

# THE ARMENIAN OUTRAGES.

## Letter from an American on the Ground—Terrible Distress of the People—Relief Measures.

WASHINGTON, September 11.—The pitiable condition of the survivors of the Armenian massacres, and the alleged efforts of the Turkish authorities to retard the work of relief, are described in a communication just received here from an American now at the scene of the Sassun massacre. The letter is dated August 1, and after referring to the distribution of relief funds which has been intrusted to American missionaries, says, in part:

“The missionaries are now here, but the opposition of the Turkish government is so great that they can make but little progress. The people are completely prostrated. Two villages, samples of the thirty-two that were destroyed, are now marked by crumbling walls, the roofs so completely destroyed by the incendiary soldiers that not a chip remains to show they ever had roofs. The mass of the survivors of the massacre were scattered about among the villages of the surrounding region, and supported by those scarcely better off than themselves. Two months ago most of the survivors were induced to return to their old homes, sow their fields with a kind of millet that matures in a few weeks, and seek to establish themselves before the winter. Many have only a few boughs to cover a corner of their former homes, and furnishings are bare: a little hay to sleep on, with possibly some filthy rags to throw over them, in place of abundant carpets. Hardly a child has more than the remnant of a tattered shirt to cover him, and many of the adults are not many degrees better off. Food is very scarce, and working-tools are lacking.

“In short, they are utterly prostrate, and must be put on their own feet, by supplying them with everything, till they can begin the upward road towards the old prosperity. There are already more than 5,000 people to be thus cared for. England has already sent £1,000, and the Armenians themselves have raised two or three times this amount, but it will all be sufficient to do the work only very imperfectly. Still, with sure prospects of reform and present protection, they would go at the great task before them with cheerfulness and hope. But, alas! these conditions do not yet obtain, nor do we know that they will.

“The English Ambassador obtained a promise that all assistance should be afforded to the distribution of the English funds, and the American missionaries were requested to come and superintend, but the three weeks they have spent on the ground have seen almost nothing accomplished, because the government has thrown obstacle after obstacle in the way. The first estimates of the slain were exaggerated, as no one could get

into the region, and the survivors were scattered in different directions. Probably not more than 4,000 really fell at the time, the others died of want; but the tales of beastly lust and fiendish outrage that have come to our ears exceed all we had dreamed of, and can never be allowed to soil the page of the clean historian."

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