

PROVIDENCE ARMENIANS.

A Lively Sunday Night Meeting at Their Hall on Exchange Place.

Providence has among its population about 500 Armenians, and just at present they are divided between two opinions. Some are in favor of going to war with Turkey, and others believe in more peaceful counsel. A man who claims to be a revolutionist and who has collected funds in this city to aid a revolution in Turkey on the part of the Armenians against the Turks appears on one side of the question, and on the other side is an Armenian who says there is no revolution, but that the Armenians wish to be saved from tyrants. He considers that the first-mentioned leader is betraying his countrymen. Both have their followers. The peaceful leader is P. H. Vartoogian, and he addressed a large company of Armenians at a hall on Exchange place last evening.

The revolutionist and Socialist, Garabed Nushanlon, his opponent, was in the city during the week and was very courteously invited by Vartoogian to be present Sunday evening and state his side of the subject and be ready to answer questions. Unfortunately for the audience he failed to appear. The meeting was a very warm one nevertheless and opinions were freely expressed. One view of the case is that the speaker who failed to appear is collecting money under false pretences, hence his non-acceptance of the invitation.

His plea is that he wants to establish a social Democracy in Turkey, and that he is raising money to further that end. However it may be, the Armenians here are considerably exercised over the matter. Their fellow countrymen in Turkey are being cruelly treated, they say, tortured and killed. What they want is to be allowed to earn a livelihood by the sweat of the brow, and without molestation. One city in Turkey has been converted into a prison so that no Armenian can come in or go out. All of the common prisons are full. The Armenians have been stripped of every weapon of defence and not even a knife is left to them by the tyrants. A dispatch from Constantinople a few days since says that the mufti of Yuzgat was found dead recently, having been hanged. Pinned to his sleeve was a note saying that this was the first installment of the Armenians' debt to Turkish officials. Yuzgat has been one of the centres of the persecution practiced by the Mohammedans upon the Armenians.

Evidently there is plenty of grievance in the state of affairs in Turkey. Just what it is advisable for the Armenians here to do is a matter for them to decide. Money sent to foreign lands does not always accomplish its purpose. Perhaps the peaceful counsel will prevail, and those who are here will be content with caring for their own interests, although possessing that love of country which characterizes every race.