

**THE DRUZES AND THE
MARONITES UNDER
THE TURKISH RULE,
FROM 1840 TO 1860**

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The Druzes and the Maronites Under the Turkish Rule, from 1840 to 1860 by Charles Henry Churchill

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CHARLES HENRY CHURCHILL

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THE
S. M. Elzein
DRUZES AND THE MARONITES

Under the Turkish Rule

FROM 1840 TO 1860

BY
Chas. E. Keary, Esq.
COLONEL CHURCHILL

AUTHOR OF
"TEN YEARS' RESIDENCE IN MOUNT LEBANON, 1853"

LONDON
BERNARD QUARITCH, 15 PICCADILLY
1862

P R E F A C E.

ALTHOUGH some months have elapsed since the appalling intelligence of the massacres in Syria burst upon the civilised world, and although ample details were given to the public, at the time, of those heart-rending events, a full appreciation of their meaning can only be attained by a consideration of the various causes which, accumulating and gathering strength through the preceding twenty years, at last culminated in that extraordinary calamity.

Having resided in the Lebanon during nearly the whole of that period, and availed myself of my ample opportunities to fathom the pervading mind, as it were, of the two great sects into which its population is divided, I think I am peculiarly in a position to speak authoritatively,

and I trust impartially, of the sentiments which inspired, and the principles which actuated them throughout that unfortunate and prolonged career of jealousy and rivalry which has at last terminated in their common ruin. The result of my study and observation I now offer to the public, in the hope that it may help all who are interested in the affairs of Syria, to regulate their sympathies and direct their judgment.

My analysis of sectarian and political motives, whether Druze or Maronite, is based upon intimate and unreserved communication with both parties. My delineations of character are drawn from personal experience : I neither vindicate nor condemn. It is for the reader to draw his own conclusions.

That a government should conspire to murder its own subjects, after having deliberately disarmed them, seems a deed so inexplicably heinous as to surpass belief. Such, however, is the monstrous crime of which the Turkish Government in Syria stands both arraigned and condemned at the bar of Europe. The following pages afford the most conclusive testimony as to the intenseness and

magnitude of this enormity on the part of the Turks. They show, likewise, that the policy which sanctioned their barbarities towards the native Christians, is not the offspring of unguarded and momentary impulse, but the suggestion of a spirit of calculating and deliberate malice and hatred, spreading its meshes through a long series of years, to circumvent and then trample upon its unfortunate victims.

The time is fast approaching when the imperative claims of Christianity and humanity must and ought to absorb all others in the much-vexed Eastern Question. I would fain hope that this present work may induce some to take this point of view when contemplating England's present or anticipated action in the political affairs of the Ottoman empire.

CHARLES HENRY CHURCHILL.

Beyrout, Syria.

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THE DRUZES AND THE MARONITES.

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To Europeans residing in the Ottoman empire, who come in daily contact with the Turkish authorities, and who have thereby the opportunities of watching and analysing the general course of their internal policy, the frightful scenes which have lately occurred in Syria are but the natural results of that persistent jealousy of the native Christian races which has long been, and ever