from office, and sent to Constantinople, the Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, and invested Omar Pasha with the government of the Mountain ; that the Representatives of the Five Powers had declared themselves against the fitness of this measure, and, requiring that it should only be considered as provisional, had insisted on the maintenance of the ancient institutions, and had recommended to the Porte the reinstatement of the Shehab family ; that the Porte, in consequence of this step, had announced to these Representatives, that she would send a commissioner, for the express purpose to Syria, who should be directed to obtain the necessary information on the state of affairs, and that after the return of that commissioner, she would pronounce upon the system to be established ; that Selim Bey had executed this duty, and had addressed to the Porte a statement of the result of his mission, accompanied with five petitions signed by Maronite Sheiks and other principal persons of Mount Lebanon. Sarim Effendi thereupon caused translations of these documents to be read, and added, that he had convened the Representatives in order to take their

opinion, and to confer with them upon the contents thereof. Translations of these documents were given to the Representatives.

After some discussion as to the precise object of the communication which had taken place, and after having received from Sarim Effendi the avowal that, while she was desirous of knowing the effect which she would produce upon the minds of the Representatives, the Porte did not meditate taking an immediate determination without their participation, the Ambassador of England commenced by saying, that the reports which had been addressed to him from Syria were nowise in harmony with those of the Ottoman authority. He added, that those reports characterized the petitions sent by Mustapha Pasha, as having been obtained by threats and promises, and that he had reason to believe that corresponding information had been addressed to his colleagues by the Consuls of their nations. The four other Representatives eagerly confirmed the assertion of the Ambassador of England.

According to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the documents read to the Conference completely established the truth of the reports of the Seraskier Pasha, their conformity with the facts, and the propriety, with reference to the interest of the tranquillity and happiness of the people, (the common object of the efforts of the Porte and of the Powers), of maintaining the new mode of the administration of the Lebanon by a Turkish Pasha. According to him, the people are unanimous in rejecting the Shehab family, and its return would be the signal of disorder. The Porte, he says, has been obliged to interpose its authority to prevent a great number of the inhabitants of the Lebanon from coming to Constantinople, to bring an action against the old Emir Beshir for outrages and exactions of which they have been the victims. He remarks, that the petitions read to the Representatives are signed by known persons, whereas the reports of the Consuls are merely founded on the evidence of malevolence, and of worthless persons, who go from one Consul to another to tell the same stories.

The unanimity of the Consuls was again pointed out to the Minister for Foreign Affairs by the Representatives of the Five Powers. It was likewise remarked to the Turkish Ministers, that the petitions communicated by them bore the signatures of a small number of persons only; that it was moreover notorious that, in order to obtain these signatures, promises or intimidation had been employed; that there were petitions demanding the return of the Shehab family, signed by the same persons whose seals appeared at the bottom of the present petitions. A document was read containing the most circumstantial details as to the intrigues employed in order to compel or to induce some chiefs of the Lebanon to give their signatures. It was remarked to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that it was difficult to explain how, without such intrigues, the inhabitants of the Lebanon could have so suddenly changed their opinion, and have forgotten ancient usages and privileges to which they were so much attached, and of which, a short time since, and repeatedly, they have so unanimously and so energetically demanded the maintenance.

The Turkish Ministers explained this change by the diminution of the taxes, 4,000 purses instead of 20,000; to which it was answered that this diminution of burthens was not a new thing, connected with the appointment of Omar Pasha, but that it went back to the settlement of the Egyptian question in the time of the administration of the Emir-el-Kassim; that, moreover, it was not said, that if the Shehab family was re-established the tribute would be increased, since the increase or the diminution of that tribute depended solely on the Porte.

The promises made to the inhabitants of the Mountain, in concert with the Ottoman Government, when there was occasion for their services, were cited; and after advantage had been taken of those promises, they were denied, inasmuch as, according to the Ottoman Minister, they were only general promises of good-will and protection, which he was ready to renew, or special and conditional promises with regard to the old Emir Beshir, of which the latter cannot claim fulfilment, in consequence of his not having fulfilled the required conditions.

The five Representatives unanimously declared the evidence produced by the Porte to be insufficient. It was stated that the Consuls of France, Austria, and Great Britain at Beyrout, did not hesitate to propose to Mustapha Pasha to meet and discuss with him the information forwarded by them to the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and the reports which he had addressed to the Ottoman Government; that this proceeding of the Consuls was a proof of the reliance which should be placed on their assertions.

It was, moreover, remarked to the Turkish Ministers, that the peace and tranquillity on which they relied as an argument in favour of the new mode of administration, rested only on promises on the part of the Ottoman Government, the effect of which would be merely temporary; that the principal cause of that tranquillity was the reliance of the people on the happy result of the efforts of the friendly Powers for restoring to them an order of things which is dear to them; and the restoration of which can alone lay the foundation of a lasting tranquillity. It was added, that putting aside the local circumstances of the downfall of the Shehab family, there was in this violent disturbance of an ancient system of Government something dangerous, and an evil example for the other people of the Ottoman Empire; that the friendly Powers have recently again shown in a solemn Act, the unanimous interest which they take in the principle of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, and that they desired that the Porte should do nothing which might involve consequences opposed to that principle.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Austria read the substance of a despatch from His Highness Prince Metternich, dated the 17th of May, which he had received immediately before the Conference, containing observations, showing the necessity of returning to the ancient order of things in Syria.

The Turkish Ministers, repeating that in their opinion there was not a shadow of doubt as to the disposition of the people,—that to ask for the return of the Shehab family, was to require what was impossible, since the people were absolutely not desirous of it,—proposed the following question, “In case the truth of the reports produced by us, should be admitted by you, would you still insist on the reinstatement of the Shehabs?”

It was replied, that it was requisite, in the first instance, that this truth should be really admitted, and that it did not seem suitable to discuss, at present, a question resting on a contingency rendered so improbable by the actual state of their information.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs then proposed to send from hence to the Lebanon, commissioners, accompanied by delegates from the embassies, with lists, in order to collect the votes, and establish the majority.

Such a measure, it was replied, could only be consistent with the wishes of the friendly Powers, in so far as it was combined with the respect due to the dignity of the Ottoman Government, those Powers desiring, above all things, that, in the settlement of the present question, the Sultan should always act spontaneously, and appear in all the splendour of his sovereign authority.

Various considerations, supported by examples drawn from history, were adduced in order to show the necessity of forbearance and prudence with regard to inhabitants of mountains, and to call to mind the respect which the most powerful Sultans have had for those of Mount Lebanon.

The Ottoman Ministers were requested not to exaggerate to themselves the importance and extent of the modifications recommended by the Powers in the new form of government of the Mountain, as the Prince of the family of Shehab who shall be appointed will in any case only exercise power as a delegate and servant of His Highness. The Seraskier Pasha was represented by the Ministers of the Five Friendly Powers, as judge and party in the cause, and Selim Bey, as not having at Beyrout that position of independence and authority which a commissioner ought to have who was charged with reconciling his contradictory assertions, and as not having fulfilled the conditions requisite for giving complete credence to his reports.

Three circumstances were adduced in support of this opinion.

1. Selim Bey was not admitted to the meeting of the Consuls at Mustapha Pasha's, although the Consuls had required it.

2. Selim had not gone out of Beyrout, and had not entered the Mountain.

3. Selim refused to receive, without the previous consent of Mustapha Pasha, the petitions which were presented to him in favour of the return of the Shehab family.

The Turkish Ministers replied, that Selim Bey had not gone into the Mountain because the Maronites had come to him in a body; and that he had not returned by the last packet, because he had not yet fully executed his mission.

It would be useless to recapitulate in detail the long interchange of objections and replies, in which, on the one hand, absolute credence in the reports of the Seraskier and Selim Bey was continually manifested, and, on the other, corresponding distrust.

In order to arrive at a conclusion, the Representatives of the Five Courts proposed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the following question:—

“Would you still reject the reinstatement of the Shehab family, in the event of a combination being discovered, in concert with the Sublime Porte, which would obviate the dangers apprehended by the Sublime Porte?”

This question, to which the Turkish Minister refused to reply so long as no answer should have been given to that which he had previously proposed, was followed on the part of the Representatives by a succession of considerations calculated to show the Sublime Porte that its apprehensions, even admitting that they were well founded, could only have reference to partial and transitory circumstances, and that it was possible to comply with the wish of the Powers without neglecting the means suggested by these very circumstances.

The Turkish Ministers persisted in maintaining that the mere reappearance of the Shehabs would be the signal for a rising, not only in the Mountain, but also in the other territories inhabited by the Druses: and that the suppression of these disorders would render necessary a large expenditure, the despatch of a considerable military force, and the employment of rigorous measures which were equally repugnant to humanity and to the wish of the Powers.

It was asked whether, independently of coercive measures, there might not be certain measures of administration in the sense already pointed out, which might obviate the dangers indicated by the Porte, and satisfy all parties?

The Turkish Ministers having appeared desirous of some explanations, it was asked whether the Sublime Porte would be opposed to a combination by which the Druses and the Maronites should be placed under two separate chiefs selected respectively in each nation?

The Turkish Ministers replied, that this measure was impracticable, because the Druses and the Maronites live mixed together in the same villages.

It was observed to them that this mixture only occurred in two or three districts, but that the greater portion of the Druses and of the Maronites inhabit separate districts.

The Representatives of the Five Powers explained to the Turkish Ministers that even if the system recently established should be maintained, there would still, according to the documents themselves which had been brought forward, be a part of the population which would be opposed to it; that in the event of the reinstatement of the Shehab family, if opposition should be offered to it, the Sublime Porte, besides the party favourable to the Shehabs, might always reckon on the moral support of her allies, in the contrary case she would be deprived of it; and she must not forget that, everywhere, and at all times, people of different nations and religion are inclined to look to external support; it is therefore very important for the Government of His Highness to have that support on its side

The Ministers having mentioned the expense which the Porte would have to incur in order to uphold a Prince of the Shehab family, the troops which she must send, the blood which would be spilt, it was replied, that it was impossible to admit the reality of the inconvenience and danger which they had pointed out, and that it was not a question of a war which the Porte would have to sustain against opponents, since, according to the addresses themselves which had been read to the Conference, the reinstatement of the Shehabs would be merely followed by the emigration of the opposite party, but by no means by a hostile rising. The Turkish Ministers remarked that, it was only from a regard for decency that the signatures of the addresses had not pronounced the word of armed resistance, but that the Porte had positive knowledge from other sources, that the signing parties and their adherents were ready to take arms at the first intelligence.

The lateness of the hour, and the fruitlessness of the efforts made on either side to arrive at a conclusion, determined the Representatives to declare that their conviction of the truth and correctness of the reports of their Consuls, was not destroyed by the contrary assertions of the Ministers of the Porte and the documents produced by them; and that in order to adhere to the system of frankness followed in their relations with the Sublime Porte, it was their duty to inform her that they could not abstain from making known their impressions to their Courts.

The Turkish Ministers declared that on their side also, their convictions were unchanged.

Sarim Effendi then requested the Representatives not to write to their Cabinets under the influence of the impressions produced by the Conference of that day, but to do so only after full consideration; not to confine themselves to saying that the Porte persists, but to make it clearly apparent that she takes into account her position, the times, places, and circumstances.

The Representatives thereupon conjured the Porte, by the interest taken by their Courts in the well-being of the Ottoman Empire, to settle the affair of the Lebanon in a satisfactory manner, in order to put an end to a difference which was to be regretted between her and the Great Powers, her friends.

The Turkish Ministers having replied that the most perfect tranquillity prevailed in Syria, and that, consequently, they did not perceive the urgent necessity of having recourse to any new measure, it was pointed out to them that there was such urgency since the relations of the Porte with the Great Courts of Europe were complicated.

The Turkish Ministers expressed the hope that, as for those relations, the present question would not impair them; to which the Representatives replied, that they would fain hope so.

Before separating, it was agreed that no decision should be taken in consequence of this conference; that none should be taken without previous communication; and that it was necessary to await the return of Selim Bey, and the further intelligence which might reach the Porte and the Representatives.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Selim Bey to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

JE prends la liberté d'annoncer à Votre Altesse, que le repos dont jouissent dans ce moment les habitans de la Montagne, est tel qu'il n'a jamais existé.

L'administration actuelle ne laisse, de l'aveu de tout le monde, rien à désirer, et les habitans de la Montagne n'en sont que très satisfaits. Messieurs les Consuls des Puissances Alliées résidant dans ce pays, sont les seuls qui considèrent les choses sous un autre point de vue.

Induits en erreur par des renseignemens aussi inexacts que perfides,

ces Messieurs continuent à prétendre dans les rapports qu'ils font parvenir à leurs Chefs de Missions, que tant qu'un Prince de la famille Chéhab n'aura été mis à la tête de la Montagne, on ne devra pas s'attendre à voir la tranquillité y régner complètement ; et que le retour au pouvoir du vieux Emir Béchir ne cesse d'être désiré par toute la population.

Le contenu de la requête présentée par les principaux Cheiks Maronites, et quelques uns des membres de la famille Chéhab, à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, pour être transmise à la Sublime Porte, est de nature à prouver tout ce qu'il y a d'inexact dans les rapports de Messieurs les Consuls ; et Votre Altesse pourra en acquérir la conviction par les rapports de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha.

Les plus notables de ces Cheiks se sont rendus en personne auprès du Seraskir Pacha, auquel ils ont remis, en ma présence, la pétition dont il s'agit.

Ils ont saisi cette occasion pour lui exprimer qu'ils avaient beaucoup à se louer du Gouvernement actuel de la Montagne, et qu'ils étaient décidés, dans le cas où, malheureusement pour eux, quelqu'un de la famille Chéhab, ou tout autre individu Druse ou Maronite, viendrait à être nommé au Gouvernement de la Montagne, à se rendre à Constantinople ; circonstance qui ne manquerait pas de remettre en danger le repos et la sécurité dont ils jouissent sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Les déclarations de ces Cheiks ne sont que très justes et très conformes à la vérité. Moi-même j'ai acquis la conviction qu'un Gouvernement autre que celui qui existe dans ce moment, serait de nature à présenter de nombreux inconvénients, et la Montagne serait à chaque instant en proie à des troubles sans fin.

Le Trésorier de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui vient d'être expédié à Constantinople, est chargé, en remettant à Votre Altesse les requêtes adressées par les habitans de la Montagne, de lui faire aussi un rapport verbal sur l'état actuel des choses dans ce pays.

Pour ce qui concerne mon retour à Constantinople, je n'attends que les ordres de Sa Hautesse, pour me régler en conséquence.

(Translation.)

I TAKE the liberty of announcing to your Highness that the tranquillity at present enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Mountain is such as has never existed.

The present administration, by the admission of every body, leaves nothing to be wished for, and the inhabitants of the Mountain are very well satisfied with it. The Consuls of the Allied Powers, residing in this country, are the only persons who look upon matters in another light.

Deceived by information as incorrect as it is perfidious, these gentlemen continue to allege in the reports which they forward to their chiefs of Missions, that so long as a Prince of the Shehab family shall not have been placed at the head of the Mountain, it must not be expected that tranquillity should prevail there completely ; and that the return of the old Emir Beshir to power does not cease to be desired by the whole population.

The contents of the petition presented by the principal Maronite Sheiks and some members of the Shehab family to his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, in order to be forwarded to the Sublime Porte, are calculated to prove the incorrectness of the reports of the Consuls ; and your Highness will be able to convince yourself of it by the reports of his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha.

The principal of these Sheiks proceeded in person to the Seraskier Pasha, to whom they delivered in my presence the petition in question.

They took that opportunity to express to him that they had much cause for satisfaction with the present Government of the Mountain, and that they were resolved, in case, unfortunately for them, some one of the Shehab family or any other individual, Druse or Maronite, should be

appointed to the Government of the Mountain, to proceed to Constantinople; a circumstance which could not fail to endanger the repose and security which they enjoy under the paternal sceptre of His Majesty the Sultan.

The declarations of these Sheiks are but very just and consistent with truth. I myself have acquired the conviction that any other Government than that which exists at present, would be of a nature to offer numerous inconveniences, and the Mountain would at every moment be a prey to endless troubles.

The Treasurer of his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, who has been despatched to Constantinople, is directed, on delivering to your Highness the petitions addressed by the inhabitants of the Mountain, to make to you also a verbal report on the present state of affairs in the country.

As regards my return to Constantinople, I am only waiting for the orders of his Highness to act in conformity thereto.

Inclosure 3 in No. 58.

Petition addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, and signed by twenty-four Sheiks.

(Traduction.)

LES vexations que les descendans de la famille Chéhab ont constamment pris à tâche d'exercer sur les notables et les autres habitans du Liban, en sont arrivées en dernier lieu à un tel point, qu'à l'exception des gens attachés à leur service, tout le reste du peuple s'est vu réduit à l'extrémité. Aussi est-ce avec beaucoup d'empressement qu'à la nouvelle de l'arrivée à Beyrout de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, nous nous sommes rendus auprès de ce haut dignitaire, pour déposer à ses pieds l'hommage de notre profond respect, ainsi qu'il était de notre devoir de le faire.

En nous acquittant de ce devoir, nous avons soumis à son Altesse la prière de nous délivrer des mains de la famille Chéhab et de faire choix d'un des fidèles sujets de l'Empire, pour nous placer sous son autorité, en même tems que nous avons supplié ce haut personnage de nous faire obtenir la grâce qu'aucun des descendans de la famille Chéhab, ni des notables Druses ou Chrétiens qui habitent la Montagne, ne peut dorénavant être appelé à nous gouverner. Notre prière fut accueillie par son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha, qui fit choix, pour être notre Gouverneur, de son Excellence Omar Pacha, homme probe et loyal, et un des fidèles serviteurs de la Sublime Porte.

Délivrés par la nomination de ce fonctionnaire au Gouvernement de la Montagne, des mains de la famille Chéhab, nous en avons rendu des actions de grâces au Très-Haut, en appelant à plusieurs reprises la bénédiction du ciel sur la conservation et la durée du règne du Sultan notre Auguste Souverain.

Grâces à Dieu et à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la haine et l'animosité qui régnaient entre nous, ont complètement disparu; chacun de nous a repris son ancienne position, et chaque individu s'est remis à l'exercice de l'état qui lui était transmis par son père et ses ancêtres. La confiance et la tranquillité ont commencé à renaître parmi la population, et l'éloignement des Emirs Chéhab n'a point tardé à produire l'effet qu'on était en droit de s'en attendre.

Sur ces entrefaites, quelques uns des Emirs Chéhab, les plus fameux par leur turbulence, profitant du départ de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha pour Devar, district dépendant de la Syrie, se sont entendus avec leurs créatures et les sujets des Puissances étrangères, pour faire répandre le bruit que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, aurait eu lieu contre le gré de la population, et sans son consentement, et que le retour au pouvoir de la famille Chéhab aurait été désiré par les habitans de la Montagne.

Ce bruit que ces individus ont fait courir, comme venant de la part des notables et de la population du Liban, n'a pas manqué de parvenir, à

son retour à Beyrout, à la connaissance de son Altesse le Seraskir Pacha.

Dans cet état de choses il ne nous reste qu'à implorer de la clémence Impériale, la grâce de ne point prêter foi ni oreille à de pareils bruits émanés des sources si perfides.

Nous sommes tous sujets et serviteurs de la Sublime Porte; loin de vouloir consentir à être gouvernés par la famille Chéhab, ni par aucun autre individu, soit Druse ou Chrétien, nous adressons au contraire à l'Empire Ottoman, notre bienfaiteur, la très-humble prière de nous donner pour Chef un de ses fidèles serviteurs.

Nous sommes tous décidément résolus, dans le cas où les paroles perfides des gens d'une si mauvaise foi venant à prévaloir sur notre demande, on s'arrêterait au parti de nous donner pour Gouverneur un des membres de la famille Chéhab, ou quelqu'un autre des habitans de la Montagne, de nous disperser dans les différentes parties de l'Empire Ottoman, afin de nous mettre à l'abri de leurs atteintes.

Nous sommes tous prêts, s'il est besoin de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, pour y déclarer verbalement, ou par écrit, que cette demande de notre part, est aussi l'expression des vœux des habitans notables et de tout le peuple de la Montagne.

(Translation.)

THE vexations which the descendants of the Shehab family have constantly endeavoured to exercise over the chiefs and other inhabitants of the Lebanon, have recently arrived at such a pitch, that with the exception of the persons attached to their service, the rest of the people has been reduced to extremity. Thus it is that with great alacrity, on the news of the arrival of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha at Beyrout, we betook ourselves to this high functionary, in order to lay at his feet the homage of our profound respect, as it was our duty to do.

In discharging this duty we have laid before his Highness our prayer that he would deliver us out of the hands of the Shehab family, and chose one of the faithful subjects of the Empire to place us under his authority, at the same time that we entreated this exalted person to obtain for us the indulgence that none of the descendants of the Shehab family, nor of the chief Druses or Christians who inhabit the Mountain, can henceforth be called upon to govern us. Our prayer was accepted by his Highness the Seraskier Pasha, who chose for our Governor his Excellency Omar Pasha, an upright and loyal man, and one of the faithful subjects of the Sublime Porte.

Delivered, by the nomination of this functionary to the Government of the Mountain, from the hands of the Shehab family, we have returned thanks to the Most High, invoking frequently the blessing of heaven for the preservation and endurance of the reign of the Sultan our august Sovereign.

Thanks to God, and to the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha, the hatred and animosity which prevailed among us have completely disappeared; each of us has resumed his ancient position, and every person is reinstated in the exercise of his situation, which was handed down to him from his father and from his ancestors. Confidence and tranquillity have begun to re-appear among the people, and the removal of the Shehab Emirs has not been slow in producing the effect which might have been expected from it.

Meanwhile, some of the Shehab Emirs, the most distinguished for their turbulence, taking advantage of the departure of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha for Devar, a district depending on Syria, have agreed with their creatures and the subjects of foreign Powers to spread abroad the report that the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain had taken place against the will of the people and without its consent, and that the return of the Shehab family to power had been desired by the inhabitants of the Mountain.

This report which these individuals propagated, as proceeding from

the chiefs and the people of the Lebanon, has not failed to come to the knowledge of his Highness the Seraskier Pasha on his return to Beyrout.

In this state of things it only remains for us to implore from the Imperial clemency the favour of not crediting or listening to such reports, proceeding from such perfidious sources.

We are all subjects and servants of the Sublime Porte; far from being willing to consent to be governed by the Shehab family, or by any other individual, either Druse or Christian, we, on the contrary, address to the Ottoman Empire, our benefactor, the most humble prayer to grant us as chief one of its faithful servants.

We are all decidedly resolved, in case, the perfidious words of such faithless people prevailing over our demand, it should be determined to give us as Governor one of the members of the Shehab family, or any other of the inhabitants of the Mountain, to scatter ourselves in the different parts of the Ottoman Empire, in order to shelter ourselves against their assaults.

We are all ready, if it is necessary to do so, to proceed to Constantinople, to declare there verbally or in writing, that this demand on our part expresses also the wishes of the chiefs and of all the people of the Mountain.

Inclosure 4 in No. 58.

Petition from the Sheiks of Mount Druse.

(Traduction.)

NOUS venons de rentrer sous le sceptre paternel de Sa Hautesse. Ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré dans la requête présentée par nous à son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, nous sommes entièrement aux ordres du Sultan, et nous renonçons à nous immiscer en rien qui concerne le Gouvernement de la Montagne. Nous avons accepté son Excellence Omar Pacha comme chef de la Montagne, ainsi que nous l'avons déclaré précédemment, et nous ne consentirons jamais à la nomination à cette place d'aucun des membres de la famille Chéhab.

Nous avons déclaré, en outre, que la requête présentée par les Emirs, les Cheiks et les Primats, tant Druses que Chrétiens, renfermant leur accession pleine et entière à la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, ne l'a été que d'un commun accord et du consentement de tous.

Or, si après cela, une des Puissances amies ou autres individus, s'avisait de prétendre que cette requête nous aurait été arrachée par force, une telle prétention ne serait ni ne pourrait être que l'effet d'insinuations perfides de ces esprits malicieux qui ont pour principe d'exagérer toujours les choses, et auxquels nous prions par cette requête que nous avons cachetée de nos propres cachets, de ne point ajouter foi.

La tranquillité qui règne dans notre pays est, en effet, telle qu'elle a été exprimée dans la requête dont il s'agit, et nous avons la ferme conviction que, sous la domination de son Excellence Omar Pacha, la situation de la Montagne finira par ne laisser plus rien à désirer.

(Translation.)

WE have just returned under the paternal sceptre of His Highness. As we have declared in the petition presented by us to his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, we are entirely at the orders of the Sultan, and we renounce all interference in anything which concerns the Government of the Mountain. We have accepted his Excellency Omar Pasha as chief of the Mountain, as we have previously declared, and we will never consent to the nomination of any one of the Shehab family to that place.

We have, moreover, declared that the petition presented by the Emirs,

Sheiks, and Primates, as well Druse as Christian, containing their full and entire acquiescence in the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain, was not presented otherwise than by common agreement, and by the consent of all.

Wherefore, if, after this, one of the friendly Powers or other individuals should undertake to pretend that this petition had been forcibly extracted from us, such an allegation would and could only be the effect of perfidious insinuation on the part of those malicious spirits whose principle it is always to exaggerate matters, and to whom we request by this petition, which we have sealed with our own seals, that no credence may be given.

The tranquillity which prevails in our country is, in fact, such as has been stated in the petition in question; and we are firmly convinced that under the rule of his Excellency Omar Pasha, the situation of the Mountain will ultimately leave nothing more to be wished for.

Inclosure 5 in No. 58.

Petition presented by the Notables of the Djich Family.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, fidèles sujets de la Sublime Porte, avons l'honneur d'exposer très respectueusement, comme il est aussi de notre devoir de le faire, que la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha au Gouvernement de la Montagne, a eu lieu avec l'agrément des Emirs et de tous les Cheiks qui habitent ce pays.

Nous avons l'honneur de déclarer également, qu'un certain nombre d'individus ennemis du bon ordre, se sont réunis à Garber, chez l'Emir Abdoullah, un des membres de la famille Chéhab, et là ils ont rédigé une pétition.

Par cette pétition, qu'ils ont revêtue de faux cachets, ces individus ont déclaré que la requête précédemment présentée par eux, au sujet de leur non-adhésion à la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne de qui que ce soit de la famille Chéhab, avait été arrachée par force à la population, et ils l'ont remis entre les mains des Puissances, pour que celles-ci la fissent parvenir, à leur tour, à la Sublime Porte.

Au bas de cette pétition figurent aussi les noms de nos cousins que ces individus y ont appliqués, au moyen de faux cachets qu'ils ont été assez téméraires pour se les faire fabriquer.

Tel est le véritable état des choses, que nous nous empressons d'exposer ici, dans l'intérêt de la vérité.

(Translation.)

WE, faithful subjects of the Sublime Porte, have the honour most respectfully to represent, as it is also our duty to do, that the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha to the Government of the Mountain, has taken place with the consent of the Emirs and of all the Sheiks who inhabit this country.

We have the honour likewise to declare that a certain number of persons, enemies of good order, assembled at Garber at the Emir Abdallah's, one of the members of the Shehab family, and there drew up a petition.

By this petition, to which they have attached false seals, these persons have declared that the petition previously presented by them on the subject of their opposition to the nomination of any person whatever of the Shehab family to the Government of the Mountain, had been extorted from the people by force, and they have delivered it into the hands of the Powers in order that these, in their turn, may transmit it to the Sublime Porte.

At the bottom of this petition appear also the names of our cousins, which these persons have affixed to it by means of false seals, which they have been sufficiently daring to cause to be made for them.

Such is the true state of affairs, which we thus earnestly represent, out of regard for truth.

Inclosure 6 in No. 58.

Petition presented by the Emirs of the Shehab Family, and the Mussulman and Christian Notables.

(Traduction.)

NOUS nous sommes soumis à l'ordre Impérial de Sa Hautesse qui nous a été transmis par son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha, au sujet de notre délivrance de la domination tyrannique de la famille Chéhab; ordre qui est conforme à la volonté du Tout-Puissant.

En nous plaçant sous les ordres de son Excellence Omar Pacha, dont la nomination au Gouvernement de la Montagne a eu lieu sur notre approbation pleine et entière, nous considérons le choix de ce personnage comme une faveur du ciel à notre égard; car, depuis que nous l'avons eu pour chef, nous avons vu le bonheur et la tranquillité de notre pays se rétablir et s'accroître chaque jour davantage.

Malheureusement, nous venons d'être informés que, sur les représentations erronées de certains individus ennemis du bon ordre, les Grandes Puissances amies de la Sublime Porte, ont fait quelques démarches auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, à l'effet d'obtenir à notre préjudice, la réintégration dans son ancien poste, de la famille Chéhab.

Notre unique demande est donc, qu'on s'abstienne de prêter l'oreille à de pareilles représentations, qui n'ont rien de réel et qui ne tendent à rien moins qu'à troubler notre bonheur et notre tranquillité, que nous sommes si heureux d'avoir recouvrés par la nomination de son Excellence Omar Pacha.

Nous sommes prêts, s'il est nécessaire de le faire, à nous rendre à Constantinople, afin de confirmer, au nom de la population de la Montagne de toute classe et de toute religion, et en notre nom propre, tout ce que nous venons d'avancer.

Nous déclarons, en outre, dans le cas où l'on voudrait nous replacer, à tout prix, sous les ordres d'un des descendants de la famille Chéhab ou de quelque autre individu originaire de la Montagne, que nous ne manquerons pas d'aller nous établir dans d'autres pays de l'Empire Ottoman, en abandonnant les nôtres.

(Translation.)

WE have submitted to the Imperial order of His Highness, which has been forwarded to us by his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha, on the subject of our deliverance from the tyrannic rule of the Shehab family, which order is in conformity with the will of the Almighty.

In placing ourselves under the orders of his Excellency Omar Pasha, whose nomination to the Government of the Mountain has been effected with our full and entire approbation, we consider the selection of this person as a favour of heaven in our behalf; for since we have had him as our chief we have beheld the happiness and tranquillity of our country re-established and augmented daily more and more.

Unfortunately, we have been informed, that upon the erroneous representations of certain persons, enemies to good order, the Great Powers friendly to the Sublime Porte, have taken some steps with the Government of his Highness, in order to procure to our prejudice the re-instatement of the Shehab family in its ancient post.

Our sole demand, therefore, is, that people should abstain from listening to such representations, which are destitute of reality, and tend to nothing

less than to disturb our happiness and our tranquillity, which we are so fortunate as to have recovered by the nomination of his Excellency Omar Pasha.

We are ready, if it is necessary to do so, to proceed to Constantinople, in order to confirm, in the name of the people of the Mountain of every class and of every religion, and in our own, all that we have now alleged.

Moreover, we declare, that in case it should be desired to replace us, on any terms, under the orders of one of the descendants of the Shehab family, or of any other native of the Mountain, we will not fail to proceed to establish ourselves in some other countries of the Ottoman Empire, abandoning our own.

Inclosure 7 in No. 58.

Statement of Zutfalla Fader, Agent for the House of Murad.

GIBRAN EL AURA, the Arabic Secretary to Mustapha Pasha, had written a few weeks ago to Emir Beshir Said Bey of Brumana, urging him to come down to this town to see the Seraskier, and that it was for his good to come down immediately.

Emir Beshir, therefore, by orders of the Pasha, came down eight days ago. As soon as he arrived, Gibran el Aura called upon him, and invited him to go together to take the air near the river of Beyrout; thus Gibran and Emir Beshir went to the river on the following day, and Gibran said as follows :

“You know, oh! Emir, that I wish you well in every respect; therefore, all my advice to you cannot but be for your good. The Seraskier wishes you to write a petition like this;” and he (Gibran) handed him a copy of a petition, the nature of which is nearly as follows :

“We, the undersigned, have formerly presented a petition to the Pasha for the Porte,—that we are anxious that the Governor of Lebanon should be such whom the Porte chooses, and that we may be entirely under the Porte’s orders; and, also, that we can by no means accede to have any of the Shehabs as a Governor; and, also, we have stated, and we beg now to state, that we have every reason to be pleased with Omar Pacha’s government. He is administering justice, and the country is perfectly tranquil, and now we wish that the same Governor (Omar) shall continue, and we will never submit to have any of the Shehabs; and that if any petition had been sent formerly, by the Chiefs of the Mountain to the Representatives of the friendly Powers, that must be considered false.”

Emir Beshir of Brumana was surprised to see this petition, and told Gibran el Aura, “How can we sign such a petition, contrary to our wishes and interest?”

Aura replied :

“If you do not sign it you will bring upon yourself all mischief, and you will be treated as the other people in prison. This must be done, and no remedy. You must listen to what I tell you, otherwise you will repent. But if you would sign it, then I promise you the government of the districts between Maamiltein and Mudaridge. Oh! Emir Beshir, do listen to what I tell you.” In short, he, Gibran, induced him to write the petition.

On the following day the Emirs were summoned by the Pasha. Emir Beshir, Emir Murad, and Emir Seid Ahmed, waited upon the Pasha, but they were conducted to the Hasnadar. The Hasnadar asked them to sign the petition, and Emir Beshir signed it; when Emir Murad delayed to annex his seal, the Hasnadar looked angry, and said :

“Do you not believe what we say? Give me this petition.”

Then Emir Murad got alarmed, and immediately sealed the petition, and, of course, the rest have followed.

Gibran el Aura had told the Emirs, “Take care not to say any thing.”

It was in this mode of proceeding the petition was signed.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 9, 1842.

MY other despatch of this date informs your Lordship of the circumstances under which the Syrian negotiation has come to a stand. I cannot at present perceive any likelihood of our being able to overcome the resistance of the Porte without fresh instructions. I must, therefore, for my part, have recourse to your Lordship, hoping that the forced tranquillity which now subsists in Mount Lebanon, may continue for some time longer, and that the removal of the Albanian troops, and the adoption of immediate measures for the restitution of the plundered property, which I have again urged strongly at the Porte,—and not without assurances of success,—may afford some consolation to the inhabitants of that district during another anxious period of uncertainty and apprehension.

With deference to your Lordship's judgment, it appears to me that, supposing the Five Powers do not see fit to authorize the employment of stronger language by their Representatives, we have no choice but either to acquiesce in the permanent destitution of the Shehab family, or to render its restoration more palatable, by proposing to accompany it with measures tending to increase the authority of the Porte, and to secure the peace of the country. The Porte has hitherto manifested no inclination to enter into any such arrangement; but the case would, perhaps, be different, if a proposal, founded upon that principle, were addressed to her under the immediate sanction either of Her Majesty's Government alone, or of the Five Powers acting in concert.

It occurs to me that if this idea were entertained, the following outline, comprehending Prince Metternich's suggestion respecting the Druses, might possibly be found not wholly undeserving of attention. The whole Government of Syria might be entrusted to a single Pasha of the highest rank, and, under him, each district might be administered by an inferior officer,—a Christian for the Maronites, and a Druse for the Druses; the subordinate governors having no military command, except by delegation from the Chief, and their authority being purely of an administrative character. The Druses might be further indulged with having an accredited agent at the Porte; and a Turkish officer charged with communicating between the Christian Emir and the Turkish Governor-General might be stationed, perhaps even with the addition of a small military guard, at the chief place in the mountain. A firman regulating the payment of tribute, and securing the ancient privileges of the inhabitants, whether Druses or Maronites, might help to cement the arrangement. With respect to the villages of mixed population, they might be placed under the administration of those Emirs who have taken part with Mustapha Pasha, subordinate, however, to some other authority.

I am not aware that any insurmountable or even serious objection could be maintained against this plan of settlement, and the Porte being only averse to the restoration of the Shehab family, because it is her policy to exclude the Christians from any participation in the Government of the country, would not, perhaps, reject the Emir Emin under the restrictions proposed above, the moment that they felt the necessity of admitting a compromise similar to what I have suggested.

It is not without much need of your Lordship's indulgence that I venture to submit this idea for consideration, and I beg leave to add that, in the event of my being instructed to submit and recommend it to the Porte, a clear explanation of the grounds on which Her Majesty's Government decline to renounce their support of the Shehab family would be indispensable to afford it a fair chance of acceptance.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

STRATFORD CANNING.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 4.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 17, 1842.

SINCE I last had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the affairs of Syria, the petitions, announced by Colonel Rose, in favour of the Shehab family have been received here by one of the agents of the Maronite Patriarch, and, after some hesitation, presented by his colleague's interpreter to the Porte. I am told that the Reis Effendi, on receiving them, inquired whether any of the names subscribed were also to be found on the petitions sent up by Mustapha Pasha. Upon receiving an affirmative answer to this question, he further inquired why the petitions had not been presented through the Seraskier, and a silent smile was the reply which his Excellency obtained from the bearer of them.

I told the agents who consulted me, as I have told my colleagues who inquired what I intended to do, that the introduction of the ex-Emir Beshir's name into the petitions was a bar to any active or emphatic recommendation of them on my part, and that all I could do was to apprise the Reis Effendi of my acquaintance with the fact of their presentation, and to hold them up as an additional evidence in corroboration of what we had stated and urged at our Conference with the Turkish Ministers.

One of the Maronite Agents who had consulted me as to the presentation of the petitions, proposed to erase the Emir Beshir's name, and to leave only that of his son. I told him that I had no more advice to give upon this point than upon the other, and that, in my judgment, it was for those who were immediately concerned, to act in respect of both points as their interest and sense of duty concurred to require.

Under these circumstances, I am more than ever desirous that your Lordship should take into early and favourable consideration the suggestions contained in my last despatches. I cannot conceive in what other way the question at issue can be settled; and whether I look to the Sultan, to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, to the interests of Europe, or to those, more especially, of Great Britain, it appears to me that the least delay beyond what our present situation prescribes, is to be deprecated.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 30, 1842.

WITH respect to Syria, his Excellency the Reis Effendi produced the petitions presented to him by the agent of the Maronite Patriarch, together with two or three fresh documents transmitted by Mustapha Pasha. Translations of these papers are to be communicated to me; and my attention was directed to a circumstance, which, in the absence of proper explanations, appears to throw no small degree of suspicion upon the signatures and character of the petitions. It seems that, of forty individuals alleged to have signed by compulsion the petitions against the restoration of the Shehab family, only three have subscribed their names to the statement denying their having pretended to speak for the nation at large; and the remaining thirty-seven signatures, though subscribed to the counter petition, are not to be found among those which figure on the petition sent up by Mustapha Pasha.

I have engaged my word to give this circumstance and the documents, with which it is connected, every fair and reasonable consideration, observing, in the mean time, that the prayer of the petitioners went far to corroborate what I had joined with my colleagues in stating at our col-

lective conference, and referring to the opinions, which, in concert with them, I had expressed on that occasion, but not omitting to remark, that the recommendation of the ex-Emir Beshir was far from being in harmony with the wishes and impressions of Her Majesty's Government.

The Reis Effendi affirmed that none of those Ministers had as yet made any communication to the Porte respecting the newly received petitions; and, if he was not sparing in the charges of cruelty and rapacity urged against the ex-Emir Beshir, he shewed but little disposition to treat the character of his son, the Emir Emin, with more forbearance.

No. 62.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 16.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 27, 1842.

AT the risk of exhausting your Lordship's patience, I must again revert to the question of Mount Lebanon and its inextricable affairs.

My latest accounts from Beyrout are chiefly copies of those which were addressed to your Lordship by Colonel Rose and Mr. Moore in the early part of the month. They tend but too much to corroborate the charges alleged against Mustapha Pasha, and afford additional evidence both of the extreme difficulty of bringing the country into order upon either of the two conflicting principles, and also of the extreme hazard of prolonging its present state of uncertainty, mistrust, and alarm.

A letter from Colonel Rose, addressed to myself, and dated the 11th instant, describes the agitation produced in the Kesrouan by the violent proceedings of Mustapha Pasha, and the efforts made by him and the other Consuls to maintain the Sheiks in a state of submission, which terminated in the flight of many, and the seizure of a few. Of this letter I have the honour to inclose an extract herewith, on the chance of its containing intelligence not previously known to your Lordship.

The Porte has probably received an account of the same transactions from her own agents in Syria; but I have communicated verbally to Sarim Effendi the substance of what has come to my knowledge respecting them, with a strong comment upon the impolicy and injustice which they display, and an urgent entreaty that measures of a corrective nature may be immediately adopted.

I do not venture to expect any satisfactory result from these communications. Your Lordship is already aware that the Grand Vizier, and the majority of the Council are, without exception, of the same opinion as the Seraskier, whose conduct in the great command which has been intrusted to him is, to say the least of it, so extremely reprehensible. My only real hope of effecting any improvement in that respect is founded upon the decision to be taken by Her Majesty's Government with reference to my late communications to your Lordship. The Sultan, I trust, perceives the necessity of coming to a settlement, and when he is satisfied that the Turkish view of the subject has been fairly considered by England, and judged in a friendly and unprejudiced spirit to be inadmissible, I shall be greatly disappointed if he does not adopt the advice of Her Majesty's Government, although it may not be in complete harmony with his present wishes and convictions. No such advice, I am sure, will be given without a full and dispassionate consideration of the question at issue in all its bearings, and without a sincere desire of providing for the peace of Syria and the Sultan's authority, as much as for the welfare of the Christians in Mount Lebanon.

It is impossible to deny that the question presents very great difficulties, which, although they may be in part, or chiefly, the consequences of Turkish misrule and local intrigue, are nevertheless too real and too deeply rooted to be overlooked, or set aside with indifference.

To be effectual for the maintenance of order, the reinstatement of a Christian Emir in the administration of the Mountain, will require the full

support of Turkish power. Yet Colonel Rose has expressed his apprehension that the Turkish authorities would secretly act against the Prince when reinstated in his former position.

It would be almost impossible to reunite the Druses and Christians under a Maronite Chief; and the separation of the two communities under different chiefs, would also have its difficulties, inconveniences, and dangers.

The Turks have succeeded in dividing the Christians into two parties, and arraying the passions and interests of both against each other, by reviving those feudal rights which had merged in the ascendancy of the Shehab family, and by sanctioning claims to property long since confiscated.

It would, further, be a great mistake to suppose that all the personal virtues and sound principles of government wanting on the side of the Turks, are to be found in full perfection on the side of the Christians.

Her Majesty's Consul at Beyrout, in writing upon this subject, remarks, that the whole body of the Lebanon chiefs, not excepting even the clergy, is corrupt; and again, that while the mass of the people would prefer a Christian Prince, the results of his restoration to power are now become very problematical.

The appearances of support by a considerable portion of the Sheiks and Emirs, though obtained in favour of a Turkish Governor by corrupt means, are, to a certain degree, embarrassing; especially when many who have signed the petitions on that side, declare their readiness to come up to Constantinople, and confirm their signatures by personal testimony. Some at least among those petitioners must be influenced by strong motives of interest; and they can hardly have failed to raise an insurmountable barrier between themselves and the party to which they are opposed.

In many instances the ancient ties which bound the Chiefs to their dependents, and formed so many links in the chain of social order, must now be greatly weakened, if not altogether broken and dissolved.

Other considerations of scarcely less importance deserve to be kept in view.

There is nothing in the whole series of recent events but what is calculated to deprive the Maronite population of all self-confidence. They have done nothing for themselves, and in every direction they have found either hostile neighbours, faithless protectors, or uncertain friends. The general preference of the Shehab family does not appear to be of an ardent or enthusiastic character. It would seem to be the offspring of custom and comparison, rather than of positive approbation and attachment.

Quite as much confidence would seem to be placed in the vigour of the old Emir Beshir, as in the untried merits of his son. The agents of the Patriarch would not scruple to insert either, or almost any, name, in the petitions committed to them for presentation to the Porte.

It may also be remarked, that the task of a Christian Emir, replaced in the government of the Mountain, is becoming daily more difficult, not only with respect to the Druses, but even in reference to his own people. While the power of the Porte is exercised with greater mildness and regularity than heretofore, the faults and oppressions of an ignorant local chief are more likely to be felt and resented, in proportion as the mountaineers are shaken out of their old habits, and acquire, by painful experience, a wider range of comparison and observation.

In connexion with these sources of doubt and perplexity, there remains that partial difficulty which bears upon the districts inhabited by a mixed population of Druses and Christians.

Upon a review of all these circumstances, and others which will not escape your Lordship's penetration, I cannot look forward without anxiety and apprehension to the future condition of Mount Lebanon, whatever may be the ultimate decision of the Allies or of the Porte. It bids fair to become a standing field of battle for the array of adverse systems of hostile passions; and there is but too much reason to doubt the possibility of preventing this evil by a simple unaided reinstatement of the deposed family, even if that be practicable without the employment of stronger

measures than any which the Allies have hitherto allowed themselves to contemplate.

I repeat, that it is only from your Lordship and from Her Majesty's Government that the means of bringing about a final settlement of affairs in Syria, can now be expected to proceed; and it is quite unnecessary for me to urge the paramount importance of hastening that decision which is rendered necessary by the obstinate adherence of the Porte to her own view of the subject, and by the inefficiency of those exertions which I have made, in concert with the Representatives of the other Five Powers, to overcome it.

They, it seems, like myself, continue to take advantage of such incidents as arise to operate on the opinions of the Turkish Ministers, but our action under the present instructions is too feeble to pass for more than a reminder of what we urged at our conference, and an evidence of the attention still directed by the five principal Cabinets of Europe to the course of events in Syria, and the final condition of that province.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, June 11, 1842.

ON Wednesday, the 8th, at midnight, Captain Michell informed me that horsemen had arrived at Gazir with orders to arrest as many as forty-five Christian Chiefs and commoners, all of them favourable to the Shehabs. I immediately went on board, and learnt from a priest who had just come from Gazir, that this occurrence had produced the greatest excitement; that several Chiefs wished to take refuge in the ships, and that they declared that if they could not do so, they would run on the horsemen who had been sent to arrest them, and kill them. I immediately wrote a note to an influential priest there, telling him to acquaint the leading people that one act of violence would be ruinous to the people; that either that, or a movement towards the ships, would probably cause the march of the Albanians to the Mountain; and that, in short, so repugnant to me would be any act of violence to the authorities, that if it took place, I would request Captain Michell to take the frigate and steamer off the coast, in order to mark our disapproval of any recourse to force. This advice had the desired effect, except that the people did not stop to be taken, but ran away; but there has not been the slightest resistance. On the contrary, a horseman was seen yesterday, bringing in a prisoner single-handed, from the heart of the Kesrouan; another also has been taken.

I thought it possible that the Seraskier, after what had passed, might not receive my counsel in an agreeable spirit. I therefore got M. d'Adelbourg to go to him, and represent the danger and impolicy of sending a few horsemen to arrest the most influential people in the country, because they had not signed a petition in favour of Turkish rule; his Excellency having declared, over and over again, that everybody might act, in that respect, as he liked. The Seraskier declared that he did not know where Gazir (the capital of the Kesrouan), was; that he had sent no horsemen to arrest persons,—in short, that he knew nothing whatever of the matter. This is not credible; for a person here positively states that he saw the list of persons to be arrested with Omar Pasha, and that it was signed by Mustapha Pasha. The arrests were, therefore, part of an old plan to cause disturbance in the Mountain, and thus justify the march of Albanians into it, and compromise me as the cause of the outbreak by having given refuge to the Emir Abdullah. I got Mr. Ravris quite to agree with me as to the non-advisableness of taking people on board the ships. I also begged M. d'Adelbourg to tell the Seraskier that so full of risk was the measure of arresting popular chiefs on a popular question, that Captain Michell had been kind enough to allow me the use of the steamer to take the news to your Excellency, were so dangerous a measure persisted in.

No. 63.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 21, 1842.

THE recent accounts which have been received by Her Majesty's Government of the state of Syria, although presenting some features of improvement, are, on the whole, far from satisfactory. It is impossible that we should not continue to view with interest the condition of this province; at the same time, it must be matter of grave consideration to what precise extent of interference the Allied Powers would be justified in resorting, for the purpose of applying a remedy to existing evils, and consistently with a due regard for the independence of the Porte.

The situation of the Christian population might, under any circumstances, have called for the sympathy of European Governments; but, in the present case, our intervention is authorized, to a certain extent, by positive engagements.

With a view to induce the inhabitants of Syria to assist in the liberation of the province from the yoke of the Egyptians, promises were made by the Allies, and especially by British agents, with the sanction and on the behalf of the Turkish Government, which it is essential to our honour and good faith, that we should see fulfilled. These engagements appear chiefly to have referred to the preservation of the privileges of the Christian population, to a remission of taxation, and, generally, to an improved administration of the province. Provided these results be secured, it must be a matter of comparatively less interest to the Allies, by what means it shall be effected.

The amount of taxes exacted by the Porte has already been greatly reduced, and there appears to be no reasonable ground of complaint on this head. But the insecurity of life and property, the absence of law and order, and the numerous acts of individual oppression, are such as loudly to call for the immediate attention of the Sultan and of his Allies.

No doubt, the restoration of the Government of Mount Lebanon to a member of the family of Shehab, appeared to offer a natural guarantee for the security of the Christian privileges; and the demand made at Constantinople to this effect by the Representatives of the Allied Powers, although made without instructions, was approved by their respective Governments.

It must, however, be admitted, that no positive engagement had been entered into by the Turkish Government on this subject; and it is indeed obvious that this condition cannot reasonably be considered as indispensable. It may happen that the government of the Mountain could not properly be entrusted to any member of the family, in consequence of personal disqualification, or from other sufficient causes. In truth, at the present moment, there appears to be but one individual of this family, whom it could be considered expedient to invest with supreme authority. The late Emir Beshir-el-Kassim, although highly estimable in many respects, has proved himself, in the opinion of all, to be unequal to the difficulties of the situation, and has made his maintenance in the Government impracticable. His uncle and predecessor the ex-Emir Beshir, by his long administration of rapacity and oppression, has rendered himself so odious, that his restoration to power would be even worse than the nomination of a Turkish Governor.

Your Excellency has not been instructed to press upon the Porte the appointment of the Emir Emin, the son of the ex-Emir Beshir; but from his character and popularity in the district, Her Majesty's Government would have seen his nomination with satisfaction, and would have been disposed to think that it might have insured to the Mountain the blessings of tranquillity and good government. At the same time, whatever may

be the recommendation of this individual, it is clear that the pretensions of the family of Shehab, resting upon no positive hereditary right, are not such as we could safely maintain in the face of all opposition by the Turkish Government.

We must also recollect that the Druses may entertain obstinate and well-founded objections to the restoration of this family to supreme power. In addition to the causes of ancient hostility, the recent encroachments of the Maronite Princes have gradually weakened, and even destroyed, the authority of the Sheiks Beshir, or local Druse Governors, who exercised jurisdiction, to a certain extent, over the individuals of their own nation, but which office has been finally annihilated altogether by the tyranny of the ex-Emir Beshir.

Taking into view the existing state of Mount Lebanon, and having reference to the long-continued hostility of the Druses and Maronites, rendered still more inveterate by recent events, it has always appeared to me that the most natural and judicious course would be, for the Porte to select a native Chief from among each of these people, who should respectively govern his own nation, under the superintendence and control of a Supreme Turkish Authority, either at Damascus or elsewhere; but which should never be brought into immediate contact with the population of either persuasion. In this case, of course, it would be necessary that Omar Pasha should be displaced from the government of the Mountain, even if his removal had not been required by other considerations.

I have been informed that difficulties would attend the execution of this plan, in consequence of the great intermixture of the Druses and Maronites, which might render their separate government scarcely practicable. This may certainly be the case in particular districts, and some means must be devised to remedy the inconvenience; but it is not believed to exist to any great extent; nor would it present any insuperable obstacles to the adoption of the project.

At all events, the Austrian Cabinet has recently suggested a mode of settlement of this description, which I am happy to find that the Turkish Ambassador at Her Majesty's Court is disposed to view favourably, and which, before his departure from Vienna, he had already recommended to the consideration of his Government.

Your Excellency has also seen in such an arrangement, the best practical solution of our existing difficulties; and I have reason to hope that it will not be otherwise regarded by your Colleagues at Constantinople.

I do not think it material very accurately to weigh the relative value of the petitions from Syria, received by the Turkish Government, and by the Representatives of the Allied Powers. That a Christian population should profess to desire the appointment of a Turkish Governor, certainly appears extraordinary, and affords reason to suppose that such petitions must have been obtained by undue means. At the same time, it must be admitted that the restoration of the ex-Emir Beshir, which is comprised in the prayer of the counter-petitions, is as little likely to be the real desire of the people as the establishment of a Turkish Pasha.

It is not easy, in any country, to ascertain the genuine opinions and wishes of its inhabitants in matters of this kind. But in Syria, without the means of free inquiry and deliberation, and exposed to every species of intimidation, corruption, and intrigue, anything like a popular voice, expressed in this matter, must be very uncertain.

Our chief obligation is to look to the execution of our own engagements, to the security of the Christian population, the preservation of their privileges, and the general improvement of the district. But we must be careful not to attempt too much; and we ought to recollect, in our endeavours to promote the welfare of the inhabitants, that we are dealing with a Turkish province, into which it must always be difficult to introduce the enlightened systems of government which prevail in many States of Europe.

Your Excellency will, acting in concert with your Colleagues, submit to the Porte a proposal for the establishment of an administration in

Syria, founded on the principle I have already explained. You will recommend it by such means, and under such modifications, as may be most likely to obtain the assent of the Turkish Government, and to facilitate the success of the measure when adopted. Your local knowledge and experience will enable you to offer the necessary suggestions for this purpose.

With reference to the mode of your communications, I am disposed to concur with your Excellency in thinking, not only that it will not be necessary henceforward to act upon the Porte by joint notes or representations, but that it will be preferable, except perhaps on very peculiar and urgent occasions, to abstain from such a system, as presenting too much the air of assumed mastery on the part of the Allied Powers, and therefore likely to irritate the Porte, and to excite its resistance, rather than to conciliate and to persuade.

But if it be thought desirable to lay aside this system, it is most essential that the same practice of mutual consultation and of deference towards each other, which has hitherto prevailed amongst the Missions of the Allied Courts at Constantinople, should still be adhered to, and a strictly concurrent line of action adopted on all great occasions; although each Minister may present to the Porte the result of such joint and united deliberations, in the manner which his own judgment may lead him to consider as best calculated to produce the end desired by all.

I cannot close this despatch without again calling the attention of your Excellency to the continued presence in Syria of Albanian troops. You have already protested against the employment of this irregular and undisciplined force in such a service; and I have to enjoin you to repeat your remonstrances, in case they should unfortunately still be necessary. These barbarians have committed outrages of the most revolting description, and have spread terror throughout the peaceful inhabitants of the country. In a province where so much is required to conciliate the good will and affection of the Christian population, it appears a species of perverseness quite inexplicable, to employ a force of this lawless and ferocious character, and whose fidelity to the Turkish Government itself is even doubtful.

In my first instructions to your Excellency, relating to Syria, I pointed out the importance of employing only regular and well-disciplined troops in the province; and I am quite at a loss to understand how advice so obviously consistent with the true interests of the Porte, should have been entirely disregarded.

I have urged this subject in the strongest manner on the attention of the Ambassador of the Sultan at Her Majesty's Court, who has promised to represent to his Government the necessity which exists for the immediate recall of the Albanians from Syria.

One thing is certain. With every desire to respect the independence of the Porte, to abstain from all interference in the internal administration of the empire, and, making allowance for the many and great difficulties in the government of Syria, the Powers of Christendom will never tolerate a continuance of these excesses, which are, in truth, perfectly gratuitous, and which it is manifestly in the power of the Turkish Government at once to check.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 64.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 4.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, July 17, 1842.

THE reports of what occurs in Syria being conveyed to England directly from the Consuls themselves, a repetition of them by me would be a needless tax upon your Lordship's patience; and it is hardly necessary for me to add, that I have omitted no suitable opportunity of either communicating to the Turkish Government the wishes and complaints of the Maronite population, or fixing its attention upon the disappointment and injury occasioned by its measures and the conduct of its agents in Syria.

No. 65.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 3.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, August 16, 1842.

THE instructions respecting Mount Lebanon, contained in your Lordship's despatch of July 21, shall be carried into effect to the best of my humble ability, and I am inclined to think, though I cannot pledge myself to the correctness of the impression, that the Porte is already prepared to acquiesce in the views of Her Majesty's Government, especially with respect to the removal of the Albanian troops from Syria, or at least from the Christian parts of that province. I have communicated with each of my colleagues upon the subject, and I am happy to find that they are all quite ready to act in concert with me for the execution of your Lordship's instructions. Neither the French Minister, nor the Russian and Prussian Chargés d'Affaires have yet received the additional instructions of their respective Courts, but they are equally willing to proceed at once in the prosecution of the common object, such as it is indicated in your Lordship's despatch.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs will, in all probability, refer us to the approaching return of Selim Bey, who is expected to reach Constantinople in a few days. Time will, I think, be gained by putting the Porte in possession of our suggestions before his arrival.

Meanwhile, a new set of petitions, affirmed to be signed or sealed by more than 11,000 inhabitants of the Mountain, has been presented to the Porte in favour of a Christian Governor, and the re-establishment in that capacity of some individual member of the Shehab family.

That difficulties of the nature described by your Lordship, are to be encountered in the course of our efforts to settle the affairs of Mount Lebanon upon the proposed principle, is unquestionable; but I trust that it will not be found impossible to overcome them, if once the Porte can be persuaded to enter with us into a fair and friendly consideration of the subject.

I am no less surprized than your Lordship at the obstinaey, and I may justly add, the insincerity and deceit, with which the Porte has persisted in employing Albanians for the intimidation of the Christians of Mount Lebanon. The idea originated, I believe, with the Grand Vizier, and the double motive of removing them from their own province, and employing them in mountain warfare, to which they are particularly accustomed, was probably the cause of its adoption. I have spared no pains to hasten their recall, and have more than once received a promise that my representations should be complied with.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 66.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 15.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, August 26, 1842.

I HAVE agreed with my colleagues as to the most advisable mode of carrying into effect your Lordship's instructions on the subject of Mount Lebanon. I should have done so with less delay, if Baron de Bourquiency had not expressed a wish to wait for his own instructions, and the delay is, in fact, of little consequence, as the Porte will certainly withhold her opinion until the return of Selim Bey, who is not expected from Syria for several days.

The Prussian Chargé d'Affaires and Monsieur de Titow are still without fresh instructions, but each of them has declared his readiness to act in concert with me. The French Minister and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires have received, from their respective Courts, instructions similar to mine.

We have met together and talked over the different points of the proposed settlement, in order to secure a thorough uniformity of action, and we intend to propose the plan traced out by your Lordship in the form of an instruction addressed to our respective interpreters, and communicated separately by them, at short intervals of time, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

A copy of my instruction is herewith inclosed.

Your Lordship will observe, that I have again, upon this occasion, urged the necessity of recalling the Albanian troops from Syria. My colleagues agreed with me in the expediency of combining this demand with our proposal for the settlement of Affairs in Mount Lebanon. I was happy to learn, in the course of our conversation, that Sarim Effendi had repeated to the French Minister the assurance, which he had given to me, that 2,500 of the Albanians had already been ordered to proceed elsewhere.

I should partake of your Lordship's surprise, at the disappointment which we have frequently experienced on this subject, if I had not perceived so many other proofs of the pertinacity with which the Grand Vizier adheres to his own peculiar system of policy, and of the ingenuity which he displays in counteracting the wiser and more benevolent intentions of his sovereign. It is but fair, however, to add, that there would be little wisdom in keeping the Albanians at home, and that they are well adapted by their habits, to the perils and difficulties of mountain warfare.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

Monsieur,

Buyukderé, 26 Août, 1842.

LE temps qui s'est écoulé depuis le 27 Mai, jour de la Conférence tenue entre les Ministres de la Porte et les Représentans des Cinq Puissances relativement aux affaires de la Syrie, n'a rien fait perdre du grand intérêt qui s'y rattache. J'ai mis sous les yeux du Gouvernement le rapport de tout ce qui s'est passé dans cette occasion. Je me suis fait un devoir de rendre justice aux informations et aux raisonnemens des Ministres Ottomans. J'ai exposé franchement les graves difficultés qui entouraient et qui entourent encore la question du Mont Liban.

La conséquence en est, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a porté son attention sur les diverses parties de cette question avec la connaissance de tout ce qui était nécessaire pour en former un jugement définitif. Il s'en suit de plus, que les instructions dont je viens d'être muni, expriment la pensée toute entière de ma Cour, et méritent, à ce titre et à celui de la sage bienveillance qui les distingue, la considération spéciale du Conseil Ottoman.

Il appartient aux autres Représentans de faire savoir à son Excellence le

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, l'avis de leurs Cours respectives, basé, sans aucun doute, sur les mêmes connaissances ainsi que sur le même désir de contribuer au bien-être de cet Empire. Il est à présumer que la Porte reconnaîtra dans leurs communications, comme dans la mienne, les égards dûs à son indépendance, et l'empreinte d'une sincère conviction.

On dirait, en effet, que toutes les opinions se réunissent à cet égard autour d'un centre commun. Mais, quoiqu'il en soit, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté ne désire que le maintien de l'autorité légitime du Sultan de manière à garantir au Mont Liban la jouissance d'une tranquillité permanente, et d'une bonne administration fondée dans ses anciens privilèges. Ce désir lui est inspiré moins par les sympathies de la religion et de l'humanité, que par le respect que tout Gouvernement doit à ses propres engagements, et par l'intérêt que réclame de lui à juste titre un pays dont le sort actuel pèse en grande partie sur sa responsabilité. Malgré qu'on n'y a pas eu recours aux armes depuis quelques mois, le mécontentement général qui règne dans la Montagne a besoin d'être apaisé par d'autres moyens que la force. Quand même on perdrait de vue les pétitions qui se déclarent de jour en jour plus franchement contre l'état actuel des choses, serait-il possible de s'aveugler sur l'effet que doivent nécessairement produire les actes d'un arbitraire violent, dont il n'y a que trop d'évidences? Corrompre ou intimider les notables, éloigner ou emprisonner les chefs, sembler acquiescer à la spoliation des biens, sont-ils là les vrais moyens de gagner les cœurs et de concilier les esprits?

Pour fermer tant de blessures, pour calmer tant d'inquiétudes, et faire oublier un passé désastreux, il faut que la justice reprenne sa vigueur; que l'ordre soit établi sur des bases solides, que l'autorité soit mise en harmonie avec les mœurs, les besoins et les traditions du pays; que le peuple, enfin, détourné de l'influence étrangère, puisse reposer de bonne foi à l'ombre de la protection du Souverain.

Il s'agit donc de trouver quelque combinaison propre à effectuer ces divers objets, sans toutefois s'abuser sur les changemens nécessités par une série de circonstances, déplorables à la vérité, mais qu'il est impossible maintenant d'effacer. Les élémens d'une pareille combinaison se présentent à la vue. Deux peuples, pour la plupart séparés, partagent le Mont Liban. L'autorité souveraine du pays appartient de droit au Sultan. Que cette autorité soit représentée par un Vizir, surintendant de tout le pays, et revêtu des pouvoirs nécessaires pour en maintenir la paix. Que l'administration locale soit confiée à deux individus, nommés par l'autorité suprême, et appelés respectivement à gérer les affaires de son district, un Druse pour les Druses, et un Chrétien pour les Chrétiens. Que chacun de ces chefs soit tenu à résider au milieu de la population dont il doit être responsable, tandis que le dépositaire du pouvoir suprême sera établi parmi ses correligionnaires dans le voisinage immédiat de la Montagne. Par ce moyen la jouissance des anciennes franchises sera tempérée par une surveillance salutaire, l'irritation mutuelle n'aura plus d'aliment, l'administration sera exercée sans gêne, l'autorité se maintiendra sans danger.

Il faut avouer que l'exécution de ce plan pourrait bien rencontrer quelques difficultés de détail. Il existe, par exemple, tel village où les Druses et les Maronites se trouvent entremêlés. C'est là peut-être l'obstacle le plus sérieux, qui, néanmoins, ne doit pas arrêter l'adoption d'une mesure sous d'autres rapports satisfaisante. Les moyens de le surmonter ne manquent pas.

Encore faut-il avouer que beaucoup dépend du choix des individus. Pour les peuplades de la Montagne il importe que leurs Princes réunissent avec des qualités personnelles, le prestige qui dérive du sang et d'un nom illustré par les traditions de famille. A celui qui doit représenter plus immédiatement l'autorité de son Souverain, il faut une réputation pour la justice, la modération et la fermeté. Pour ce qui regarde également le Vizir et les Princes, il est essentiel que leurs antécédans ne rappellent ni les souffrances ni les crimes des troubles passés.

Mais, par-dessus tout, il importe que le Conseil Ottoman se hâte de manifester la bienveillance qui doit présider à l'avenir du Mont Liban, par le prompt éloignement de la Syrie de ces bandes Albanaises qui n'ont que trop longtemps jeté l'épouvante parmi les habitans paisibles de la Montagne, indignés de leur présence, et dégoûtés par leurs excès. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté saura gré à la Sublime Porte de ce qu'elle a déjà donné une

autre destination à la moitié de ces troupes ; mais il n'aura pas le sentiment d'avoir accompli son devoir, jusqu'à ce qu'un pareil fléau ne soit entièrement retiré du pays. Les Puissances Chrétiennes, malgré toute la considération qu'elles ont vouée à la Porte, ne sauraient acquiescer à un abus accompagné de tant de mal facile à écarter.

Voilà, Monsieur, ce qui je vous invite à communiquer de ma part à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, et je vous autorise à lui remettre une copie de cette instruction, en ajoutant que j'espère d'apprendre un moment plus tôt la décision de la Porte.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Buyukdéré, August 26, 1842.

THE time which has elapsed since the 27th of May, the day of the Conference held between the Ministers of the Porte and the Representatives of the Five Powers relative to the affairs of Syria, has not caused any diminution in the great interest which belongs to them. I have submitted to my Government the report of all that passed on that occasion. I made it my duty to do justice to the information and reasonings of the Ottoman Ministers. I stated frankly the serious difficulties which surrounded and which still surround the question of Mount Lebanon.

The consequence is, that Her Majesty's Government have directed their attention to the various points of this question with the knowledge of all that was necessary to form a definitive judgment thereupon. Hence it results, moreover, that the instructions with which I have now been furnished, express the entire opinion of my Court, and merit, on this account, and on that of the wise benevolence which distinguishes them, the special consideration of the Ottoman Council.

It belongs to the other Representatives to make known to his Excellency, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the opinion of their respective Courts, based, without doubt, on the same knowledge, as well as on the same desire to contribute to the well-being of this empire. It is to be presumed, that the Porte will recognize, in their communications, as in mine, the respect due to her independence, and the impression of a sincere conviction.

It might be said, in fact, that all opinions unite in this respect around one common centre ; but, be that as it may, Her Majesty's Government only desire the maintenance of the legitimate authority of the Sultan, so as to guarantee to Mount Lebanon the enjoyment of permanent tranquillity, and of a good administration founded on its ancient privileges. It entertains this desire, less on account of the sympathies of religion and humanity, than on account of the respect which every Government owes to its own engagements, and the interest which a country, for whose actual condition it is in a great degree responsible, justly claims from it. Notwithstanding that recourse has not been had to arms for some months, the general discontent which reigns in the Mountain had need to be appeased by other means than force. Were even petitions to be lost sight of, which declare from day to day more frankly against the actual state of things, would it be possible to be blind to the effect which must necessarily be produced by acts of arbitrary violence, of which there are but too many proofs. To corrupt or intimidate the principal persons, to alienate or imprison the chiefs, to appear to acquiesce in the plunder of property, are these the true means to gain the hearts and to conciliate the minds of people ?

In order to heal so many wounds, to calm so much anxiety, to consign to oblivion past disasters, it is necessary that justice should resume her vigour, that order should be established on solid bases, authority be put in unison with the manners, the wants and traditions of the country ; that the people, in short, diverted from foreign influence, should be able to repose, implicitly, under the shadow of the protection of the Sovereign.

The point, then, is to find some plan calculated to effect these different objects, without, at the same time, disregarding the changes rendered necessary by a series of circumstances, deplorable in truth, but which it is impossible now to efface. The elements of such a plan present themselves. Two races, in most things separate, divide Mount Lebanon. The sovereign authority of the country belongs, of right, to the Sultan; let this authority be represented by a Vizier governing the whole country, and furnished with the powers necessary for preserving the peace of it; let the local administration be confided to two individuals, named by the superior authority, and appointed respectively to manage the affairs of his district, a Druse for the Druses, and a Christian for the Christians. Let each of these chiefs be bound to reside in the midst of the people for which he is to be responsible, whilst the depository of supreme power shall be established among the people of his own creed in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mountain. By this means the enjoyment of the ancient liberties will be tempered by a salutary superintendence, the mutual irritation will have no further sustenance, the administration will be exercised without constraint, the authority will be maintained without danger.

It must be admitted, that the execution of this plan may probably encounter some difficulties of detail. There may exist for example, a village where Druses and Maronites are mixed. That is, perhaps, the most serious obstacle, which, nevertheless, ought not to prevent the adoption of a measure in all other respects satisfactory. Means will not be wanting for surmounting it.

Again, it must be allowed, that much depends on the choice of individuals. For the inhabitants of the Mountain, it is requisite that their princes should unite with personal qualities the influence which is derived from birth, and from a name illustrious by family traditions. He who is to represent more immediately the authority of the Sovereign, should enjoy a reputation for justice, moderation, and firmness. As regards equally the Vizier and the Princes, it is essential that their previous history should not recall either the sufferings or the crimes of past troubles.

But, above all, it is important that the Ottoman Council should hasten to manifest the benevolence which is to watch over the future condition of Mount Lebanon, by the prompt withdrawal from Syria of the Albanian bands which have for too long a time spread terror among the peaceable inhabitants of the Mountain, outraged by their presence, and disgusted by their excesses. Her Majesty's Government will be obliged to the Porte for having already given another destination to half of these troops; but it will not feel that it has fulfilled its duty until such a scourge is entirely withdrawn from the country. The Christian Powers, notwithstanding all the consideration which they have observed towards the Porte, cannot acquiesce in an abuse attended with so much evil which is easy to be removed.

Such, Sir, is what I request you to communicate from me to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I authorize you to deliver to him a copy of this instruction, adding that I hope to learn at the earliest moment the decision of the Porte.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 67.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 22.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, August 30, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of M. Pisani's report of the language held by the Reis Effendi on receiving a communication of my instruction respecting the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

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I am informed that Selim Bey, in private, holds a language in keeping with that of the Seraskier Mustapha Pasha, as if he was persuaded that the petitions forwarded by that Pasha declare the real wishes of the Maronite population. The accounts which I receive from Colonel Rose continue, on the contrary, to affirm that the great majority of signatures is in favour of a Christian administration in the Mountain.

Inclosure in No. 67.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Pera, ce 29 Août, 1842.

CONFORMEMENT à vos ordres, j'ai communiqué à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les instructions que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 26 courant.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a fait la réponse suivante :

“La Porte a envoyé des instructions à Selim Bey en conséquence de ce qui s'était passé dans la conférence du 27 Mai dernier. Selim Bey est de retour depuis hier ; mais nous n'avons pas encore lu ni les dépêches dont il est porteur, ni son propre rapport. Après que nous aurons pris connaissance de leur contenu, nous nous entendrons avec MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances pour faire ce qui sera jugé nécessaire. Je vous prie de porter cette réponse à la connaissance de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, avec bien des complimens de ma part.”

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,

(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Pera, August 29, 1842.

AGREABLY to your orders, I communicated to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the instructions which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me, dated the 26th instant.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs made me the following answer :—

“The Porte has sent instructions to Selim Bey in consequence of what passed in the Conference of the 27th of May last. Selim Bey returned yesterday ; but we have not yet read either the despatches of which he is bearer, or his own report. When we shall have acquired a knowledge of their contents, we will confer with the Representatives of the Five Powers, in order to do what shall be deemed necessary. I beg you to carry this answer to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, with many compliments from me.”

I have, &c.,

(Signed) FRED. PISANI.

No. 68.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 8.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, September 16, 1842.

IN pursuance of an invitation from the Porte, and in company with the Representatives of Russia, France, Austria, and Prussia, I waited yesterday upon his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the view of again deliberating upon the affairs of Mount Lebanon. Sarim Effendi was not alone. The Captain Pasha, the President of the Council, and Riza Pasha,

were also present, and each in his turn took part in the deliberation. No official protocol was taken on either side, and although I was requested to express the sentiments of my colleagues, that circumstance did not prevent their taking part occasionally in the argument, and from the French Minister, in particular, I received an active and energetic support.

As the discussion rested almost entirely upon the same grounds as before, it cannot be necessary to trouble your Lordship with its details.

According to the Turkish Representatives, the tranquillity of Syria was the common object of both parties, and that object, now happily, as they said, effected by the measures of the Seraskier, would be secured in future by the appointment of a Vizier over the whole district from Acre to Tripoli, including the population of Mount Lebanon. In support of this view, it was asserted that Selim Bey, who was present, had ascertained, by local inquiry, that the inhabitants of the Mountain were very generally in favour of a Turkish Governor; that the petitions sent up by the Seraskier were fairly obtained, and really expressive of the popular inclination; and that whatever allegations of a contrary description had been made by the Consuls, they were, in fact, nothing but the interested statements of the Shehab family and their immediate adherents.

It was further advanced on the same side, that the separation of the Maronites and Druses under different local Chiefs of the respective races, would prove a fresh element of disorder; that, under the Maronite Emirs much occasional disturbance had taken place, and frequent cruelties had been committed; that the Turkish Pasha, whether of Acre or elsewhere, who had always been understood to extend his authority over Mount Lebanon, had occasionally interfered by deposing the Emir, and that of the claims for plundered property, half of the ascertained amount had been liquidated, while the remaining half was in a course of judicial settlement.

The Turkish Ministers went on to state, that while they saw no objection to place a Kaimacan or Lieutenant of the Superintending Vizier in the immediate government of each section of the Mountain, and to allow a Kiaja or Chargé d'Affaires from each party to reside at the Vizier's court, they could not reconcile the appointment of a Druse and Christian Prince to those subordinate charges, with their view of what was necessary to secure the Sultan's interests and the tranquillity of the country. They further observed, that the local administration was sufficiently provided for by the Hadji Bashas or Village notables, to whom it was customary in Turkey to commit the management of local interests; and that since the Allied Powers did not mean to dictate, but simply to advise what they conceived to be most conducive to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, they would not accept that advice consistently with their own conviction, founded, as it was, on the statement of their accredited agents, the results of local inquiry, and the ascertained inclinations of the inhabitants themselves.

The Representatives, on the other hand, repeated the arguments formerly adduced; they dwelt particularly upon those contained in your Lordship's instruction to me; they contrasted the information derived from their respective Consuls in Syria with the assertions of Selim Bey; they again complained of the corruption and intimidation which had been used in getting up the petitions for a Turkish Governor; and, feeling strongly the inconvenience of engaging in a process of mutual recrimination, implored the Turkish Ministers to take a more statesmanlike view of the question, and, for the sake of establishing the present very doubtful tranquillity of Mount Lebanon on a permanent, wise, and benevolent footing, to adopt the whole of that combination which the Christian Powers had recommended, as best adapted to all the circumstances of the case, and calculated to unite the authority of the Sultan with the wants and habits of a Christian people, whose attachment to their Sovereign would thenceforth derive additional strength from the concurrent opinion of Europe, and the removal of any just motive for looking to foreign interference.

In reviewing all that passed, I have no doubt that the Porte is sincerely anxious to bring this question of Mount Lebanon to a close. It is, no doubt, for this purpose, that the progressive restitution of the plundered property has been announced to us. The complete withdrawal of the Albanian troops

from Syria, which was also promised by Riza Pasha, is, no doubt, intended to gratify the Allied Powers. The same may be said of the other less important concessions. But the point of permanent importance remains behind; I mean, the appointments of chiefs selected from the Druses and Maronites. This is a point to which the Porte adheres with a degree of obstinacy, not altered by the removal of the Grand Vizier, and only to be explained by her reliance on the intentions of the Allies to abstain from taking any step of a coercive or intimidating character. The Turkish Representatives were not to be shaken even by a very explicit intimation, that little difficulty would be made to any reasonable suggestion advanced by them as a security against the effects apprehended by the proposed appointment. Even the admission of a small military force, under the command of an officer, delegated by the Vizier and stationed at some convenient post between the Druses and the Maronites, would not, perhaps, have been rejected by us, if it had offered the means of reconciling them to our demand; but in spite of every effort and of every expedient on our part, we were surprised to find them prepared to cut the matter short by a positive, though not uncourteous, refusal; nor was it without extreme difficulty that they were, at last, persuaded to suspend their decision, until the pleasure of the Sultan could be taken upon the report of our deliberations.

In this suspended state the question remains at present; and there is only a faint hope of the Porte announcing any change in her decision, when we are invited, according to the promise of the Turkish Ministers, to a fresh interchange of communications with them.

I have endeavoured, however, to provide against the effects of any unfavourable reports transmitted to Syria, by informing Colonel Rose of what has occurred, and recommending him to persist in discouraging the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon from resorting to any aggressive means of redress.

P.S.—The removal of Omar Pasha from the government of the Mountain was again stated by the Turkish Minister as a measure to which the Porte had no objection.

No. 69.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, September 27, 1842.

THE Turkish Government, I state it with regret, persists in withholding its assent to the plan of settlement proposed by the Five Allied Cabinets for the future administration of Mount Lebanon. The postponement of a final decision, which was obtained with so much difficulty at the late Conference, has not produced any favourable change. I have made every practicable effort to obtain the result desired by your Lordship; but, whatever may be effected at a later period, no reasonable hope remains, for the present, of removing or overcoming the objections of the Porte.

This morning the paper, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, was communicated to me on the part of Sarim Effendi; a similar communication was subsequently made to the other Representatives of the Four Powers. It announces the deliberate opinion of the Government under the sanction of the Sultan's name, and it may be fairly described as conceding every point but that particular one, which constitutes the principal, and, indeed, the essential feature of our proposals. The removal of the Albanians, the dismissal of Omar Pasha, the restitution of the plundered property, the separation of the Druses from the Christians, and the confirmation of the ancient privileges, as to religion, taxation, and justice, are clearly conceded; but the appointment of a Druse and of a Christian chief over the respective districts of the Mountain continues to meet with unabated opposition.

In reply to the Dragoman of the Porte, who waited upon me with the instruction addressed to him by Sarim Effendi, I observed, after reading it, that, with every sentiment of respect for a decision emanating from the Sultan,

I could not but express my deep concern at the disinclination of the Porte to accept the advice deliberately offered to her, in so friendly a manner, by the Five Great Powers of Europe. I added, that, after communicating upon the subject with my colleagues, I should not fail to submit to Sarim Effendi, the remarks which we might deem it our duty to offer on a question of so much delicacy and interest.

Whatever may be my own impression as to the inutility of any further attempt to dissuade the Turkish Ministers from their present course, without a fresh reference to the respective Cabinets, I shall be careful not to act upon it, without ascertaining that it is equally entertained by the other Representatives. Nor is this the only point which I am anxious to keep in view. The Porte, I conceive, must be discouraged by an expression of our joint opinion from taking any step for the immediate appointment of Turkish Lieutenant-Governors over the Druse and Maronite districts of Mount Lebanon. We are, perhaps, also bound to intimate that we are not warranted to hold out the prospect of any essential change in the terms of advice already given by the Five Powers with such perfect unanimity of sentiment and language. As to any reasonable modification or accessory arrangement calculated to reconcile the Porte to what we are instructed to recommend as indispensable for the permanent tranquillity and good government of Syria, a sufficient door has already been opened by us; and I shall not consent to anything which may have the effect of closing it, and thereby increasing the difficulties which must necessarily attend upon a reconsideration of this complicated question.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Instruction from Sarim Effendi to the Dragoman of the Porte.

(Traduction.)

27 Septembre, 1842.

DANS la conférence qui eut lieu jeudi 10 Chaban, dans ma maison de campagne, avec Messieurs les Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances, relativement à la question du Liban, et à laquelle ont pris part leurs Excellences le Président du Conseil, Halil Pacha, le Grand Amiral, Riza Pacha, et le commissaire de la Porte, Selim Bey, il avait été convenu que les discussions qui ont roulé dans cette conférence, seraient portées à la connaissance de Sa Hautesse, et que cette question serait encore l'objet de nouvelles communications.

Le rapport de cette conférence a été mis sous les yeux de Sa Hautesse, qui, après quelque temps de méditation, a ordonné, conformément à la décision prise au sein de cette conférence, le renvoi de Beirout des troupes Albanaises en garnison de cette ville.

L'assemblée a été parfaitement d'accord sur la solution à donner à cette question; ce qui seulement a été l'objet de quelque hésitation ce fut le point de savoir, si les lieutenans que le Mouchir de Saïda aurait à nommer pour les mettre à la tête des Druses et des Maronites, doivent être pris parmi eux-mêmes, ou des hommes étrangers à ces nations; hésitation qui n'est, au reste, que l'effet de la divergence qui existe entre les informations recueillies par la Sublime Porte et celles qui sont parvenues à MM. les Représentans des Puissances.

Quels que soient les moyens que l'on veuille employer, pour parvenir à dissiper cette hésitation, et concilier les opinions, la solution de cette question, si importante en elle-même, étant le seul but que l'on se propose d'atteindre, la Sublime Porte se livre à l'espoir, que la ligne de conduite suivie par elle ne manquera pas d'être appréciée.

La Sublime Porte, obligée de croire à la réalité des informations recueillies par ses propres agens, et ne pouvant, en l'absence de preuves convaincantes, se dire avoir été mal renseignée, évite autant qu'il est en elle, de donner

lieu à de nouveaux troubles par une conduite opposée, ce qui ne manquera pas de remettre en émoi les esprits en Europe; et cette pensée préoccupe tellement son attention, qu'il est impossible de l'exprimer. D'un autre côté, la Sublime Porte se montre constamment disposée à écouter et apprécier les conseils aussi sincères que bienveillans donnés par les Grandes Puissances ses amies et alliées, qui sont si désireuses du bien-être de ses états et de l'indépendance de son autorité; et ce fait MM. les Représentans eux-mêmes ne peuvent pas ne pas l'avouer.

Dans cette conviction, la Sublime Porte ne saurait jamais s'imaginer que les instructions collectivement présentées en dernier lieu au Ministère Ottoman, eussent été données dans l'intention d'user de contrainte à son égard; et se croyant fondée dans son opinion qu'elles ont été combinées d'après les informations précédentes, basées sur l'idée de la tranquillité perpétuelle si unanimement désirée, elle s'empresse d'exprimer ci-après les vues qui l'animent dans l'intérêt de ses états.

La Sublime Porte se félicite de voir que le système suivie par elle à l'égard de l'administration du Mont Liban, ait pu être si conforme à la justice et à l'équité; ce qui le prouve c'est que la population du Liban, composée de six communautés différentes, n'est plus dans l'obligation de payer des impôts immenses auxquels elle était tenue de satisfaire sous l'ancien système.

Ces populations ont cessé d'être l'objet de vexations auxquelles elles étaient autrefois en butte; et personne ne les inquiète plus dans l'exercice de leurs devoirs religieux, qu'elles accomplissent en toute liberté.

Indépendamment de tout cela, la tranquillité, qui forme l'objet surtout de la sollicitude de Sa Hautesse, s'est rétablie, grâce à Dieu, dans ces provinces; et comme il est indubitable que cette tranquillité continuera à y régner, et que le Mont Liban placé comme il a été à des époques éloignées, sous la juridiction et la surveillance du Gouverneur de la Province de Saïda, sera administré par ce dernier avec justice et droiture, la Sublime Porte n'hésite pas d'en assurer tous ceux d'entre ses amis qui conservent des doutes à cet égard; et elle désire par conséquent le maintien de l'ordre des choses actuel dans la Montagne.

La Sublime Porte se propose de destituer Omar Pacha, pour faire cesser tant de propos qui ont circulé sur son compte, et de procéder à la nomination de deux personnes choisies parmi les employés du Gouvernement qui se recommandent par leur capacité et leur droiture, pour les envoyer au Liban en qualité de Kaïmacams, l'un pour les Druses, et l'autre pour les Maronites. Ces deux nations seront invitées à choisir parmi elles deux députés qui resteront à Beyrouth auprès du gouverneur de cette ville.

La Sublime Porte se propose également d'engager au même gouverneur à procéder à la restitution de tous les biens enlevés aux Maronites, indépendamment de ceux qui ont été déjà rendus à leurs propriétaires, et dont la valeur s'élève au-delà de la somme de 20,000 bourses.

Telles sont les dispositions qui serviront de base aux instructions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention d'envoyer au gouverneur sus-mentionné.

La Sublime Porte aime à se flatter que MM. les Représentans des Grandes Puissances voudront bien apprécier ces dispositions de sa part, en même tems qu'elle les invite à les transmettre à leurs Cours respectives.

Je vous engage donc, Monsieur, de vous rendre personnellement, auprès de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, et lui communiquer les dispositions que la Sublime Porte a l'intention de prendre, conformément à la volonté impériale de Sa Hautesse.

Je vous engage également à lui remettre la traduction Française de cette instruction, et à saisir cette occasion pour lui réitérer les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

(Translation.)

September 27, 1842.

IN the Conference which took place on Thursday, the 10th Chaban, at my country house, with the Representatives of the Five Powers, relative to the question of Lebanon, and at which their Excellencies the President

of the Council, Halil Pasha, the Grand Admiral, Riza Pasha, and the Commissioner of the Porte, Selim Bey, took part, it was agreed that the discussions which occurred in that conference should be brought to the knowledge of His Highness, and that this question should again be the object of fresh communications.

The report of that conference has been submitted to His Highness, who, after some deliberation, has ordered, in conformity with the decision taken at that conference, the withdrawal from Beyrout of the Albanian troops in garrison in that town.

The meeting was perfectly agreed as to the solution to be given to this question ; that which alone was the object of some hesitation was the point, whether the lieutenants whom the Mushir of Saida should have to name to be put at the head of the Druses and the Maronites, ought to be taken from amongst themselves, or persons strangers to these nations ; an hesitation which is, moreover, only the result of the difference which exists between the information obtained by the Sublime Porte, and that which has reached the Representatives of the Powers.

Whatever may be the means which it may be desired to employ, to remove this hesitation, and to reconcile opinions, the solution of that question, so important in itself, being the only object which it is proposed to attain, the Sublime Porte hopes that the line of conduct followed by her will not fail to be appreciated.

The Sublime Porte, obliged to believe in the truth of the information obtained by her own agents, and not being able, in the absence of convincing proofs, to say that she has been badly informed, avoids as much as possible to give occasion for further troubles by an opposite line of conduct, which will not fail to put in motion the minds of men in Europe ; and this thought occupies her attention so much that it is impossible to express it. On the other hand, the Sublime Porte shows herself constantly disposed to listen to and to appreciate the counsels, as sincere as they are kind, given by the Great Powers, her friends and allies, who are so desirous of the well-being of her dominions and the independence of her authority ; and this fact the Representatives themselves cannot but allow.

In this conviction, the Sublime Porte could never imagine that the instructions collectively presented on a late occasion to the Ottoman Ministry, could have been given with the intention of employing compulsion with respect to her ; and believing that she has grounds for her opinion that they were framed upon the information before referred to, based on the idea of the perpetual tranquillity so unanimously desired, she hastens to express, as follows, the views which animate her in the interest of her dominions.

The Sublime Porte is happy to see that the system followed by her with respect to the Administration of Mount Lebanon, has admitted of being so much in conformity with justice and equity ; the proof whereof is that the people of Lebanon, composed of six different communities, are no longer obliged to pay the immense taxes which they were obliged to make good under the old system.

These people have ceased to be the object of vexations to which they were formerly exposed : and no one any longer disturbs them in the exercise of their religious duties, which they freely perform.

Independently of all that, tranquillity, which especially forms the object of the solicitude of His Highness, is established, thanks to God, in those provinces ; and since it is indubitable that this tranquillity will continue to prevail there, and that Mount Lebanon, placed as it has been from a remote period, under the jurisdiction and superintendence of the Governor of the Province of Saida, will be ruled by this latter with justice and uprightness, the Sublime Porte does not hesitate to give this assurance to all those among her friends who entertain doubts in this respect ; and she consequently desires the maintenance of the actual state of things in the Mountain.

The Sublime Porte proposes to dismiss Omar Pasha, in order to put an end to all that has been said with respect to him, and to proceed to the nomination of two persons chosen among the servants of the Government who are recommended by their capacity and uprightness, in

order to send them to the Lebanon in the capacity of Kaimakam, one for the Druses, the other for the Maronites. These two nations will be invited to choose among them two deputies who will remain at Beyrout with the Governor of that town.

The Sublime Porte proposes in like manner to direct the same Governor to proceed to the restitution of all the property taken from the Maronites, independently of that which has already been restored to its proprietors, and of which the value amounts to about the sum of 20,000 purses.

Such are the arrangements which will form the ground-work of the instructions which the Sublime Porte intends to send to the Governor above mentioned.

The Sublime Porte flatters herself that the Representatives of the Great Powers will be pleased to appreciate these arrangements which she has made, at the same time that she invites them to transmit them to their respective Courts.

I direct you, therefore, Sir, to proceed in person to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning, Ambassador of Her Britannic Majesty, and to communicate to him the arrangements which the Sublime Porte intends to adopt agreeably to the Imperial will of His Highness.

I direct you likewise to deliver to him a French translation of this instruction, and to take this opportunity to repeat to him the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

No. 70.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, September 30, 1842.

AT a meeting which took place yesterday at my house, I entered into a full consideration with my colleagues, the Representatives of Austria, Russia, France, and Prussia, of the present very unsatisfactory stage of the Syrian affair. We agreed that nothing remained to be done by us, with any reasonable prospect of success, until the opinion of the Porte, as declared in Sarim Effendi's instruction to his Dragoman, should be brought under the notice of our respective Cabinets. The copy, inclosed herewith, of an instruction addressed by me to M. Pisani for communication to Sarim Effendi, will sufficiently explain to your Lordship the view which we concurred in taking of the question in its present state. It was agreed that each Representative should send in a paper of similar purport.

M. Pisani's report of the Reis Effendi's reply, a copy of which is also inclosed herewith, completes what I have to communicate upon this subject.

I ought, however, to add, that the title of Governor of Beyrout, adopted in Sarim Effendi's instruction, is not meant to designate a separate functionary, but only, under another form, the Pasha of Saida, Superintendent of Mount Lebanon.

We have agreed, in conclusion, to write to the respective Consuls at Beyrout, enjoining them to persevere in contributing, by their conduct and language, to the tranquillity of Mount Lebanon during the interval which must elapse before the final intentions of the Allied Cabinets can be made known to us.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure I in No. 70.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

Monsieur,

Buyukdéré, le 29 Septembre, 1842.

IL y a deux jours que le Drogman de la Porte me présenta la copie d'une instruction que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères lui avait adressée en date de 21 du mois Chaban. Par cette communication Sarim Effendi a bien voulu m'annoncer le résultat des délibérations du Conseil Ottoman, et surtout le jugement qu'a daigné porter Sa Hautesse sur les divers points qui lui ont été soumis à la suite de la dernière conférence relative aux affaires du Mont Liban.

Cette pièce, dont la rédaction toute entière, et la substance même en grande partie, répondent à l'esprit amical qui a dicté l'avis des Cours Alliées, renferme pourtant une opinion d'autant moins satisfaisante qu'elle repousse leurs conseils par rapport aux points essentiels de la question.

La Porte s'engage à faire retirer les troupes Albanaises de la Syrie, à destituer Omar Pacha, à donner aux Druses et aux Maronites des Gouverneurs séparés; mais elle ne consent pas à ce que ces Gouverneurs soient choisis d'entre les nationaux de chaque communauté.

Conformément au désir de la Porte, je me ferai un devoir de mettre l'instruction de Sarim Effendi sous les yeux de mon Gouvernement, qui ne manquera pas de rendre justice à ses motifs, et de péser toutes ses objections. Je dois avouer, néanmoins, avec la franchise d'une véritable amitié, que les opinions énoncées par mes collègues et moi à la conférence, demeurent toujours les mêmes; que j'apprends avec bien des regrets les opinions énoncées par la Porte; et que si je consens à en référer de nouveau à ma Cour, c'est dans l'assurance que la Porte, en attendant une réponse de ma part, suspendra l'exécution de son projet, en tant qu'il soit contraire aux sentimens et aux conseils des Cinq Cours, ses amies.

Vous remettrez une copie de cette instruction à Sarim Effendi, en offrant à son Excellence l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Buyukderé, September 29, 1842.

TWO days ago the Dragoman of the Porte presented to me the copy of an instruction addressed to him by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 21st of the month Chaban. By this communication Sarim Effendi has had the goodness to announce to me the result of the deliberations of the Ottoman Council, and especially the decision which his Highness has been pleased to pronounce on the different points which were submitted to him as the result of the last conference relative to the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

This paper, the composition of which entirely, and even the substance in a great degree, correspond with the spirit of friendship by which the advice of the Allied Courts was dictated, contains, however, an opinion which is so much the less satisfactory, as it rejects their advice with respect to the essential points of the question.

The Porte undertakes to withdraw the Albanian troops from Syria, to displace Omar Pasha, to give separate Governors to the Druses and to the Maronites; but she does not consent that these Governors should be chosen from the members of each community.

In conformity with the desire of the Porte I shall make it my duty to place the instruction of the Porte before my Government, who will not

fail to do justice to its motives, and to weigh all its objections. I must confess, nevertheless, with the frankness of true friendship, that the opinions put forward by my colleagues and by myself at the Conference, continue still the same; that I learn with much regret the opinions expressed by the Porte; and that if I consent to make a fresh reference thereupon to my Court, it is under the assurance that the Porte, while waiting my reply, will suspend the execution of her plan, so far as it is contrary to the sentiments and advice of the Five Powers, her friends.

You will deliver a copy of this instruction to Sarim Effendi, at the same time that you offer to his Excellency the assurance of my perfect consideration.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Pera, ce 30 Septembre, 1842.

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, conformément à vos ordres, j'ai remis à Sarim Effendi copie de l'instruction de Votre Excellence, en date d'hier, sur les affaires du Mont Liban, après l'avoir lue et expliquée en Turc à son Excellence.

Sarim Effendi m'a fait la réponse suivante: "J'ai parfaitement compris cette instruction, qui est une réponse à la communication que j'ai faite dernièrement à MM. les Représentans des Puissances amies. Naturellement, la Sublime Porte n'a rien à faire à présent; et le système actuel au Mont Liban continuera jusqu'à ce que le temps sera venu de se concerter avec MM. les Représentans sur la mise à exécution des mesures qui viennent de leur être communiquées. Voilà ma réponse, que vous transmettez de ma part à son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning."

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Pera, September 30, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in conformity with your directions, I delivered to Sarim Effendi a copy of your Excellency's instruction of yesterday on the affairs of Mount Lebanon, after having read it and explained it in Turkish to his Excellency.

Sarim Effendi made me the following reply: "I have fully understood this instruction, which is a reply to the communication which I recently made to the Representatives of the friendly Powers. Naturally, the Sublime Porte has nothing at present to do; and the present system in Mount Lebanon will continue until the time shall arrive for concerting with the Representatives as to carrying into effect the measures which have now been communicated to them. This is my answer, which you will convey on my behalf to his Excellency Sir Stratford Canning."

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FREDERICK PISANI.

No. 71.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1842.

I RECEIVED, on the 8th of this month, your Excellency's despatch of the 16th of September, giving an account of what passed in a conference held on the previous day by your Excellency and your colleagues with the Turkish Ministers, relative to the affairs of Syria; and I have since received from your Excellency, a copy of the paper delivered to you by the Dragoman of the Porte, on the 27th of September. As that paper contains the decision of the Porte on the several questions discussed in the Conference of the 15th of September, I do not consider it necessary to advert to your Excellency's despatch, further than to inform you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the manner in which you conducted the discussion with the Turkish Ministers, and endeavoured to prevail upon them to comply with the reasonable wishes of the Allies on the most important point under consideration.

With regard, however, to the paper delivered to your Excellency by the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th of September, I have to state to your Excellency that the contents of it are, to a certain extent, satisfactory.

Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagement of the Porte, that the Albanian troops shall be immediately withdrawn from Beyrout, and they trust that this measure will be immediately followed up by the removal of those troops from Syria altogether. Your Excellency will continue to press this latter point on the Porte, in the strongest manner, and you will represent to the Turkish Government, that Her Majesty's Government insist upon it, not only with reference to the view they take of the interests of the Porte, but with reference to the engagements which they contracted in 1840, on the faith of the assurances given to the British Ambassador at Constantinople by the Porte, that the Syrians should not be oppressed.

Her Majesty's Government accept also, with pleasure, the engagement of the Porte, that Omar Pasha shall be immediately dismissed from the office which he holds in Syria; and that orders will be given to the Governor of the Province of Sidon, in whom the supreme direction of the affairs of Mount Lebanon is to be vested, to restore without further delay all the property of which the Maronites were deprived during the late troubles, independently of that portion thereof which has already been given back to the owners.

Thus far, then, Her Majesty's Government accept with pleasure the engagements of the Porte; and they are not disposed to question either the justice or the expediency of vesting in a Turkish authority, the Governor of Sidon, the superintendence of all the districts of Mount Lebanon. They only trust that, in the selection of a person for this important post, the Porte will bear in mind the serious difficulties which must inevitably result from the appointment of any one whose character will not be a sufficient guarantee for the exercise of his functions with justice, rectitude, and moderation. But Her Majesty's Government are constrained to say that they are much disappointed with the arrangement which the Porte proposes to make for the more immediate government of the Christian and Druse populations. The Porte has decided that the immediate Governors of those populations shall be Mahometans. Her Majesty's Government cannot be satisfied with this arrangement. The question has not, as stated by the Porte, turned upon the amount of credit to be given to the different reports received by the Turkish Government on the one hand, and by the Representatives of the Five Powers on the other, as to the state of affairs in Lebanon, and as to the inclinations of the several populations manifested in their addresses, whether feigned or sincere, to the Sultan's throne: but the demand of Her Majesty's Government has rested on the pledge given to the British Ambassador by the Porte, in the year 1840, that the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians should be respected. Her Majesty's Government, relying upon the sincerity of the Porte, communicated, through its agents, that pledge to the people of

Syria ; and they have therefore become morally responsible for its fulfilment. And as it is one of the ancient rights and privileges of the Syrians of Mount Lebanon that they should be governed directly by rulers selected from among themselves, and not by Mahometan officers, Her Majesty's Government must continue to insist upon the Porte securing those populations in the enjoyment of this most essential privilege. Accordingly, your Excellency is instructed to state distinctly to the Porte, as I have also stated within these few days to the Turkish Ambassador in this country, that no arrangement of the affairs of Syria, which shall not include this indispensable provision, will be accepted by Her Majesty's Government as the fulfilment of the pledge given to them by the Porte, in favour of the Syrians, in the year 1840.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 72.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 24, 1842.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the nature and amount of the claims which the Emir Beshir El-Kassim has upon the Porte, for property plundered in Syria, or for money due to him by the Porte ; and also what proportion of them, if any, has been satisfied. I need scarcely repeat to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are very anxious that all the just claims of the Emir Beshir El-Kassim should be attended to by the Porte ; and that you will, therefore, advocate his interests in this respect on all occasions when the circumstances of the case admit of your so doing.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 73.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 31, 1842.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the course which you took, in common with your colleagues, on receiving from the Dragoman of the Porte on the 27th ultimo, the answer of the Turkish Government to the representations of the Allied Powers on the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

My despatch of the 24th instant, will enable your Excellency to acquaint the Turkish Ministers with the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government on the decision of the Porte respecting those affairs, as contained in the communication made to your Excellency on the 27th of September.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 74.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, October 17, 1842.

IN the last conference between the Ministers of the Porte and the Representatives of the Five Powers, Sarim Effendi informed us that property to the amount of 20,000 or of 25,000 purses had been restored to the Maronites, after a judicial inquiry, by Mustapha Pasha, and that receipts for that amount of property had been forwarded to him by the Seraskier.

In my correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, I stated the substance of this communication, and was greatly surprised to learn from Colonel Rose, that the statement thus solemnly made by Sarim Effendi was utterly destitute of foundation in fact.

I lost no time in applying to Sarim Effendi for an explanation of this astonishing contradiction; and I have the honour to inclose, herewith, a copy of the instruction which I addressed to M. Pisani for that purpose, and also copies of the answers given to him by his Excellency the Effendi on two several occasions.

It does not appear that my colleagues, with some of whom I have communicated upon the subject, have received from their respective Consuls in Syria any information similar to that which I have received from Colonel Rose.

It is but fair, however, to state, that one of the Maronite Agents, whom I saw at a late hour last night, so far corroborates the Consul's assertion as to state, that the receipts taken by Mustapha Pasha are not for property seized by the Druses, but for property abandoned subsequently by the Maronites, and either occupied by the Turkish authorities, or left for the time unoccupied by any one.

I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity to communicate further with Colonel Rose upon this embarrassing and delicate question; nor shall I fail to ascertain from Sarim Effendi, whether he admits the interpretation of the Maronite Agent.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 74.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Pisani.

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, October 10, 1842.

I HAVE to request that you will wait upon Sarim Effendi, and communicate to his Excellency the accompanying extract of a despatch and its inclosure, addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

You will observe that Colonel Rose denies positively that any money whatever has been paid or settlement effected with any portion of the Maronites on account of the property taken from them by the Druses. As this assertion is in direct contradiction with the communication made by his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Representatives of the Five Powers, at their last conference with the Ottoman Ministers, I am entitled to expect an explanation from his Excellency, for the instruction of my Government and the regulation of my own conduct.

You will have the goodness to state what precedes, with all due consideration, to Sarim Effendi, and to report to me the exact terms of his Excellency's reply.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 74.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Beyrout, September 27, 1842.

IT causes me, I may venture to say, unmingled surprize, that Sarim Effendi should have made to your Excellency and your colleagues the statements which your Excellency does me the honour to convey to me at the close of your despatch. I am pained to state they are devoid of all foundation, for the Christians have not even heard of the examination and judicial settlement of their losses, nor have they even heard of the appropriation of 25,000 purses to their liquidation.

Inclosure 3 in No. 74.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Péra, 10 Octobre, 1842.

J'AI communiqué à Sarim Effendi les instructions de votre Excellence en date d'aujourd'hui, ainsi que l'extrait de dépêche y inclus.

Son Excellence Sarim Effendi, après avoir entendu la lecture des pièces m'a fait la réponse suivante :—

“ Il est certain que j'ai dit dans la conférence à MM. les Représentans des Cinq Puissances, et encore plus que cela, que je leur ai montré une dépêche de son Excellence le Seraskir Pacha qui nous marquait que sur les propriétés enlevées par les Druses aux Maronites, il avait déjà recouvré des biens pour la valeur d'environ 20,000 bourses, lesquels, après avoir été juridiquement prouvés avoir appartenu au tel et au tel, ont été restitués aux propriétaires, qui, les ayant pris, ont donné des reçus. J'ai ajouté que son Excellence avait envoyé à la Porte les reçus en original, au nombre de quatre-vingt-quatre, et j'ai même montré ces reçus dans la conférence. M. l'Ambassadeur avouera que, si par impossible, Mustapha Pacha n'a pas écrit la vérité, et nous a envoyé des reçus faux, il aura ainsi trompé, non pas moi seulement, mais les Ministres Ottomans présens à la conférence, et le Sultan lui-même; ce qui est de toute impossibilité de la part d'un personnage qui, durant toute sa carrière, a donné de nombreuses preuves de sa fidélité et d'une droiture rare. Son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning a cru à la communication que j'ai faite; il ne doit pas cesser de croire à la vérité du rapport de Mustapha Pacha, en ajoutant foi aux avis contraires qu'il vient de recevoir. Comme Mustapha Pacha a envoyé les reçus en original à Constantinople pour être enregistrés à la Porte et renvoyés en Syrie, ces reçus seront immédiatement renvoyés à Mustapha Pacha, si j'apprends qu'on ne les lui a pas déjà renvoyés. Sir Stratford Canning n'a qu'à écrire au Colonel Rose de demander à voir les reçus en original entre les mains de Mustapha Pacha.

Ma réponse à cette partie des deux pièces que vous venez de me communiquer, qui est relative au même sujet, est la même que celle que je viens de vous faire. MM. les Représentans n'ont qu'à écrire à leurs Consuls respectifs de demander à voir les reçus en original. Quant aux moyens d'intimidation qu'on représente encore comme ayant été employés par Selim Bey et par d'autres, tout ce que nous savons, c'est que de pareils moyens n'ont jamais été employés; que Selim Bey s'est offert à être jugé et sévèrement puni s'il est convaincu d'avoir employé de pareils moyens pour extorquer des signatures; et que Mustapha Pacha lui-même a demandé à être jugé avec les Consuls.

Telle a été, M. l'Ambassadeur la réponse de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, que je m'empresse de vous transmettre.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Pera, October 10, 1842.

I HAVE communicated to Sarim Effendi your Excellency's instructions of this day, as well as the extract of despatch therein inclosed.

His Excellency Sarim Effendi, after having heard the papers read, made the following answer to me:—

“ It is true that I said to the Representatives of the Five Powers at the Conference, and more than that, that I showed them a despatch from his Excellency the Seraskier Pasha which informed us, that of the property taken by the Druses from the Maronites, he had already recovered the amount of about 20,000 purses, which, after having been legally proved to have belonged to such and such persons, was restored to the owners, who, after having obtained it, gave receipts. I added, that his Excellency had sent to the Porte the original receipts, eighty-four in number, and I even showed these receipts at the Conference. The Ambassador will allow that, if by an impossibility, Mustapha Pasha has not written the truth, and has sent us false receipts, he has also deceived, not only myself, but the Ottoman Ministers present at the Conference, and the Sultan himself; which would be quite an impossibility on the part of a person, who, throughout his whole career, has given numerous proofs of his fidelity and of uncommon integrity. His Excellency Sir Stratford Canning believed the communication which I made; he cannot cease to believe in the truth of the report of Mustapha Pasha, by putting faith in the advices which he has received to the contrary. As Mustapha Pasha has sent the original receipts to Constantinople to be registered at the Porte and sent back to Syria, those receipts will be immediately sent back to Mustapha Pasha, if I learn that they have not already been sent back to him. Sir Stratford Canning has only to write to Colonel Rose to ask to see the original receipts in the hands of Mustapha Pasha.

“ My answer to that part of the two papers which you have just communicated to me, which relates to the same subject, is the same as that which I have just made to you. The Representatives have only to write to their respective Consuls to ask to see the original receipts. As to the means of intimidation, which are still represented as having been employed by Selim Bey and by others, all that we know is, that such means have never been employed; that Selim Bey has offered to be tried and severely punished if he is convicted of having employed such means to extort signatures; and that Mustapha Pasha himself has asked to be tried with the Consuls.”

This was, M. l'Ambassadeur, the answer of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte, which I hasten to transmit to you.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) FRED. PISANI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 74.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Péra, 13 Octobre, 1842.

SARIM EFFENDI a pris des informations au sujet des propriétés rendues aux Maronites; ces propriétés consistent, dit-il, principalement en terres et en villages; et puis il y a des chevaux, des mulets, des bœufs, différentes petites sommes d'argent, des arbres fruitiers, des maisons, &c.

Parmi les signataires des reçus, il y a Abdullah Chéhab qui a repris le produit d'un village; Emaun Chéhab, un champ; Betros Nahous, un champ; Suliman Hamadi, procureur d'Emir Béchir Chéhab, a pris deux villages pour son commettant.

(Translation.)

Extract.)

Pera, October 13, 1842.

SARIM EFFENDI has obtained information on the subject of the property restored to the Maronites; that property consists, he says, principally of lands and villages; and there are also horses, mules, oxen, various small sums of money, fruit-trees, houses, &c.

Among the parties who signed the receipts are Abdallah Shehab, who has recovered the produce of a village; Emaun Shehab, a field; Betros Nahous, a field; Suliman Hamadi, agent for Emir Beshir Shehab, took two villages for his principal.

No. 75.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 19.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, October 28, 1842.

I CAN obtain no satisfactory information on the subject of the receipts exhibited by Sarim Effendi, as evidence of property restored to the amount of 20,000 or 25,000 purses.

No. 76.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 6.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, November 17, 1842.

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatches concerning the affairs of Syria, I have to state that I waited on Sarim Effendi yesterday for the express purpose of bringing the whole question once more under his immediate and serious consideration.

I communicated, in substance, to his Excellency, the principal parts of your Lordship's instruction of October 24, apprizing him of the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt the decision of the Porte as to every point in discussion, excepting that which more particularly relates to the internal administration of Mount Lebanon, and declaring that the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon that one remaining point was still unshaken, and their expectation of its being finally conceded by the Sultan unabated.

I found, in the outset, no difference in the language of Sarim Effendi from that which had been used on former occasions by himself and his colleagues in office. He repeated, that the Turkish Cabinet, which best knew its own interests, could not adopt the advice of the European Powers without prejudice to those interests; that there was no question of its refusing their proposal, but of simply adhering to its own well-founded view of the subject. In short, it was evident, that unless the Porte saw reason to apprehend the displeasure of the Allied Powers, there was no better prospect than before, of her consenting to assign the local administration of Mount Lebanon to a Druse and a Christian Emir.

To this consideration, therefore, I particularly addressed myself, and avoiding any expressions which might be taken as menacing or unfriendly, I made a full communication to Sarim Effendi of the closing paragraph of your Lordship's instruction, urging upon him the motives and the determination so unequivocally declared therein, and expressing my unfeigned astonishment at the forgetfulness which the Porte had displayed of all that Her Majesty's friendship and Her Majesty's arms had effected in Syria, for the advantage of the Sultan and his Empire.

I had the satisfaction to find that my frank and warm expostulation was not entirely thrown away upon Sarim Effendi. He said that the Porte was

deeply sensible of the services rendered to her by Great Britain ; that he was desirous to know the real sentiments and wishes of the British Government ; that he was not empowered to come to any present conclusion with me upon the subject under discussion, but that his duty was confined for the moment to collecting the opinions of the several Cabinets, and that they would be taken into consideration after the return of Mustapha Pasha, who had arrived at Rhodes, and was expected from day to day at Constantinople.

Under these circumstances, I did not think it advisable to provoke a lengthened or angry discussion. It was better, I thought, to rest upon the declaration which I had already made, affirming, however, at the same time, that the opinions of the Five Cabinets were uniform and invariable upon the subject of the Syrian settlement, and appealing to the recent occurrences in Mount Lebanon for proofs of the soundness of their views with respect to the tranquillity of that district. Instead of tranquillity, I said, a fresh insurrection had broken out ; the promised restitution of property had turned out to be a mere illusion ; and, so far from the existing state of things having been maintained, according to the assurances given by the Porte, an attempt to disarm the Druses, and other confiscations of their property, and the seizure of their Chiefs and strong places, had produced the effect of uniting all parties in resistance to the authority of the Sultan. Sarim Effendi could only reply, that the Porte had not yet received accounts of the military incidents, to which I referred ; that, in spite of appearances, an effectual restitution of property had taken place to a very considerable amount ; and that the coercive measures now complained of had been adopted before our last conference.

Such, my Lord, are the principal features of my interview with Sarim Effendi on the subject of Syria. I am just informed that Mustapha Pasha is arrived at Constantinople. I shall take an early opportunity of communicating with him, and proposing to my colleagues another concerted step to establish the uniformity of our instructions, and to overcome whatever may remain of the Porte's aversion to our proposals.

Meanwhile, it is evident that the actual state of affairs in Syria affords the strongest motives for bringing the whole question to a speedy and definitive settlement. I am not, however, in possession of the most recent advices, a gentleman charged with Colonel Rose's despatches having reached the Dardanelles, but, from some unexplained cause, having neither brought or sent them on to Constantinople. I learn, however, from one of the Maronite Patriarch's agents, that a convention has really been made between the Druse and Christian Emirs, founded upon the restitution of property by the former, and the common intention of excluding the Turkish Authorities from the Mountain.

I need not assure your Lordship that I am fully alive to the importance of continuing to dissuade the Chiefs of Mount Lebanon from resorting to hostilities ; and, under this impression, I shall avail myself of the steam-packet which sails for Beyrout the day after to-morrow, to inform Colonel Rose of the improving prospect here, and, by his means and those of his colleagues, to prevail upon the leaders of each party to rest their cause exclusively upon the exertions and sincerity of the Allies.

No. 77.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1842.

IT appears from Colonel Rose's late despatches, that Omar Pasha has confiscated the whole of the property of Sheik Naaman Djinblat, and of his brothers Sheik Said and Sheik Ishmael. Her Majesty's Government are not sufficiently acquainted with the grounds on which Omar Pasha has acted, to be able to form any decided opinion whether in the case of Sheiks Naaman and Said so harsh a measure was necessary. They may or may not have committed offences which called for such a degree of punishment ; and, in either case, Her Majesty's Government might hesitate to interfere

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in their behalf, lest by so doing they should lay themselves open to the imputation of attempting to control the internal administration of Turkey. But the case is different with regard to Sheik Ishmael, whose youth and residence in England preclude the possibility of his having committed any crimes against the authority of the Sultan, which should justly lead to the confiscation of his property. Your Excellency will therefore have the goodness to call the attention of the Turkish Government to the manifest injustice of inflicting upon Sheik Ishmael the punishment to which his brothers have been subject.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 78.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received, December 22.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, November 26, 1842.

THE latest advices from Syria, which only come down to the end of October, have not entirely confirmed the intelligence which I had previously derived from other sources. It appears that although the Druses had attacked and repulsed with loss a small body of Turkish infantry, not far from Tripoli, and that others of that nation, in concert with some Greek Christians, had attacked with equal success a yet smaller body of the same troops, the Seraskier had acted with so much unusual mildness as to allay in some manner the growing excitement, and to afford no immediate necessity for its further display. It also appears, that although the apprehension of a common danger had occasioned some friendly communications between the Druse and Christian Chiefs, this return of good feeling between them had not ripened into a complete and formal agreement, nor was it more than conjectured that a general insurrection might eventually break out in the Mountain. Enough, however, remains of suspicion and apprehension as to the probable consequences of misrule on the one side, and of despair on the other, to give a deep interest to the course which is likely to be pursued by the Turkish Government, now that the Seraskier is returned to Constantinople, and that the expected instructions have been received by the Representatives of the Five Powers.

I need not assure your Lordship of my own anxiety to bring the long-pending question of Syria to an immediate as well as a satisfactory conclusion; and I am happy to add, that my colleagues, acting under instructions similar to mine, are unanimous in directing their efforts to the same object.

In several ways not one of us have omitted to inform the Turkish Ministry of the invariable opinion entertained by our respective Cabinets in favour of the re-establishment of a national administration in Mount Lebanon. Your Lordship is already made acquainted with the substance and the result of my oral communications to Sarim Effendi upon that subject. It remains for me to state that, in a meeting held at my house on the 23rd instant, it was agreed that a conference, similar to that of September the 15th, should be proposed to the Porte; not, indeed, with the view of entering into a fresh discussion, but for the purpose of declaring in the most impressive manner that decision of the Five Cabinets, which we have already in confidence intimated to Sarim Effendi. Such a demonstration of perfect unanimity and perseverance in the same opinion was more particularly recommended to our adoption, in consequence of our discovering, on mutual explanation, that there was reason to suspect the Turkish Ministers of seeking to divide us.

For the conference thus agreed upon I have applied officially, at the request of my colleagues, to Sarim Effendi, and, judging from his Excellency's reply, no objection will be made to our proposal, though some few days may elapse before the time of meeting is actually appointed. It is our present intention to leave with the Turkish Ministers a short but decided statement of our joint opinion, together with the principal grounds upon which it rests. We agree in the conviction that such a form of proceeding affords the best chance of success; but I have declined the proposed honour of presenting a single statement in the name of all; conceiving that our unanimity being

clearly established, a separate expression of our opinions will be most consistent with the principles upon which we have hitherto acted in the affairs of Syria.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 79.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, November 26, 1842.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 19th instant to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

In the present very uncertain state of affairs both there and here, I cannot recommend any other course than that which I have pointed out to Colonel Rose. It appears to me that the greatest possible service to be rendered to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, at the present juncture, is to obtain an early settlement of its affairs at the Porte. To this permanent object the exertions of my colleagues and myself are now directed with an improved prospect of success. In the event of a fresh disappointment, I cannot conceal from myself that it will be desirable to consider the embarrassment to which the Consuls at Beyrout are exposed, and to agree as to some joint line of conduct which may be suited to the occasion, and calculated to place them more in harmony with the altered aspect of affairs.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Buyukderé, November 18, 1842.

I LAMENT, although I am by no means surprized to hear, that an insurrectionary agreement has been concluded between a number of the Druses and Christian Emirs of Mount Lebanon, with the view of opposing an active resistance to the troops and authority of the Sultan.

What I have learnt in part from you, has been confirmed to me with additional circumstances by other correspondents, as well as by the communications of some of my colleagues here, and also of the agent of the Maronite Patriarch.

Your latest despatches have not reached me; but I am informed that Mr. Bennet, to whom you had consigned them, arrived several days ago at the Dardanelles.

The Seraskier arrived at Constantinople yesterday, and brought despatches from M. Basili to the Russian Envoy, but as you wrote by Mr. Bennet, I presume that you had nothing to forward to me by his Excellency.

As it appears that the spirit of active resistance now manifested by many of the Druse and Maronite chiefs is, in part, attributable to their despair of obtaining redress by means of our negotiations here, I am anxious to inform you, with the least practicable delay, that the instructions recently received, as well by myself as by my several colleagues, are such as to afford strong reason to hope that we shall succeed, before long, in overcoming the obstinacy of the Turkish Government, and obtaining, for the inhabitants of the Mountain, that form of local administration to which they are so habitually attached.

I trust that the knowledge of this circumstance, and of the hope which I found upon it, may have a considerable effect in tranquillizing the chiefs, and by their means the population, of Mount Lebanon; and a discreet and con-

fidential communication to that effect from you, in concert with your colleagues, or even by yourself, to the leading powers among them, can hardly fail of promoting a recurrence to that pacific course of conduct which you have so often and so zealously inculcated.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 80.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 22.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, November 28, 1842.

REFERRING to your Lordship's instruction of October 24, I may conscientiously affirm, that I have made every reasonable exertion to obtain an equitable settlement of the Emir El-Kassim's claims. On several and frequent occasions, I have applied to Sarim Effendi for the restitution of his property, for the payment of his salary, for increase of his temporary allowance, for a better house, and for the transfer of his cause from Beyrout to Constantinople. In some cases my application has been attended with success, in others, it has only produced an illusive promise. My last application on his behalf, was to have the order for inquiry into his claim and restoring his property, executed here. The answer of Sarim Effendi was, that my demand was in opposition to a decree of the Mufti, and that the Sultan's firman must take its course at Beyrout.

His claims are said to be exaggerated; and the charge is probably not destitute of truth.

In consequence of your Lordship's instruction, I have again applied to Sarim Effendi, and I have sent to El-Kassim himself for a statement of his claims and of the amount, if any, paid on account of them.

As soon as I obtain his answer, and a more distinct one from Sarim Effendi, I will again address your Lordship upon the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 81.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Extract.)

Foreign Office, January 6, 1843.

THE Turkish Ambassador in this country has communicated to me the substance of the note addressed to your Excellency by the Reis Effendi, on the 7th of December, announcing the acquiescence of the Porte in the wishes of the Allied Cabinets, respecting the future government of Syria; and I conclude that I shall receive, in a few days, your Excellency's despatches through Malta, giving an account of what may have taken place previously to the consent of the Porte being thus signified to you. Meanwhile, I have only to say that Her Majesty's Government have received this intelligence with great satisfaction.

No. 82.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, December 7, 1842.

I HAVE much satisfaction in stating to your Lordship that, in compliance with the advice of the Allied Powers and the urgent solicitations of their respective representatives, the Turkish Government has at length

announced its intention of restoring Mount Lebanon to the benefits of a local native administration.

The accompanying copy of an official note, which I have this moment received from Sarim Effendi, will inform your Lordship of the manner in which the Porte has expressed its decision.

As the steam-packet destined for Malta is on the eve of departure, I have not time to make any observation upon its contents, which, in point of opinion, and in some respects of assertion also, are greatly at variance with our latest advices from Syria. Still less is it in my power to have any explanations upon the subject, either with the Turkish Minister or with my colleagues.

Your Lordship will perceive that the members of the Shehab family are expressly excluded from the number of those amongst whom the Kaimakams of Assaad Pasha, or the local Druse and Christian Governors, are to be selected.

Considering the very critical state of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and the increasing danger which still threatens the tranquillity of that district, and the Sultan's authority there, I deem it of the highest importance to transmit the intelligence of the Porte's concession, without a moment's delay, to Colonel Rose, and I have only to regret that, in order to effect this object, I am compelled to send off my despatches without previously communicating with the other Representatives.

As a regular opportunity of communicating with Beyrout, by steam, will occur in ten days, any inconvenience attached to so brief and hurried a notice, as that to which I am now limited will not be of long duration.

Sarim Effendi's note is founded upon the application which, at the request of my colleagues, I had made to him for a conference, in their name as well as my own.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Sarim Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sublime Porte,

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, *Le 4 Zilkadé, 1258, d'H. (7 Décembre, 1842.)*

J'AI lu avec attention la traduction de l'instruction donnée en date du 23 Novembre à M. Pisani, premier interprète de l'Ambassade Britannique, et dont la copie m'a été remise par celui-ci.

Votre Excellence m'exprime dans cette instruction le désir d'avoir une conférence avec moi, conjointement avec Messieurs ses collègues, à l'effet de me faire connaître, dans toute leur étendue, les dispositions des Grandes Puissances à l'égard de la question du Liban.

Désireux moi-même d'avoir une entrevue avec vous et de vous faire savoir, aussi promptement que possible, mon intention à ce sujet, je me suis empressé de donner communication au Ministère de Sa Hautesse, des vues manifestées par les Grandes Puissances, à l'égard de la question précitée, et dont j'ai pris connaissance par les explications et les observations qui m'ont été faites dans les conférences que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir précédemment avec votre Excellence et Messieurs le Baron de Bourqueney et de Kletzl, ainsi que par la teneur des notes que j'ai reçues à ce sujet de la part de son Excellence M. de Bouténeff et M. Wagner.

Dans un Conseil Ministériel, auquel a assisté le Seraskir Pacha, cette question ayant été débattue, celui-ci s'est constamment tenu renfermé dans les limites des communications et des observations que jusqu'à présent il n'avait cessé de présenter à la Sublime Porte.

Mustapha Pacha s'est déclaré être pleinement convaincu, que la mesure de nomination par le Mouchir de Saïda de deux Kaïmakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, précédemment arrêtée pour assurer la tranquillité si unanimement désirée de la Montagne, ne pourrait atteindre ce but, que lorsque ces Kaïmakams seraient pris parmi les étrangers ; en même temps qu'il a assuré d'une manière formelle et positive, que cette tranquillité ne

pourrait être obtenue dans le cas où l'on voudrait, au contraire, s'arrêter au parti de prendre les dits Kaïmakams parmi les Druses et les Maronites eux-mêmes.

Le Ministère Ottoman éprouve le plus vif regret de voir que ce point de cette question ait donné lieu à tant de discussions et de pourparlers depuis un an, et que, malgré la bonne administration qu'il est parvenue à rétablir dans la Montagne, et les preuves convaincantes qu'il est à même de produire à l'appui de son assertion, les Hautes Puissances ses amies et alliées n'aient jamais changé de vues à cet égard.

La Sublime Porte, mûe néanmoins par les sentimens de respect dont elle ne cesse pas un seul instant d'être animée à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Puissances, ses plus chères amies et alliées, a préféré, pour arriver à la solution d'une question si délicate, et qui est en même tems une de ses affaires intérieures, se conformer à leurs vœux, plutôt que d'y opposer du refus.

Il est évident, toutefois, que la vue de la Sublime Porte et celle des Grandes Puissances, ne tendant l'une et l'autre qu'à un même objet,—le rétablissement du bon ordre dans la Montagne,—celui des systèmes proposés par les deux parties qui eût été adopté, n'aurait dû être considéré, en premier lieu, que comme un essai.

Si ce résultat peut être obtenu à l'aide de ce système, le vœu de la Sublime Porte en sera accompli, et elle ne pourra qu'en être reconnaissante; mais si, comme elle a lieu de le craindre, d'après les informations successivement recueillies jusqu'ici, la tranquillité ne pouvait être rétablie en Syrie, dans ce cas-là, la justesse des objections faites jusqu'à présent par la Sublime Porte serait évidemment reconnue, et le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse se trouverait, de l'aveu de tout le monde, avoir été dans son droit.

En conséquence, la Sublime Porte, dans son désir de se conformer aux conseils amicaux qui lui sont donnés par ses amis, a pris la résolution d'envoyer à Essaad Pacha, l'ordre de procéder, quant à l'administration des différentes classes de sujets qui habitent le Mont Liban placé sous sa juridiction, au choix et à la nomination de deux Kaïmakams, l'un pour les Druses et l'autre pour les Maronites, pris parmi les indigènes autres que ceux appartenant à la famille Chéhab, conformément à la mesure déjà acceptée par les Grandes Puissances; et de l'engager en même tems à consacrer tous ses soins, au maintien de la tranquillité en Syrie.

Cette résolution de la part du Ministère Ottoman, ayant aussi obtenu la sanction Impériale de Sa Hautesse, je crois de mon devoir d'annoncer à votre Excellence que cette question a reçu sa solution sans avoir recours à de nouvelles conférences.

En me félicitant d'être l'organe des sentimens d'amitié et de respect dont Sa Hautesse mon Auguste Maître et Souverain vient de donner, en cette occasion, une nouvelle preuve, à l'égard des Cinq Grandes Puissances, je vous prie, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de recevoir les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,
(Signé) SARIM.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte,*
4 Zilkadé, 1258, (December 7, 1842.)

I HAVE read, with attention, the translation of the instruction given on the 23rd of November to M. Pisani, first interpreter of the British Embassy, and of which a copy was delivered to me by him.

Your Excellency expresses to me, in this instruction, your desire to have a conference with me, conjointly with your colleagues, in order to make me understand, in their full extent, the wishes of the Great Powers with reference to the question of Mount Lebanon.

Being myself desirous of an interview with you, and of letting you know as early as possible what my intention was on this subject, I hastened to communicate to the Government of His Highness, the views entertained by the Great Powers on the question above stated, views of

which I had become aware by means of the explanations and observations which were made to me in the conferences which I had previously had the honour to have with your Excellency, the Baron de Bourqueney and M. de Kletzl, as well as from the tenor of the notes upon this subject which I received from his Excellency M. de Bouteneff and M. Wagner.

This question having been debated in a ministerial council, at which the Seraskier Pasha was present, he still persisted in the communications and observations, which, up to the present time, he had not ceased to offer to the Sublime Porte.

Mustapha Pasha declared himself fully convinced, that the plan of the nomination by the Mushir of Saida of two kaimakams, one for the Druses and the other for the Maronites, which had previously been determined upon with the hope of assuring the tranquillity of the Mountain, which is so unanimously desired, could not effect that object, unless these kaimakams were chosen from amongst strangers; at the same time that he asserted, in a formal and positive manner, that that tranquillity could not be attained if, on the contrary, it was decided to select the said kaimakams from amongst the Druses and Maronites.

The Turkish Ministry regret deeply to observe that this point of the question has given rise during the last year to so many discussions and arguments, and that, notwithstanding the good government which it has succeeded in re-establishing in the Mountain, and the convincing proofs of its assertion which it has in its power to produce, the High Powers, its friends and allies, have never changed their opinions in this respect.

The Sublime Porte, however, actuated by those sentiments of respect which she never ceases for a moment to entertain towards the Five Great Powers, her dearest friends and allies, has, in order to arrive at a solution of a question so delicate, and which at the same time is one of her own internal affairs, preferred to conform to their wishes, rather than to meet those wishes with a refusal.

It is however evident, that the views of the Sublime Porte and those of the Great Powers, having both the same object,—the re-establishment of order in the Mountain,—whichever of the systems proposed by the two parties was adopted, it could be considered, at first, only as an experiment.

If this result can be obtained by this system, the wishes of the Sublime Porte will be accomplished, and she can only be grateful for it; but if, as she has reason to fear from the information continually received up to this time, tranquillity should not be restored in Syria, in that case the justice of the objections hitherto raised by the Porte must plainly be acknowledged, and the Government of His Highness would, by common consent, have been in the right.

Accordingly, the Sublime Porte, actuated by a desire to conform to the friendly counsels which have been given to her by her friends, has resolved to send to Assaad Pasha instructions to proceed,—as regards the government of the different classes of subjects inhabiting Mount Lebanon, and placed under his jurisdiction,—to the choice and nomination of two kaimakams, one for the Druses and the other for the Maronites, chosen from amongst those of the natives who do not belong to the Shehab family, according to the plan already acquiesced in by the Great Powers, and to call upon him at the same time to use his utmost endeavours to preserve tranquillity in Syria.

This resolution on the part of the Turkish Ministry having also received the imperial sanction of His Highness, I consider it my duty to announce to your Excellency that this question has been arranged without any necessity for further conferences.

Whilst congratulating myself on being the channel of the sentiments of friendship and respect of which His Highness, my august Master and Sovereign, has, on this occasion given a fresh proof towards the Allied Powers, I beg, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, that you will receive the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs,
(Signed) SARIM.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.

I HAVE already informed you that the Syrian Question is settled in so far as it depends upon the Porte's assent to the propositions contained in your Lordship's instructions.

I have now the satisfaction to add, that my despatch, announcing this important intelligence to Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, went on from Smyrna without an hour's delay, in Her Majesty's steam-vessel "Devastation," and there is every reason to presume that it reached Beyrout on the morning of the 12th instant.

The advices which I have received from Syria, of fresh intrigues, of fresh conflicts, and of fresh acts of violence and cruelty in the Mountain to so late a date as the 9th instant, satisfy me that I did not err in hastening to apprise Colonel Rose of the success which had finally crowned our exertions here. Most earnestly do I hope that the intelligence so long expected, may have the effect of restoring tranquillity. Judging from Colonel Rose's account of the good, though momentary, effect produced by my preceding communication of the course to be pursued under your Lordship's more recent instructions, I venture to entertain that hope with some degree of confidence. The policy and personal disposition of Assaad Pasha appear to be more conciliatory than those of his predecessor, the Seraskier; and the influence of Her Majesty's Consul-General and his colleagues may be reasonably expected to derive strength from the concession of the Porte, as well towards the Pasha as towards the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

The employment of Albanian troops in the heart of the Mountain, though in direct violation of the Porte's engagement, and accompanied with the usual horrors, may find some degree of palliation in the extremities to which the Turkish authority was reduced, and in the failure of all attempts to conciliate the Druses then actually in arms.

I return to our proceedings here. Inclosed with this despatch are copies of my reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, and of two instructions which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, the second in concert with my colleagues in the Syrian Question. We held a meeting together some days ago at my house; and, after communicating our several impressions on the subject, decided upon writing to the Turkish Minister, and also to the Consuls at Beyrout in the sense of what I have expressed in the accompanying papers. It is particularly gratifying to state that the utmost harmony prevailed in the expression of our respective sentiments, and that the principles of unanimity and uniformity were admitted by all without exception to be the true basis of our action and of our strength.

The only shade of difference worthy of notice or of recollection, was a desire expressed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to mark in rather pointed terms our conditional acquiescence in the exclusion of the Shehab family, and the absence of any participation on our part in that decision. Monsieur Kletzl's acquaintance with the Turkish language enabled him to allege that the passage in Sarim Effendi's letter relating to that point, intimated more strongly than in the translation, that we had assented to the exclusion of the Shehabs. However that may be, I confess that, for one, I was governed by what is due to the main object of our oft-repeated and long-protracted efforts in favour of Mount Lebanon and the mass of its inhabitants. We all agreed that our instructions did not admit of our opening a fresh discussion with the Porte on behalf of any single family or individual, and that we should weaken the chances of re-establishing tranquillity in Syria if we held out to the excluded family and its partizans the slightest ground or hope that its restoration to power would still become an object of interest to our respective Governments. This view of the matter prevailed to such a degree, that when I finally suggested, as a middle term, that while we kept silence as to the Shehabs in our answer to Sarim Effendi, we should make a separate and verbal disclaimer to his Excellency of our participation in what concerned that

family, the French and Russian Representatives agreed in thinking that even so quiet and confidential an intimation as this would in all probability transpire, and occasion the very mischief which we were all desirous to avoid.

Your Lordship will observe that in my own reply to Sarim Effendi's letter, I have endeavoured, though with very imperfect success, to reconcile the silence which is requisite to avoid that danger, with the eventual disappointment of our present hopes, by recording the actual disturbed state of Mount Lebanon, as a point of departure for the experiment, as Sarim Effendi describes it, of a recurrence to the old principles of government in that district; and intimating that we are neither blind to the source of the present disorders, nor inclined to be passive spectators of any insidious attempt to render the measure now adopted practically abortive.

I trust that the recapitulation in one official document of the various promises successively made by the Porte in favour of Syria, at the requisition of the Allied Powers, either with or without the participation of France, may prove conducive to the one grand object of realizing, to the practical advantage of its inhabitants, those benevolent views which actuate the principal Powers of Christendom in their joint dealings with this Empire.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure I in No. 83.

Sir Stratford Canning to Sarim Effendi.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Buyukderé, 15 Decembre, 1842.

LA conférence que M. Pisani vous avait demandée, tant de ma part que de celle des Représentans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie, devenait en effet sans objet dès que votre Excellence était à même de m'informer que la Sublime Porte avait adopté une résolution conforme aux vœux des Puissances ses amies.

La lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 7 courant, m'annonce cet heureux résultat de nos communications précédentes; et je me félicite d'être l'organe de transmettre à ma Cour un aussi éclatant témoignage de la bienveillance qui préside dans les pensées de Sa Hautesse. Mon Gouvernement apprendra avec plaisir que la Porte, en prenant la décision de placer le Mont Liban sous l'administration d'un Chef Chrétien pour les Maronites, et d'un Chef Druse pour les Druses, a voulu surtout manifester sa confiance dans l'amitié des Cinq Cours, et sa déférence à leur opinion. Entourée de leurs sympathies, et forte de leurs conseils, elle s'acquiert de nouveaux moyens d'affermir le repos, et avancer les intérêts de son empire.

Tout sentiment de regret qui pourrait se mêler à celui de leur satisfaction, à cause de certains doutes que la Porte semble avoir conçus pour l'avenir, s'efface devant la conviction que le succès, de même que l'exécution, de la mesure dépendra principalement de la Porte elle-même. Les derniers incidens de la Syrie ne sont pas de nature à démentir la nécessité d'un tel remède. Ils ne justifient que trop la prévision des Cours Alliées; et si par considération pour ceux qui ont exercé l'autorité souveraine dans les lieux, je m'abstiens de toute remarque sur la cause de ces malheurs, je ne saurais m'avengler sur l'existence et la gravité des faits.

J'aime à croire que l'avenir offre quelque chose de plus rassurant. La décision adoptée par la Porte doit venir à l'appui de plusieurs mesures déjà annoncées par l'ordre de votre Excellence. Ce sont, la démission d'Omar Pacha, l'exclusion des troupes Albanaises de la Syrie, et la restitution des propriétés; à une époque antérieure, le libre exercice des cultes, l'allègement des impôts, et, en général, la confirmation des anciens privilèges se trouvaient consacrés par les assurances de la Porte.

L'ensemble de ces mesures sera envisagé par mon Gouvernement, je n'en doute pas, comme un nouveau motif de cordialité entre les deux Cours, comme un droit de plus acquis par la Sublime Porte à la soumission et à la reconnaissance du peuple objet de leur adoption. Que les soins et les qualités du Vizir chargé de surveiller la province répondent aux intentions bienveillantes

du Sultan, que le choix des gouverneurs appelés du sein des deux nations pour administrer les affaires du Mont Liban s'accorde avec les besoins du pays, et les Puissances amies de Sa Hautesse n'auront rien à regretter et rien à désirer.

Je profite, &c.,
(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Buyukderé, December 15, 1842.

THE conference which M. Pisani had requested of you, both for me and for the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, became in fact without an object when your Excellency was in a position to acquaint me that the Sublime Porte had come to a resolution in conformity with the wishes of the Powers, her Allies.

The letter which you did me the honour to address to me on the 7th instant, announced this happy result of our previous communications, and I congratulate myself on being the channel through which so decided a proof of the friendship which influences the mind of His Highness, is conveyed to my Court. My Government will learn with pleasure that the Porte, in determining to place Mount Lebanon under the rule of a Christian Chief for the Maronites, and a Druse Chief for the Druses, has been especially desirous of showing her confidence in the friendship of the Five Courts, and her deference for their opinion. Surrounded by their sympathies, and strong in their counsels, she acquires to herself new means for increasing the repose, and advancing the interests of her empire.

Every sentiment of regret which could mingle with their satisfaction, on account of certain doubts which the Porte would seem to entertain as regards the future, disappears before the persuasion that the success, as well as the execution of this measure depends principally upon the Porte herself. The last events in Syria are not of a nature to disprove the necessity which exists for such a remedy. They only afford too strong a justification of the anticipations of the Allied Courts; and if, out of consideration for those who have exercised the sovereign authority on the spot, I abstain from any remark as to the cause of these misfortunes, I cannot conceal from myself the existence and importance of the circumstances.

I flatter myself that the future opens a more encouraging prospect. The decision adopted by the Porte, will come in support of several measures already announced by order of your Excellency. These are, the dismissal of Omar Pasha; the exclusion from Syria of the Albanian troops; and the restitution of property: at an earlier period freedom of religious worship, decrease in taxation, and, generally, the confirmation of ancient privileges, had been secured by the assurances of the Porte.

The whole of these measures will, I doubt not, be regarded by my Government as a new motive for cordiality between the two Courts, and as a further right acquired by the Sublime Porte to the submission and gratitude of the people on whose account they have been adopted. Let the endeavours and disposition of the Vizier charged with the Government of this province, only correspond to the benevolent intentions of the Sultan, let the selection of the Governors chosen from the two nations to administer the affairs of the Lebanon, only be in accordance with the wants of the country, and the Powers friendly to His Highness will have nothing left for them to regret, and nothing left for them to desire.

I avail myself, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Buyukderé, December 7, 1842.

CONSIDERING the disturbed and critical state of affairs in Syria at the date of your last despatches to me, I think it my duty to apprise you, without the loss of a single moment, that the Ottoman Ministers, acting under the express commands of the Sultan, have at length conceded the remaining point of difference between them and the Representatives of the Five Allied Powers respecting the government of Mount Lebanon.

The Porte's decision has been communicated to me this morning by a note from his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Of this important document I send you a copy herewith for your perusal and confidential information, and also for that of your colleagues the Consular Representatives of the other four Christian Powers at Beyrout, in the event of their not having received a similar communication from their respective Ministers.

You will easily perceive that, although it is highly desirable for the main satisfactory point of intelligence regarding the local administration of the Mountain to be used with a view to the maintenance of whatever degree of tranquillity may still subsist there, the tenor and character of Sarim Effendi's note, as a whole, are not such as to make it a fit object of public, or even of more than limited and guarded communication.

The immediate departure of the steam-packet, which enables me to communicate with Sir James Stirling at Smyrna, precludes me at the same time from either obtaining any further explanation of the Porte's decision, or even entering into any consideration of the manner or terms in which it has been announced.

I propose to take the earliest opportunity of addressing you more at length upon this subject, and, in the mean time, I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches and letters of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 83.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Constantinople, December 14, 1842.

IN writing to you on the 7th instant, I promised a further and more deliberate communication on the subject of the very important document which I then transmitted to you in confidence. The approaching departure of the Austrian steam-packet enables me to redeem my pledge without much delay; and I have now the satisfaction to inform you that my colleagues agree with me in regarding the measure announced in Sarim Effendi's letter, as a completion of the Porte's assent to our proposals respecting Syria. We have resolved to accept it in that sense on behalf of our several Courts, and our only remaining anxiety is to secure its prompt execution in the manner best calculated to restore the tranquillity of Syria, and to promote the welfare of its inhabitants. Guided by your habitual discretion and local experience, you will no doubt be able to contribute to the attainment of these objects, without exciting the jealousy of the Turkish authorities, or diverting from their Sovereign those sentiments of confidence and gratitude which are now so emphatically due to him from his subjects of Mount Lebanon.

You are by this time already in possession of the letter addressed to me by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. A letter expressed in terms almost identical was addressed by his Excellency to each of my four colleagues. I now transmit to you herewith a copy of my answer to Sarim

Effendi. Though differing in terms, it is similar in purport to the answer sent in respectively by them; and I despair of being able to give you a clearer idea of our united views, as founded upon our common instructions, than by referring you to that correspondence.

There is one point, however, to which I am desirous of calling your more particular attention. The Porte, you will observe, has expressly excluded the Shiehab family from the number of those amongst whom a governor of the Maronite population is to be selected. Without entering into the motives of this exception, its justice, or its wisdom, I wish you distinctly to understand that I have decided, in concert with my colleagues, upon the expediency of raising no question, either here or in Syria, upon the subject. Whatever may be the merits of the family, whatever its claims upon the respect of those whom it governed so long, we recognize no obligation and no right on the part of the Powers to interfere especially on its behalf; and we cannot be blind to the deep responsibility of leaving any shadow of doubt as to our sentiments, at a time when passions are likely to be roused, and a spirit of intrigue may prevail among the disappointed. We must bear steadily in mind, that the restoration of tranquillity under the enjoyment of this last crowning concession, is the one great object now to be secured.

The motives which have determined this line of conduct might preclude us, in point of consistency, from entering into any discussion with the Porte as to the details of execution, even if we felt ourselves qualified by sufficient information to undertake the task. It is manifest, at the same time, that the result of the Porte's decision will principally depend upon the manner and spirit in which it is carried into effect. The character of Assaad Pasha seems open to favourable impressions, and your friendly intercourse with his Excellency may afford you opportunities of exercising a beneficial and not inconvenient influence on the present occasion. The choice of the individuals to be selected for the government of the Mountain is, no doubt, of the greatest importance. It is most desirable that they should enjoy the general respect, if not the affection and confidence of the people.

But it is also desirable that, without being the mere creatures and tools of the Vizier, they should be alive to the importance of deserving his goodwill, and maintaining the inhabitants of the Mountain in peace with each other, and in lawful obedience to the Sultân.

I have every reason to believe that you will find your colleagues authorized, as well as disposed, to concur with you in pursuing this line of conduct, remembering that interference, even limited to the most prudential forms, should be rather the exception than the rule; and that its value will be generally in proportion to the quiet and unobtrusive manner in which it is exercised. What I thus state, with a view to your instruction, has been practised here throughout the whole course of our proceedings relating to Syria, and nothing can be more satisfactory than the uniform and unanimous character which prevails in this last stage of them between my colleagues and myself.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 84.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

(Extract.)

Buyukderé, December 17, 1842.

I HAVE not succeeded in ascertaining from Sarim Effendi, upon what individuals, or upon what families, the choice of the Porte may be expected to fall in appointing the native Governors, or Kaimakams, for Mount Lebanon. In answer to my inquiry, he said, that the selection would be left to Assaad Pasha; and, in truth, I know not that it could be assigned to better hands in the present disturbed state of the country and doubtful position of parties, provided the Pasha be at liberty to act with sincerity, and to lend an ear to the counsels of those who may naturally be supposed to have other means than his of knowing the disposition and real wishes of the inhabitants.

With respect to the renewed employment of the Albanians, which came

to my knowledge only yesterday, I have sent in an expression of deep concern and surprize, and I think it by no means unlikely, that the adoption of some joint step, on the part of the Representatives, may be found indispensable.

I have again recommended the restitution of El-Kassim's property; I have spoken in favour of a liberal treatment of the Shehabs in general, now that they are definitely excluded from power; and I have urged the expediency of releasing the prisoners at Acre and Beyrout.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has sent me an assurance, that he will exert himself for the attainment of these objects, but I should not like to be held responsible for the effect of his exertions.

I have only to add, that in communicating with those persons who may be considered as the partizans of the Shehab family, I have been careful to inculcate the propriety, the expediency, and the duty of their abstaining from any intrigues calculated to create a necessity for its recall to the administration of Mount Lebanon.

Judging from the general tendency of the information, which has reached me, such a necessity is by no means unlikely to occur; and if it were to arise out of the natural order of events, or from the crooked policy of the Porte, counsels more favourable to their pretensions would, no doubt, prevail in proportion as the want of them would be felt. But I am confident, and such is the conviction which I have endeavoured to produce in their minds, that the triumph will ultimately rest with that party which deals most fairly, and abstains, at present, from useless resistance, and mischievous intrigue.

No. 85.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 9, 1843.)

My Lord,

Buyukderé, December 17, 1843.

IN answer to a message which I sent to Sarim Effendi, complaining of the renewed employment of Albanian troops in Mount Lebanon, on the authority of a despatch which I received yesterday from Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, his Excellency assures me that his former promise on that subject has been carried into effect, under the express commands of the Porte; that he has no knowledge of the Albanians having been again sent into the Mountain, and cannot imagine that I have been correctly informed.

I am the more surprised at the clear and positive language which appears to have been used by Sarim Effendi, as my despatches from Syria were brought by a Turkish steamer, which, it is to be presumed, was also the bearer of despatches to the Government.

At all events, it is satisfactory to find that the Turkish Minister does not shrink from his former assurance, on a point to which Her Majesty's Government so justly attach a deep importance.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 86.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1843.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches from the 7th to the 18th of December; and with reference to those among them in which your Excellency gives an account of the course adopted by yourself and your colleagues on receiving the reply of the Porte on the subject of the future government of Syria, I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve your proceedings on that matter, and are highly gratified with the success

which has attended your Excellency's zealous and persevering efforts in carrying into effect the objects pointed out in the instructions with which you have from time to time been furnished.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 87.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 25, 1843.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, December 31, 1842.

IN obedience to your Lordship's commands I have applied to the Ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim for a statement of his claims upon the Porte. They consist of lands usurped by the Druses, of moveable property plundered, and of arrears of salary for himself and persons in his employment. El-Kassim does not wish to prosecute his claim to the lands at present. The list of the moveable or personal property which he claims, comprizes a great variety of objects difficult to be recovered, to be estimated, or to be ascertained. The arrears of salary amount to 84,000 piastres a-month during the term of more than two years, to which his administration of Mount Lebanon extended. The Porte referred this claim to the Treasurer, who is alleged to have agreed with El-Kassim for the amount of his allowances and of those assigned to the individuals who served under his authority. The Treasurer's report, if given in, has not yet been communicated to me. I can only state, in the mean time, that on the side of El-Kassim there is probably much exaggeration, on that of the Porte an equal reluctance to admit his demands, and on both sides a want of method and explicitness, which makes it difficult to ascertain the equity of the case, and nearly as difficult to obtain a clear statement of it. I propose to return to the subject as soon as I have anything more ample or decisive to communicate, and your Lordship, I trust, understands that I have already on more than one occasion employed the influence of Her Majesty's Embassy in favour of El-Kassim and his pending interests.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 88.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 6.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, January 17, 1843.

I AVAILED myself of the opportunity to inquire as to what had been done in favour of the ex-Emir Beshir El-Kassim. The Effendi replied that a firman had been issued for the restitution of that part of his property which had been lost in the late troubles, and that orders had been given for paying him these arrears of his appointment which were really due, out of the tribute collected from Mount Lebanon.

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