

BISHOP'S NIECE HAD NOT BEEN KIDNAPPED

ROBIE HAWAWEENY STRAYED AWAY ON FIRST SCHOOL DAY - SYRIANS SUSPICIOUS

Controversy, Which Has Divided Usually Peaceful Community Into Fighting Factions, Traced to Spies of Turkish Government—Doing Divorce Case as a Blind

There was joy in Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny's home last night, over the return of his niece who was thought to have been kidnapped. She is Robie Hawaweeny, seven years old, and a member of the Bishop's household at 207 Pacific street. For six hours yesterday afternoon she wandered around South Highgate section. A dozen policemen were meanwhile making a search for the child in the belief that she had been kidnapped by the hands of her uncle. Yesterday morning Robie began school life in Public School No. 21 on Pacific street near Court. It was the first time she had been out of her home since the Bishop because involved in the trouble with the Mesopotamian Syrian radicals. At noon she met eight of her mother. An inventory was sent to Inspector Cross, at police headquarters. The Bishop went next that he feared that the child had been kidnapped by his cousin.

Mr. Cross had every station house called up to learn if any of them had a child answering Robie's description.

Last evening several boys who were on Court street near Highgate found some looking for her home. There was agitation and thanksgiving when they led her home the dining room. The Bishop notified Inspector Cross of Robie's return.

Parting as the influence of the Turkish Government may be among the causes.



BISHOP RAPHAEL HAWAWEENY.

Robie's abduction, it could not have caused the late disturbance among the Syrians had not five individuals, according to a prominent Syrian merchant, been their chief in person in creating the factions and thus causing this usually peaceful part of the town to be looked upon as a very disturbing element.

The merchant said to-day: "The Turkish Government has no objection whatever in allowing its subjects who are dissatisfied with conditions at home to emigrate to this country, but it wants them not to adopt liberal ideas and communicate them to their kinsmen at home and thus create serious dissatisfaction in their home country. The Turkish Government has its hands full at home. For this reason it employs a number of men to examine whatever and wherever possible, a sort of censorship over the Arabic press abroad. The Syrians speak the Arabic language."

He further stated that the Turkish Government, just as any other autocratic power, was perfectly indifferent as to the means employed to accomplish its purpose.

The persons, whose names are known to all Syrians, who are employed by well-known merchants, but who are pointed out to some of the men in the employment of the Turkish Government, are said to have used the pretext between a prominent merchant in New York and his wife to create two factions, attached to political parties, but in reality to further the object of the Turkish Government in bringing about a censorship of the press.

The cause of this mischief, whose origin from his wife was a sensation, was taken up by the two men who are known as Turkish spies and reported by the editors of certain British papers. The name of the wife was quoted by other editors as told at by Bishop Hawaweeny, the head of the Syrian Greek-Catholic Mission in North America, who tried to reconcile the couple.

Bishop Raphael refused to sign a "proclamation" providing for the strict censorship of certain British papers, and then the trouble began. Conspiracy charges were made against the Bishop, the two editors and prominent business men were brought before the police and into the courts, personal attacks spread and unwarred, were made upon the Bishop and his followers, slanders were circulated and insults poured about them until now there are about a hundred assault and libel suits pending.

The Bishop has nearly been the same content, although he has played but a subordinate part in the fight of the Turkish agents against the independent editors of the British press. He had been waylaid, assaulted, threatened, until now a detective has been assigned to guard his residence in Brooklyn day and night.

Most of the court cases will come up next winter, but in the meantime the British agents are very much alarmed at the progress of the case, which a handful of men have been instrumental in giving the American people an unfavorable impression of the Syrian character.