

## Christian contribution to the army

The Christians held their head high in Fakhr-al-Din's realm for the majority of his soldiers were Christians and what is more, his advisors and staff were Maronites. They could ride on saddled horses. They wrapped themselves in muslin, dressed in silk wore tooled leather belts and carried arms encrusted with gems. It is under his rule that churches were built in Bikfaya, Arbanieh, Bchaalé, Kfarzeina and Kfarhata and that missionaries came from Europe to live in this country. Douaihy, history of the centuries, p. 505 – also History of the Maronite Community p 205)

في دولة فخر الدين ارتفع راس النصارى، لأن أغلب عسكره كانوا نصارى  
وكواخيه وخدامه موارنة. فصاروا يركبوا الخيل بسروج ويلقوا شاشات وخرور ويلبسوا  
طواسين وزنانير مسقطة ويحملوا البنق والقفاص المجوهرة. وفي أيامه تعمرت الكنائس  
في بكفيا والعربانية وبشعة وكفرزينا وكفرحنا، وقدموا المرسلين من بلاد الفرنج وأخذوا  
السكنة في البلاد". (الدويهي، تاريخ الأزمنة، ص. 505).