

The act of Secy. GRESHAM, in practically securing the consent of congress to the appointment of consuls at Erzeroum and Harpoot in Turkey, is likely to have some important effects. The consent of the senate to Secy. GRESHAM's proposal is reasonably certain. The house has already agreed to the proposition, so that it is very likely that in less than six months American consuls to Erzeroum and Harpoot will be appointed. This will introduce a new factor into the investigation of the Armenian atrocities.

It will be remembered that, only a few weeks ago, Secy. GRESHAM urged the Turkish government to allow Mr. M. A. JEWETT, the American consul at Sivas, in Turkey, to investigate the Armenian atrocities in order to secure reliable information for the U. S. state department. This request was promptly refused by the Sultan, who evidently has no love for the United States and who took exception to the fact that meetings of protest against the Armenian outrages had been held in this country; and for a time it looked as if the Sultan had the better of Secy. GRESHAM.

With this scheme for the appointment of consuls at Erzeroum and at Harpoot, however, the secretary of state has very cleverly and diplomatically outwitted the wily potentate of the Bosphorus. Clearly the commercial and other interests of the United States demand the establishment of consulates at these points in Asiatic Turkey; but at the same time the American consuls will be able to secure precisely the very information which Consul JEWETT was not allowed to obtain. By a single move on the diplomatic board Secy. GRESHAM has disclosed to his Turkish opponent a very clever countercheck.

The importance of having trustworthy sources of information in Armenia may be comprehended readily in view of the reports as to the methods of the Turkish government. A correspondent of the London Standard asserts positively that the Turkish government is making the most vigorous efforts to hide its misdeeds in Armenia, considerations of religion, of official influence and even of personal safety are all made the weapons of the Sultan to secure false testimony to the effect that no outrages have been committed, or at the least that no blame rests upon the Turkish government.

The attitude of the Sultan is also seen in his attempts to keep in office the governor of Biltis, for whose removal the representatives of England, France and Russia

have asked. It is plain that so long as this notorious official keeps in power he can help the Sultan greatly in coercing or suborning witnesses and no fair investigation can be had until the governor is removed; but the Porte clings obstinately to his agent and is still trying by all methods of delay and obstruction at his disposal to keep the governor in power as long as possible.

Under such circumstances it is of the highest importance for the United States, which, as a champion of the cause of humanity everywhere, and also for the protection of American residents in Armenia, has every reason to desire the best and most reliable information regarding the true condition of affairs in Armenia, to establish consulates in that portion of the Turkish empire. Especially is this so, in view of the possibility that the European powers will, before a year has passed, establish a new condition of things in that section and put it out of the power of the Turkish government to commit further outrages upon the Armenian Christians.

---