

THE ARMENIAN OUTRAGES.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND SENDS THE CORRESPONDENCE TO CONGRESS.

LITTLE OFFICIAL INFORMATION AS TO THE ALLEGED CRUELITIES — REASONS FOR SENDING MR. JEWETT WITH THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION.

Washington, Dec. 11.—President Cleveland to-day transmitted to the Senate, in compliance with the resolution of December 3, all the correspondence on file in the State Department relative to the Armenian outrages in Turkey. In the letter accompanying the correspondence he says in part:

I beg leave to inform the Senate that I have no information concerning cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey or upon persons because of their being Christians, except such information as has been derived from newspaper reports and statements emanating from the Turkish Government denying such cruelties and two telegraphic reports from our Minister at Constantinople. One of these reports, dated November 28, 1894, is in answer to an inquiry by the State Department touching reports in the press alleging the killing of Armenians, and is as follows:

"Reports in American papers of Turkish atrocities at Sassoun are sensational and exaggerated. The killing was in a conflict between armed Armenians and Turkish soldiers. The Grand Vizier says it was necessary to suppress insurrection, and that about fifty Turks were killed. Between 300 and 400 Armenian guns were picked up after the fight, and reports are that about that number of Armenians were killed. I give credit to his statement."

The other dispatch referred to is dated December 2, 1894, and is as follows:

"Information from British Ambassador indicates far more loss of lives in Armenia, attended with atrocities, than stated in my telegram of 28th."

I have received absolutely no information concerning any cruelties committed "upon citizens who have declared their intention to become naturalized in this country" or upon any persons who had a right to claim or have claimed for any reason the protection of the United States Government.

In the absence of such authentic detailed knowledge on the subject as would justify our interference, no "expostulations have been addressed by this Government to the Government of Turkey in regard to such matters."

The last inquiry contained in the resolution of

The Senate touching these alleged cruelties seeks information concerning "any proposal made by or to this Government to act in concert with other Christian Powers regarding the same."

The first proposal of the kind referred to was made by the Turkish Government through our Minister on the 30th day of November, when the Sultan then expressed a desire that a Consul of the United States be sent with a Turkish commission to investigate the alleged atrocities on Armenians. This was construed as an invitation on the part of the Turkish Government to actually take part with a Turkish commission in an investigation of these affairs and any report to be made thereon, and the proposition came before our Minister's second dispatch was received and at a time when the best information in the possession of our Government was derived from his first report, indicating that the statements made in the press were sensational and exaggerated, and that the atrocities alleged really did not exist. This condition very much weakened any motive for an interference based on considerations of humanity and permitted us without embarrassment to pursue a course plainly marked out by other controlling incidents.

By a treaty entered into at Berlin in the year 1878 between Turkey and various other Governments, Turkey undertook to guarantee protection to the Armenians, and agreed that it would "periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers, who will superintend their application."

Our Government was not a party to this treaty, and it is entirely obvious that in the face of the provisions of such treaty above recited our interference in the proposed investigation, especially without the invitation of any of the Powers which had assumed by treaty obligations to secure the protection of these Armenians, might have been exceedingly embarrassing, if not entirely beyond the limits of justification or propriety.

The Turkish invitation to join the investigation set on foot by that Government was, therefore, on the 2d day of December, declined. On the same day, and after this declination had been sent, our Minister at Constantinople forwarded his second dispatch, tending to modify his former report as to the extent and character of the Armenian slaughter; at the same time the request of the Sultan for our participation in the investigation was repeated, and Great Britain, one of the Powers which joined in the Treaty of Berlin, made a like request.

In view of the changed conditions, and upon reconsideration of the subject, it was determined to send Mr. Jewett, our Consul at Sivas, to the scene of the alleged outrages; not for the purpose of joining with any other Government in an investigation and report, but to the end that he might be able to inform this Government as to the exact truth.

Instructions to this effect were sent to Mr. Jewett, and it is supposed that he has already entered upon the duty assigned him.

Secretary Gresham's letter to the President covers practically the same ground as that addressed by the latter to the Senate. The instructions sent to Minister Terrell are as follows:

Department of State,

Washington, December 5, 1894.

To Terrell, Minister, Constantinople.

Since my telegram of 2d inst. declining participation of this Government in proposed investigation of reported occurrences at Sassun, your supplementary telegram of the same date has been received. The Turkish Minister yesterday repeated the Sultan's desire that an American join the Turkish Commissioners in the investigation; and, moreover, the British Government, a party to the Treaty of Berlin, has expressed its desire that a capable and upright citizen of the United States participate and report his individual conclusions. The President, therefore, directs that Mr. Jewett, Consul at Sivas, accompany the Turkish Commission, not, however, as a member of it, to the district in which the alleged atrocities were committed, and, after full and impartial investigation, report the facts for the information of his Government. He will not join the Turkish or other Commissioners in any report. You will inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and if necessary ask proper escort for Mr. Jewett. GRESHAM.

THE TURKISH MINISTRY MAY RESIGN.

A POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF THE ARMENIAN TROUBLES—THE POWERS LIKELY TO

UPHOLD ENGLAND.

Vienna, Dec. 11.—Dispatches from Constantinople indicate that the Armenian question is likely to lead to the resignation of the Turkish Ministry. The Sultan is believed to be greatly exercised over the movement of the Powers in the matter and to await the result of the commission's inquiry with concern. It is believed that Russia, France, Italy and possibly Austria will support Great Britain, which is supposed to be awaiting the moral support of the Powers before taking further action.

London, Dec. 11.—"The Manchester Guardian" says that as a result of a conference between Lord Rosebery and Lord Kimberley yesterday, the British Government demanded absolute freedom in the matter of reporting upon the situation in Armenia, and that the demand was at once conceded. Great Britain will immediately send to Armenia a special delegate, who will be selected by Sir Philip Wodehouse Currie, the British Ambassador at Constantinople.

"The Daily News's" correspondent in Constantinople says:

There is reason to believe that an arrangement will be made whereby the report of the Turkish commission of inquiry will be controlled. Probably under this development, which is consequent upon united action by some or all of the Powers, Mr. Jewett, the United States Consul at Sivas, will not be ordered to report on the result of the inquiry. The latest suggestion is to appoint only the foreign consuls at Erzeroum, namely, those of England, France and Russia.

"The Daily News's" correspondent in Berlin says it is improbable that Germany will join in representations to the Porte, being disinclined to support Great Britain.

INTERVENTION NEEDED IN ARMENIA.

A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INADEQUATE TO REMEDY EXISTING EVILS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Allow me to say through your columns that while the Armenians appreciate the kindly offices tendered by this Government in appointing an American to accompany the Turkish Commission of Inquiry, with a view to bringing to light the facts of the Armenian massacre, they regret to think that, even if the competence of the delegates were beyond doubt, the step is hardly adequate to meet the practical requirements of the case.

If we are to credit the daily reports received from Armenian refugees, American missionaries and European consuls and correspondents, a state of terror and panic is reigning in Armenia. Those Christians who survived the abominable carnage are now in danger of perishing from destitution, helplessness and a virulent cholera, which is said to have followed the murders. Turkish Governors are compelling Armenians to telegraph to the Sultan that they are living in a most blissful land under the shadow of His Majesty's benevolent rule. Those who refuse to comply with the demand are executed or incarcerated and tortured on the plea of disloyalty.

These are facts calling for immediate and vigorous measures to restore confidence and establish peace. What can and should be done? An English force should occupy Cilicia and a Russian army enter Armenia. Turkish authority should be sus-

pended; a local Armenian militia should be organized, properly armed and put to work at once. A few hundred of the bloodthirsty brutes should be hanged and the rest disarmed. When this is done the terrorized Christians will recover their courage and spirits, and the Kurds and Turks will receive a lasting chastisement. Then the problem of reform will have found its practical solution in the extinction of the direct authority of the Turkish Government over Armenia.

On the other hand, what can an investigating commission do for the present critical state of affairs? Whatever its results and recommendations may be, it cannot dispense with the necessity of an eventual European intervention. If, after a long

delay, it confirms the generally accepted view of the affair, Europe will have to intervene to enforce her demands, as the Porte will never yield to friendly suggestions. But the terrorized Christians may not be prevailed upon to tell of their sufferings with frankness and fulness, for who will guarantee their security in the hands of the Porte after the withdrawal of the commission? Thus, it is possible that a report may be submitted countenancing the pretence put forward by the Porte, which would attribute the commission of atrocities to Armenian revolutionists. This cowardly and base pretence did not satisfy Europe in the case of the Maronite atrocities in 1860. France intervened, and secured a Syrian autonomy. The same pretence seventeen years later did not satisfy Europe in the case of the Bulgarian atrocities of 1876, and by the intervention of Russia a Bulgarian autonomy was created. After the lapse of another seventeen years the Porte is attempting to deceive Europe by the same false pretence. The civilized world will not be deceived, and it is now plainly the turn of England to intervene and pacify Armenia.

The Armenians are confident as yet that Great Britain will not be deaf to this urgent call of duty. We believe she will occupy Cilicia and Armenia, too, if necessary. But our national experience warns us against overdrawn optimism. We do not, therefore, hesitate to declare to the world that a failure on the part of England to redeem her pledges toward the Armenian nation will result in the total alienation from England of the martial and commercial Armenian race. Armenia, not pacified, must ever constitute a menace to the peace of Europe. Armenia, abandoned and wounded by her professed protectress, may be the means of infinite mischief to British interests in the East.

Dec. 16, 1894.

TIGRANE SUNI.