

THE TRIAL AT ACRE.

IN compliance with instructions received from Sir Henry Elliot, H. B. M. Ambassador at Constantinople, Mr. Noel Temple Moore, Consul at Jerusalem, proceeded to Safed on the 31st August to represent the English interests in the trial of the persons accused of participation in the attack on Lieutenant Conder and his party.

On arrival at Safed he found that the trial was awaiting his presence at Acre, whither the accused persons had been removed.

At Acre Mr. Moore found that his Turkish colleague was Colonel Rushdi Bey, chief of the police force of the Villayet of Syria. It was arranged with the Governor of Acre that the trial should be held before a special commission consisting of Colonel Rushdi Bey, Mr. Moore, the Cadi, and a Mohammedan and a Christian member of the local Medjlass.

The proceedings commenced on Saturday, the 11th of September, in an apartment of the Serai specially allotted for the purpose. Lieutenants Conder and Kitchener personally attended the greater part of the sittings. Great difficulty was experienced at the outset in discovering who were the delinquents. By dint of cross-examination thirteen were inculpated.

The trial closed on Tuesday, the 28th September. At the subsequent meeting of the Commission a paper was produced embodying the views of the Medjlass (for the remaining members had now been added to the original three) as to the punishments to be inflicted, of which the Turkish delegate appeared to have no previous knowledge. Of the sixteen individuals convicted, eight were condemned to two months', six to three months', and two to one year's imprisonment, and £112 10s. was awarded as damages. The eight men sentenced to two months' incarceration were natives of Safed, who were punished chiefly for withholding evidence as to the names of the men who commenced and took an active part in the attack. The other eight were all Algerines settled at Safed. Ali Agha Allan (a connection of the Emir Abd el Kader), who was the primary cause of the fray, and five others, namely, Hadj Arab, Mohammed et Tahir, Ali Zeyyan, and Mohammed Rose, were condemned to three months, while the remaining two, namely, Kahloush, and the negro Massoud, were sentenced to one year's imprisonment, because they were seen immediately after the attack with weapons in their hands, one carrying a gun and a sword, and the other pistols and a club.

On the reading of the paper strong remonstrances were made as to the inadequacy of the punishments, and on these representations the sum

of £37 10s. was added to the fine, being the value of certain things stolen from the tents; a month was added to the smaller periods of imprisonment, and six months to the sentence on Kahloush and Massoud. Mr. Moore's Turkish colleague concurred with him as to the shortness of the periods of imprisonment, but differed as to the amount of damages. The latter has now been fixed at a sum which we hope will be acceded to by the Superior Court of Damascus.

It is also intended to make efforts to enforce the due execution of the sentences upon the guilty persons. The satisfactory result of the trial is due in a great measure to the vigour and promptitude of Mr. Noel Temple Moore.

NOTE BY CAPTAIN WARREN.

Sept. 30th, 1875.

I WISH to correct a few misapprehensions into which Lieut. Conder has fallen in recent communications.

Quarterly, 3rd July, 1875, p. 166. *Makkedah*. The identification of El Moghar as Makkedah was made by me, and published in *Quarterly* of 1871, p. 91, and in "Our Work in Palestine," p. 217.

Idem, p. 134, *Masada*. The "Serpent's Path" was scaled by the Rev. Dr. Barclay and myself in 1867, and I have no doubt is still accessible, though rather a difficult path during the hot season.

Quarterly, October, 1874, p. 244. I examined the summit of Kurn Surtabeh in 1867, and found there the citadel of a town, a good plan of which was then in existence, published by Herr Zschokke. C. W.

NOTE ON M. GANNEAU'S PAPER, "THE ARABS IN PALESTINE."

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following:—In the remarkable paper on "The Arabs in Palestine" that appeared in your last number, it is stated by M. Clermont-Ganneau, at p. 208, that the fellahs of Modern Palestine are apparently the descendants of the ancient Canaanite nations. It will be very interesting to ascertain whether this is the case. If it is, it throws light on several passages in Scripture that have perplexed me for some years, I mean those which speak of these ancient tribes as existing in the last days, and being then destroyed by the vengeance of God. I subjoin a list of these passages. It will be found that all of them point more or less distinctly to this fact. Numbers xxiv. 17-24; Isaiah xi. 10-14; xxv. 10; xxxiv. 5, 6; lxiii. 1-6; Jeremiah xlviij., xlix.; Ezekiel xxv., xxxv.; Daniel xi. 41-43; Joel iii. 15; Amos i. 6; ii. 5; ix. 12; Obadiah 17-21. To the above may perhaps be added—Psalm lx. 8; lxxxiii. 6-8, and possibly other passages.