

978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877
Arthur John Evans

Table of Contents

More information

CONTENTS.

LETTER I.

REFUGEE AND INSURGENT BOSNIA.

Impossibility of peaceful settlement in insurgent provinces. Extent of
Bosnian insurrection. Reign of Terror in country districts, A
quarter of a million refugees. Inadequacy of official relief. Corruption of 'patriots.' Miss Irby and Miss Johnston's work . . .

LETTER II.

THE FUGITIVES IN THE CAVERNS.

LETTER III.

AT INSURGENT HEAD-QUARTERS.

The Camp at Czerni Potuk. The Insurgent commander, Colonel Despotović; prevalent disaffection against him. Execution of a Bosnian hero. Conversation with the Colonel. 'La Bosnie, c'est moi.' A Mahometan Effendi. Polish of Mahometan Bosniacs. Non-provincial character of Orthodox Church in Bosnia. Its influence in developing Serb nationality



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents

More information

xiv

CONTENTS.

LETTER IV.

THE CLOUDLANDS OF FREE BOSNIA.

LETTER V.

FEUDAL CASTLES AND INSURGENT HUTS.

Old Castle of Vissovića Grad. In the Black Queen's dungeon. Starving fugitives in the mountains. Two old women murdered by Bashi-bazouks. The Vale of Unnatz. Remains of Roman building and fine bas-relief of Mercury. A night with cows and peasants. Bosnian idea of an antiquary. More havoc. Ruined tower and monastery of Ermanja. A desecrated church. The fate of three villages. In the Insurgent camp. Number of Insurgents under Despotović. Assembly of Vojvodes. Domestic arts and refinement among rayahs. Confluence of Unna and Unnatz. Attempt of Despotović's myrmidons to murder Uzélatz.

LETTER VI.

THE DEVASTATION OF BOSNIA AND MR. CONSUL HOLMES' REPORTS.

Discussion among Insurgent chiefs on the present crisis. Attacks against our Consul, Mr. Holmes. Difficult position of the English Consul at Serajevo. My protest against his reports. Mr. Holmes accused of carrying false impressions as to the state of his Province to the Conference at Constantinople. Uzélatz's report on the devastation of Bosnia. Its accuracy so far as I have tested it. Appalling extent of Turkish ravages in Bosnia.

45



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents

More information

CONTENTS.

ΧV

LETTER VII.

HOW THE NEW CONSTITUTION WAS PROMULGATED IN BOSNIA.

AGE

Still subsisting ties between Mahometan and Christian Bosniacs. Ease with which re-conversion takes place. Instance of Udbina. Sworn brotherhood between Christians and Mahometans. Promulgation of Constitution at Kulen Vakup. Style of new Constitutional Sovereign of Bosnia. 'Most comfortable words.' The seven subject kings of Europe. Equality before the law at Gradiška. Forcible conversion to Islâm. How a Christian memorial was got up by a Turkish Effendi. Different aspect of affairs in larger Herzegovinian towns. Constitution not disagreeable to Osmanll bureaueracy. A new form of electoral intimidation. Mahometan refugees at Ragusa. 50

LETTER VIII.

THROUGH THE LIKA.

Relief party of Miss Irby's waylaid by custom-house officials. Snowed-up on Mount Velebić. A forest wrecked. Across the Lika. The Waters of Knowledge. Ancient castles and dragon rock. Udbina. Relics of Mahometan times. 'Bajazet's grave.' The silent forces at work in favour of South Slavonic unity. Isolation of Catholic Croats and their artificial nationality. Austro-Hungarian subjects looking towards Montenegro. Final solution of the Eastern Question postponed. Impossibility of Montenegro becoming nucleus of South Slavonic State. Will Austria?

٢8

LETTER IX.

ON THE SCENE OF TURKISH OUTRAGES.

Resolution to examine personally into recent outrages committed by the Turks in Southern Bosnia. A difficult journey. Forced to swim the Unnatz. The ashes of Great and Little Očievo. Savage havoc. 'The Turks! the Turks!' Two days of murder and rapine. A house-community of fugitives. Murder of Stephen Rodić. Examination of a little maiden. Massacre at Klekovatza. Fate of the women. The only remedy,—Austrian occupation.

77

NOTE.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE OUTRAGES IN BOSNIA. . 84



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents

More information

xvi

CONTENTS.

LETTER X.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE BOSNIAN BEGS.

AGE

Resolve to obtain views on present situation from leading Begs of Bosnia. Their head-quarters, Kulen Vakup, a nest of fanaticism. Necessary precautions. I receive a letter addressed to the Czar of England, to the King of England, and the Ambassador of two Empires. On the way: dreams and omens. Encounter an armed fanatic. Received by Turks with ovation. Grant an audience to Bosnian Begs. Their irreconcilable attitude towards their rayah serfs. Necessity of 'force majeure in Bosnia. Whence is it to come? Not from the Osmanli. The Osmanlis in Bosnia allied, on confession of Mahometans themselves, with most fanatic among the Begs. Austrian occupation the only application of 'force majeure' within the sphere of practical politics. Probable effects of Christian Government on Bosnia. Probability that Islâm will yield there to Western Civilization and its allied Religion. Mahometan oracle at Kulen Vakup. Pythonesses and holy stones. Great seclusion of women there.

LETTER XI.

FREE BOSNIA REVISITED. (1.)

The present insurrection justified by historic precedents. Croatian and Dalmatian districts liberated in this and preceding centuries by insurgent Chétas. Instance of Lapatz. In Insurgent territory once more. Marvellous source of the Kerka. Insurgent peak-stronghold of Semnitza Grad. Entertained by Vojvode Paulo Vukanović. His views on the insurrection. Necessity of an alliance with the moderate part of the Mahometan population against the most tyrannous Begs and Turkish officials. Negotiations with native Mahometans thwarted by the Osmanlis. 'Post and 'telegraphs' in insurgent district.

LETTER XII.

FREE BOSNIA REVISITED. (II.)

Athletic sports among the Insurgents. Croatian cricket. A miserable night. A ruined king's highway. King Bela's treasure and the



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents More information

CONTENTS.

xvii

dragon Princess. Reflections on material ruin of Bosnia under the Turks. Is Mahometanism to blame? The question not one of Religion but of Civilization. The 'Vila' or Slavonic nymph haunting Resanovce Cave. Survival of heathen superstitions among Bosnian Slavs, a connecting link between contending creeds. 122

LETTER XIII.

ALBANIA AND THE EASTERN KEY OF THE ADRIATIC.

Visit to Albania and Durazzo. Importance of Durazzo in past ages. As a Turkish town. Monuments of ancient splendour and modern degradation. Flotsam and jetsam of antiquity. Reflections suggested by present state of Dyrrhachium. Contrast between Turkish administration and lively spirit of Albanians. The Highlanders of Turkey. Tosks and Gheggas and their respective Greek and Montenegrin affinities. The Miridites. Possibilities of Italian Protectorate in Albania. Pessimist views of situation there among Turkish employés. Preparations of Greek Committees for revolt in Epirus. The Mahometan population biding its time

LETTER XIV.

THE REIGN OF TERROR IN BOSNIA.

Arrival of fresh fugitives from Turkish Bosnia. My expedition to visit them, Kamen, their glen of refuge. Fearful mortality amongst the fugitives. Austrian shortcomings. Perishing children. Extraordinary quickness of Bosnian and Herzegovinian children in Miss Irby's and Ragusan Committee's schools. 'The Slavonic dawn.' The latest victims of the Turk. Cause of the fresh exodus. Results of Mr. Consul Holmes' exhortations to the Vali. Mahometan 'order.' Examination of the victims. Twenty-six villagers driven off to Turkish dungeons and never heard of since. Secret assassination of Christian prisoners in the dungeons of Derbend. Thirteen peasants massacred at Stekerovatz. Two relics of tyranny. The 'Nadjak' of the Bosnian Begs and its uses. An instance of atrocious oppression

a



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877
Arthur John Evans

Table of Contents
More information

XV	11	1

CONTENTS.

NOTE.

A SHORT REVIEW OF THE WAR IN MONTENEGRO

LETTER XV.

PEACEFUL SKETCHES OF MONTENEGRO IN WAR TIME. (I.) FROM CATTARO TO CETTINJE.

From Cattaro to Cettinje. Contrast between the Bocche and the Black Mountain. Montenegrin 'transport service.' A death-wail for the heroes of Kristatz. Montenegrin wounded. The burden of war in Montenegro. Ninety thousand refugees. Nieguš, the cradle of the dynasty. Reminiscences of Lapland. Montenegro cut off from the sea. Cattaro taken from our then allies, the Montenegrins, by English Diplomacy

LETTER XVI.

PEACEFUL SKETCHES OF MONTENEGRO IN WAR TIME. (II.) IN THE VILLAGE CAPITAL.

Immense tax of war on male population of the Principality. Marvellous carrying power of the women. Their queenliness. The Princess and Princely Family of Montenegro. The Elders of the People. A Captain of a Montenegrin Nahia. Dislike of the Russians in Montenegro. Conversations with wounded heroes

LETTER XVII.

THE FALL OF NIKŠIĆ.

Welcome accession of strength to Montenegrin artillery. Four Russian guns landed at Austrian port and carried off by Montenegrins. Turks ask for truce. Renewal of hostilities. Storming of Petrova



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents More information

CONTENTS.

xix

LETTER XVIII.

A WAR-DANCE AT CETTINJE.

LETTER XIX.

NIKŠIĆ IN MONTENEGRIN HANDS. (I.) EXODUS OF MAHOMETAN POPULATION.

Exodus of Mahometan population in spite of Prince Nikola's assurances. Refusal of Turks to accept equality before the law. Obvious advantages to Montenegro of Mahometan emigration. The Montenegrin 'Vespers,' Transformation of Asia into Europe. Artistic regrets. Nikšić and its Plain indispensable to the Principality. Good conduct of Montenegrins since the capture. Turks and Christians fraternizing. Calumnious tales of Montenegrin atrocity circulated in European papers. Frank confession of a fanatic . 1

LETTER XX.

NIKŠIĆ IN MONTENEGRIN HANDS. (II.) THE TOWN AFTER THE SIEGE.

The effects of the bombardment. Roman aspects of the town. Probability that a Roman city existed on Nikšić Plain. Old Serbian survivals in Nikšić architecture. Tombs of old Serbian heroes. In



ХX

978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents

More information

CONTENTS.

THE MONTENEGRIN CAMPAIGN IN HERZEGOVINA . . . 208

LETTER XXI.

THE HOPE OF BOSNIA: MISS IRBY AND MISS JOHNSTON'S CHILDREN.

Terrible destitution of the Bosnian refugees on the Croatian and Slavonian border. Children turned idiots through want and misery. Death-rate among the refugees. Fifty-two thousand starved to death on Christian soil. Miss Irby and Miss Johnston's schools for the refugee children. The Serbian 'Preparandija.' A visit to the refugee schools. Quickness of the children. Curious uniformity of type among them—a Slavonic characteristic. The true hope of Bosnia.

APPENDIX TO LETTER XXI.

LETTER XXII.

POLITICS AMONG THE BOSNIAN BEGS.

Silent Revolution in Bosnia. Bosnia at present neither Ottoman nor Christian. Omar Pasha's re-conquest of the Province for Osmanli bureaueracy undone. The native Mahometan nobility again in a dominant position. Two parties among the Bosnian Begs. The Old Bosnian party and its aims. Its leader—Féim Effendi, his history and oppression of the rayah. His tool the Dervish. Tortures applied to rayahs. The Moderate party among the Begs. Their more conciliatory attitude towards Serbian element. Their repugnance to Austrian occupation. Tendency among Bosnian Mahometans to return to Christianity. Recent examples of this. Resolution of Ali Beg Djinić to return with his whole family to the religion held by his forefathers before the Turkish Conquest . . 231



978-1-108-06096-7 - Illyrian Letters: A Revised Selection of Correspondence from the Illyrian Provinces of Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Dalmatia, Croatia, and Slavonia, Addressed to the Manchester Guardian During the Year 1877

Arthur John Evans Table of Contents More information

CONTE	NTS.

xxi

LETTER XXIII.

A BOHEMIAN STATESMAN ON THE EASTERN CRISIS AND THE FUTURE OF ILLYRIA.

PAGE

Prerogative position of Chesks among Southern Slavs. Conversation with a Bohemian statesman. His views on an Austrian annexation of Bosnia. Austria and the Slavs. The attitude of Bohemia. My reasons for wishing to see Illyria re-united under one sceptre, and for Austro-Hungary to be merged in it. Desirableness of an autonomous Bulgaria. A Cheskian re-settlement of the Balkan Peninsula. Anglo-Austrian alliance criticised. A Bohemian view of the Magyars

MAPS.

WESTERN ILLYRIA	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	To fac	e vii	
Southern Bosnia								,,	**	1
MONTENEGRO AND	ADJACI	ENT A	USTR	IAN A	L DN	URK	ISH			
TERRITORY .								,,	.,	I 54