

SYRIAN STORIES DIFFER.

BISHOP MAKES PROTEST.

Police Watching Colony—Fear Further Outbreaks.

When Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny, head of the Syrian Orthodox Greek Church in this country, and several of his followers, were arraigned in the Butler-st. court, Brooklyn, charged with assault, yesterday morning, they told an entirely different story about the fight between two factions of the Syrian Church in Pacific-st. on Monday night from that told by their enemies at the time of the arrest. According to the Bishop's account of the trouble, he was returning from the home of a sick parishioner, accompanied by the friends who have acted as a bodyguard for him since the bitter feeling among the Syrians broke out, when several Syrians began to shoot off revolvers in Pacific-st. between Clinton and Henry sts. He declares that it was part of a plan to assassinate him. He believes that if he had not taken to his heels he would have been killed. It was while running that he was placed under arrest by Patrolman Nallin, of the Butler-st. station.

Nallin declares, and he made a sworn complaint to that effect, that Hawaweeny turned around and snapped a revolver at him three times. Although the bishop declares that he never owned a revolver and would not know which end of one to use, he was held on two charges of assault, one on the complaint of Nallin and the other for having, as alleged, had a part in the shooting of A. D. Achkoupi, who got a bullet in the left leg. A. E. Bryan, a legal representative of the bishop, tried to induce Magistrate Voorhees to parole the prelate, but the request was not granted. All of the prisoners were held in \$1,000 bail each for a hearing on September 28. The bishop, whose dignity had been ruffled by a most uncomfortable night in a cell in the Butler-st. station, furnished bail and was released.

"I should like to say," declared Mr. Bryan, "that the humiliation of this arrest is the most serious feature of this case to the bishop. He will be able to disprove the charges, but the disgrace of the thing is what he suffers from most."

After the prisoners had been remanded they held a Syrian prayer meeting and sang songs in a quaint dialect.

"For the last three months," said the bishop, speaking of the trouble later, "I have been attacked with bitterness in a Syrian paper. I have been called a spy of the Russian government and been denounced as a fanatic, liar and deceiver. Feeling has been stirred up against me in certain circles. As a result, I have been obliged to have friends accompany me whenever I have had to go out at night. I had no pistol, and never had. It would be unpriestly for me to go armed. I am a man of peace, and try to quell strife, not to provoke it.

As stated in The Tribune yesterday, the story obtained by the police on Monday night was that Bishop Hawaweeny and his friends had gone to the home of Nahum Markazeo, Editor of "Al Hooda," a paper which has been hostile to the bishop, and that the trouble started there. Some suggestions were made yesterday that some of the feeling against the bishop was due to the fact that a wealthy Syrian merchant, who lives in Staten Island, believes that the bishop advised his wife to bring proceedings for a divorce. For many months the various Syrian newspapers have been printing unpleasant stories about the members of the faction to which they are opposed. Physical encounters have not been uncommon, either.

Early on Monday night, as Nicolo Abrou-samva, a Manhattan merchant and an adherent of the bishop, was on a South Ferry boat, coming to Brooklyn, he was attacked by two strange Syrians. They struck him on the head with a stick before he eluded him. This incident led to the rumor that two hired assassins had come to Brooklyn to kill the bishop. After the fight, in which Bishop Hawaweeny figured, Patrolman Tormey was told by a woman that a man, loitering in Pacific-st., had been seen earlier in the evening with two men she thought were assassins. It was nearly 2 o'clock, and as the stranger seemed to have no particular business the policeman arrested him. In his pocket was found a long dagger, with a keen blade. In court yesterday he gave his name as Simon Kevin, and was held in \$500 bail on the charge of carrying concealed weapons.

The Syrian colony in Washington and Rector sts. is greatly agitated by the feud. Both sides, it was said last night, are heavily armed and prepared for any emergency. The police guard along lower Washington-st. was increased in anticipation of further trouble.

Bishop Raphael visited Police Headquarters yesterday and asked Deputy Commissioner Mc-Avoy for protection. He declared that threats had been made against his life by the members of the faction representing "Al Hoda." The deputy commissioner promised the bishop proper protection and instructed the police to watch the enemies of Bishop Raphael.

The friends of Bishop Raphael assert that his arrest was the result of a plot. Men were especially brought from Asbury Park and Fish-kill, it was said, by his enemies to assault his followers. N. Maloof, one of the faction opposed to the bishop, was arrested Monday for assaulting one of the latter's friends. He threatened, it is alleged, that Bishop Raphael would be arrested before midnight, and he was. The bishop's friends say that he carried no revolver, but that one was supplied for the occasion by his enemies. He ran away when the detectives arrived because he believed he was being pursued by the men who threatened his life.

It was said that Bishop Raphael would bring suit against the men who caused his arrest.