

## TRICOUPL.

Spyridon Tricoupi, in his well-known *History of the Greek Revolution*, gives a brief and sober account of the events which, much against the wishes of the Christian inhabitants, involved Cyprus in some of the most untoward results of the rising in Greece. We translate from vol. 1. (2nd edition, 8vo. London, 1860), pp. 254—257.

At the date of the revolution, Cyprus had 100,000 inhabitants, of whom 20,000 were Turks, and the rest, omitting some few Jews, were Christians. Levcosia, the capital of the island, had 10,000 Turks and 5000 Christians. There resided the *Muteselim* of the island, the *Alay-bey*, the *Yenicheri-gha*, the *Misfir*, the members of the Administrative Council, and His Beatitude the Archbishop. The three other bishops of Paphos, Citium and Kyrenia lived in their several districts.

At the outbreak of the revolution the Porte ordered the Pasha of Acre to send over troops to Cyprus, and at the same time gave full authority to the *Muteselim* to kill as many of the Christians as he thought worth killing.

On receiving these commands the then *Muteselim* Kuchuk Mehmed communicated them to the local Turks in a secret assembly. These were willing enough to indulge their hatred against the Christians, and so ensure, as they thought, their own interests and lives. The forethought of the government they praised as their salvation, and gave it as their opinion that fully to secure the peace of the island, not only, as the *Muteselim* proposed, the four prelates and a few other prominent Christians must be sacrificed, but all those whose wealth or education gave them influence among their fellows, and who could excite a general revolt. They then drew up a long list of persons to be proscribed, including doubtless all whom individually they hated, or whose property they desired to annex at a trifling cost. The *Muteselim* found the number excessive, and thought the slaughter of many among them who were persons of no account unprofitable. But the Turks, seeing him hesitate, threatened to hold him responsible if the island through his clemency revolted. During the protracted discussion about the quantity and quality of the victims, the Archimandrite Theophylactos Thesens, a Cypriot, anchored off the island, and without landing distributed letters and proclamations inviting to revolution. The latter fell into the hands of the *Muteselim*, and helped to persuade him to carry out the order of his government, and the wishes of the local *aghas*. But fearing lest the slaughter of so many and so distinguished persons should provoke a tumult, he deferred its execution until the expected reinforcements came.

On May 3, 1821, four thousand soldiers arrived, and forthwith the *Muteselim* summoned to Levcosia the bishops and other notables under the pretext that as their fellow-Christians elsewhere had risen in arms it was necessary for their safety, as being loyal, to send a common memorial to the Porte, assuring the Sultan of their unshaken fidelity and attachment to his throne. He added that he would confirm their statements in reports of his own. Many believed him, and went to Levcosia. Some, more knowing than the rest, suspected a trick and fled to Larnaca, a town of 6000 inhabitants mostly Christians, and were concealed in the consulates. Such of the notables of Larnaca and Lemisos as did not take the precaution of hiding themselves were arrested as they came out of the churches, and were sent bound to Levcosia. The *Muteselim*, having collected as many as he could in the capital, threw off the mask, and made his bloody purpose plain, although the unhappy Christians had given him no excuse.