

THE

CHRISTIANS IN TURKEY

MASSACRE IN A MARKET-PLACE.

REFUGEES MURDERED IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

PEOPLE RETURNING TO THE CHURCHES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Monday.

Agitation is again increasing in consequence of the neglect of the Turkish officials to pay attention to the promise of security given to the refugees in the churches. On Saturday night a fanatic made a fresh attack upon Armenians residing at Kassim Pacha, killed four and wounded several others. Several women and children from the quarter took refuge again in the Armenian Church at Pera. It is alleged that the police refused to interfere to protect the victims. On Saturday, also, an Armenian shopkeeper, while quietly engaged with his business, was arrested by the police as a Revolutionist, because he was one amongst the thousand refugees in an Armenian church. The Armenian showed the police a card of the Russian dragoman, which was given him as a pledge of security against any arrest. The police tore the card into pieces, with language of foul opprobrium against Russia. When the Armenian protested against the behaviour of the police, one of them struck him with a sword, and the man is now said to be in a dying state.

I am informed that several other Armenians, possessing the cards of Foreign Ambassadors or their dragomans, have been treated in the same manner. Hence the panic-stricken people are again flocking to the churches.

Rumours have been prevalent for the last few days of attacks on Armenians at Akhissar, but only to-day have particulars been received upon which reliance may be placed. On the 9th inst., at this town situated on the Anatolian Railway, about 120 miles distant, about fifty Armenians were killed and a large number wounded by a Moslem mob. Akhissar contains about one hundred and sixty Turkish and sixty Armenian families. It was market day, and a large number of people from the surrounding villages had gathered. Early in the morning a well-known Turkish rough had tested many Armenians to find if they had arms. Finding them unarmed, he entered an Armenian shop and began to bargain with the merchant, with whom he disagreed as to the price of an article and shot him. Then the cry was raised on all sides, "Why hesitate to massacre these infidels. On to the work!" Upon this a mob of Turkish men and boys, armed with revolvers and knives, commenced to loot the market, killing the Christians, who were unprepared to make any resistance.

The information at present obtained shows that forty-six were killed and a large number, unknown as yet, wounded. It is probable that full investigation will show a larger number to have been killed. The bodies of a good many are said to have been thrown into wells. Only fifteen bodies were obtained for burial. It is said that the Mudir of the village is responsible for the attack. The Kaimaikan of Gieve, three miles distant, came quickly to the scene, and is said to have made valiant efforts, even at the risk of his own life, to save the Christians. But for his efforts the slaughter would have been complete. No dwelling was entered, and no woman or child is known to have been hurt.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 14.

The Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia, and Said Pacha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, met yesterday and to-day at the residence of M. Cambon, with the object of drawing up the final scheme of Armenian reforms.

The state of affairs in this city continues tranquil. Nevertheless, many Armenian shops in Stamboul remain closed, their owners fearing

to re-open them. The streets continue to be patrolled by detachments of police.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Oct. 15.

The outlook with regard to the probability of the Sultan being speedily induced to accept the proposals of the Powers in the matter of the Armenian reform scheme is now regarded as more hopeful.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

BERLIN, Tuesday Night.

The steamer Azoff, of the Russian Company of Trebizond, was expected to arrive at Constantinople on Saturday, and to leave on Monday for Odessa. The vessel, however, has not arrived, and the Constantinople Correspondent of the "Tageblatt" gives the following explanation. It is stated that in consequence of the massacres at Trebizond some hundreds of Armenian families have taken passage on board the Russian ship for Russia. The Turkish Government, fearing that the Armenians instead of proceeding to Odessa would leave the vessel at Constantinople, have therefore seized the Azoff. Several Russian men-of-war of the Black Sea Fleet are said to have sailed for Trebizond.

VIENNA, Tuesday Night.

I have information confirmatory of the statement that Russian troops are on the Caucasus frontier ready to march into Armenia. Russia, it is stated, is firmly resolved to march into Armenia, if the British Fleet appears before Constantinople, in order to maintain her prestige with the Christians in the Orient.

According to private information from Constantinople preparations are made at Yildiz Kiosk for the eventuality of a British Fleet forcing the Dardanelles or of a serious revolt in Constantinople. The Sultan's wives and children would be sent to Adrianople, and some even say that the ruler himself would go there also, and leave the Grand Vizier to negotiate with the English. Excitement is reported to reign among both the Armenians of Turkey and those of Russia, who have repeatedly sent deputations to the Catholicos asking him to plead for their brothers under the Turkish yoke.

The Belgrade papers think that Turkey has not been in such a difficult position since the Russo-Turkish war. The recent events, they say, are either the preface to a European war, or to a revolution in Turkey. A telegram from Athens states that the wish that order may soon be restored in Turkey is very general, but it is feared that any revolutionary movement or any warlike measure on the part of the Powers might be equally disastrous to the interests of Greece. The Armenian colony in Sofia arranged that a funeral service should be held to-day in memory of the Armenians who fell in Constantinople. The Macedonian organ "Pravo" called upon the Macedonians to attend in great numbers a ceremony which honoured those who died bravely resisting tyranny. Many Macedonians were present at the service.

A representative of the Central News had an interview yesterday afternoon with Professor Minas Toheraz, editor of "Armenia," with reference to the recent massacre at Trebizond. He had received the day before from that town the following letter dated October 5th, which gives the Armenian account: "Bahri Pacha, the ex-Vali of Van, has been about a fortnight in our town. Having been the scourge of the Armenians during his tenure of office, he was naturally hated by the Armenians of Trebizond. On the 2nd instant he went on board the Turkish steamer leaving for Constantinople, but he found the vessel too crowded, and came back with the view of taking the following steamer. As he was going home, accompanied by the commandant of the troops, two unknown persons armed with revolvers fired at the party seven or eight times from a side street, wounding the Vali and the commandant in the feet, and also two Armenians who happened to be passing in the hands. Yesterday at nine o'clock in the evening several persons, all Turks, armed to the teeth, attacked the part of the town inhabited by Armenians, only sparing one street. They smashed the windows of the houses with stones, broke open the doors, carried away the women, and wounded and killed many Armenians. The butcheries were continued to-day under the very eyes of the Turkish police, who, whilst apparently endeavouring to put a stop to them, are secretly encouraging the massacres. They have cut the telegraph wire to Batoum, fearing that the European Consuls might cable to ask the despatch of Russian troops and men-of-war. Panic-stricken, the Christians have retired to their houses awaiting their hour for extermination. A general massacre is imminent. I will write you soon if I am not killed."

Professor Toheraz significantly added that that massacre had happened. If the Turkish official account avowed that "the Armenian victims numbered nearly two hundred, including a few women," it was easy to imagine that the real loss of the Armenians had been more serious, and that the barbarous Turk had dealt in his usual way with the Christian women. As soon as the news of the massacres at Constantinople, Trebizond, Rodosto, and Ismid reached the interior of the country Christians would be

attacked by Mohammedans in every town in the Turkish Empire. If the Powers did not interfere at once, and *manu militari*, their scheme of reform would be the funeral of Armenian nationality.
