

The Turk Comes Down.

The unspeakable Turk has finally agreed to the scheme for Armenian reforms proposed by European powers. It is full time that this unrelenting foe of civilization and humanity was brought to book. The powers which have taken him in hand have dealt with him altogether too leniently, and had they acted with greater promptness the lives of scores of the Armenian subjects of the Porte would not have been sacrificed to Moslem barbarity and fanaticism.

The scheme to which the Turkish Government is said to have assented seems to be well adapted to securing protection for the Armenian people against Turkish assassination, cruelty, oppression and rapine. Either the Governor or the Vice-Governor of each of the Armenian provinces is to be a Christian, his appointment to be confirmed by the powers; local officials are to collect taxes, out of which the expenses of local administration must first be paid; the judicial system is to be thoroughly overhauled, torture is to be abolished, the police force is to be made up equally of adherents of Christianity and Islamism and the laws against

compulsory conversion to the religion of Mahomet are to be strictly enforced. The execution of this scheme is to be intrusted to a high commissioner who shall be a Christian.

These are all reforms of a substantial character, and if they are carried out to the letter will prevent Armenia hereafter from being made a human slaughter house. It would be futile, however, to look for any sincere assistance from Turkey in this just and humane task, and the powers interested should proceed, therefore, as if such a hideous travesty on government had no existence.
