

The Armenian Orphans' Fund.

We publish this morning an appeal by the LORD MAYOR of Manchester and others on behalf of the Armenian children who have lost their fathers and mothers in the terrible Turkish massacres. There has naturally been much reluctance to appeal for public subscriptions at a time like this, when there are so many claims on kind hearts, but we do not wonder when one reads the story of the sufferings of these poor children that those who knew it felt that they had no alternative. Nor, after all, is this such a bad time; for charity is not competitive, but expands with the beatings of its own warm heart.

Moreover, we are beginning to understand better than we did the place of the East in this war, and we must recognise that the children for whom the appeal is now made have been orphaned in the cause of the Allies. The Turk killed their parents because many of them had fought on the side of the Allies, and his only way of dealing with a nation that is rebellious is to kill it off wholesale. Therefore we have a duty not to repress our pity for children who have lost their natural protectors, but to do whatever we can for them. Nor, unhappily, is there anything that we can do but what the supporters of the fund ask of us. When all is done, Armenia will have suffered more in this war than any other nation—more even than Serbia herself; there is no agony in history quite so terrible as hers has been. Armenia is a remote country, with a fine if sombre history, and not many of us understand its true nature. Mere commercial intercourse does not always reveal much of the soul of a nation, and the Armenia which has suffered this terrible tragedy is not the Armenia of commerce, but the Armenia of bare hillsides and rich, fertile valleys, of a simple, hospitable peasantry, of a tough and noble fibre, for a softer race would never have clung to its creed as this has done. They are brave men, too, in Armenia, worthy of friendship in times like these, and perhaps destined at the end of this war, when the East is liberated, to a great future. But the chance of the future, whatever it may be, depends on the children for whom to-day's appeal is made.