

FIXING ARMENIA.

Turks Preparing to Stuff the Inquiry Committee.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—The Standard's Vienna correspondent says he has learned from an unimpeachable source that the services of the patriarch Azarian have been enlisted to secure a verdict of not proven in the Sassoun inquiry, to which all of the Porte's energies are directed. Azarian has undertaken to instruct the vicar of Moush to enjoin his flock to testify before the commission favorably to the Turkish officials. "Such conduct by Armenian Catholics will appear strange to Englishmen," the correspondent says, "but anybody who has resided in the east is well aware of the gulf dividing the branches of the Armenian family. In preparation for the visit of the Commission of Inquiry, orthodox witnesses of outrages have been removed to other parts of the empire."

ARMENIANS SENTENCED.

Despatches from Erzinghian describe the trial of 58 Armenians there on Dec. 15 for political offences and an alleged murder. Twenty-four of the prisoners were sentenced to death, five to penal servitude for life, and others to imprisonment for from three to six years. Bishop Varten of Kamack was sentenced to three years' imprisonment at hard labor.

TURKS ON BETTER BEHAVIOR.

A despatch from Constantinople says: It is stated here that the Sultan recently sent a number of officers of high rank to Asia Minor to enjoin upon the provincial governors a more benevolent attitude towards the Armenians.

HAS NOT AN ARMENIAN WIFE.

Recent despatches stated on the authority of a United States Senator that the Porte objected to Consul Jewett as an investigator of the massacre in the Sassoun region because he had an Armenian wife. This is a mistake, as Consul Jewett is not married, and does not employ women servants.

OUTRAGES DENIED.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The Turkish legation last night received an official communication from Constantinople, denying that women and children were massacred in Sassoun, but saying that they were protected by the soldiery, "as was the case, for instance, with the women near Kukuzat. All cattle were also restored to their owners in conformity with strict orders from the Bitlis authorities.

"The assertion that 24 villages were burned is simply preposterous, as no 24 villages are to be found round about the place where the revolt first broke out. In that region there are no more than 10 villages, some of which were set on fire by the revolutionists themselves."

BLAMES THE MISSIONARIES.

LONDON, Jan. 9.—A news agency is circulating the statement of a traveller who claims to have been in the Sassoun district at the time of the alleged Armenian massacre, and to have neither heard nor seen anything of the reported atroc-

ities. Little weight is placed upon his story, which is to the effect that American missionaries are to blame for the state of affairs in Armenia, as they spread dissatisfaction among the natives by inculcating impracticable republican ideas. His story has it that the Armenians are the aggressors and that the most serious engagement that has occurred is one in which only 300 Armenian rebels were killed in open battle.
