

## MALDEN CITIZENS PROTEST.

### Massacre of Armenians Most Strongly Condemned.

**Mass Meeting Held in National Hall Last Night—Senator-Elect Wellman Presided—Addresses by Henry B. Blackwell, Ex-Mayors Winn and Coggan and Others—Resolutions.**

A mass meeting was held in National Hall, Malden, last night, as a formal protest against the recent massacre of Armenians in Turkey by subjects of the Sultan of that country, and to aid in securing an investigation by the Christian governments. The hall was filled, many ladies being present.

There are more than 500 Armenians in Malden, many being employed in the rubber works. The great majority are Christians, belonging either to the Baptist or Congregational church, and, as a rule, they are a quiet and law abiding class of citizens.

Arthur H. Wellman, senator-elect, presided, and an orchestra furnished music.

A feature of the evening was the attendance of Garden Forest commandery 12, U. V. U., of Malden, in a body. When the veterans entered the hall, carrying their flags, the audience arose and gave cheer after cheer.

On the platform were seated a number of the local clergy, ex-mayors and the prominent speakers. Mayor Stevens could not be present, owing to a previous engagement outside the state.

The speakers were warmly applauded and much enthusiasm was manifested.

The meeting was called to order by Col. Harry W. Downs, who told in a brief manner, the object of the gathering, and spoke of the feeling of the Turkish government toward its Christian subjects on previous similar occasions.

After prayer by Rev. E. S. Potter, A. H. Wellman was elected chairman and G. Louis Richards, secretary. Mr. Wellman spoke of the unspeakable terror and horror of the massacre, and then introduced Henry B. Blackwell, of Boston as the first speaker.

He said that this protest was not entirely on the recent atrocity, or this war, but the culmination of hundreds of years of terror.

He declared that the Turkish government was only a nest of robbers, located in Constantinople. It had none of the characteristics of a civilized government; it was a despotism, than which even that of Russia is to be preferred.

After referring to the Bulgarian massacre and the accepted reports thereon, as the result of American investigation, he said that what was now desired was that President Cleveland should appoint some official American committee to fully investigate this latest atrocity.

When he said that he had just read in an evening paper that Russia had sent 19,000 troops to the Turkish frontier, the audience warmly applauded.

Hon. Henry Winn, ex-mayor of Malden, was the next speaker. He said that on occasions of this kind the sweetest music was the music of the drum-beat and the rattle of musketry.

He told of the first establishment of the Christian church, three years after the opening of the Christian era. It had been a Christian nation ever since, he said, and that is its only offence. The persecution has been such that in Turkish Armenia only about 1,000,000 Armenian reside, out of the 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 Armenians in the world.

He cited Russia's attempt to aid Armenia, of the subsequent assumption of protection by England, and declared that England shared with the Sultan the stigma of the massacre; that America looked not to the Sultan for the prevention of these atrocities, but to Victoria, Queen of England.

Rev. H. O. Hiscox of the First Baptist Church of Malden said that a characteristic of the American people was that its sympathies were always with the oppressed. He believed that England was primarily responsible for the Turkish government. England has always been jealous of Russia. She has kept the Turkish government alive, and England is famous for never going into any thing where she can possibly lose a cent. He was in fullest sympathy with the meeting.

Mr. M. H. Guelisian, secretary of the Society of Friends of Armenians, described Armenia, its inhabitants, and their sufferings, as a result of their fidelity to Christianity.

He told of many authentic incidents of Turkish barbarism, and declared that the Turkish government was far more despotic than that of the Russian.

Ex-Mayor Marcellus Coggan expressed his sympathy with the Armenians in their sorrow. He believed that Malden joined him in this feeling.

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed:

Whereas, telegraphic dispatches to the daily press of this country, confirmed by private dispatches and letters from Armenia, which are authentic in their nature, giving an account of the massacre of thousands of unarmed Armenian Christians, men, women and innocent children, by the soldiers of the Turkish government and armed bands of Kurds and Circassians, under command of the Governor of Bitlis; and

Whereas, it was reported that to the United States government rightfully belongs the credit of awakening the English government to the fact that in 1876 a fearful and atrocious massacre had taken place in Bulgaria, European Turkey, by the Turks and under the sanction of the Turkish government;

Therefore, we, citizens of Malden and of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, assembled in National Hall, Malden, Mass., Dec. 6, 1894, do earnestly petition our United States senators and representatives in Congress assembled, and through them His Excellency Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, requesting that an investigation of the crimes committed under orders of the Turkish officials be thoroughly investigated, by sending to the scene of the massacre such representatives as are known to be proof against bribery, and whose report, when rendered, will be true to facts as found; or by joining with a commission from other European governments, accomplish the object desired.

We protest against and most strongly condemn the Turkish government for the terrible crimes committed by their soldiers upon their Christian subjects, the "Armenians," and the brutal, fendish manner in which the massacre was committed. As the representatives of a Christian nation, we protest.

Knowing, as we do, that the Sultan of Turkey has decorated the commanding officer of the troops who committed this great slaughter, also that four silk flags have been sent to the Kurdish chiefs, who commanded the several bands of Kurds and Circassians that assisted in these cold-blooded murders, we enter our protest against any investigating committee appointed by the Sultan being allowed to make an investigation of these matters, which should be accepted by this government of the United States as a truthful account of the massacre, as we believe such a committee would be thoroughly unreliable.

It is the duty of the signatory powers to the treaty of Berlin to take action in this matter of investigation at once, and through trustworthy men and by these presents, we call upon the present administration at Washington to demand that this be done.

From year to year has the condition of the Armenians in Turkey become more and more deplorable, the Turkish government showing itself not only unable, but unwilling to protect them from the outrages constantly being committed upon them, and which is encouraged by the seeming supreme indifference and inaction of the treaty powers.

We therefore appeal to the British government, which holds the island of Cyprus as a guaranty of its protectorate over the Christian subjects of Turkey, to immediately enforce the treaty stipulations.

Resolved, that copies of these protests and appeals be sent to our senators and representatives in Congress, requesting that the same may be laid before the President of the United States, asking for immediate action by this government, also that copies be made and sent to the British government, in order that they may know "the United States" as a people are aroused and determined to use their influence to have a stop put to these barbarities by the unchristian Turk.

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell thought that if the policy of this government was non-intervention with other powers it was time that it was changed in this case.

She made a stirring address on suffering Armenia, which was enthusiastically received by the audience.

She astonished her audience by the statement that she had positive evidence that a spy of the Turkish government was in the hall at the time and that its action would be reported to Constantinople.

Everybody looked around expecting to see him. If one was there he, of course declined to disclose his identity.