

THE SITUATION IN THE EAST.



What Is Happening While the Great Powers Are Waiting for the Unspeakable Turk to Inaugurate Reforms in Armenia.

READY FOR WAR

Russia, Austria and Italy Send War Ships to Turkey.

WAITING NOW FOR CURRIE.

British Ambassador's Return the Signal for Action.

BLOODY MURDERS STILL CONTINUE.

Thanks to Minister Terrell's Promptness Americans Are Safe.

SULTAN AGAIN INSULTS THE POWERS.

A Report Current that the Chief Slayer Is to Succeed the Present Grand Vizier Causes Consternation at the Porte, but Will Hurry the Crisis.

The hands of many nations are weaving a strong net of war round the Sultan. His equivocation will answer him no longer, and it is confidently expected that the moment Sir Philip Currie, the British Ambassador, arrives at Constantinople definite action will be taken, and perhaps the first shot fired which will herald the disruption of the Turkish Empire at the hands of the united force of Europe.

Orders have been issued from St. Petersburg for five Russian war ships to start at once for the Mediterranean; the Austrian Government is preparing to send war ships

to the scene of strife; the Italian squadron, which has been ordered to co-operate with the British fleet in Turkish waters, left Naples for the East yesterday, and Uncle Sam will have two well-armed ships there to look to the safety of her citizens abroad.

Athens, Nov. 14.—It is asserted that Greece is desirous of taking part in any naval demonstration against Turkey that may occur.

Constantinople, Nov. 14.—Rumors of war are to be heard on every hand here. The Italian fleet is understood to be on its way to Salonica Bay to join the British fleet of about twenty war ships already there, the French fleet is expected there shortly, and the representatives of the powers, as a result of communications exchanged with their Gov-



U. S. Minister Terrell.

ernments, have had another informal meeting at the French Embassy. When the three squadrons have united and Sir Philip Currie, the British Ambassador, returns, some decided step upon the part of the powers may be anticipated.

News received here to-day from the district of Van record fresh massacres of Armenian Christians there.

The Kurds of Van are said to be attacking and pillaging the Armenian villages, and the Turkish officials are reported to be powerless to preserve order. A telegram received here from Sivas on Tuesday, but only made public to-day, says that a massacre of the Armenians has been commenced at that city; but, accord-

ing to the Porte, order has been restored there.

Another Insult.

It is reported here to-day that Shakir Pasha, the Imperial High Commissioner for Armenian reforms, is about to be recalled and appointed Grand Vizier in succession to Halil Rifat. If the report is correct, this will be another open defiance of the powers, for Shakir Pasha is regarded as the chief butcher of the Porte. Since his appearance at Erzeroum as High Commissioner the massacres there have been more bloody and frequent than ever before, and it is well known that he has done nothing to punish the offenders. In fact, he has been charged with calmly looking on while the Turkish soldiery fired upon every helpless Christian they caught sight of.

This announcement has caused excitement here, and it is thought will hurry the crisis.

Every day brings further details of the massacres at Erzeroum, and each report makes the story of the crimes there more ghastly. Men, women and children were shot, bayoneted, burned and outraged for days, the killing and mutilation lasting for weeks. The orders for these outrages are said to have been sent by the Porte. The number of killed will probably never be known, and is estimated at from 500 to 2,000, according to Turkish or Armenian versions.

Thanks to Terrell.

Certainly many hundreds were killed, and it is even said that some of the victims were skinned alive, while others were soaked with petroleum and then set fire to.

The Turks of Erzeroum, as usual, say the Armenians were the aggressors, but independent reports acquit the Armenians of doing anything more than attempting to defend themselves. When once the Turk begins killing he never knows when to stop.

Further troubles are also reported at Kharput, Malitch and Arabkir, and at Marash the bloodshed and outrages are said to have been even more terrible and prolonged than at Erzeroum.

During the rioting at Marash, Hadjin and Orfah, the American missionaries, thanks to the strong representations made on the subject to the Porte by the United States Ambassador, Alexander W. Terrell, were protected by Turkish gendarmes. This, it is known, was, by direct order of the Porte, telegraphed to Turkish officials at the places mentioned.

Owing to additional disquieting news just received here from Sivas, Mr. Terrell renewed his demand that the Porte protect the missionaries, and he is holding the Turkish Government responsible.

Palace in

Abdulla Pasha, for