

## ARMENIANS AND TURKS.

The powers that interfered in behalf of the Armenian Christians had really, as representatives of humanity and civilization, no choice but to interfere. They would have partaken the shame that belongs to Turkey, which can bear any amount of shame quite comfortably, if they had stood by and seen continued the atrocities of which they had ample proof. At the same time, it must be owned that the Armenian Christian is not a meek and lowly sufferer, and that the Turk would not find him a comfortable person to get on with, even if the Turk were disposed to behave himself. The Armenians seem to have taken the aggressive in Constantinople as soon as they were assured that a powerful foreign force was ready to protect, and to have made themselves wantonly offensive.

All this imposes an additional responsibility upon the powers. They have already rendered themselves responsible for the faithful execution by the Sultan's Government of the terms they have imposed upon it; and they have also in ef-

fect become sureties for the good behavior of the Armenians. The natural result of these engagements, if the Turkish Government does not succeed both in maintaining order and in abstaining from outrages, will be a joint protectorate, in fact, if not in name, over Turkey itself. It may be said that that is virtually what has existed for many years; but in truth if the Sultan now fails to keep his engagements he must be subjected to a very much stricter supervision than heretofore. He has before his eyes the example of Egypt, which it will be easy for his custodians to apply to him if he makes that course necessary.

From the partition of Turkey the Sultan is preserved by the impossibility of making a partition of Constantinople, which is the only valuable point it contains, and by the insuperable objections of each of the great powers to the possession of it by any other. But the mutual jealousies which prevent the partition of Turkey by no means prevent the establishment of a stringent and effective protectorate over Turkey. That would be so distasteful to the Sultan that he is under the strongest bonds for his own good behavior and for the execution in good faith of the agreement which he has entered into under duress.

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