

# CHRISTIANS' DANGER

## Talk of New Massacres in Armenian Towns.

### KURDS FIGHTING EACH OTHER

## Turkish Vigilance Has Prevented the Uprising Planned for the Spring.

DJULFA, Russia, April 29.—Prompt measures are being taken by the Porte to prevent the uprising of the Armenian revolutionists next month. Within the past few days all roads leading from Persia to Van have been closed by the Turkish Government, the intention being to shut off communication between the revolutionary leaders in Persia and their agents in Armenia.

The last caravan that tried to get through to Van from Khoi was seized by Turkish officials. On the person of one of the caravan drawers was a letter from an unknown writer in Salmas, addressed to an Armenian in Van. The writer of the letter announced to his friend that 500 revolutionists armed with rifles were waiting in the Persian villages of Salmas plain for an opportunity of making an attack on Van, and asking for information with regard to the disposition of the government troops in and about Van.

The seizure of the caravan and the prompt blocking of the roads to Van have caused no end of consternation to the Armenian revolutionists in Persia, as this action seriously interferes with some of their most important arrangements. However, other roads through the mountains will be found, the work will go steadily forward. The closing of the caravan roads, however, will hamper the movements of the revolutionists for several weeks, until the long-delayed spring weather shall melt some of the snow which now fills the mountains.

From the lower valleys, where the snow has begun to melt, comes word that the Kurds are fighting among themselves, probably as a sort of practice for more serious work to come. The Kurdish activity apparently extends nearly as far south as Mosoul on the Tigres River. Within the past week the Turkish Consul at Sautch-Bulak, in Persia, tried to cross over into Turkey with an armed escort of twelve men, but he was turned back by the Kurds, who held possession of all the roads. At the same time the Turkish officials in the towns near the border were chased out of the country by the Kurds. The Armenians have received this news with joy. They hope that Kurds and Turks will get into a fight and exterminate each other.

Many well-informed persons in Western Persia believe that Asia Minor is on the verge of a great religious war which the Sultan of Turkey is forcing upon the world in order to retain his prestige among the Mohammedans, many of whom have been for some time grumbling at him for his lukewarmness in the cause of their religion and threatening to deprive him of his Caliphate. As eight months have passed since the Sassoun and Moosh massacres and nothing has been done in consequence by the Turkish Government, the Moslems of Persia are beginning to believe that nothing will be done and that Europe's protests count for nothing. As a result the Persians are beginning to talk of having a massacre of Christians on their own account.

Bitlis is on the brink of a massacre, and trouble may be looked for at any moment. This news, from a different source, is of the same character as the news which I received last week announcing that the Christians at Van were "within an inch of a massacre." The situation in Armenia has grown no better for the presence of the commission of inquiry; as a matter of fact it has grown worse.