

DESTRUCTION OF THE ARMENIANS.

A Gradual Process of Annihilation.

ABOUT 1,000,000 PEOPLE DONE TO DEATH.

Lord Bryce sends a further report on the atrocities perpetrated on the Armenian population of Turkey by the Turkish Government. In a prefatory note he gives, on the authority of a competent observer, an estimate which places the destruction of life at nearly one million, that is practically one half of the whole Armenian nation. Names and other details which might lead to the identification of the authors of the following statement are necessarily omitted.

The Harrying of the Exiles.

"After a time large numbers of the exiles at X. were allowed to find shelter in the town, where they rented houses, and for a time were better off. Suddenly the order would come from the police that all were to leave for Y., and the whole number who were in the town, perhaps 5,000, would be driven (I mean literally driven under the lash) into the streets, with all their goods, and be rushed to the encampment. There perhaps 100 waggons would be ready and 500 people find places and be sent off.

"The rest were then left to stay in the encampment or bribe their way back to the town again, and re-rent their houses, until another alarm and driving forth. Every such onslaught meant heavy expense for every family for transporting their goods and bedding to and fro, and this in addition to the bribes paid to the police.

"In the encampment the police would come along in the morning and order all tents in a certain section taken down, saying the occupants were to start for Y., and enforce the order instantly with scourge and club. The terror of the people from the reports they had of that journey 'herond,' of pillage, murder, outrage, stealing of girls, and starvation, was such that they were always ready to purchase a few days' respite if they had any money to do it with. No train or waggon was ready, so when enough money was brought out the people were graciously allowed to put up their tents again, twenty feet away from their former site.

Families of Turkish Soldiers.

"Hardly anything makes me so hot as the thought of the soldiers' families. The men, the fathers, brothers, sons, husbands are serving in the Turkish army as loyally as any, and their families, their children, with wives and sisters, are driven off in this inhuman manner. Soldiers' families are said to be exempt from deportation, but in countless cases they are swept away with the rest. The wife must put in a special petition claiming her relationship. This petition has to be paid for, for she cannot write Osmanli.

"I must add a report from K., from which I have to-night received what I have every reason to believe to be an accurate account. Some two or three weeks ago about two hundred of the chief Armenians were imprisoned, then taken at night in waggons, thirty or forty at a time, to the river bank, and there killed. Eighteen of the employees of the railway and the director of the bank were among these. Within this past week all the Armenian men, whether Gregorian, Protestant, or Catholic, have been taken, stripped to shirt and drawers, tied together, taken away and heard of no more. The women and girls have been distributed to the Turkish villages, the Turks coming and looking over the girls and choosing what they wanted.

An Asylum for Armenian Girls.

"It is terrible to refuse asylum to girls whom we know to be in danger. Yesterday an unusually pretty and refined young girl of 15 was brought to us by her parents, she had been pursued all the way from W.— by an army officer, but they had been able to elude him and the police as well. Our hospital is too public to shelter her, and we are still looking for a place for her. Most of the people in town are too scared to do anything at all, foreigners included, but we don't propose to show the white feather. At present our hospital has taken in all the soldiers and refugees that it can, and we are seeing sick refugees in the clinic all day long.

Horror Exceed Those of '94 and '95.

"It is all horrible, horrible—no mere description can adequately portray the awful suffering of these unfortunate people whose only crime is that they are Armenians.

"These people are being deliberately done to death at a sufficiently slow pace to allow their oppressors the opportunity of choosing out such of their women and their goods as they care for and getting all their money away from them before they die. Dr. and Mrs. A.— went through the massacres of '94 and '95, and they and Miss B.— and I have been through two revolutions, one massacre, and two wars since then, but we all agree that we have never seen anything like this."

LORD MAYOR'S ARMENIAN FUND

On another page we print the third list of subscriptions to the Armenian Refugee (Lord Mayor's) Fund. The many church collections which are acknowledged afford evidence of the interest of British Christians with the sufferers. There are over 200,000 refugees to be provided for, and the £14,000 already subscribed has been allocated for disposal to the British Consul at Moscow (£5,000), the Mayor of Tiflis (£2,000), and the British Consul at Tahrir (£1,500), to the last named for Syrians who have escaped from massacres in the same regions. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Sec. Mr. F. J. ...