

THE ARMENIAN MASSACRE.

The Situation as Viewed by an Educated and Well-Known Importer.

The reports by cable of the massacre of helpless Armenians in Turkey by Turkish soldiers have been freely discussed in business circles and there has been a marked disposition to regard the reports as somewhat sensational.

With a view of obtaining some reliable information on the probable extent of the outrages a representative of this journal called upon a prominent importer of oriental rugs and carpets—an Armenian by birth. At his request his name is not mentioned as he feared the Turks might take revenge on his parents and relatives. He has been in this country for six years and is a graduate of the American College at Mar-souan, which was burned by the Turks a year and a half ago. He said:

"I am quite certain that the cable reports are not exaggerated and I am not surprised for we all saw the massacre coming on the unhappy day about three years ago when the Sultan commenced to arm the mountaineer Kurdish and Circassian tribes with modern arms. At the same time the houses of Armenians were raided without the slightest justification. There are no railroads in Asia Minor (Armenia). Thousands of offers have been made to the Turkish government by Armenians, Americans, French, English and Germans, but all have been rejected. No Europeans live in Armenia for business for the reason that they do not like to travel on rough roads on horse or donkey back. This is just what

"the Turks want. They hate the 'dogs,' as they call Christian Europeans, to become acquainted with the Christian Armenians."

"How is it, if Europeans will not and cannot live in Armenia, that American missionaries live there?" the reporter asked.

"That is a different matter," the importer replied. "You will not find one American living in Asia Minor for business, but for religion many people are willing to sacrifice their property and endanger their families' and their own lives. It is a fact that American missionaries are in as much constant fear of getting raided and robbed by Turks as are Armenians, and, indeed, are raided and robbed very frequently."

"Are your neighbors in Syria more comfortable than the Armenians?"

"Certainly, but they have had their share of murders, pillages, etc., at the hands of the Turks. They are now comfortable because they are under the protection of France. England has the responsibility of reforms in Armenia and of the protection of Christians there. But there have been no reforms in Armenia; England has never listened to the cries of the helpless Christians. By the Berlin treaty of 1877 she was to protect and reform the country. But when complaint was made by the Armenians to England the Turks made them sign papers that they were comfortable. If they did not sign they would be killed. The Turks are encouraged by the neglect of England. We ask the citizens of the United States not to take up arms against Turkey, but we ask them as a nation representing the laws of liberty to give their unfortunate Christian brethren in Armenia their moral support. Let them induce President Cleveland to send a note to the European powers that the unfortunate people are suffering. It would cost nothing and might save thousands who might otherwise be massacred.

"We have not the slightest confidence in the report that the Sultan has appointed several Mahomedan Turks, 'pashas, etc., to investigate the matter. We beg the European powers to pay no attention to Turkish falseties."

"The Armenians are the life of Turkey. They control the commerce and are essentially a commercial people."