

our sway its Christian inhabitants have been guilty of the least disloyalty to our government, but, on the contrary, on certain occasions when the Turks revolted, the Christians have joined our victorious forces, and given willing help in routing and reducing the rebels: nevertheless, to carry out our decree for the disarming of all the Christians in our dominions, we command that it be enforced in Cyprus also."

In accordance with this rescript special orders and officers were despatched to all the districts of the island, who carried out the disarmament without opposition or difficulty. But as soon as the troops from Syria and Palestine, about four thousand men, were landed on May 3, there began, in pursuance of a pre-arranged plan, denunciations of persons, communities and monasteries, for hiding arms and munitions of war, for acting in concert with the rebels, and for waiting only the appearance of vessels from Hydra and Petsai to rouse the whole island to arms. On these followed enquiries of all kinds, prosecutions and imprisonments without number. No concealed store of arms or munitions was, however, discovered, and no understanding with the islands which had manned a fleet.

Yet for all this the *Muteselim* of the island, Kuchuk Mehmed, acting chiefly on the advice of his dear friend Georges Lapiere, of a family belonging to Syros, the interpreter of the French Consulate, thought the circumstances propitious to the acquisition of a fortune, if he could only make victims of the principal persons in the country. He reported to the Porte the peaceable disarmament of the Christians, but at the same time submitted a list of 486 names, including the Archbishop of Cyprus, the three metropolitans, the abbots and officers of all the monasteries, the principal clerics and all the leading citizens in every district of the island. He pointed out that the disarmament would be useless as long as these persons remained alive, seeing that they had wealth and influence, and wide relations with Europe and the islands which were manning the rebel fleet, and so could easily procure all kinds of arms and stores from abroad, call up ships when they liked, and raise the whole island in revolt.

In reply the Porte curtly ordered the slaughter of all the proscribed persons, the confiscation of their personal and landed property, as well as the enslavement of their wives and children, with the exception of those who embraced Islam. Armed with this authority Kuchuk Mehmed considered (always in concert with Lapiere) how he should proceed to the arrest of so many individuals, since most of them lived away from the capital Levcosia, and were scattered over several districts. This fact led him to suspect that in their despair the notables might raise a general revolt throughout the island, of which he feared the consequences. And notwithstanding the presence and support of the force from Syria and Palestine he desired to make accomplices of the local aghas, and summoning them to a private council he affected leniency in the matter of so many death warrants. "For the safety of the island," he said, "I consider the execution of the Archbishop, the bishops and the most prominent citizens sufficient." But these degraded and brutal aghas pressed for the whole list, and for yet a longer one, declaring that it was necessary to slay everyone, even of the lower ranks of the population, who had wealth, education, or influence of any kind which could make him suspect. Of course they too thought this the most fitting opportunity to buy up at a low rate the confiscated property of their victims. With cruel craft the *Muteselim* insisted on the uselessness of so general a massacre, as likely to excite an armed insurrection in the island, but the aghas all the more threatened him as incurring a grave responsibility towards the Sultan who had given the order.

Thus Kuchuk Mehmed appeared to sanction the slaughter of all the proscribed persons, while he threw back on the aghas the responsibility for any armed resistance which might