

PROTECTION FOR ARMENIA.

European Powers Send the Sultan a Schedule of Reforms They Want Him to Adopt.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 16.—The note presented to the Sultan by representatives of the powers respecting reforms in Armenia makes twenty-five closely written quarto pages.

Among the measures preliminary to the reform, the note demands the appointment of a High Commissioner, general amnesty for and release of all political prisoners, the revision of certain judgments and the appointment of a commission, to sit at Constantinople charged with the surveillance and application of the reform, working in concert with the High Commissioner.

The principal reforms demanded are that the Governors and Vice-Governors of Van, Erzeroum, Sivas, Bitlis, Kharput and Trebizonde be Christian or Mussulman according as the population of those places is inclined. In any case, either the Governor or the Vice-Governor is to be a Christian. These officials should be approved by the powers.

All taxes are to be collected by local, not State officials, and enough is to be retained before the money is forwarded to Constantinople for the cost of local administration. Under the present system all taxes are first sent to Constantinople, from which city but little money returns to Armenia.

Radical changes in the judicial system are proposed to insure fair trials, the surveillance of prisons, and the abolition of torture. The gendarmerie (police) is to be composed equally of Turks and Christians. Kurds are still to be retained in the notorious Hamadian Cavalry, but are not to be allowed to have arms except during drill.

The Government is to strictly enforce the laws against compulsory conversions to Islam.

The Sultan read the note attentively and was not unfavorably impressed. It is understood that he recognizes that the proposals do not compromise his sovereign rights or dignity. He has had several conferences with Ambassadors. The Austrian Ambassador strongly urged him to acquiesce with the demands of the powers. The Sultan was not offended and sent him a valuable present.

The Sultan appears to count upon the moral support of Emperor William of Germany, to whom he has sent an autograph letter.
