

BISHOP UNDER GUARD.

Syrian Churchman Pushing Suit for Libel Against Enemies.

Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny, of the Syrian Orthodox Church, is now under police guard because of threatened assaults on him growing out of the much-tangled Syrian troubles in this city and Brooklyn. Arrested once because of a riot in which shooting occurred, part of a plot by rivals to kill him, he says, the Bishop himself applied for protection to Borough Inspector Cross of Brooklyn, and the Russian Consul General also asked for a guard for the Bishop, his close personal friend.

An investigation of the Syrian troubles was undertaken yesterday by Commissioner McAdoo. Inspector Cross says the Bishop is innocent of all the charges. A similar investigation is under way in the District Attorney's office because of a suit for criminal libel brought by the Bishop through James W. Osborne, his counsel, against five Syrians, who, he charges, conspired against him. A hearing in the police court case, in which the Bishop and some of his followers were arrested, has been set for next Thursday.

Bishop Hawaweeny is the only Syrian Bishop in this country, and is head of the Syrian branch of the Greek Church. This elevation, his success in church work here and his persistent refusal to mingle in the social, commercial and political fights which rage among the Syrians have made for him many enemies, who have determined to ruin his reputation, and, if possible, do away with him, according to Mr. Osborne, his lawyer. Mr. Osborne declares that he has seen a telegram summoning Syrians from other cities here to take part in the plots against Bishop Hawaweeny.

The trouble in its most recent phase began several months ago, says Mr. Osborne, when Bishop Hawaweeny refused the importunities of the editors of one of two Syrian newspapers to take sides with them in their disputes and help them out in raising a circulation for their papers. Soon afterward a petition was circulated among the Syrians by a "Committee of Fifteen," calling on the editors to stop printing personalities about members of the Syrian colony. This petition Bishop Hawaweeny would not sign.

Then attacks were made on the Bishop—attacks verbal, and later attacks physical. About a week ago a petition was sent to Commissioner McAdoo by several Syrians declaring that they were in danger of attacks from Bishop Hawaweeny and his party, imploring protection. This, according to Mr. Osborne, was merely a detail of a plot.

On Wednesday Najeed N. Maloof, N. A. Mokarzel, the Editor of "Al-Hooda"; James H. Macksoud, E. A. Macksoud and N. H. Otem, all signers of the petition, were arrested on a charge of criminal libel. Assistant District Attorney Garvan appeared before Magistrate Mayo, and demanded that the defendants be held under bail, as the District Attorney's office intended to press the complaint.

Last evening another slight outbreak occurred in Washington-st., and the police of the Church-st. station, headed by the captain and five detectives, appeared and arrested three Syrians, who were armed with clubs three feet long made of the butt ends of billiard cues. The rest of the rioters were dispersed and fourteen policemen placed along the street.

The prisoners were Bahoz Nahos, of No. 17 Washington-st., who was charged with an alleged assault on John Bontross, of No. 31 Rector-st.; John Mowwol, of No. 3 Washington-st., and Samuel Beter, of the same address.