

SLAVERY IN TURKEY, PERSIA, AND ASIA MINOR.

ALTHOUGH it is generally known, that the slave markets exist through almost all the possessions of the Turkish Empire, both in Europe and Asia,—yet, the fact, that some of these markets are, to a great extent, supplied with *the Christian* slave, might have hitherto escaped the notice of the philanthropists. The markets of Sinoppe, Trebizond, Constantinople, Smyrna, and several others, abound in Christian slaves; and among them are a great many natives of Poland, who, being dragged from their native land by the Russian Government, to fight against the Circassians, when made prisoners by the latter, or when deserting the Russian ranks, for the purpose of surrendering themselves voluntarily to the Circassians, are almost invariably sold by the Mountaineers, to the Kourds, Persians, or the Turkish slave dealers.

For the last twelve years, victims of this kind were, and continue to be numberless. And, although it is easily imagined, what sufferings and miseries they must endure, when handed over to their Mahomedan, and not unfrequently to Heathen masters, especially when it is remembered, that many of these slaves are superior in intellect, and possessing some degree of education, still the true tale of the horrors of the Bokhara, Persian, or Turkish slavery, as told by the victims themselves, surpasses all that the most ardent imagination could fancy, and almost defies the possibility of description.

The fate of these unfortunate men first attracted the attention of the Catholic Missionaries in the East, called *the Lazarists*, who, having met with assistance from a few charitable persons, and having raised a small fund, conceived a plan for purchasing these Christian slaves, and setting them at liberty. It was also thought advisable that, with the view of affording shelter to these liberated slaves, or giving them means of subsistence, by affording an opportunity of working, an agricultural Colony should be formed. Accordingly, some land has been bought in the neighbourhood of Constantinople, where the Emancipated Christians are admitted without distinction. The above Colony is divided into two farms: one called the Colony St. Vincent of Asia and the other of St. Anthony. They are both progressing favourably.

The cost of purchasing a slave in the Turkish provinces varies from 500 to 1000 or even 1500 piastres, (from £6 to £16,) according to his age and health. The expense of providing the Colonist with necessary implements, oxen, &c. from £16 to £20.

The first funds for this charitable and truly Christian work were supplied, as we have stated before, by the Missionaries themselves, who have mortgaged their estates for that purpose; but the greater proportion of those which were added to the original fund, was provided



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by the Princess A. Czartoryski and her indefatigable exertions. The Princess is at present the Patroness of this Establishment. Up to this time more than 150,000 Turkish piastres have been spent for the redeeming of the slaves in the Turkish towns, and for establishing them, if they choose, on the Colony above mentioned. This sum was, as it were, raised amongst very few persons, and is but a trifle in proportion to the object for which it is intended. But as the circle of action widens—as much indeed remains to be done,—as inexpressible blessings can be bestowed upon hundreds and thousands, who linger in the most cruel and most oppressive slavery, were the funds in any way adequate to the importance and usefulness of the task the promoters of this plan have undertaken,—the present appeal is made to the British Public, in the full conviction that the sufferings of White Slaves,—of fellow-Christians,—of free-born men, yet slaves,—will have as strong and effective claims upon British sympathy, charity, and benevolence, as the sufferings not less cruel of our fellow-creatures the Negroes, have had, and still justly have, throughout the British Empire.

It is, moreover, expected, that the Anti-Slavery Society, to whose influence and unprecedented exertions the cause of Emancipation owes its triumphs, will not only grant a material aid to those engaged in emancipating the Christians from Slavery in Turkey, Persia, &c., but that it will also yield its protection and its powerful influence to the cause, which is their own.

The leading and influential members of the Convention for the universal abolition of slavery, are also most earnestly requested to give to the subject of these lines, their best consideration; and as it cannot be denied but that the object of those engaged in emancipating Christians from Slavery in Turkey Persia, is a portion of the great aim of the Convention itself, it is confidently hoped that their personal assistance, and their influence among their friends, will be productive of no small aid to the means of those who now appeal to them in the name of Religion and Humanity.

All Donations to be forwarded to Her Highness the Princess Czartoryski, 25, Rue Faubourg du Roule, Paris; Monsieur Etienne, Procureur Général de la Mission de l'Ordre de St. Vincent-de-Paul, 95, Rue de Sèvres, à Paris; Monsieur Leleu, Superieur des Lazaristes à Constantinople; and Monsieur David Glavany, Banquier, Quartier de Galata, à Constantinople.

Every information may be obtained by applying either personally, or by letter, to Mr. P. F. ZALESKI, 147, Leadenhall Street, London.