

The Sick Man of Europe.

There occur occasionally in the dull monotony of modern happenings events which are so stupendous for good or evil that the attention of the world is shocked into vital interest. Such an occasion is the massacre of Armenian Christians which has taken place in that unhappy province of Turkey. This massacre was accompanied by details of such unspeakable horror that men hesitate to write of them. The brutal murder of children, the violation of innocent girls and the ruthless wrecking of sweet household ties. A peaceful, patient, toiling nation immolated to the brutal lust of men who have shown no improvement for twenty centuries, and whose existence has been a blot on the map of Europe and the history of the world since the days of Tamerlane.

Some wider cognizance than mere sympathy should be taken of this event, so unparalleled and so atrocious. Too much has been permitted to Turkey. The corrupt kingdom has not only festered on its infamous throne, corroding inward and outward, debased in morals and loathsome in all its practices, but the observing world has allowed its Sultans to crush and break the spirit of classic Greece and forever damn the whole southeast of Europe. This is infamy enough for civilization and Christendom to have connived at. The further outrage which Turkey contemplates should not be permitted. There are laws higher than the shibboleths of international courtesy. To allow the Turks to sacrifice to their fanaticism and ambition this amiable, pastoral people would be a crime far darker than the partition of Poland, against which the world has sentimentally inveighed for some generations. It would be a sacrifice of virtue and worth and loveliness to baseness and crime and infamy. It would be a sacrifice of the cross of Jesus to the blood-stained crescent of Islam, a sacrifice of progression and human advancement to retrogression and decay.

There may be international complications which will prevent punishment, but the decency and humanity of the world should certainly devise some means of preventing the repetition of the horror.