

The despatch of English and American envoys to accompany the Turkish commission which is to inquire into the Armenian atrocities, gives fair reason to hope that we shall get at the truth. But nobody who knows the Turks will believe, commission or no commission, that any Turkish commander ever suppressed a Christian insurrection by other means than massacre and pillage. It is the old-fashioned method—the method, we might almost say, of Turkish jurisprudence—and it has been wonderfully successful in maintaining the most horrible despotism the modern world has seen. Nothing could ever have kept the rayahs down so long in European Turkey but the certainty of slaughter and plunder in case of resistance. The only people who have met the Turks with a ferocity equal to their own, have been the Montenegrins; who were never subjugated and always gave as good as they got. The Greeks, the Bulgarians, the Servians, the Bosnians, on the other hand, lay down for ages under the Turkish terror, until the Turks tried one massacre too much in Bulgaria in 1876. A hundred or even fifty years sooner the news of this would have reached western Europe even more faintly than the news from Armenia now reaches us. Nothing would or could have been done. But, thanks to the railroad, the telegraph, the newspapers, and to travel, the quiet perpetration of these enormities is no longer possible. The toleration of such a power as Turkey as a ruler of Christians is one of the most surprising phenomena of our time. No

power has done half as much to put an end to it as Russia, and the present outrages may furnish her with an excuse for annexing a little more of Armenia. The objection to this is that it destroys the Armenian dream of a revival of their ancient kingdom; but better be a Russian subject than a Turkish slave.

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