

English and American sympathizers with the unhappy Armenian subjects of Turkey are securing signatures to a petition, addressed to Mr. Gladstone, and asking him to secure, through pressure exerted by England upon the Porte, permission for the erection of Armenia into a semi-independent province, paying tribute to the Sultan, but administered by a Christian Governor, selected by the great powers and guaranteed from the interference of Turkey. The plan, if it can be carried out, is a hopeful one. It has already proved measurably successful in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and might confidently be expected to remedy many of the existing abuses in Armenia. That the Porte, however, will consent to the change, except under threat of immediate war, is highly improbable. Who is going to make that threat? Not England, almost certainly, and most certainly England would oppose rather than support hostilities declared by any Continental power. This whole Eastern question is wrapped in such mystery, the sources of news are so untrustworthy, and the Christianity of Turkey's complaining subjects is so little distinguishable from mere hatred of their Moslem neighbors, that only those who possess a vast amount of sentimental energy are likely soon to forget how Russia in 1877 made some extremely suspicious "atrocities" an excuse for a "religious war" of the most iniquitous and hypocritical kind.