

THE EMIN PASHA RELIEF EXPEDITION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I regret to find that the adverse reports with reference to the late Major Bartolot are being repeated and widely circulated, and that on no better authority than their supposed confirmation by the person who originally spread them on the Congo—Assad Farran, a dismissed interpreter of the expedition. The morning after his arrival in London—viz., on the 25th inst.—I saw Assad Farran at the offices of the Committee. He admitted that at the time he told the stories on the Congo he was animated by feelings of intense hostility to Major Bartolot and Mr. Jamieson, and he made the following declaration in the presence of myself and Mr. M'Harmon, the acting-secretary to the Committee:—

“September 25, 1888.
“I, Assad Farran, lately interpreter with the Emin Pasha Relief Expedition, declare that the alleged severity towards his men of which Major Bartolot has been accused were an exercise of discipline which was rendered absolutely necessary in the interest of the expedition, by the circumstances in which Major Bartolot was placed at the camp at Yambou, and by the infectious contact of his men. The station was surrounded on all sides with Arabes, and without the strictest discipline among Major Bartolot's small force the safety of the camp on the Yambou could not have been maintained. From my own knowledge the discipline practised by Major Bartolot was only what was absolutely necessary, and gave no grounds whatever for the charge of undue severity which has been made against him.”

“ASAD FARRAN.”
In addition to this he made an equally emphatic retraction of a certain story which he had told on the Congo with reference to Mr. Jamieson, and which was the only charge brought against that gentleman. I trust these facts will speak for themselves and that they will put a stop to the further circulation of unsubstantiated slander.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
September 27. W. BURDETT-COUTTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I shall consider it a favour if you will kindly insert this short statement of facts in your next issue, which I deem it advisable to make on behalf of my brother, the late Major Bartolot, and of his highly valued, true, and trusted companion, the late Mr. J. T. Jamieson.

The necessity for this statement arises from the reports which have been circulated about two men, whose heroic struggles and deaths one would have thought made it a duty of friend and foe alike to exact their memories from a single slander, at least until such a time as their own authentic papers and records and the examination of witnesses would place those entities to defend them in a position to do so.

These reports can all be traced to the narrative supposed to be related by the only two men who have yet reached this country since the breaking up of the camp at Yambou—namely, Mr. J. Ross Troup, an officer of the expedition, and Assad Farran, an interpreter, one of the men originally brought from Egypt by Mr. Stanley. When starting in June on what proved to be his last march, my brother decided to send Mr. Troup home, in accordance with his own request, Mr. Troup had undergone great sufferings and was too ill to accompany the expedition, and my brother thought he could hardly ever reach home alive. Assad Farran, being ill and of little use, my brother also sent home (see Major Bartolot's reports published in *The Times* of the 20th inst.)

Mr. Troup, I am glad to say, has reached England in safety, and, although unable to publish anything himself, owing to arrangements made by the Emin Pasha Relief Committee with their officers, has done his best to refute the slanders by authorizing Sir Francis de Winton to publish the letter in the *Standard* of the 20th inst. Stating he was not responsible for the statements imputed to him.

We come now to Assad Farran as the sole source of these rumours. This man, admittedly hated with true Eastern intensity both my brother and Mr. Jamieson on account of his dissimulation, and, while Mr. Troup lay ill on board the steamer coming down the Congo, had every opportunity to scatter his tales about both officers into the ears of every one he could find willing to assist in the enviable task of slandering two such men. In this way the reports were started, and gradually gathered shape and volume in the hands of anonymous correspondents and men such as those who have been so proud of the achievement as to append their names to cowardly lies.

As all England knows my dear brother was murdered while leading the force he had gathered, through so many months of toil and hardship, to the rescue of Emin Pasha, and in obedience to the instructions of Mr. Stanley.

Jamieson struggled hard to complete the noble task, and, finally leaving Dr. Rossy in charge of the men he had collected at Stanley Falls after the disaster consequent on my brother's death, made his way down the Congo as far as Bangala to consult with Mr. Ward as to the best means of carrying on the now desperate enterprise. On reaching the river he heard of the horrible tales spread about his late commander and himself, and one of his last efforts was the sending home a message asking Englishmen to stop them until he had a chance of proving their falsehood and saving his friends' and his own good names. Then, worn out with fever and fatigue, he reached Bangala only to die. Assad Farran, the interpreter, had done his infamous work well, but had not calculated on the searching examination he was to undergo by the Emin Pasha Relief Committee when he reached home. The scenes and untruth of his cleverly concocted stories were then clearly shown and, convicted of baseless, he admitted the falsehood of his statements to the committee. Anything further it is hardly necessary or becoming for me to say at present. We await the arrival of Major Bartolot's and Mr. Jamieson's papers which we have heard are safe, when ample evidence of the truth will be forthcoming.

This much, however, it seems my duty to publish for the sake of the two comrades.
I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
WALKER GED. BARTHELDT.
Carlton Club, Sept. 27.