

Moossul

July 20. 1843

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Sir

I have the honour to inform you that reports from Central Kurdistan confirm the intelligence contained in my dispatch W^o 9. relative to the disturbed state of that country.

Dr Grant arrived here on the 15th instant from Tyarri bringing with him intelligence, that the united forces of Beder Khan Beg and the Emree of Matakari had plundered the Nestorian Christians in the province of Diz killed a great number of individuals including two (some

Colonel R. Taylor

Her B. Majestys Consul

Baghdad

say five) brothers of Mar Shimoon
the Patriarch, and took captive one
of his sisters

I understand from the
same source that the Syarri Chris-
-tians are in daily anticipation
of an attack upon their own pro-
-vince, which unless prevented
must inevitably terminate in their
complete overthrow and subjugation.

Provisions are continually
being sent from this place to the Pashas
soldiers in the Berwarri province.

It does not yet appear for what pur-
-pose they had advanced, but I have
received correct information to the ef-
-fect, that the soldiers have left Amu-
-diak and are at present on the
boundary between this Pashalic and
the Syarri, occupying a position.

which commands the latter country 237

Messengers are continually going and coming between Beder Khan Bey and the Kurdish Emier of Salamast included within the Persian frontier.

Report states that the object of Mahmood Khan's visit to Beder Khan Bey was in order to secure the assistance of the latter chief against the Ottoman Authorities of Wan.

I have the honour to be Dear

Signed / C. A. Rassam

True Copy

J. Haynes, Secy.
P. O. Turkish Arabia

Copy of Mr. Nassau's
letter dated Mosul 20 July

Enclosure N^o. 1. to H. E.
The Ambassador's letters
of 26. July N^o. 18.

Containing an
account of Central
Kurdistan.

Moosul Aug^t 3^d 1843-

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Sir

I have the honour to inform you that the continued success of the Kurdish Chiefs in the Mountains of central Kurdistan over the Christian tribes, obliged Mar Sherron their head to flee for his life, and on the 27th of the last Month he reached Moosul & took refuge in the British Vice Consulate.

After plundering the province of Dez it appears that the invaders attacked the Tyarie district where they obliged several villages to submit to their rule. Cruelties the most abhorrent were practised upon those who opposed the conquering Kurds, nor was their vengeance spared on such as quietly yielded to their aggressions. Numbers of Men women & Children have been carried into captivity by Bedr Khan Beg who are to be sold as slaves at

To Colonel R. Taylor
 Her. B. Majesty's Consul
 & Political Resident
 Bagdad

Jezerab

Jezzerah & elsewhere, several of the Christian villages have been plundered and razed, and the Moslems appear to have wreaked their vengeance especially upon the Churches, Monasteries and church books of the conquered. No less than twenty individuals of the Patriarch's own family have been carried into captivity, including two brothers and other near relatives. His aged Mother was first cruelly murdered at Dez, afterwards divided, and her corpse thrown into the river Zab.

Since his arrival I have been present with Mar Shemon the Patriarch at two different interviews with Mohammedi Pacha. The latter is exceedingly anxious to obtain from the Patriarch a document certifying that he yields up himself and all the districts over which he has had rule to him and to the Sultan. The Patriarch, however, having thrown himself upon the protection of the British Government, excused himself for several reasons from
consenting

consenting with this arrangement, whilst on
the other hand he declared to His Excellency
the Pacha that he was ready to submit to
the Sultan. 213

The reasons which have prevented
Mar Shemon from assenting to all Ma-
homed Pacha's demands are as follows;
First, he requires of him such terms as
must inevitably lead him to relinquish
all his former authority over the Mountain
Christians, whereas he hopes through
the influence of our Government to
make some better terms with the Sultan
by which he may be reinstated in his
Government whilst he acknowledges
subjection to the Sultan. Secondly, if
it be true as Mahomed Pacha says that
Bedr Khan Beg and the other Kurdish
Emeers were ordered to attack the Syarie
Christians by the Pacha of Erzerovorn,
should Mar Shemon give his submission
to the Pacha of Moosul it might cause
some

some jealousy between these two Governors which might turn out to his disadvantage & that of his people. Moreover it is very difficult to determine what part Mahommed Pacha himself has taken in the late disturbances of the Mountains. I myself am far from thinking he is well disposed towards the Christians except for his own private ends, for when I joined with the Patriarch in begging him to use his influence with Bedr Khan Beg for the release of Mar Shemon's relatives, he at first refused unless his own terms were agreed to. although he afterwards said that he could do nothing to effect this end except through the Porte. -

The above is the sum of ^{the} despatch which I have already forwarded to His Excellency the Ambassador by last post, since which information has reached us that a few of the Mountaineers are still

still holding out against the Kurds on account of the hard terms to which they were urged to submit. Besides the number of captives which have already been taken out of the country, Bedr Khan Beg requires from those that remain that they give up to him one hundred young men & as many young women, for what purpose does not appear, & moreover demands ten lyhazis from every household as a general fine upon the Christians, and a musket from every man capable of bearing arms. It is also stated that Bedr Khan Beg has appointed Zinear Beg, who was so lately in rebellion against the Pacha of Moosul as Mutsehlim over the large village of Asheetah in the Tyarie districts.

Mar Shemoon now throws himself and his interests under the protection of the British Government,
and

and begs that you will not fail to repre-
-sent his circumstances to His Excellency
the Ambassador and urge him to inte-
-rest himself without any delay for the
liberation of the Christian captives, the
indemnification of the great losses which
his people have suffered, and his reestab-
-lishment in his Government on the
best terms which he can make with
the Ottoman Government.

I have the honour to be
signed / C. A. Rassam

(True copy)

C. A. Rassam
P.A. Turkish Arabia

Copy of a letter from
H. M. Vice Consul at
Moosul containing the
latest intelligence of the
Kurds in the Mountain
of central Kurdistan &
of the Captivity of the
Patriarchs family

Moossul August 17th 1843-

Sir

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Copy of H. E.'s letter
to Mr. Passam
22^d July.

I have the honour to inform
you that I have this day received a despatch
from His Excellency the Ambassador respect-
-ing Mr. Hector's raft of which the enclosed is a copy.

On presenting the Vizierial letter
to Mahomed Pacha he positively refused to
obey it, on the ground that the construction of
rafts was a Monopoly farmed out by the
Imperial Government, and that consequent-
-ly it was an imposition to demand of him
to pay a debt which properly belonged to the
Porte.

Mahomed Pacha, moreover, took
upon himself to advise that the Imperial
Government should first abolish the Raft
Monopoly

To
Colonel R. Taylor
Her B. M. Consul
& M^l Resident
Bagdad

Monopoly, & then no further hindrance
would be met with in the way of our trade.

The Pacha defended the raft Mo-
nopoly as a just rent, or duty, for the navigation
of the Sultan's waters. -

I hope you will not fail to for-
ward a copy of this despatch to His Excellency
the Ambassador with your own remarks on
the inconvenience & hindrances which are
put in the way of all our communications
with the local Government here through the
perversity of the Pacha. -

I have the honour to be &c
(signed) C. A. Passam.

(True copy)

W. J. Taylor for Major
P. A. Turkish Arabia

containing report of Major
Pacha's refusal to acknowledge
Raoof Pacha's order with
respect to the Master's raft

Enclosure No. 1 in a letter
of this date No. 22 to H. Excellency
the Ambassador at the
Porte.

copy of a letter from
M. P. M. Vice Consul at
Mersin, dated 17th Aug^r