

Cons'ple March 17, 1893

Rev. Judson Smith D.D.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you yesterday on the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in reference to Marsovan. I am glad to say that Mr. Thompson has thought better of the proposal to send Mr. Newberry to Marsovan to carry instructions and supervise the course of events. Mr. Newberry starts tomorrow with a Turkish official sent by the Porte to watch him. He is to take his residence at the Government house and be the guest of the Government in Marsovan. I do not see any serious objection to this except that it may interfere with the freedom of access to the missionaries. Mr. Newberry is not a man to be very much fooled by the Turks, or to be won over to their views in a case like this. I had offered to go with him but Mr. Thompson did not think this best. He is evidently afraid of having too much missionary influence in the case, and has perhaps felt too strongly that Jewett made a mistake in living at the college.

I have a clearer knowledge of the charge of armed attack on two Mohammedans by the college people at Marsovan which I mentioned yesterday. The dispatch reads something as follows. The Vali of Sivas telegraphs that the American Consul Jewett has demanded to know the reason of reinforcements being sent to Marsovan, and has declared that in the event of forces being displayed in the vicinity of the college, he will be compelled to arm the students. Two pupils of the American school having seized by force a lamb belonging to a Turkish boy, and having carried it within the college premises two Mussulmans went into the premises to recover the lamb when they were threatened with a Martin Henry rifle by the Vice Consul, and were seized by sixty students armed with revolvers. They were taken into the college building and were there beaten in the presence of the students who meanwhile indulged in indecorous manifestations. The public prosecutor and the Chief of Police of Marsovan declare that when some of the relatives of those Mussulmans went to solicit their release, they were met by the muzzles of eight Martin Henry rifles aimed at them from the window of the Chancery of the Vice Consul, etc. This precious concoction was sent by Mr. Thompson to Washington with a request for instructions. It is possible that the authorities in Washington will suppose that there is a possibility of truth in this story. I think that Mr. Thompson is not able to conceive of the possibility of the Turks having fabricated it. But when you come to consider the statement you will see that it all rests on the word of two Mussulmans who could not possibly have been on the premises of the college by any right, and that it is transmitted by the Chief of Police of Marsovan, who was the first to try to incite the people to burn the college, months ago, and who was the assistant of Khosref Pasha in all that he did on the night of the fire, and who has been persistent ever since in attempts to lead people to act with violence toward the mission, it being of vital importance to him that there be no investigation of the question of the incendiarism.

A telegram from Jewett of yesterday's date makes no allusion to any such affair as this, and it now looks as if it had no foundation in any small fact.

Yours truly, H.O. Dwight

P.S. Jewett has not allowed the search of the premises and has started from Marsovan for this city to inform Mr. Thompson of the real situation.