

# MISS STONE'S CAPTURE.

## Story of How the Brigands Took Her from Among a Party of Fourteen Travelers.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 30.—A detailed account of the capture of Miss Ellen M. Stone, the missionary, by brigands in Turkey has been received in a letter from Mrs. H. C. Haskell of Samokov, Bulgaria, to a relative here. Her letter says Miss Stone had been holding her usual Summer school for Bible workers at Bansko, Macedonia. On Sept. 3 a party of six students from the collegiate institute at Samokov, three or four Bulgarian teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Tsilka, who had spent several years in America; Mrs. Coshera, and Miss Stone started for Djumlak, twelve hours' travel.

From there they were to go to their different homes. At 4:30 o'clock that afternoon, as they were resting in the mountains, Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka being on horseback and the rest on foot, they were surrounded by thirty or forty armed men. These men were dressed in Turkish costume, but were masked or blackened. They ordered the party to march and drove them up the steep mountain side.

Miss Stone told the boys they were taking them away from the road to rob and perhaps kill them. She did not speak of capture, as it is almost unheard of for brigands to take women. After going an hour's distance the brigands stopped and demanded their money. They took what gold they had, but returned the silver.

When this was done one of them said to Miss Stone: "We want you," and ordered her and Mrs. Tsilka to go with them. She made no remonstrance. Mr. Tsilka made a move to follow his wife, but they forced him back. A part of the brigands kept watch on those that remained to keep them from hurrying to inform the Government, but next morning let them go.

The brigands murdered one of the men of the party before the eyes of the captives to get his horse. They took this animal, as well as the horses ridden by Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka. The students came to Samokov and wired Dr. House at Salonika, Miss Stone's station. He immediately went to the American Consul and also telegraphed Consul General Dickinson, who knew Miss Stone. The news spread over Bulgaria like a flash, for Miss Stone is widely known and greatly beloved.

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