

SYRIAN BISHOP IN COURT.

Denies That He Endangered Lives of His Accusers.

The Criminal Courts Building, Centre and Franklin sts., was thronged all yesterday afternoon with so many Syrians that extra policemen had to be called to prevent disturbance. The gathering was because of the trial of a case in which the Syrian residents are involved. The Syrians have been aroused since August 26 over a petition for police protection made to Commissioner McAdoo by five Syrian merchants, who declared that their lives were in danger in consequence of utterances of Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny. The men are Najeeb N. Maloof, J. H. Macksoud, N. K. Hatem, E. A. Macksoud and N. A. Makarzel. All live in Brooklyn, but have places of business in New-York.

After filing the petition the men learned that warrants had been issued for their arrest, and all of them surrendered last week. They appeared in court yesterday to answer a charge of criminal libel preferred by Bishop Hawaweeny. The paper, submitted in evidence, accuses the bishop of saying in front of the altar of his church that an organized band was ready to kill him, and urging them to rally to his rescue. The petition also recites that every member of the bishop's congregation was required to pledge his life and property before the altar to the service of the bishop. These allegations the bishop categorically denied on the witness stand.

The appearance of the bishop in the courtroom was most spectacular. Dressed in the street garb of a bishop, he marched up the steps of the building, where at least two hundred adherents were waiting. All dropped to their knees, and, as the bishop shook their hands, kissed his hand, and he kissed them on the back of the bared head.

After the case had been disposed of for the day Charles Le Barbler, who appeared for the five merchants, told Magistrate Mayo that the crowd was so great that his clients were afraid to go out. Mr. Mayo ordered a guard, and Detective Feeny led a procession of more than five hundred persons from the building down to the Bridge, and then to Rector-st.

The case itself excited little interest, except among those concerned. Mr. Garvan prosecuted. The important witnesses were M. A. Shibley, a Syrian lawyer, who drew up the petition which the five men signed, and who has an office in No. 31 Nassau-st., and Bishop Hawaweeny. An adjournment was finally taken until next Friday. The bishop denied all the allegations made in the complaint.