

# FRIENDS OF THE ARMENIANS.

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## They Crowd Faneuil Hall and Make a Strong Protest.

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**Turkish Abuse and the Slaughter at  
Sassoun Roundly Condemned—Pres-  
ident Cleveland Requested to Act—  
Kinging Speeches by Gov. Green-  
halge and Others.**

The Armenians of Turkey have long been subjected to wrongs and outrages, such as give the lie to the chivalry of our time, but there has hitherto been little of public protest against them in American communities. It has been left for the recent horrible massacre at Sassoun to focus general attention on the subject, and last night's expression in Faneuil Hall was practically the opening shot of a fusillade of popular indignation that bids fair to be heard around the world. The speakers were mostly Americans, and for more than two hours the whole race of janissaries and bashi-bazouks received such a trouncing as rarely falls to their lot in a foreign country.

There was a large audience, and the orators were cheered to the echo. An incident of the evening was the entrance of Gov. Greenhalge, who, though present as a citizen, spoke strongly and to the point.

Rev. S. J. Barrows was called to the chair. Mr. William Lloyd Garrison was

appointed secretary and Mrs. Isabel C. Barrows recording secretary. Among others on the platform were Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mr. Henry B. Blackwell, Rev. Francis Tiffany, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell and others.

Mr. Barrows, in his opening address, said:

This hall has often echoed to the call for liberty and justice, and it will echo again tonight to the same note. You Armenians have an ark, we have an ark of our liberties, and that is Faneuil Hall. We make appeal tonight for justice in another land (applause)—for justice and humanity. The appeal has gone from this hall for justice all around the world. So tonight we must hold up the standard of justice in the eyes of the civilized world. (Applause.)

We have not come here to hold a prayer meeting, or to invoke the voice of God, so much as to appeal to the ears and the voice of men. We are appealing to the ears of the whole civilized world. We want you, Armenian citizens, and Armenians all over the world, to know and feel that from our heart of hearts we sympathize with them tonight in the deep wrong, in the terrible crimes, that have been committed in the name of government. There is too much reason to believe that, bad as is the news about the recent massacre, it is not so bad as the truth. (Applause.)

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe next said: We meet this evening for the purpose of discharging an imperative duty. When barbarism flouts its bloody flag in the face of civilization, and violates not only all law but all that is human in human nature, civilization is bound to utter its protest, and to make that protest good. (Loud applause.) The Christian dispensation under which we live delivers to us the pledge of a common humanity whose members bear a vital relation to each other. It is our brothers' blood which cries to us from the far Orient, where it has been ruthlessly and cruelly poured out. It may be asked: Where is the good of assembling here? What can a handful of us effect against this wicked and remorseless power, so far beyond our reach, so entrenched in the selfishness of European nations who are creditors of this bankrupt state, and who keep her alive in the hope of recovering the debt which she owes them, unmindful of the debt they owe humanity.

These walls saw the dawn of our own large liberties. They heard the first indignant plea of Wendell Phillips when, in the splendor of his youth, he took the field for the emancipation of a despised race which had no friends. So, in this sacred arena, I throw down the glove which challenges the Turkish government to its dread account.

What have we in this contest? The spirit of civilization, the voice of Christendom, the heart of humanity. All of these plead for justice; all cry out against barbarous warfare, of which the victims are helpless men, tender women and children. We invoke here the higher powers of humanity against the rude instincts in which the brute element survives.

Aid us, paper, and us, pen;  
Aid us, hearts of noble men.

Aid us, shades of champions who have led the world's progress. Aid us, you who have made royal the scourge and the crown of thorns. (Great applause and cheering.)

Mr. Henry B. Blackwell, the next speaker, gave a brief account of the recent massacre at Sassoun, and showed from private telegrams and other communications that 43 villages had been practically exterminated, and nearly 10,000 defenceless men, women and children massacred in cold blood. This, said Mr. Blackwell, is simply the crowning horror of a long series of atrocities that have been going on for years, under the eyes of Christian Europe. Now, two great treaties, made by the European powers, have recognized these horrors as being permanent incidents of Turkish administration, and at the last treaty a guarantee was given by the Christian powers of Europe that the Christian subjects of Turkey should be protected, and the island of Cyprus was then placed in the hands of Great Britain as a pledge by the Sultan of Turkey that he would reform.

What was the result? There has resulted a feeling of irritation in Turkey, and it is literally true that an attempt is being made to exterminate the whole Armenian race and put an end to the whole Armenian question. All the horrors in Bulgaria that led to a great war have now been repeated, and we are here, not only to protest, but to demand of our government that it shall send its delegates to Turkey and ascertain the facts and demand explanation. (Great cheers.)

It will be said that the traditional policy of the United States is one of non-intervention, and I approve of that principle, but there are times and places when every nation owes to human nature itself an expression of sympathy with those who have been so wronged. The people in Turkey who are governed are civilized; the government is barbarous. (Applause.) The government of Turkey is the government of the best by the meanest, of Christians by Mohammedans. (Applause.) The Christians represent the home and the family. The governors represent the harem and the religion which propagates and maintains itself by the sword. (Cheers.) What we want to do is to move not only our own government, but the government of Europe. Americans have more influence than some of the European countries, because we have no national interests involved. We can, therefore, express the noblest and the purest feelings of the human heart. (Cheers.)

Mr. O. K. Arteshian, an Armenian resident of Boston, here gave brief expression to the feelings of horror with which he and the other Armenians in Boston had received the news of the recent massacre. The Turkish government, he said, was a government of robbery, bent on exterminating its Christian subjects, who were the most peaceful and industrious subjects in the Ottoman empire. Let us, said the speaker, use press and platform to raise the indignation of the Anglo-Saxon race against Turkish savagery. (Applause.)

Rev. Francis Tiffany urged that while our policy was usually that of non-intervention, it became intervention when the right time came—(applause)—as when Decatur was sent out with a fleet of ships against the Mohammedans and gave them a lesson they never forgot. (More applause.) The speaker recalled the massacre of Damascus, where 10,000 men, women and children perished. He believed that England and France are going to make themselves heard in regard to the new massacre. The Turks were a race of brutal, barbarian conquerors, who held the land in order to live lives of corruption and debauchery. No good would be gotten out of the Turk until he was taken by the throat. (Applause.) The new atrocity was going to arouse a whirlwind of wrath. (More applause.)

Gov. Greethalge, loudly cheered on taking his place on the platform, and cheered again on rising to speak, said

in substance:

Standing in Faneuil Hall, it is not for any citizen of Massachusetts to remain silent when any case of oppression, cruelty or wrong occurs anywhere. (Great cheers.) In the name of heaven, how can Massachusetts and its people behold anywhere wrong, injustice and cruelty, and stand by unfeeling and unimpressed. In the presence of these sainted images of Garrison, Sumner and Phillips (cheers) are we not bound to express our feelings? (Applause.) The law of our nature demands that we should express indignation at injustice and wrong. If a wrong has been committed and you stand by and are silent you have committed an offence against the world, and God will hold you responsible. (Applause.) It is not only our privilege, but our duty to come here and speak against these outrages, and in the name of humanity and civilization and Christianity demand that due inquiry be made and due settlement had (cheers).

Chairman Barrows then read and put to the vote a resolution, which was carried, in the following form:

Whereas, telegraphic dispatches to the daily press, confirmed by private letters from Armenia, report a frightful massacre of thousands of unarmed Armenian Christians, including women and children, by the Turkish troops, under command of the Governor of Bitlis, and

Whereas, it was the report of an American commission of inquiry that first convinced Mr. Gladstone of the truth of the Bulgarian atrocities.

Therefore, we, American citizens, assembled in Faneuil Hall, Boston, Nov. 26, 1894, do earnestly petition His Excellency Grover Cleveland, President of the United States, to investigate this matter, either by sending to the spot such representatives as he may see fit, or by joining in a commission sent by the united European powers.

We protest against any investigating committee appointed by the Sultan as wholly untrustworthy, and we believe it to be the duty of the signatory powers to secure an independent investigation, that the facts may be spread before the world and the wrongs of a suffering nation be known to all people.

We also appeal to the signatory powers for the immediate enforcement of the 61st article of the treaty of Berlin, inasmuch as the reforms in the Armenian provinces guaranteed by said treaty have never been carried out. On the contrary, the condition of Armenians in Turkey has grown more deplorable. The Turkish government has shown itself utterly unable and unwilling to protect them, and the outrages committed on these defenceless subjects are encouraged by the inaction of the treaty powers.

We appeal particularly to the people of Great Britain, which holds Cyprus as a guarantee of its protectorate over the Christian subjects of Turkey, to lose no time in the enforcement of these treaty stipulations.

Resolved, that copies of these appeals be sent to the various treaty powers of Europe.

Rev. Samuel M. Crothers of Cambridge next addressed the audience. He said that, in reply to the cry that had come to them from Constantinople, they must send back a cry of indignation that would be heard in Constantinople. (Applause.) Turkey was before the bar of mankind, and by mankind she must be judged.

The following letter was then read:

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe—My Dear Madam: I have received your kind letter of yesterday, with its welcome invitation to address the meeting to be held in Faneuil Hall, in protest against the barbarous treatment of the Armenians by the Turkish government.

I heartily sympathize with the purpose of the meeting, and should be glad to join in its effort to arouse public sentiment in behalf of a suffering people oppressed by cruel tyranny. The meeting will be quite in line with the traditions and principles of Faneuil Hall, and of our liberty-loving people.

Holding these views, I very much regret that an imperative engagement, long since made, will prevent my attendance. Thanking you for bringing the matter to my attention, and regretting my absence from a meeting which has my warmest sympathy, I am, very sincerely yours, W. E. RUSSELL.

Col. Albert Clarke declared that the time had now come when the whole civilized world should protest against the recent massacres. (Applause.) Turkey might govern as she pleased, but she was not to be permitted to outrage the sense of humanity. (Cheers.) In the name of common humanity England and America should join to put a stop to such outrages. (More cheering.)

A letter was here read from ex-Gov. Long, expressing his sympathy with the purpose of the meeting.

Mr. William Lloyd Garrison read a powerful and eloquent address to the people of England on the subject of the massacre and the unperformed pledges of the Berlin treaty. The speaker in the course of his remarks urged that it was against our well being as a state to allow such outrages to pass without protest.

The address offered by Mr. Garrison was adopted by the audience.

Remarks were also made by Rev. Thomas Van Ness, and Miss Alice Stone Blackwell expressed her detestation of the cowardly doctrine of intervention in the presence of such outrages, saying that any action against the Turk in this matter had got to be of a most decided character.

The last speakers were Mr. William F. Davis and Mr. M. H. Guleshin, an Armenian, who read an Armenian poem, translated by Miss Blackwell.

#### ANOTHER ARMENIAN ARRESTED.

The police of Lynn have made another arrest in connection with the assault upon the three Armenians Sunday, who are at present employed in Francis W. Breed's shoe shop, the former employes of which struck some time ago.

The man's name is Vertevar Goolghasian, and he is charged with being one of the 10 who committed the assault on his fellow-countrymen, and for which one man has received a sentence of six months in the house of correction.

The labor leaders who are at the head of the organization to which the strikers belong state that the man arrested for the assault are not members of their organizations, and that the violence cannot be charged to the strikers or their sympathizers. They state that the fight was simply the result of a quarrel between the Armenians, and had no connection whatever with the strike.