

# SYRIAN STREET FIGHT.

## CHURCH TROUBLE AGAIN.

### *Several Slashed with Knives as Result of Factional Dispute.*

The long drawn out factional quarrels of the Syrian population between Bishop Hawaweeny's friends and his opponents, led by the wealthy merchant, Naeb Maloof, wound up in a bitter fight last night, at Liberty and Church sts., in which five of the bishop's friends were slashed with knives and came near being riddled with bullets. The clash of the opposing factions brought hundreds of Syrians and others to the scene, and the reserves of the 1st, 2d and 8th precincts were ordered out, and later the Hudson Street Hospital ambulance was summoned.

The fight started when Hafez Abdunulmack, twenty-five years old, of No. 127 Congress-st., Brooklyn, started for home, escorted by Detective Oscar J. Finn, of the Amity-st. police station. On reaching Church and Liberty sts., Nuassa Abalon, a grocer of No. 135 Washington-st., rushed up to Detective Finn and told him that Abdunulmack was carrying a whip. The detective marched his man to the Church-st. station. There the story was told, and the captain decided that there was no ordinance violated by carrying a whip, and let Abdunulmack go. By this time many Syrians had arrived, and when the accused man was being led out of the station house by the detective some of the Bishop's friends shouted, "We will kill Maloof!" In an instant a dozen knives were flourished and revolvers levelled.

Tenus Sabo, thirty years old, of No. 87 Washington-st., was arrested on the complaint of Muassa Abalon, of No. 135 Washington-st., by Detectives Black and Cohen. The complainant received two wounds, one on the scalp and the other on the right side of the face. After being attended by Dr. Hale, of the Hudson Street Hospital, he was sent home.

Michael Sbleb, twenty years old, of No. 45½ Washington-st., was arrested for disorderly conduct. He flourished two revolvers, and fired a shot out of each at the crowd gathered about, but fortunately no one was hurt.

Nicola Dibb, thirty years old, of No. 75 Washington-st., was also arrested, charged by two brothers, John Boutress, twenty years old, and George, seventeen years old, with stabbing them. They showed deep wounds in the head. After being attended by Dr. Hale they were sent home. It is said that after the two men left the Church-st. station they rushed madly down to Washington and Rector sts., and began to shout madly that they were out to kill Maloof.

George Sheheri, of No. 87 Washington-st., was arrested on the complaint of Zahirire Hellolse, of No. 53 Washington-st., who charged Sheheri with slashing him with a knife.

The controversy is alleged to have come out yesterday afternoon, when Charles Le Barbier told Magistrate Wahle that the trouble had gone too far for a peaceable settlement, and a legal decision was necessary as to which was right, those who uphold the Bishop or those who oppose him. Then Maloof told the magistrate that he was in fear of his life, and added that he had heard that the Bishop was offering a reward of \$5,000 to any one who will kill him. He asked the magistrate if he could have a room in his house. "Mr. Maloof," replied Magistrate Wahle, "I have known you for fifteen years. You can have the best room in my house."

Le Barbier asked that a warrant be issued for the arrest of Detective Finn, of the Amity-st. station, Brooklyn, for assault. Finn is the officer who arrested Maloof on October 21, and Maloof charged that the arrest constituted an assault. An affidavit was made out and signed and Finn was technically placed under arrest.

Maloof had come into court to sustain a charge of criminal libel against N. M. Diab, Editor of "Meraat-ul-Gharb," or "Mirror of the West," of No. 93 Washington-st., on December 20. The Bishop referred to by Maloof is Bishop Hawaweeny, head of the Assyrian Church in America.