

# POPE LEO XIII.

## AS ARBITRATOR.

A Report That the Sultan Has Offered to Submit the Armenian Question to His Holiness.

## THE ABUSE OF CITIZENSHIP.

Washington State Department Officials Aware That Misuse Is Made of United States Passports.

POWERLESS TO STOP IT.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

CAIRO, Jan. 14, 1895.—The native journal Al Mokattam publishes the following:—"The Sultan recently asked the Pope to arbitrate the Armenian question and His Holiness sent to Constantinople a delegate, who proposed that the Powers intervene, and intimated it would be necessary to get practical guarantees that the desired governmental reforms be carried out. The Pope purposes to make representations to Europe that the troubles in Armenia arose not from religious animosity but from bad government."

## THE ABUSE OF PASSPORTS.

State Department Officials Aware How Armenians Are Using Them, but Powerless to Prevent It

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,

CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 1895.

Although fully cognizant of the abuse of United States passports, so pointedly described in the HERALD this morning in connection with the Armenian troubles, State Department officials are unable to correct it. If anything is done about the matter, Congress will be the power to do it. Under the present laws every citizen of the United States, by birth or naturalization, is entitled to a passport upon bringing proof of his identity and citizenship, although it is within the province of the Secretary of State to refuse it should he desire. This power is arbitrarily in his hands, but is rarely used, and only when the department is satisfied that the parties making the application intend using it for illegal purposes.

The HERALD's story this morning, telling of the return to Turkey of Armenians who had only remained in this country long enough to take out naturalization papers and obtain passports thereon, was confirmed by the State Department officials. They have known that this abuse existed, but can take no action to prevent it unless the Secretary should decide to refuse in future all passports to Armenians. This would be manifestly unjust, and the Secretary has nothing left to do but to issue the papers applied for. The State Department in many instances feels like refusing papers to Armenians who personally appear at the State Department, but the proof the latter bring is generally of such a character that the passports cannot be withheld. It has been suggested by the State Department authorities that it would be an excellent plan to make an amendment to the Passport law so that the applicant for passport would have to swear to the purpose of his visit abroad before issuing papers to him. This would be a good preventive, it is thought, and would relieve the State Department of a good deal of trouble.

While it cannot correct the abuse, the State Department is doing what it can to prevent. Under his general instructions Minister Terrell, as the HERALD states this morning, has been directed to act with the greatest discretion in all these cases. He gives the parties fair warn-

ing of the dangers they incur in penetrating into the interior of Turkey, and should they disregard his advice then they themselves are to blame should they get into trouble and he not exercise his powers in their behalf.

I am told that ever since the beginning of the Armenian troubles in Turkey, applications from Armenians for passports have been very numerous. This has especially been the case within the last few weeks, and the authorities are in the dark as to what it all means. They say, however, that if these men are going back to Turkey to foment trouble they need not think that any protection will be given them by the United States because they have passports in their possession.

## THE HERALD GIVES BOTH SIDES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Does the HERALD desire to be commemorated in history as one of the allies of the Turk which conspired for the ruin of the Armenian nation? I know that the influence of the HERALD is mighty at home and abroad, but might is not right. It is cowardice to kick a fallen nation just as much as it is to kick a child. How could the HERALD shut its ears to the heartrending wails of violated womanhood, orphans and of the thousands imprisoned in the filthy Turkish dungeons?

On what ground does the HERALD prefer the testimony of the Turkish Embassy at Rome, the Turkish hireling Ximinez and the various news from other Turkish sources to the reports of the several American missionaries in Armenia, the report of the British Consuls, the evidences of honest and unprejudiced travellers, letters received by individuals from the very seat of the massacre, testimonies of the Armenian refugees, the confirmation of the whole by the Russian and English press and the acknowledgment of the Turkish authorities them-

greens. The centre aisle was set apart for Armenians, of whom there were several hundred present. The services began with the opening hymn, followed by a prayer by the Rev. Dr. David H. Greer.

Dr. Greer delivered the opening address. He said the object of the meeting was to extend sympathy to the Armenians and to protest in the name of civilization against the crimes of Turkey. Dr. Greer then read this letter from Bishop H. C. Potter:—

With all my heart I wish I could be with you on Sunday evening, but I am in Hoboken, where I had promised many weeks ago to preach. I am the more grieved that I cannot be with you because I should like the opportunity to point out, as no one has yet done, the distinction between national intervention and individual protest. I am a Monroe doctrine disciple, first, last and all the time, but I am a human being also, and while I think our competency as a nation to send a commissioner to Turkish Armenia is open to question, I am quite clear that our duty, as something less than savages, is to protest against barbarism wherever it is to be found. Certainly this duty is not less when they are our fellow Christians who are being outraged and butchered.

H. C. POTTER.

Yours very faithfully.

The Rev. Abraham Yohannon, an assistant in the church parish, delivered a brief address in the Armenian tongue, following which the Rev. Dr. George H. McGrew, who has spent ten years in Armenia, gave a description of the persecution of that race by the Turkish soldiery. He referred to the wonderful exhibition which the Armenians made at the World's Fair as evidence of their talents and development. The present atrocity was but one of a long series of outrages of a like character. The combination of fanaticism and ignorance made the lower Mohammedan soldiery blind to every sentiment of pity or forbearance.

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW'S SPEECH.

In introducing Dr. Depew, the next speaker, Dr. Greer said:—"I will introduce to you now one who is always ready to lift up his voice in every good cause, and to whom, I am sure, it will give you great pleasure to listen." Dr. Depew said:—

It is a pity that the closing year should be marked by that which will live in history as its most disgraceful episode. The outrage of Sassoun will become a chapter in the world's history which will recall bloody memories of 1894. It behooves us to begin the new year with such an emphasis of condemnation that the year 1895 shall have no such blot. It takes something from the boastfulness of our era that such a meeting should have to be called, but it is a tribute to the nineteenth century that such a meeting can be called. There have been outrages in all ages, but in every century, from the

twelfth to the nineteenth, the interest was confined mainly to the country and the people where the agitation took place and the slaughter occurred. There was no public sentiment of the world which had any international strength. The real glory of the nineteenth century is the creation of an international public opinion.

HAVE KEPT THEIR FAITH.

Armenia is interesting to us. Here are four millions of people who are legitimate descendants of apostolic churches, and who amid persecution have retained their faith. Turkey is a hierarchy for the propagation of a religion and the shutting out of every other religion. Armenia would be one of the most prosperous countries in the world with a proper government.

A mighty man celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday yesterday, and from all over the world there came to him messages of love and respect. He felt that he should return to the senders some message indicating his appreciation. He dismissed everything but this one:—That there were four million fellow creatures suffering tortures and that Christendom must protest against it. That word from Gladstone touched the public conscience of the world.

Sixty-five millions of people will cry out from this country with a voice that will be heard even in Turkey. Whatever the languages may be the voice is one. It is the voice that rang out in Independence Hall in 1876—the voice of Liberty crying the equality of man; the right of all men to liberty, conscience and the law.

At the close of Dr. Depew's speech a resolution of sympathy to the Armenian people, of protest in the name of humanity against the atrocities, and of encouragement to Christians in England and on the Continent who are working to secure Armenia redress, was read and adopted. The final prayer and benediction were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, Archdeacon of New York.

## MAILS TAMPERED WITH.

### The Turkish Government Assumes the Right to "Examine" Foreign Letters.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BOSTON, Dec. 30, 1894.—Official letters recently sent out from the rooms of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, containing accounts relating to the European Turkey mission, were opened by the Turkish officials. The letters were subsequently delivered, but with the Turkish word "Examined" written upon the envelope. This indicates that the Turkish government is attempting to assume authority over the mails of foreigners.