

TRUTH ABOUT ARMENIA.

There Were No Atrocities. Says a Spanish Traveller Who Was at Bitlis During the Troubles.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Jan. 9, 1895.—The Morning Post will print to-morrow a long interview with the Spanish traveller named Ximenez, who has just returned from a geographical mission through Mesopotamia and Kurdistan. He said:—

"I was in Armenia from March to November and happened to be in Bitlis during the disturbances in the Sassoun district. It is absolutely false that women and children were outraged and tortured by Turkish troops. The whole thing was grossly exaggerated from an entirely local disturbance, locally suppressed, the troops arriving too late to share in the repression beyond the capture of the supposed instigator. He was a liberated convict, named,

Boghazian, alias Mourah formerly a pupil in the American Methodist Mission School."

Ximenez exonerates Zeaki Pacha, who, on arriving at Moosh, immediately liberated numbers of Armenians and adopted a policy of conciliation throughout. Ximenez says that the Armenian question hardly exists in Armenia. The Armenians of the Sassoun district he describes as the least educated and intelligent of those in Turkey, and very different from their fellows in Van and Bitlis. He thinks they are little better than the Kurds.

The disturbances arose from quarrels and raids of the Kurds and Armenians, he says, and developed until the Armenians mustered a force of 3,000 intent either upon reprisals on the Kurds or revolution. The troops twice encountered this force on August 27, killing three hundred of them in an open fight.

XIMENEZ'S RESPONSIBILITY VOUCHERED FOR.

The editor of the Post describes Ximenez as a distinguished Spaniard of high scientific attainments and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England. He accents the above statement as true and hotly denounces Mr. Gladstone and the other supporters of the Armenian political plotters.

Lord Kimberley, of the Foreign Office, announces that the foreign statements made at the Chester conference of Armenians, as to the attitude of the British Foreign Office toward Armenian affairs, were entirely untrue.

A despatch from Constantinople explains why the Turkish police entered the Armenian Cathedral yesterday. The Patriarch, Stephen Peters Azarian, had received many menacing letters, owing to his public statements discrediting the worst reports from Armenia and favoring the Porte. Cheflis and Djelaedin, members of the Commission of Inquiry, arrived at Erzeroum on Monday.

The Standard says that Great Britain has replied to the Porte's appeal to disavow Mr. Gladstone's birthday speech on Armenia by directing attention to the fact that Mr. Gladstone is simply a member of Parliament and cannot be prevented from uttering his personal views.

FLEW THE AMERICAN FLAG

A Vessel Loaded with Arms for Armenian Revolutionists Seized by Turkey.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

MILAN, Jan. 9, 1895.—The Secolo prints this despatch, under a Constantinople date:—"Two Turkish vessels cruising on the coast of Asia Minor recently seized a vessel flying the American flag. However, the vessel is reported to be an English one despatched by the Armenian committee in London, with 10,000 rifles. These were forfeited, and the Captain and crew were put in irons."

HITT PLEADS FOR ARMENIA.

Two New United States Consulates Ordered To Be Established There.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1895.

The chief incident of interest of the afternoon session of the House to-day was the speech by Mr. Hitt (rep., Ill.) upon the necessity of locating the United States Consuls at Erzeroum and Harpoot, Armenia, in view of the recent massacre in that country. They were ordered to be established without a dissenting vote.

Mr. Hitt said:—

"Our officers should be there to command respect and exercise for beneficent purpose the authority of the government, just as the European consuls do in that region. They are eminently necessary now. Harpoot is the city of considerable size nearest to the scenes of the recent carnage, where men, women and children, from race hostilities and for religious convictions, were slain in the most horrible manner, some of them members of churches organized by the American missionaries—churches, not of supposed converts, but sincere, fervid Christians.

"This is not a mission about which there can be even the semblance of the charges sometimes made in regard to Chinese converts, that they are hired. No, they are real Christians, with a church older by far than the churches of our Western world. They are Christians, who greet with sympathy our missionaries, and who hold by ancient traditions the words of Jesus and His apostles.

"I know there is little commerce—almost none; but there is life, human life, to be cared for, and the ideas on which our government, our very civilization is founded, are planted by these churches throughout that entire region. It is not too much to establish two consuls there. Harpoot is far nearer than Erzeroum to this almost inaccessible region, where these helpless creatures were cut down like sheep for slaughter so short a time since. It is a region so remote that the Turkish government could shut up the avenues of information and keep them sealed for weeks, to protect itself against the indignation of the civilized world. We need a consul there, clothed with the sacred authority of our flag."