

APPEAL TO THE POWERS.

A MASS-MEETING TO PROTEST AGAINST THE ARMENIAN MASSACRE.

THE CRUELTY OF THE KURDS AWAKENS HORROR
IN THE BREASTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS—

THE UNITED STATES ASKED TO INTER-
FERE AS FAR AS THEIR FOR-
EIGN POLICY PERMITS.

The big auditorium of Chickering Hall was filled last night with people who came to emphasize by their presence their disapproval and horror of the outrages inflicted upon the Armenians by the Turks, and to adopt resolutions condemning the atrocious cruelty and offering sympathies to the Christian people of Armenia. The resolutions were unanimously carried, and the general temper of the meeting seemed to be that, in a case of such wholesale and wanton butchery, the law of universal brotherhood should triumph over the international law, and the spirit of the Monroe Doctrine should, in some way, be evaded so that the United States Government might become a factor in suppressing this barbarous persecution of a harmless and defenceless people. One speaker seemed to strike the

popular chord when he said that while the Monroe Doctrine prohibited any other nation from poking its nose into our affairs, it did not prevent the United States from nosing into the affairs of other nations. Whether or not this was strictly within the letter of international law, it was greeted with a cheer which left no doubt of the approval of the audience.

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

At the rear of the platform was a large map of Asia Minor, showing the district where the last tragedy was enacted. S. Victor Constant, chairman of the Mass-meeting Committee, called the meeting to order, and introduced General Wager Swayne as presiding officer. In explaining the purpose of the meeting, General Swayne spoke of the civilized world as being governed by reason and public opinion, but this influence could not be felt unless the dark corners of the earth were reached. The force of this reason and opinion must penetrate to these dark corners of crime and ignorance, and that was the purpose of the meeting. It was in Asia Minor, the Asia Minor of St. Paul, that hatred of Christianity was most violent. The forced degradation of the women made Christian emancipation imperative. "We have a right," he said, "to believe that the voice raised in protest here to-night will make itself heard in Constantinople."

William H. Ward, Editor of "The Independent" and an extensive traveller in the Far East, spoke from his own personal knowledge of the "unspeakable Turk" and of his cruelty and oppression. He described it as the most horrible atrocity of modern times; horrible because it was merely one in a series of crimes committed under the sanction and approval of the same Government. The facts of the last massacre were difficult to obtain, partly because it was committed in a mountainous region, almost inaccessible to travellers, but chiefly because the Turkish Government endeavored by every means to prevent the reports going abroad, and all information had to trickle through in spite of the Sultan's command.

A LETTER FROM TURKEY.

This evident intention of the Government was illustrated by a letter the speaker had recently received from a friend in Eastern Turkey. It was forwarded in a roundabout way, and the writer dared not place his signature upon it, and resorted to numerous methods to conceal his identity. The occasion for the outbreak was totally out of proportion to the results. The plundering, murdering tribe of Kurds came down upon the Armenians. Four of the vandals were killed, and then an order came from Constantinople that the "Insurrection" must be put down. The officers vied with one another in cruelty, and for it were decorated by the Government. Between six and ten thousand unarmed and defenceless people were butchered with every form of torture which ingenuity could devise, in order to put down this insurrection and avenge the death of the barbaric plunderers.

"This fearful slaughter," the speaker continued, "cannot be condoned by any apology or any excuse. The time has come when the authority of the European Powers should be exercised. The United States Government, without interfering with its international policy, can say to its Minister, 'Give us a report, give us the facts,' and the knowledge which we can impart will stir up the signatory Powers to decisive action."

DESCRIPTION OF THE KURD.

The Rev. Dr. E. M. Bliss has frequently visited Turkey, and he spoke of his experience among the Kurds, whom he described as a gathering of all that was bad and evil and vicious among the races of the East. The speaker went on: "The Kurd is an arrant coward, and in that fact lies the hope of salvation for the Armenian. There must be some strong hand to make these Kurdish chiefs know that there is a limit, and that they must not go beyond it."

J. Augustus Johnson, formerly American Consul to Beyrout, was an eye-witness of the massacre of Syria in 1860, and in describing it he said that the people there were in the habit of dating all important occurrences from such and such a massacre. There was one in every generation, and the people had grown accustomed to it. He vividly described the horror of that time and the treachery of the Turks who, when they found a body of Christians strongly fortified, would promise them protection if they surrendered. When the Turks had gained entrance to the garrison they would deliberately sever the heads of every man in the little band and make the women and children captives.

Mr. Johnson was inclined to defend the Sultan, and did not believe that it was becoming or just that Americans should use language intimating indiscriminate censure. The Sultan, according to the speaker, is a quiet, law-abiding man, and did not of his own will countenance the crime. He was powerless to prevent the various political intrigues which were at the bottom of it. The Turkish troops can be depended upon, and when they see Christian blood all discretion leaves them.

Mr. Johnson suggested a plan whereby the Government could assist the Armenians. His idea was to send a commissioner, representing this Government, to make an investigation.

THE RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED.

The Rev. Dr. John Hall presented the resolutions and explained the reasons why they should receive recognition by the President. The agitation should not be silenced by considerations of international law, and in support of this he referred to the action of the United States in regard to Russia's oppression of the Hebrews, and the beneficial results obtained.

The resolutions presented and adopted were:

Whereas, It appears in most trustworthy reports from various sources that twenty-five or more towns and villages of Armenia have been recently sacked and destroyed by Turkish troops, and, still further, that several thousand innocent men, women and children of Sassoun have been slaughtered in cold blood; therefore,

Resolved, That we, citizens of New-York City and vicinity, in mass-meeting assembled, extend our warmest sympathy to the Christian people of Armenia, who have again and again been plundered, violated and killed for their religious faith, with no prospect of redress or of any cessation of the outrages to which they are subject under Turkish rule, except through the intervention of the great Christian Powers.

Whereas, Such wholesale and outrageous cruelties have been repeatedly inflicted upon unoffending people with the knowledge and consent of the Turkish Government, and

Whereas, In the Berlin Treaty of 1878, the Sublime Porte promised to protect, "without delay," its Armenian subjects from the rapacity of Circassians and Kurds, and bound itself to fulfil this solemn promise under the superintendence of the Powers, and

Whereas, England has the authority and power to insist that Turkey shall protect the lives and property of the Armenians, and her honor is pledged before the whole world to do so; therefore,

Resolved, That we call upon the signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin to enforce without further delay the provisions of the 61st Article of said

treaty, and we call particularly upon the British Government to fulfil the obligations which it further assumed by the Cyprus Convention.

Resolved, That we earnestly appeal to our Government to take, in the name of our common humanity, all the measures consistent with our foreign policy, in order to suppress the civil and religious persecution for which the Turkish Government is responsible, and that we urge immediate and effective consideration of these resolutions.

Resolved, That a certified copy of these resolutions be sent to the President of the United States, with the request that the same be communicated through the Department of State to the representatives of the signatory Powers.

Colonel Alexander S. Bacon did not agree with Mr. Johnson in apologizing for the Sultan's conduct. He believed that Turkey should be stamped out, and with it the "old man," who was merely kept alive by England's jealousy of Russia, and he said that commercial England, which he called Dr. Jekyll England, was largely to blame for the pitiful condition of the Christians under Turkish rule. Letters of regret were received from John W.

Goff, Bishop Henry C. Potter, Lyman Abbott, Seth Low and the Rev. Dr. R. S. MacArthur.

FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION.

ENGLAND, FRANCE AND RUSSIA WILL SEND DELEGATES TO ARMENIA.

London, Dec. 18.—The British, French and Russian Governments have informed the Porte that they will send delegates to represent them on the commission appointed to investigate the Armenian troubles. The commission will probably sit in Moosh. Great Britain's representative will be H. S. Shipley, Vice-Consul at Monastir.

"The Daily News" says that Great Britain, France and Russia informed the Porte that their delegates would not form part of the commission or join in drawing up the report. It appears that these Powers do not ask permission to send delegates. It is rumored that this step precludes joint action by the same Powers to secure the execution of reforms in accordance with the Berlin Treaty.

An Armenian newspaper in Tiflis says that the news of the appointment of the commission with foreign members has greatly changed the behavior of the Turkish officials toward the Armenians, many of whom have been released from prison. One Koordish chief has been ordered to Constantinople, and others are kept in check.

PROTEST MADE TO LORD KIMBERLEY.

London, Dec. 18.—Professor Beet and F. S. Stevenson, C. E. Schwahn and F. A. Channing, members of the House of Commons, called upon Lord Kimberley, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, today, and presented to him the resolutions adopted at the mass-meeting held in London yesterday under the auspices of the Armenian Society to protest against the Turkish atrocities in Armenia. A long conference was held, in which the delegation submitted proposals for reforms in Armenia. Lord Kimberley expressed sympathy with the movement and promised to consider the proposals.

PUBLIC FEELING ON THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In an editorial comment in your issue of today you express the opinion that whatever action may or may not be taken by this Government, there is no reason why the American public should not let its feeling on the subject of the Armenian massacre be known. The Armenians are very grateful for this sentiment of The Tribune, which is happily shared by the majority of the American press.

This Government cannot take diplomatic action in the Armenian question in so far as it does not involve American interests represented by a half-century's work in Armenia performed by philanthropic American societies. But I believe the voice of this great and noble Nation, expressed in the press and in indignation meetings similar to the one to be held Tuesday evening in New-York, will be a mighty moral force toward impelling the hands of those Powers which are responsible for the existence in Armenia of a régime which allows and sanctions the perpetration of such appalling and revolting barbarities.

Dec. 16, 1894.

TIGRANE SUNL

FRAGMENTS OF FOREIGN NEWS.

Rome, Dec. 18.—The Pope, through the Patriarch Joussef, has forwarded an autograph letter to the Sultan of Turkey, stating the decision of the recent conference, and asking the Sultan to favor a union of the churches.