

# NINE MEN ARRESTED.

## Row at a Meeting of an Armenian Religious Society.

### LIVELY HAND-TO-HAND SCUFFLE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

**Men Seized Whatever Weapon was Handy and Heads were Struck Freely.—When the Police Interfered the Fighters Turned Their Attention to the Bluecoats.**

There was a general free fight at the meeting of an Armenian religious society yesterday afternoon in the hall on Exchange place, opposite the Union passenger station. The society holds meetings at this hall every Sunday for religious instruction. The Armenians are divided in creed, and disturbances at the meetings are frequent.

What caused yesterday's disturbance could not be ascertained, but about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon, as Sergeant Smith, in charge of a detail from the Central Station, was on his way to report at police headquarters in the City Hall for duty at the laying of the cornerstone of the new convent, he saw Exchange place filled with a large crowd, that gained in numbers every minute. The police hurried forward, and found that the attraction to the crowd was a fight going on in the hall of the Armenians, and the noise of which could be heard several blocks away.

The detail consisted of Sergt. Edward Smith, with officers Albert E. Nickerson, James F. Feeney, Edward Hanford, Frank H. Anthony, Joseph H. Arnold, Peter H. Galligan and James A. Flynn. Two men remained on the sidewalk to control the crowd, while the others, with the Sergeant at the head, ran up the stairs to the hall, from which the sounds of a desperate struggle came.

In the hall were at least 200 men, and in a corner, as far as possible from all harm, a solitary woman, nearly dead from fright. The men were all struggling, shouting and hitting each other. About 25 or 30 seemed to be the principal combatants, and these, armed with anything that could be picked up, were laying around them, hitting every head they saw. The others added their cries to the noise, and many of them were engaged in breaking up settees to furnish weapons. A number of the settees had already been smashed, and the legs were being used as weapons.

The police separated the main body, taking the hall, while officer Nickerson cleared out a small ante-room where a desperate fight was in progress.

The entrance of the police was the signal for a wild rush to the windows and fire escapes, and the greater number escaped in this manner. The fighters, interrupted in the occupation of pummeling each other, turned their attention to the police, and fought them. The officers, being on detail, had no clubs and had to depend on the spring-billies in their pockets. However, they managed to quell the disturbance and secure eight of the hardest fighters.

The prisoners resisted arrest, and tried hard to break away, even after the patrol wagon had arrived. One of the crowd on the sidewalk tried hard to get the onlookers to make a rush and rescue the prisoners, but his eloquence was cut short, and he was also bundled into the wagon.

The prisoners, several of whom had bad wounds, and all of whom were covered with blood, were taken to the Central Station. When searched, a long, round file, sharpened into a keen-edged and pointed knife, was found on one of the prisoners, while another had a slung-shot.

Dr. Palmer was called to dress the wounds of two of the men, one of whom had a wound back of the left temple that bled profusely, and from its nature might have been made with the sharpened file. Nine men were arrested, but only eight were held. Their names were John Soghian, Toves Johnston, Seprek Soghian, Hatop Goolkhanan, Madros Semaromian, Mooshak Manoothan, Kneker Gavabedian and Marroog Kerkovian.

The Police Court room this morning presented a scene very much like an accident ward in a thriving hospital. The place was crowded with Armenians. The court officers and policemen were the only Americans present. The objects of attraction, as well as pity, were the eight Armenians who were arrested for creating a disturbance. Some of them had their heads and faces in bandages.

The prisoners with unspeakable names were called out before Judge Cobb one by one. Through an interpreter they admitted fighting and raising a rumpus and were sentenced to pay fines of \$10 and costs each.

Manoog Kerkovian denied that he took part in the disturbance and was held for trial to-morrow.

It is about once a year that the Armenians engage in this sort of a celebration and singular as it may seem it is about the time that a missionary visits them for the purpose of raising funds for the carrying on some secret work in their native land. The society, according to one of the English-speaking Armenians, is known in Asia Minor as the Huntchagian. It is Socialistic. Its members would be Anarchists had they sufficient sand. In the Order are two factions. The leading members are those who desire civil rights at home in a peaceable manner. The other class is revolutionary. Sunday a missionary, whose name is given as Mishou Garabedian, addressed the meeting and wanted a collection for secret work. Some objected and left the hall and then the doors were locked and soon the row followed. The missionary, fearing bodily harm, hid himself in a water closet until the police had cleared the hall.