

SULTAN YIELDS A POINT.

Foreign Delegates with Armenian Inquiry Commission to Be Permitted to Examine Witnesses.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 23.—The Porte has agreed to inform the foreign delegates who will accompany the Armenian Commission that they are empowered not only to suggest questions to the witnesses, but also to personally examine them.

Abdullah Pasha has withdrawn from the presidency of the commission at the last moment, and has been replaced by two officials from the Ministry of Justice, who will start to-day for Erzeroum, where the other members of the commission are already assembled. Abdullah's recall is supposed to be due to representations that he is inferior in rank to Zekki Pasha, who will have to be examined, being responsible for troops accused of committing atrocities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Turkish Government is keeping posted upon reports concerning Armenia, and evidently desires a friendly public opinion. It has denied several printed stories of oppression, and to-day the Turkish Minister furnished to the press this despatch from his Government contradicting others:

It has been published that the Archbishop of Marash was imprisoned at Alep, that the Bishop of Hadjin, the Archbishop of Zelatoun and Father Jarask, of Maresh, were condemned to death; that Sister Elizabeth and twenty-five other prisoners were under arrest, and that fifteen leading men of Alep were sent to prison. All these assertions are without the least foundation in fact, nor has the Church in Beylan been closed, as has been falsely reported.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

The Port Arthur Slaughter.

To the Editor of The World:

The one result of the Port Arthur horror should be to enforce the lesson that war is unjustifiable save for such rare and crushing reasons as, for instance, the Armenian massacre. While so-called "civilized" nations have been patting Japan on the back, so to speak, as a nice little fellow who knew how to stand up for his rights, they knew very well that no war can be or ever has been fought without a great number of innocent people being killed, without a net result of starving orphans, wrecked homes, widowed mothers and gray hairs brought in sorrow to the grave. Just as soon as this war was spoken of, nations that were truly civilized should have made their voices heard in one united shout of protest. But they could not do so, because they are ready to bring upon each other and themselves the same horrors. Their condemnation of the Japanese cannot but be half-hearted and hypocritical.

New York, Dec. 22.

PAX.