

XIMINES ON THE ARMENIAN QUESTION,  
UNTRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE SPANISH TRAVEL-  
LER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OUTRAGES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As announced about a month ago in a cable dispatch from Vienna, the "Spanish traveller," Señor Ximines, has made his appearance in London as an apologist for the Turk. He says: "Much of the blame for the disturbed conditions in Armenia may be laid to the Methodist American missions." There are no such missions; the Methodists have never had a mission in Armenia. The Congregationalists have missions in the country, but not in Sassoun, and they have never interfered in the political affairs of the natives.

Our Spanish friend says he was in Bitlis at the time of the alleged Sassoun disturbances, but neither saw nor heard anything to warrant the stories of the Armenian atrocities. Granting that he was there at the time, it should be noted that Bitlis is three days' journey from Sassoun, the scene of the actual massacre, and that all communication and news were carefully cut off. This can be readily understood, in view of the difficulties we are now witnessing, months after the event, of obtaining the barest facts of the massacres.

Señor Ximines lets slip one damning fact that vitiates his testimony, as far as impartiality is concerned; namely, the statement that he was an employe of the Porte, being on a geographical mission for the Turkish Government. It is natural to infer that all his relations were with the Turkish officials, and his information from the same sources.

"In Armenia," says Ximines, "the so-called Armenian question does not exist." This is rather odd, in view of the assertion in the preceding paragraph that 1,200 Turkish troops fired two volleys upon 3,000 retreating Armenians and killed 300. The Armenian question certainly existed to a considerable extent, for the 300 dead Armenians and the 2,700 who escaped!

The strangest thing about this entire affair is the absurd tissue of contradictions that appears running through every statement emanating from the defenders of these Turkish atrocities. The defence starts out bravely, builds up a fair and glittering fabric of apparent truth, when lo! the entire structure is suddenly overturned by the builder himself. It is quite difficult to lie consistently—for any length of time.

Señor Ximines is in the company of Woods Pacha, an aide-de-camp of the Sultan, whose mission in England is well known. He is there to influence English public opinion in favor of the Sultan. By their friends ye shall know them.

The civilized Christian world will place the statements of the Spanish-Turkish geographer in one balance; the reports from consuls, from missionaries, from correspondents and impartial travellers in the other. Who can doubt the verdict?

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JOHN J. ROONEY.