

ARMENIA'S

ATROCITY MILL

A High Official at the Turkish Embassy in Rome Tells How the Stories Were Started.

REVOLUTIONARY INVENTIONS

Turkey Only Did What Other Countries Have Done Under Similar Circumstances.

ENGLAND'S CREDULOUS SOUL

Frank Opinions About Mr. Gresham's Attempt to Meddle in Turkey's Affairs.

[BY THE COMMERCIAL CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

The HERALD's European edition publishes the following from its correspondent:—

ROME, Dec. 28, 1894.—As some of the Italian papers are making much of the Armenian atrocities, I went to the Turkish Embassy here, and, from information received there, was forced to the conclusion that the real object of those who started the agitation was to excite public opinion against Turkey by exaggerations and inventions. These were some of the words used to describe the methods employed. I am not at liberty to mention the name of the official I saw at the Embassy, but every statement he made was based on documentary evidence, which I had full liberty to examine.

TURKEY'S NATURAL RIGHTS.

"What right have the European Powers to protest," he began, "against what Turkey had not only the right, but the duty, to perform? What would England do if Irish rioters killed English policemen? What did the United States government do in the case of the great railway strike? Did not Italy send forty thousand men to Sicily when a revolutionary movement broke out there? In America, in Italy, in every country in the world, have not rioters been dealt with summarily? In Armenia matters were more grave than in the cases instanced. Sterner measures were necessary. There has been a repression of a conspiracy, the heads of which are in London.

"The idea of these revolutionists was that if outrages were committed the odium would rest upon the Turk. For instance, it is an established fact that bands of Armenian brigands forced the inhabitants of certain villages to move to the mountains with their goods and chattels, and then set fire to their empty houses. Of course the Turks were accused of razing whole Armenian villages to the ground, &c.

HAS A TASTE FOR ATROCITIES.

"London apparently will swallow anything in the way of atrocities. One telegram published in the English press reports the massacre of six thousand Armenians, while as a matter of fact the whole of the Armenian population in the district in question does not amount to anything like that total. Another story is to the effect that sixty prisoners were shot at Erzeroum without a trial. That is absurd. Here is a telegram received at the embassy here saying that of forty-six Armenians put in prison at Erzeroum on various charges thirty-six were set at liberty because there was not sufficient evidence against them, five were condemned to death and five to penal servitude on the charges of theft, outrage and murder. These sentences, however, have not yet been put into execution.

THE TREATY OF BERLIN.

"Much has been said about enforcing the treaty of Berlin and that Turkey has not fulfilled its pledges in this treaty. The demand is that reforms be carried out in Armenia. This has been done, and fresh reforms are being made as rapidly as the progress of the country will permit. Russia herself has been obliged to confess that there have been great exaggerations in the statements made about Armenian misgovernment.

"It is not thought in my country that the Armenians desire to join Russia. The real authors of the agitation are Armenian revolutionists in Europe, whose headquarters are in London, and who may be called Armenian anarchists. This is evident from the pamphlets published by them in Europe and by the branch in the United States. One of them, which I have seen, was called 'The Garden of Eden Defiled.' Now, I am reliably informed that the Armenian Committee in the Caucasus has received from London the order to renew the agitation."

MR. GRESHAM'S INTERMEDDLING.

In answer to the question as to what he thought of the step taken by United States Secretary of State Gresham, my distinguished informant smiled and said:—

"I think there is so much to do in America that the United States ought not concern itself with questions concerning countries so far away. You see, all the trouble comes from the fact that people who do not really know Turkey, foreigners going there who do not speak the language, have to trust to interpreters, who are all Greeks, Armenians, or Jews, who hate Turkey, and whose interest it is to keep up old legends. One day I was with a foreign lady who had engaged a guide. The latter did not recognize me as a Turk. At a certain spot he stopped the boat we were in, and pointing mysteriously to a hole in the wall said:—

" 'That is the hole out of which faithless wives are thrown into the Bosphorus.' Unable to contain myself, I promptly boxed his ears. There are similar holes in every house for sanitary purposes."

REFORMS IN ARMENIA.

New Plan Adopted by the Turkish Cabinet for Governing the Troubled Districts.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

VIENNA, Dec. 28, 1894.—A despatch from Constantinople says that at the last meeting of the Turkish Cabinet the Ministers virtually adopted a new plan of government for the districts of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis and Moosh. The plan is that the four districts be joined in a single province, over which a Mussulman governor, appointed by the Sultan, shall rule five years. The Mussulman would be succeeded in the governorship by Christians who are not Armenians. The gendarmerie would be recruited from the districts in which it would serve and would be commanded by a general named by the Sultan. The local revenues would be retained by the province, excepting one annual contribution to the Porte. The judges would be elective, and local ministries of education and public works probably would be formed.

Germany and Austria will probably follow the lead of Italy in ordering her Ambassador at Constantinople to co-operate with the representatives of the other Powers in taking action in regard to the horrors in Armenia.

LETTER BY A GOOD TURK.

One of the Sultan's Officers Deplores the Armenian Massacres and Their Results.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 28, 1894.—Malcon Aghanallou, a prominent Armenian in this city, to-day received a letter from a warm personal friend who is an officer in the Turkish army. He is a Mohammedan, but deplores the outrages. In the letter he says that there are Turks who are just as good people as Christians in Armenia or in other countries, who hate to see the outrages. Good Mohammedans cannot bear to let this go on. The prisons are full, and wives and children are asking the release of husbands and fathers. Many of the officers in the army near Sassoun saw no reason for destroying so many people. "If we kill these," they said, "we shall be worse off, for instead of being able to collect ten cents a month out of the dollar that the Sultan allows us to collect, we can get nothing from corpses. The Sultan not only tortures Christian people, but his poor soldiers and officers as well. The latter are not half paid.

"I heard you were coming here next spring. I advise you to stay away, because the Sultan is determined to rob and imprison every American citizen. He will have you tortured, so I advise you not to come. Do not mention my name."