

INSULTING TO AMERICA. 11

Turkey's Exclusion of Armenians Causes
a Demand for a Treaty to Protect
American Citizens.

To the Editor of The Globe:

The statement in last Wednesday's Globe describing the exclusion from Turkey of a number of Armenians returning from the United States will not surprise anyone who is acquainted with the despotic methods of the Ottoman government.

Indeed, this exclusion is the declared policy of the sultan. Pres Cleveland touched upon it in his message of last December. He said:

"The Ottoman government has announced its intention to expel from its dominions Armenians who have obtained naturalization in the United States since 1868."

Not merely Armenians who are members of revolutionary societies, it will be observed; but naturalized Armenians in general. Pres Cleveland added that "the right to exclude any or all classes of aliens is an attribute of sovereignty," and that, as there is no naturalization treaty between this country and Turkey, the American minister at Constantinople had been instructed to recognize "the right of that government to enforce its declared policy against naturalized Armenians."

The following petition is now in circulation, and has been signed by W. D. McCrackan, William Lloyd Garrison, Dr Cryus Hamlin, Mrs Julia Ward Howe, Rev E. E. Hale and other influential citizens:

To His Excellency Grover Cleveland, President of the United States:

We, the undersigned, respectfully represent that there at present resident in the United States about 10,000 Armenians, many of whom have become naturalized citizens and are engaged in lawful occupations, mostly manufacturing or commercial, that these American citizens, when desiring to revisit their native country for peaceful purposes, are rigidly excluded by the Turkish government, being prohibited from landing, or, upon arrival, arrested and imprisoned in disregard of American passports; that unnaturalized Armenians and Armenian citizens of countries other than the United States are allowed to return; and that this discrimination against American citizens is derogatory to the dignity of our government and a violation of international comity.

We therefore respectfully request your excellency to protest against this unjust and injurious treatment of American citizens, and to negotiate a treaty of reciprocal rights and privileges between the two countries, whereby our naturalized American citizens of Armenian birth shall be allowed to return to Turkey to visit their families or for purposes of commerce or missionary work, and shall be entitled to the protection of the American flag so long as they do not engage in acts conflicting with the peace of the Turkish empire.

The reason alleged by the Turkish government for excluding Armenian Americans is that there are in this country several branches of an Armenian revolutionary society aiming at the subversion of the sultan's authority, and the substitution of a free government in the Armenian provinces; and that Armenian revolutionists would try to come back to Turkey under cover of American passports.

At the time of the Fenian troubles there were in this country plenty of Irish American revolutionary societies working for the downfall of British authority at home, but did Great Britain therefore announce that no Irishman who had become an American citizen should be allowed to set foot upon the soil of the British empire?

Or does any one suppose that we should have submitted to it, if she had?

No such irrational action would be taken by any civilized nation. This effort at indiscriminate exclusion is the insane timidity of a despotic government, chronically oppressing its subjects, conscious that it is sitting on a volcano, and always trembling for its life. There is no reason why the United States should submit to an insulting discrimination against its naturalized citizens by "the sick man of Europe," such as it would not submit to for a moment from any civilized power.

Pres Cleveland says that, in the absence of a naturalization treaty the matter cannot be helped. Then let us have a naturalization treaty as speedily as possible. Alice Stone Blackwell.