

THE OUTRAGES IN ARMENIA.

A Meeting at the Park Street Church Denounces Them.

Clergymen and Others Unite in a Protest Against Turkish Barbarities—Hon. Jonathan A. Lane Presides—A Returned Missionary Among the Speakers.

A mass meeting to protest against the recent Turkish atrocities upon the Armenians was held last night in the Park Street Church. Hon. Jonathan A. Lane presided, and there was a fairly large attendance.

President Lane, in opening the proceedings, referred to the fact that the American government had ceased to interest itself in the matter of the Armenian atrocities. The Turkish government had intimated that, no American interests having been jeopardized, the affair was none of ours, and it had refused to allow Mr. Jewett, the American consul, to accompany the commission of inquiry. In this state of affairs, there were people who believed it would be better now to await the result of the inquiry by the European powers. Yet Massachusetts, and the men and women of Massachusetts, could not refrain from protesting and giving expression to their opinion.

The speaker went on to show how bound up our sympathies as Christians were with the Armenian Christians. We were all of us interested in them, and we felt we must protest against the atrocious deeds recently committed in Armenia. Such outrages demanded

the protest of the whole Christian world, and America, being of such importance as a Christian nation, could not withhold her protest.

Mr. Lane read resolutions, whose preamble resembled that of the resolutions recently offered at the Faneuil Hall meeting. The resolutions demanded an independent investigation. Thanks were given to President Cleveland for appointing the commission, and the Sultan's refusal to allow Mr. Jewett to accompany the commission was declared to be virtually an acknowledgment of guilt, while the Sultan's withdrawal of his own invitation to President Cleveland to appoint American representatives was characterized as an affront to the American government. The resolutions concluded with the expression of a wish that some method might be adopted by our state department that would result in bringing the facts to light.

Mr. C. S. Carnig, a native Armenian, was then called upon. He began by describing the causes which had led to the recent massacre, pointing out that the Sultan was trying to absorb the non-Mussulman races of his empire in order to swell the numbers of Islam and so increase his power and prestige. In this policy he had begun with the Armenians. The speaker gave an account of the way in which this people had been not only shorn of their privileges and rights, but plundered and maltreated. The whole thing was simply a religious war—the war of the crescent against the cross.

The recent massacre was not the work of an infuriated mob, but of a regular system; and the Sultan was the chief criminal. The speaker claimed that Mr. Tirrell, our representative at Constantinople, was remiss in his duty by not promptly communicating the news of the massacre as soon as he learned of it. The Sultan's refusal to permit Mr. Jewett to accompany the commission was a compliment to Mr. Jewett. Now it remained to be seen whether the American government would drop this matter simply because of the action of the Sultan. It was a fact that this government had refused to protect peaceably disposed American citizens who returned to Armenia on business.

The great question now was whether the Sultan would succeed in preventing the American government from investigating the recent atrocities. He hoped the people would support the government in any action it might take. (Applause.)

Mr. Henry B. Blackwell was the next speaker. He laid emphasis on the fact that these outrages had been going on for centuries. While he did not countenance sending an iron-clad to Constantinople, he would be glad to see one go. (Applause.) We could not remain passive while such things were going on. He was not there to find fault with the American government, but he thought the time had come when the rights of an American citizen should be protected in Constantinople and in Armenia.

Turkey had admitted the massacres by refusing to allow an independent and unbiased investigation. It was now the duty of our government to make that investigation. It was our duty as a people to appeal to the Christian powers to make the inquiry and apply the remedy, which was for the powers to send out a governor to protect the rights of all the parties concerned. (Applause.)

Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, for many years engaged in missionary work in Turkey, began by remarking that returned missionaries from Turkey had to be very careful what they said, for fear of imperilling the safety of other missionaries left in that country. But as a citizen he would say that, in spite of the Monroe doctrine, our government was under obligation to maintain its treaties with foreign countries, and one article of the treaty with Turkey was that American interests should be treated as those of the most favored nation. As a matter of fact, the Turkish government treated the Catholic and French missions with honor and respect, while the American missions were treated to robbery and every species of dishonor. Why was this? It was because our government never expended either money or power to protect the American missions. Until our government made some show of power nothing would be done.

The speaker would not ask that an ironclad be sent to Constantinople, but there should be one in the Mediterranean. The Bulgarian atrocities had some excuse, if an atrocity could have excuse; but the Armenian atrocities had no excuse whatsoever. It was an assault upon a people quiet and industrious and inoffensive to the Turkish government, except that they had property which the Kurds wanted.

By sanctioning the massacre the Turkish government had abdicated all right to be considered a civilized power. The only remedy was for the united Christian peoples to call upon the European powers so to arrange matters in Turkey that such atrocities should never again be repeated. (Applause.)

Rev. Charles G. Ames of the Church of the Disciples simply appeared that he might be counted among those who protested against wrong. He came as the friend both of the Turks and of the Armenians, for the Turks wronged themselves by taking part in such outrages. Great Britain kept for its own purposes a very dangerous animal between Russia and India, and of all powers Great Britain was the most responsible for what had happened. Great Britain should therefore be called upon to keep the animal in order. The Armenians had been murdered in the interest of plunder. Even if there had been an insurrection, the method of putting it down was to be protested against. (Applause.)

President Lane here read letters from ex-Gov. Russell and Hon. A. E. Pillsbury. Mr. Russell wrote: "The purpose of your meeting excites my warmest sympathy, and I wish for it every possible success." Mr. Pillsbury said: "The treatment of this people by the Turkish government is indefensible, and may well justify, if it does not demand, the protest, and, if necessary, the interference, of any civilized nation." (Applause.) The writer alluded to "the offensive attitude of Turkey toward the representatives of our government." He added that Boston should omit no effort to strengthen and uphold the hands of our government in its purpose to protect them from outrage in their own country.

Rev. Dr. Lansing, the pastor of Park Street Church, added a few words of vigorous protest and indignation. As a diplomatist he did not see what could be done, but as a man he did not see why the white squadron should not be run out to protect from slaughter men, women and children whose only offence was that they were Christians. War was just as righteous as peace at times, and let the Sultan know that the Christians of America would pray that the blood spilled might be avenged. (Applause.) Let America stand for righteousness and for justice. (More applause.)

The resolutions were then put to the meeting and unanimously carried.