

Our Proper Attitude Toward Armenia.

It is time that our whole Christian population should take cognizance of the fatuous and disgraceful position taken by our State Department with regard to the Armenian outrages. As long as it was possible, Secretary GRESHAM affected to doubt the telegraphed accounts of the atrocities perpetrated in the Sassoon district, and declared the reports to be exaggerated. This, of course, was a dishonest pretext for the attempt to check the instinctive outburst of horror from every compassionate American heart. What did GRESHAM mean by exaggeration? Did he mean that not a drop of Christian blood was shed? or that the alleged number of victims should be curtailed by one-half or two-thirds? Suppose that instead of 6,000, only 2,000 Armenian Christians had proved to have been massacred, would such a change of figures have made the crime insignificant and venial, and relieved the United States from the duty of indignant protest in the name of civilized mankind? As a matter of fact, all the latest evidence on the subject has tended to magnify rather than lessen the proportions of the butchery, to which our fellow Christians in Armenia were subjected at the hands of the vilest and most execrable Government on earth.

The obvious business of our State Department, at a crisis which jeopardized the lives of thousands of human beings, was to give immediate and fervent expression to the wishes of our Christian population, and to swell the demand of Christendom for the rescue of our coreligionists by the European powers responsible for the abandonment of Armenia to the Turk. It was our duty to lend the utmost moral support to a movement the aim of which was to shame England into abjuring her connivance at Turkish misrule, and into permitting the armed intervention of a power like Russia, able and willing to protect the followers of CHRIST. Further than this it was unnecessary that we should go: unnecessary and counter to the judicious policy steadfastly observed for seventy years. Even if the Christian powers that signed the treaty of Berlin had put forward the suggestion that the United States should be represented on a committee of inquiry, we ought to have declined to comply with it, at the same time assuring them that the American people were unanimous in the hope that their apparent intention to uphold the cause of justice and humanity, would bear early and substantial fruit. But, if such, in accordance with the uniform traditions of our Government, should have been our reception of a suggestion emanating even from a Christian source, how ought we to have dealt with the brazen impudence displayed in an invitation from the unspeakable Turk himself to take part in an international commission of investigation? How should we treat an invitation from the wolf to sit on a tribunal charged to adjudicate upon his quarrel with the lamb? Is it blindness or perversity that hinders GRESHAM and his chief from seeing that the insult conveyed by such a proposal lies in the manifest assumption that the person selected for American Commissioner would act as the Turk's well-wisher and next friend?

It is true that the Turkish Government has some excuse for an assumption so contemptuous of our national intelligence and sensibilities. For the executive agent of a people known to sympathize profoundly with the wretched Christian subjects of the Porte, Mr. CLEVELAND has made some singular appointments to the post of Minister at Constantinople, and it must be acknowledged that the compliment has been returned in kind. Two of our recent Envoys to Turkey have signalized their return to this country by fulsome laudation of the Sultan's private character, and by flatulent expressions of confidence in the mildness, impartiality, and paternal solicitude of his Government. Marked copies of the newspapers containing these edifying and precious opinions were no doubt duly mailed to Stamboul. With such evidence before it, the Porte was enabled to draw a correct inference as to how much our State Department knew or cared about the real condition of the Christians in Armenia, and justified it in presuming

that some person of the shifty type, with which it had become familiar in intercourse with the American Legation, would be named to represent us on the proposed international commission.

It looks as if in this Armenian affair GRESHAM were fated to encounter another snub; and, if he does, every Christian in this country will have cause to rejoice in his humiliation. The Christian powers of Europe seem by no means inclined to commit the investigation of the outrages wrought in Armenia to a commission, on which should figure on the suspicious invitation of the Porte, the appointee of a man responsible, as Mr. CLEVELAND is, for the selection of certain recent Ministers to Turkey. They appear to think that it is for the countries which pledged themselves to protect the miserable victims of Moslem savagery, to make good at last their guarantee. To confirm them in this righteous purpose by solemn and repeated exhortations is what our Executive would do, if it were able to reflect or comprehend the feelings of our Christian population. Assuredly, it would not permit itself to be made the cat's paw of the irreclaimable Turk by consenting to take part in a commission projected solely for the purpose of befogment and delay. To our fellow Christians in Armenia delay means death.
