

TOOLS OF THE TURK.

New York Armenian Replies to Charges Made at Hentchakist Meeting.

To the Editor of The Telegram:—

I read an article in your issue of yesterday about a Hentchakist meeting held in Grange hall, in your city, on Sunday, in which M. B. Seron, the chairman of the Hentchakist lodge in Worcester had been quoted. He had made such vile attacks upon P. H. Vartooglian and had uttered such falsehoods regarding his past record, that a thrill went through my frame. I do not feel that there is any necessity of contradicting one by one every falsehood uttered by Mr. Seron. I shall briefly and emphatically say that there is not the least truth whatever in his assertions. P. H. Vartooglian was never a priest of the church of Armenia, never a teacher of the young in Cyprus, never anything and in any position that Seron has the unblushing hard cheek of accusing him with.

The cause of Seron's making such attacks upon Mr. Vartooglian is merely that the latter has been giving such blows to their bogus revolutionary society that in this country it is now almost paralyzed and is at the brink of its grave. Many of their fellow members have seen what Hentchakism is in reality, and have become ardent opposers of the society. Now the remaining Hentchakists are at their wits' end. They cannot answer to the just attacks Mr. Vartooglian has been showering upon their society, and in their despair, finding no other means, have armed themselves with falsehoods, and have attempted to stain his personal character, which stands too far above their reach.

The first bombshell from P. H. Vartooglian's gun fell upon the Hentchakists when, on March 19, he published a long letter in the New York Times, in which he exposed the Hentchakist society, and made it plainly understood by the American public that Hentchakism was nothing but an invention of the diabolical Turkish government for the purpose of confounding the Armenian question and giving it the aspect of a socialistic and anarchistic movement. The Armenians, a leading Armenian newspaper, published a translation of the same letter.

The Armenians in Providence and Worcester had already been quite enlightened on the subject, and a movement was on foot against the Hentchakists. Leagues were formed in both cities to fight and demolish the Hentchakist conspiracy, which is aimed against the regeneration of Armenian independence, and is covered under the mask of carrying on an alleged Armenian revolution against the Porte. Compared with the Hentchakists, the number of their members is now more than 10 to 1. Besides that, they have the sympathy of the remaining hundreds of Armenians, and that of Rev. Hovsep Sarajian and Maghachia Deroonian, the former and present pastor of the Armenians of Worcester respectively, whom the Hentchakists have the impudence to call spies of the Turkish government, as it is their custom to call all those who oppose their society.

About two months ago P. H. Vartooglian was invited by the Armenians in Providence, to be their guest for a few weeks and speak to them about Hentchakism. Nishan Garabedian, the representative in America of the unknown leader of the Hentchakist society, happened to come to Providence at the time. He was invited to come to the meeting of the Armenians and to answer the accusations which P. H. Vartooglian would make against their society. Mr. Garabedian accepted the invitation, but afterward went away and left a large audience in disappointment. One day Mr. Vartooglian was met in the street by a stranger who made threats against his life if he should continue to speak against the Hentchakists. The stranger turned on his heels and ran away as fast as his legs could carry him. Two weeks ago Mr. Vartooglian was invited by the Armenians of Worcester to visit this city. On Sunday, May 20, he delivered an address to a very large audience in the Armenian church. A few days later a Hentchakist came to him and made similar threats. Mr. Vartooglian coldly replied that he had put himself in the service of his nation and was prepared to meet everything that might come to him in discharging his duties for the good of his people. His speeches in Worcester increased the enthusiasm of the Armenians against the Hentchakists. Meanwhile, with some intention best known to themselves, the Hentchakists in Providence circulated a false rumor that Vartooglian had been assassinated by the members of their society in Worcester, which caused some excitement among the Armenians.

We have not much to fight against in the Hentchakist lodges in Worcester, Providence or New York, as they do not amount to much. The three lodges put together have not 30 members. Our principal aim is to make every Armenian plainly understand what Hentchakism is.

It is painful to patriotic Armenians to know that at such a critical time, when the Armenians under the Turkish yoke are suffering unspeakable afflictions, they are compelled to turn their attention to their own brethren, who, some of them knowingly and many ignorantly, have become the tools of their national enemy, the Turk, in complicating the cause of their own people.

A. P. VARTOOGLIAN.

New York, June 5.