

TORE OUT THE PRIEST'S EYES.

Turks Told Armenian Villagers They Were Safe, Then Tor- tured and Slew Them.

BOSTON, May 19.—An American who has visited the Sassoun district heard the story of the massacre from the lips of Armenian witnesses, some of whom testified before the Turkish Commission of Inquiry. In a letter received here he narrates these incidents in addition to many heretofore mentioned in reports:

"A wounded man from the Sassoun district came to me in disguise. He sought an opportunity to appear before the commission. That he would not be allowed to do this, unless careful measures were taken, he had seen abundant proof. The man's name is Avak. He was from Semal village. There were ten persons in his father's family. His father, a brother and a cousin were killed by bayonets before his eyes. One brother and he escaped, both badly wounded.

"He said the treacherous enemy gave the villagers to understand they were safe, whereupon about three hundred, led by their priest, Der Hohannes, presented themselves before the Turkish officers, avowing that they were the obedient, loyal subjects of the Sultan.

"The order was given to take out the priest's eyes, which the heartless soldiers did. They then tore away his beard, skinned his face, pierced his throat and forced him to drink a cup of water which ran from the wounds in his throat, right and left. Death at last ended his sufferings.

"Immediately after this the soldiers were ordered to charge, and a dreadful slaughter by bayonet followed.

"We saw the scars of the bayonet wounds on this witness—twenty-two on his back and nearly as many on his head.

"A woman named Rahan, formerly of Dalorig, said: 'Our family numbered twelve, of whom five were killed. My husband's brother and his son were

sacked to pieces. I saw them kill my brother's wife. A soldier took up a large stone and struck her head so her brains were scattered and she fell dead. When I saw this and the others killed by bayonet I wept and beat my head so that now I am blind.'

"A man named Rasho, from Hatenth, said: 'There were thirty-two in our house. Five were killed, two died of fright and I do not know where the rest are. My brother, Caspar, fell wounded by a bayonet; afterwards they put fire on him and he died. His children, a boy and a girl, died of fright. I saw a nephew killed by a gun. The soldiers stood Kevon and Stepan up together and shot at them as a mark; one was killed, the other fled. They shot after him and he is badly wounded. When the soldiers blew the trumpets and began to strike they seized my nephew's wife and, removing an unborn child, slew it. We buried the woman, but they took the body out of the grave and left it unburied.'

"Some of the most harrowing stories we have heard have been told by the soldiers themselves, not a few of whom claim to have been very unwilling agents, but compelled to obey the command of their superiors."

IF HE WERE DICTATOR.

The Rev. Minot J. Savage Would Bombard Constantinople.

BOSTON, May 19.—"If I were dictator of the United States one month," exclaimed the Rev. Minot J. Savage in his (Unity Church) pulpit to-night, "I would send a fleet to bombard Constantinople.

"We are under the responsibility of not only exercising our own liberty but to see to it that the weak and the oppressed have the same liberty. We are not one-half men if we are willing to be free in America and take no note of the condition of men in Asia and Africa. He is the true man who feels an outrage in Asia as though it were perpetrated at his own door.

"From 10,000 to 15,000 men, women and children have been butchered in Armenia; not merely put to death but killed with every conceivable invention of torture.

"America can utter protests that will be heard. All listen when the conscience of America speaks, and the conscience of America must speak, as such a condition of things cannot longer be borne."

The congregation filled the spacious church, and at the close of the sermon every person in the house, upon invitation of the minister, rose to make a "standing appeal to President Cleveland that he in some manner, by proclamation, if necessary, utter the nation's protest against the conduct of the Turkish Government."
