

HANGED BY ARMENIANS.

The Mufti of Yozgat the Victim of Retribution for Cruelties of Turkish Officers.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 29, 1894.—The Mufti of Yozgat was found hanged recently. Pinned to his sleeve was a note saying that this was the first instalment of the Armenians' debt to Turkish officials. Yozgat has been one of the centres of the persecution practised by the Mohammedans upon the Armenians.

WHY THE ARMENIANS ARE DRIVEN TO DESPERATION BY THE TURKS AT YOZGAT.

During the month of April a large number of Armenians have been tried for treason at Yozgat and Swas under the direction of a Vali, who, according to a letter from Constantinople published in the *London Leader*, is "a notorious scoundrel." The origin of these trials at Yozgat is, in brief, as follows:—

In the early part of the winter an Armenian spy of the Turkish government was murdered in a village in that district by an Armenian revolutionist from Russia. All the men of the village were arrested and taken to Yozgat. The four police officers who remained committed every outrage upon the defenceless women of the village, who went in a body to Yozgat and marched through the market calling upon the Armenians of the city to avenge their wrongs. Some one rang the bell of the church and a large number of Armenians closed their shops and collected at the church for consultation.

The military commander of the town heard of this and hastened to the church, where he tried to calm the people and persuade them to disperse, assuring them the guilty officers should be punished. He was meeting with some success when the troops arrived, sent by the Governor.

A FITCHED BATTLE.

"This increased the excitement to such a pitch that shots were fired, and several men were killed and wounded on both sides. The church was cleared, a great number of arrests were made, and no further disturbance took place. A commission was sent from Constantinople to investigate, and a reign of terror in the town was the result. Under cover of searching the houses of all the Armenians they were plundered and outraged without mercy and a great number thrown into prison and tortured to force them to give evidence against one another.

"There is probably no town in Asia Minor where the Armenians have been more distinguished for their high character and self-respect than in Yozgat, and they have shown great courage in trying to secure justice in this case. A thousand men, including the Armenian bishop and the Protestant pastor, sent a petition to the Grand Vizier stating what they had suffered from this commission, but their petition was refused, and now in these trials they are to be crushed. In Sivas there has been no outbreak, and the prisoners are much less numerous; but so far as I know anything of them, they are innocent men, whose offence is their intelligence and education.

"Last year the trials at Angora took place under the supervision of an educated and enlightened Governor General, in a city where there were foreign consuls, and within two days by rail of Constantinople. The attention of the world was directed to them. As a result five men were executed—who, as far as I can learn, richly deserved their fate—and a large number were sentenced to imprisonment, most of whom ought to have been pardoned at once. Two were sentenced to death and pardoned through the influence of the English government. This year the trials take place at Yozgat. The place is not easily accessible. There are no consuls there, and, so far as I know, nothing has been done to bring these trials under the eyes of Europe. The Sultan thinks that he was too lenient last year, and is determined this year to make an example of these prisoners which shall strike terror into the hearts of all Armenian malcontents. No secret is made of this intention."