

# CHRISTIANIZING TURKEY.

## Work That Is Being Done by the American Missionaries.

**Rev. Joseph K. Greene, Who Has Spent 36 Years in the Work, Speaks in Park Street Church of Its Present Situation—Refers to the Recent Massacre of Armenians.**

In the Park Street Church, yesterday morning, Rev. Joseph K. Greene, who has spent the last 36 years in mission work in Turkey and Armenia, spoke most interestingly and instructively on the present situation of religious civilization in that country.

Of the recent troubles in Armenia he said recent letters from there fully confirm the press reports of the massacre of more than 10,000 Armenians by the Turks and Kurds. This, he said, is the fourth outrage of the kind perpetrated by the Turks, the others being in Greece in 1822, when 23,000 people were slain and twice as many sold as slaves; in July, 1860, when several thousand Maronites were destroyed, and in Bulgaria at a later date, when 15,000 were killed. Each of these was followed by European intervention, and was followed by new protection to the oppressed.

He said the ultimate object of the American board in entering Turkey was to present the gospel to the church, but it was found that this could not be done directly, on account of Mohammedan prejudices. There was in existence side by side with Mohammedanism an oriental Christian church whose ritual and teaching was so little removed from heathenism as to complicate the situation. The Christian name represented nothing like what the missionaries had to represent.

The first effort, then, was to reform the oriental Christian church, and on this line the work was carried forward until in 1846 there was enough accomplished to warrant an independent organization.

From 1846 to 1894 there have been organized 126 evangelical Christian churches, with 12,674 members and 50,000 attendants at worship. Nearly all the churches have places of worship built by themselves. There are, besides, 248 preaching places, with nearly 35,000 in the congregations. In 1893 there were 828 preachers and teachers of all classes at work.

Dr. Greene urged the point that missionaries sent from here are not expected to convert millions of heathen by their own voices. They are to plant the seed and train natives to carry forward the work among their own people. As soon as possible the responsibility of self-help is thrown upon the native churches, and as soon as a little church is established all the detail of its work in worship, membership and administration is thrown upon it, the missionaries only acting as counsellors.

The Turkish churches now have four associations, or unions, which consult and advise the individual churches, independent of missionary control.

He gave a vivid picture of the abject condition of the common people of Turkey, and of the burdens laid upon them by the government. In spite of poverty and oppression, the Christian natives have raised more than \$45,000, or more than \$1 per head for every man, woman and child, to support the gospel among themselves.

The work has included the establishment of colleges and schools. There are 333 Christian schools, with 15,683 pupils; six well equipped colleges, one theological school, 28 high schools for boys, three colleges for young women and 16 girls' high schools. In all are more than 3000 pupils, and most of the institutions are self-supporting.

It is a striking fact that a majority of those pupils are from outside the native churches. The idea of education has seized the native mind, and this is sought by many who do not accept the new religion. The outlook of religion through this channel is most hopeful. The influence of better education gained at American hands is yet to be a strong factor in the liberalizing of the whole country.

Hand in hand with preaching and teaching, the printing of Bibles, religious books and school books has been carried on, and the whole country is already impregnated with new ideas which have for their basis the Christian religion.

Dr. Grim said there are two dangers in the future—one is the hostile attitude of the Turkish government toward the religious and educational influences, which are recognized as in opposition to present oppressions. This, he believes, will be controlled by the influence of American and other Christian governments. The other danger, he said, is that the Christians of America are failing of full financial support of the work. Much has been done, but its fruit is delayed and threatened by lack of means to carry the work along. Schools are compelled to close, mission extension is forbidden, men who are ready to engage as preachers and teachers are held back, and the whole work, so nobly begun, is languishing for lack of money. He felt confident that as the facts are presented the Christian hearts of America will be warmed to new and larger benevolence, and that the work of Christianizing the field wherein St. Paul taught will not longer be delayed.

### THEY THINK HE WAS A SPY.

**Man Said to Have Attended Lynn Armenian Meetings in the Interests of Turkey.**

The Armenians of Lynn held a meeting last night, and the report of a committee, appointed a few days ago to ascertain, if possible, if one of the persons who had been attending the meetings was a spy, was received.

The committee has found, it is said, that an Armenian came to Lynn some time ago and was outspoken in favor of drastic measures to avenge for the

out even the shadow of a pretext and buried alive in places so vile that it seems impossible for a human being to live in them even for a day. And this is true not only of Eastern Turkey, but of all Asia Minor.

There is one indication that the Sultan feels somewhat the weight of European protest in the report that Abdullah Pasha is, after all, to go with the commission. It may be that he will do what Fuad Pasha did in Damascus when he executed, without fear or favor, the worst ring-leaders in the Lebanon massacres, even though they included many of the richest and most influential men of the city. Whatever the Kurd may be, the genuine Turk is not a coward, and more than one in high position has been indignant that his nation should suffer from the machinations of men who are not Turks, that a Nubian eunuch and a Tartar Mollah should have more influence than they with the successor of Suleiman the Magnificent and Sultan Mahmoud.

Meanwhile, what is Europe doing? If we may trust the dispatches, practically nothing. To send a dragoman of legation or a Vice Consul on such an investigation is simply ridiculous, however honest and capable such officials may be. If England, Russia, and France have the slightest purpose of really accomplishing anything, they must send men of such position that the Turkish Commissioners will be compelled to show them deference, and that the witnesses who shall be examined will feel safe in telling the truth. It will be no easy matter to secure honest testimony; harder even than the Lexow committee has found it in this city, for here the worst result of testimony against an official would be interference with business, loss of custom, petty harrying in many ways; there it means that the honor of mother, wife, sister, daughter, is not safe; that secret prison, exile, or poison almost surely await him. It may be that the signatory powers are waiting until they can mature plans for an immediate government of those provinces such as shall insure the safety of the witnesses they expect to call. There are some indications of this, and if it be true, the Christian and civilized world can afford to wait patiently a little longer. If they delay too long, however, there will be few witnesses left to tell the tale.