

## THE EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY.

### Appeal for the Relief of the Sufferers— Thousands of Families in Want.

CHICAGO, Sept. 18.—*To the Editor.*—In these days of the telegraph and of rapid international communication it is surprising that so little has been told of the devastation wrought and the number of lives lost during the recent earthquakes in Turkey, in which Constantinople was the chief sufferer.

The shocks took place on the 10th and 11th of July last, and, though two months have passed, the magnitude of the calamity is only beginning to be appreciated even in Turkey, as reports come in from the country, and some attempt is made to rehabilitate the cities and villages.

His Imperial Majesty, the Sultan, desired to allay instead of increase the panic, and the full description of the loss of life and property was wisely suppressed until the people were calmed and the ceasing of further shocks encouraged the citizens to return to their homes. Great Constantinople, which has played so wonderful a role in the history of European and Asiatic civilization, amongst the oldest and most picturesque of European cities, stands today denuded of much of her splendor—her Mosques losing their minarets; and the beautiful dome of the Mosque of Kadrick, which was built at the same time as St. Sophia, crashing to the ground, with numberless public and private constructions. On approaching Constantinople, the minarets and domes were the first thing to greet the eye and introduce the traveler into an Eastern civilization. It will doubtless be many years before these beautiful specimens of Bizantine architecture will be replaced, and the destruction of these unique and graceful monuments of an ideal past is an international calamity. The older part of Constantinople was almost entirely destroyed; the immense bazaars were overthrown, and their priceless contents lost to their many owners. The great Roman baths caved in, and the historic castle of Anadolu-Hissar, which contained the famous hall built by Constantine, fell to its very foundations.

The islands of the Sea of Marmora felt the shocks with special severity, a large number of mosques, villas, and palaces being destroyed. On the Island of Halki all the houses were rendered uninhabitable. Hundreds of villages were destroyed in the paths of the earthquakes and thousands of people rendered homeless, with innumerable dead to bury and wounded to take care of. And though two months have passed, it is reported that over 2,000 families are yet living in tents in Constantinople alone, helpless and discouraged. While the loss of property is grievous, it is not to be counted beside the deaths and misery of all kinds which such a calamity entails on a country.

From one quarter of the great bazaar 154 dead bodies were taken out. Dead bodies were found in all parts of Constantinople, many mangled beyond recognition. Up to the latest account the loss of life around Stamboul alone amounted to 134. The official list of the dead has not yet been published, as the returns are slow from the villages, many of which are now deserted and their inhabitants living in tents. The suffering among these poor people is intense, principally among the women and children.

To provide for the care of all these poor and homeless people is a great problem for the Turkish government to solve. It has done so far all that could be expected under the circumstances. The Sultan's generosity and resources are taxed to the utmost limit. This generosity is well known to Americans. His Majesty was the first of Europeans to cable a most substantial contribution to the Johnstown sufferers, and though his private fortune is now meeting such extraordinary demands, he yet sends some \$1,500 to the victims of the Minnesota and Wisconsin fires.

Relief committees have been formed in London, Paris, and the other large continental cities, which are collecting substantial contributions. New York, through the noble efforts of Hon. A. S. Hewitt and Hon. Alexander E. Orr, president of the Chamber of Commerce, is doing effective work.

In answer to an inquiry for confirmation of the reported extent of the disasters United States

Minister Terrell at Constantinople wires *Christian Herald*, of New York:

"Condition does warrant relief. All European governments have contributed. The Sultan gave generously during the Johnstown disaster, and Christian America should reciprocate.

"TERRELL."

Rev. George Washburn, president of Robert College, of Constantinople, writing from Bar Harbor on his return from that city, under date of Aug. 31, to John S. Kennedy, of New York, who generously contributes \$500, says, among other things:

"The loss of life and property in Stamboul was terrible; 1,800 houses, nearly all the bazaars, many mosques and public buildings were ruined. The loss of life will never be known. Many are still buried in the ruins. The loss of property is now estimated at \$30,000,000, which means the ruin of many well-to-do families. The college will feel this for a long time, I fear."

The relief funds are being distributed to the needy, irrespective of creed or nationality, under the personal direction of the Sultan and the supervision of the principal authorities of Constantinople, and all American donations are forwarded through the United States Minister.

It is to be hoped that America will come nobly and generously to the front in this great work of charity, and an urgent appeal is specially made to the benevolent people of Chicago and neighborhood. All contributions can be forwarded to the official depositories, which are the Northern Trust Company or the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, or to any member of the following committee:

Charles L. Raymond, president Chicago Board of Trade.

A. O. Slaughter, president of the Chicago Stock Exchange.

L. J. Gage, president First National Bank.

J. J. Mitchell, president of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank.

Byron L. Smith, president of the Northern Trust Company.

Charles L. Hutchinson, president Corn Exchange Bank.

Robert Stuart, president of the American Exchange National Bank.

Potter Palmer, capitalist.

Leon Mandel, of Mandel Bros.

J. W. Scott, publisher of the *Chicago Herald*.

E. S. Conway, of the W. W. Kimball Company.

J. B. Kirk, of J. S. Kirk & Co.

S. S. Costikyan, of Costikyan Freres.

A. G. Asdimian, of Probate Court.

Charles Henrotin, Consul General of Turkey.