

# EVEN SLEW CHILDREN.

## Turks Inhumanly Sacrificed All the Armenian Girls in One Place.

### A HAREM RECRUITED IN ANOTHER.

## Village Chief of Cheneg and His Two Daughters Tied Together and Scalded to Death.

### PRIEST MADE A TARGET FOR TROOPS.

Refugees from the Region of the Massacre  
Arrive in Athens and Tell of  
Atrocities Committed.

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ATHENS, Greece, Dec. 3.—Twenty refugees from Armenia have arrived here after a journey full of hardships. They are the first that have escaped from the district where the recent massacre occurred. Most of them came from Moosh, Bitlis and the Sassoun, making their way with the greatest difficulty to the Russo-Turkish frontier.

Several Armenian women started with this party, but died when near Erzeroum from the effects of sabre wounds received during the attacks by Turks and Kurds.

The refugees say the Sassoun has been surrounded by Turkish troops for a year and a half, and nobody has been allowed to enter it or to leave. About four months ago the Turkish authorities learned that the people of Vartemis, a village outside of the Sassoun, were sending for necessary supplies to the village of Dalvarig. Such communication between the two villages being prohibited, the Turks slew nearly all the inhabitants of Vartemis.

This was the second massacre; the first took place about a year ago.

A refugee named Khadjik tells that his uncle and aunt were among the killed, the latter being abominably maltreated before being put to death.

An Armenian priest named Kevent was killed, he says, for refusing to celebrate Turkish rites in his church at Vartemis. There were 325 houses in the village before the Turks attacked it, but when the fugitives left only twenty-five houses remained.

When the people of Dalvorig, the largest village in the Sassoun, learned of the atrocities at Vartemis they attacked the Turks on the frontier. The Turkish commander sent twelve soldiers to Dalvorig to inquire into the affair. The enraged Armenians put them all to death. The Turkish commander then sent a strong force of troops to the village, and a detachment of artillery kept up a fire until the place was in ruins.

Selo, the Bey of Initzoun, a Kurd, with a detachment of Kurdish cavalry, went with the Turkish soldiers to the village of Semal and took the Armenian priest from his church after defiling the sacred vessels and the priest's hands. They then bound him on a donkey, started the animal up and, making them a target, killed both priest and beast. In the same village Turkish soldiers entered an Armenian dwelling and assaulted a woman and her 14-year-old daughter.

Selo took eight Armenian girls from Semal and sent them to his harem at Initzoun.

Kellehuzen was surrounded before dawn and fired while the inhabitants were asleep.

Soldiers entered the house of a man named Arakel, found him and his wife asleep, and tortured both in a horrible manner with red-hot iron.

The Armenian priest, Margos, and 20 other inmates of a house were burned to death, soldiers preventing anybody from escaping from the burning building.

The chief of the village of Cheneg and his two daughters were bound together and boiling water was poured over them until they were scalded to death.

A detachment of twenty-five regulars of the Turkish cavalry, after perpetrating inexpressible outrages at the village of Seoghank, went to the village school and assaulted the girls they found there and then destroyed the building.

Ibo Bey, a notorious Kurd brigand of Djibran, and a Colonel in the Turkish army, went with a detachment of Turkish troops to the Armenian villages of Bahlou, Hatezgent and Komk and committed atrocities with free hand at each place.

After driving off the men, they collected the female children of Bahlou together, about two hundred in all, and after assaulting them killed them all, then regaled themselves with wine and whatever else they could find in the village.

The Kurdish regulars from Kizan and Bahran killed all the inhabitants of Allandzig and Aghteg and wrecked the houses.

More than thirty villages are said to have been served in the same manner. Many Armenians who fled were captured and taken to prison.

LODON, Dec. 3.—Dr. G. Thoumalan, a well-known Armenian, has just received a letter from Todoveran, near Erzeroum, in which these paragraphs occur: "Mounted robbers rode up to this village an hour after sunset on Sept. 14 and immediately began indiscriminate attacks upon the Armenian inhabitants.

"Over two hundred shots were fired at the house of the Rev. Mr. Sookias, pastor of the Protestant community, who was absent in Erzeroum. Three bullets struck the pastor's wife in the face. She subsequently died from the effects of her wounds.

"Some poor people from Khnoos, living in the basement of the house, hurried upstairs when the firing was going on, and all were wounded.

"A band of robbers committed murder at Andag Sept. 25 and carried off cattle. At Dody they plundered houses."

LONDON, Dec. 4—A. M.—The Times, which hitherto has been sceptical regarding the Sassoun outrages, says to-day it has confirmation outside of Armenian sources sufficient to prove that the reports of rapine and murder are tolerably well established.

The Earl of Kimberley, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, had a long interview yesterday (Monday) at the Foreign Office with Francis S. Stevenson, Chairman of the Anglo-Armenian Association.

A Vienna despatch says the Sultan has decorated Zekki Pasha with the Nishan-i-Imtiaz order in brilliants for suppressing the Bitlis revolt.

Takki Pasha is a Turkish Marshal. It is charged that with a detachment of Nizams and a field battery he massacred more than 2,000 Armenians in the Sassoun.

## TURKEY SAYS ARMENIA BEGAN IT.

Complains that a Committee in London Is  
Secretly Raising Money to Make  
More Trouble.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—The Turkish Minister has received this official telegram relative to the troubles in Armenia:

"It has been ascertained that agitators, originally from Roumania and Greece, and recruited in the Caucasus, took an important part in the Sassoun rebellion. Following instructions from the London Armenian committee, money is even now secretly subscribed in the Caucasus with the view of creating more trouble at Moosh and other places.

The Armenians of the Talourie district started the revolt, attacking Musulman villages, the inhabitants of which had great difficulty in sheltering themselves in their winter quarters near Diarbekir. Regular troops were immediately sent to the spot. These troops never employed more than seventy or eighty Kurds, who were of the Djafer tribe and served as guides in those hilly regions, according to the custom all armies follow."

"These facts show that, far from committing any cruelties, the regular troops succeeded in restoring peace and order. A further proof that there was no persecution of any sort is evinced by the fact that peaceful Armenian villages not partaking of the revolutionary movement, although surrounded by villages whose inhabitants were in open revolt, were unmolested during and after the military operations.

"Armenian revolutionists and their friends are the interested propagators of news that has no foundation in fact. Having revolted, they wish to hide their guilty actions under cover of supposed persecution.

"It is proved that these Armenian insurgents had as comrades a few misguided Kurds."

## GOADING SECRETARY GRESHAM.

An Ohio Pastors' Union and the Philharmonic  
Association of America Want at  
Least an Investigation.

(Special to The World.)

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 3.—The Columbus Pastors' Union adopted to-day a resolution calling upon Secretary of State Gresham to demand an investigation of the reported atrocities of the Turks upon the Armenian Christians.

The Executive Committee of the Philharmonic Association of America sent from its headquarters in this city yesterday to the Secretary of State at Washington this letter:

"It is very much to be regretted that, according to newspaper statements, no report has as yet been received by the State Department from our representative at Constantinople, Minister Terrell, concerning the recent massacre of thousands of Armenians in the Sassoun district. Every intelligent mind, however, is quite satisfied that a wilful and bloody butchery was committed by Turkish regulars, under the express orders of the Porte, in the Sassoun district in the early part of September.

"That the Porte and Palace at Constantinople have taken every precaution to keep the civilized world ignorant of the enormity of their ghastly deed is proved by the fact that no official bulletin concerning the occurrence was issued by the Turkish authorities until the horrifying news had leaked out through private sources, fully two months after the atrocities had taken place. There is no necessity to discuss here the value of Turkish circulars, but it is very interesting to note that the Turkish Government does not deny the occurrence of a serious massacre in that district, and unsuccessfully attempts to avoid its responsibility.

"Honorable Sir, having still in mind the enormity of the inhuman atrocities committed in Bulgaria, Greece, Servia, &c., &c., by the same Government, the Armenian-born citizens, in common with all their fellow-citizens of the United States, are extremely anxious for official reports on this subject outside of Turkish sources. Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Philharmonic Association of America, at the instance of the Armenian colonies in the United States, respectfully begs that your department will inform it whether instructions have been sent to Minister Terrell to make such inquiries into the case as are necessary to establish the absolute truth; or, if no such instructions have yet been sent and Minister Terrell prefers to be silent on this important subject on account of his intimate personal friendship with the Sultan of Turkey, is there any reason why the State Department should not undertake to make an inquiry into the affair in an indirect way for the satisfaction of the people of the United States and the civilized world?

"It appears to our committee that if the Government of the United States cannot take any direct and effective steps even in such a serious case, which affects the interests of Christianity and civilization at large, it can at least assist in bringing to light the facts concerning a matter of universal interest and above all, indeed, for the benefit of the long-suffering people of Armenia.