

# ARMENIANS ASK FOR PROTECTION

## A MASS MEETING CONDEMNS TURKEY FOR ALLEGED MASSACRES.

**The United States and European Nations Asked to Compel the Porte to Observe the Treaty of Berlin.**

A mass meeting of the Armenian citizens of New-York and vicinity was held last evening at Studio Hall, 115 West Twenty-third Street, to discuss the news of the alleged massacre at Sassoun.

The reports of the slaughter were generally credited by those present. Many of them had friends and relatives at Sassoun, and they expressed much concern for their safety.

The Armenian Union held a brief meeting before the mass meeting was called to order.

Among the prominent Armenians present were A. M. Shismanian, Charles Shismanian, John Arshagooni, President of the Armenian Union; H. Equinian, Dr. A. Agraian, Dr. B. Hagapian, and John S. Dionian, President of the Armenian Philharmonic Society, who presided at the mass meeting.

Mr. Dionian said that the Armenians and Turks could never be friends, and that the Armenians must be liberated through war and blood. The latest massacre, he said, is the sixth or seventh great butchery of Armenians. The slaughter that is going on almost daily, he said, and the devastation of fields, and the stealing of herds of cattle is not reported to the world. England, he said, is directly responsible. If England had let Russia alone, Russia would have liberated or annexed Armenia.

Clark Bell, who had been invited to speak, said that the news of the atrocities at Sassoun had awakened the sympathy of all the great nations, and that he believed that the shedding of so much blood would result in the ultimate relief of the Armenian citizens in Turkey.

Joseph Darling was the next speaker. "The whole Turkish Government," he said, "is a conspiracy. Against criminals we do not have to measure means for bringing about results. This aggregation of criminals called the Turkish Government has gone too far, and is about to be called down."

Speeches were then made in the Armenian language. Nearly every one who spoke strongly denounced the attitude shown by England toward the Armenians. The hope was expressed by some that the present Czar of Russia might see fit to interfere in their behalf.

Some of the speakers had themselves seen outrages committed in Armenia, and many instances of cruelty were recalled.

Resolutions were adopted asking the United States and the great nations of Europe to see that Article LXI. of the treaty of Berlin is strictly enforced in the future. This article provides that the Sultan of Turkey shall protect the lives and property of Armenians and institute reforms in the treatment of Armenian citizens. Attention is called to the fact that this is the tenth wholesale massacre of Armenians by Mohammedans in Turkey since the beginning of the present century, and that the Turkish Government is as vicious and cruel as

ever. In the resolutions blame is also attached to England for the violation of the Berlin treaty, in that her pretended sympathy for the Armenians had deprived them of the aid which Russia otherwise would have extended.

Resolutions were also passed thanking the press for the publicity which it had given to the recent massacre, and for the sympathy which it has awakened.

Some of those present at the meeting were in favor of raising a fund for the relief of the Armenian sufferers. More conservative Armenians suggested, however, that this would be useless at present, as it would be impossible to transmit the money.

## ARMENIANS IN NEW-YORK EXCITED

**J. S. Dionian Discusses the Causes of Their Troubles at Home.**

The Armenians of this city are greatly excited over the alleged massacre of their countrymen by the Turks. J. S. Dionian, President of the Philarmenic Society, formerly Secretary of the British Embassy at Constantinople, and at present with the banking firm of W. N. Coler & Co., 34 Nassau Street, said to a reporter for The New-York Times yesterday:

"The secret of the whole persecution is a desire on the part of Turkey to diminish the number of Armenians. It is a notorious fact that Said Pasha, when Premier of Turkey, made the remark that the only way to settle the Armenian question was by exterminating the Armenians. Greece and Bulgaria, the other Christian countries at one time under Turkish sway, both secured their independence, and it is the constant fear of Turkey that Armenia will do likewise.

"After the Turko-Russian war 250,000 Kurds and Circassians were expelled from the Caucasus by the Russians. These hordes were received by Turkey, which settled them in the midst of Armenia. These people have absolutely no occupation, and make their living off the Armenians. Murders and assaults are of daily occurrence, but are seldom brought to the ears of the public. Frequently towns are raided and the whole female population carried off. The Armenians are called the 'Yankees of the East.' In order that the youth may not acquire ideas of liberty, they are prevented as much as possible from attending school. So vigilant are the police that any Armenian found carrying a pocketknife is immediately arrested. The population of the country is somewhat over 4,000,000. Of this number one-half are Armenians. The Armenian Church has been established ever since the Christian religion began, and is looked upon by the English as a sister Church.

"The Armenian emigration to America began in 1860, and there are in this country to-day about 6,000 of our people, of whom 1,000 live in New-York. They are merchants, exporters, and importers, engravers, silk weavers, and shopkeepers. There are also several doctors, lawyers, and theological students. The police of this city say that it is a most unusual thing to arrest an Armenian. There are three societies of our people here—the Philarmenic, the object of which is the support of the four Armenian newspapers published in England and America, and to make known to the world the publications and lectures

and beneficial organization, and a branch of the Young Men's Christian Association. Though our countrymen greatly desire independence, we should be satisfied did we have a Christian Governor, Christian police, and a voice in the Government."