

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The recent Turkish atrocities in Armenia have justly attracted the attention and aroused the horror of the entire civilized world. Having resided in Constantinople for many years, and speaking the Turkish and Greek languages as fluently as my own, I am constrained to add another to your many communications on that subject. These atrocities in Armenia are not new in character, but are simply on a more extended scale than those of the past. Any one familiar with the life in Turkey must acknowledge this fact. The Turkish sway in Christian provinces is only a sad record of brutality and of shameful misgovernment and oppression. The outrages which are continually being committed in the Turkish provinces, and even in Constantinople in greater or less degree, are horrible, and are done without any punishment or interference. The local newspapers are strictly prohibited from publishing anything that will reflect upon the Government, consequently no information can be obtained in that way. During the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz, his grand vizier, Ali Pacha, an accomplished diplomat, said to the representative of a Christian government: "The Turks are not afraid of any European Power, for if one is against us, others will surely favor us from jealousy." It is impossible to enumerate all the cruelties that have been committed by them from the foundation of their dynasty to the present time, in addition to the gross insults which are constantly heaped upon foreigners. Many highly cultured Armenians and Greeks of noble birth have faithfully served the Ottoman Government in high official capacities, only to receive as a reward for their faithful service the confiscation of their property and death, for the simple reason that they were Christians. Hundreds of innocent Armenians have been imprisoned and heavily chained, some exiled, others killed. A Turk cannot be a true friend to a Christian; it is utterly foreign to his nature.

In 1892 the Sultan organized a new Kurdish cavalry, to which he gave his own name, the "Hamidieh." He summoned a number of chiefs of these ferocious and desperate Kurds to Constantinople, invested them with military rank and decorations as a reward for horrible atrocities committed by them in past years, provided them with the best of modern arms and a uniform, including large woollen caps, having brass badges in front. I was in Constantinople at the time, and was an interested spectator of the investiture of these highwaymen. These Kurds constitute at present a brigade of legalized and lawless robbers, free from any restriction or control, and were thus sent back to their own country. These are the desperadoes who have already devastated and will continue to devastate and pillage poor unfortunate Armenia. The Turkish Government always denies all these outrages; it is natural that it should do so. There is much more that I could say, but will not take more of your space, except to quote the fitting words of Colonel Alexander S. Bacon at the meeting in Cheltenham Hall, who fully understood the subject when he said, "A good Turk is a dead Turk."

New-York, Dec. 24, 1894.

N. W. HIDDEN.

MR. GRESHAM TURNED DOWN

The Sultan of Turkey Gives an Emphatic "No" to Mr. Jewett's Independent Armenian Investigation.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1894.

The United States has again been made to suffer humiliation at the hands of the Sultan of Turkey in consequence of Secretary Gresham's meddlesome Armenian policy. It is understood that Minister Terrell has advised the State Department that the Sultan has given an emphatic "No" to the persistent request of Secretary Gresham to have Consul Jewett make an independent inquiry into the Armenian trouble. The Secretary met with a just rebuke several weeks ago, when he attempted an unwarranted interference by ordering Consul Jewett to accompany the Armenian Commission, not as a member, but for the purpose of making an independent report in conjunction with the commission. As exclusively stated in the HERALD at the time the Sultan positively but firmly declined to allow Consul Jewett to make the contemplated investigation. It was thought that this would put a quietus upon the ambition of the meddlesome Secretary of State to curry favor with republican jingoes who have been knocking at the doors of the State Department ever since the massacre occurred to get the United States to take a hand in the protection of Armenians.

Not so, however. The Secretary still persisted in his meddling. He did not revoke the orders to Consul Jewett, as he should have done, but, on the contrary, instructed Minister Terrell to plead further with the Sultan. This time he asked that Consul Jewett be allowed to visit the scene of the massacre, entirely independent of the commission, for the purpose of making an independent report for the satisfaction of the Christian societies in this country, which have been so clamorous for interference by the United States. There was no reason to expect that the Sultan would grant his request when it was made. And, but for the lack of knowledge of his legitimate duties, Secretary Gresham would not have placed the United States for the second time in the unenviable position of being rebuked by the Turkish government.

While happy over the fact that the United States is not to be mixed up with foreign countries in the settlement of the Armenian troubles, conservative and sober minded public men are nevertheless greatly chagrined over the awkward position in which this country has been placed by the way the Sultan has "turned down" Mr. Gresham. It remains to be seen how the Secretary of State will accept the decision of the Sultan. In view of his ignorance of diplomatic proprieties, it would not be surprising if he should bob up again with some further absurd proposition. It is difficult to see, however, how he can go behind this decision. Mr. Jewett being refused permission to investigate in the capacity of an official of the United States and again as an individual, there would seem to be no way open for any participation by this country in the prospective inquiry.

TO INVESTIGATE ARMENIA.

Two Members of the Commission and the French Delegate Leave for Erzeroum.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 25, 1894.—Chefik Bey, Judge of the Court of Cassation, and Djelaledin, Bey of the Court of Appeals, members of the commission appointed to investigate the Armenian troubles, left Constantinople to-day for Erzeroum. With them went the French delegate, M. Vilbert.

United States Minister Terrell had an interview with the Grand Vizier on Sunday evening, with reference to the sending of an independent

United States delegate to Sassoun.

On Monday the Sultan positively declined to allow Mr. Jewett, the United States Consul at Sivas, to accompany the Commission of Inquiry. This action will probably prevent any participation by the United States in the investigation.

TO BE CLOSE TO TURKEY.

Reasons Why the United States War Ship Marblehead Was Assigned to Duty on the European Station.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 25, 1894.

The purpose of the administration in assigning the Marblehead to the European station has just become apparent.

That vessel will be detailed to duty on the Turkish coast, should occasion arise for her presence, and her light draught will make her particularly valuable there. Turkey comes within the boundary of the European station, and a vessel on duty in her waters would be under the commander-in-chief of this station.

The State Department has been advised by Secretary Herbert that orders have been issued to Rear Admiral Kirkland, commanding the European station, directing him to give all the assistance in his power to Mr. Jewett, whom the State Department designated to investigate the alleged Armenian atrocities. These orders were issued some days ago, immediately after the decision had been reached to despatch the Marblehead to European waters. Neither the Chicago nor the San Francisco could be sent up the Dardanelles, vessels of their size being prohibited by the treaty of Paris of 1855.

LITTLE HOPE OF LEGISLATION.

Although early in the session, departmental officials have lost hope of obtaining legislation during this Congress looking to the transfer of the Coast Survey to the Navy Department. Nothing has yet been done in Congress in regard to this matter, and as the survey has strong friends in both House and Senate, the probabilities are that the Secretary's recommendation will pass unheeded.

They even have small hopes of carrying legislation concerning this matter by the next Congress, because of these same Senate friends of the survey. They retain their seats until 1896, and the hopes of those interested in this matter extend, therefore, into the next administration.

It is not generally known that President Cleveland himself had a splendid opportunity of carrying out the wishes of the Navy Department in this respect. When the superintendency of the Coast Survey was vacant, last summer, it was represented to him that that department could be placed under the Navy Department by merely appointing a naval officer to succeed Professor Mendenhall, the superintendent. The naval officer would, of course, be subject to the wishes of the Secretary of the Navy and would have to carry out his orders. The President, however, thought the billet too good a plum to be thrown away, so he picked out a civilian, General Duffield, and gave it to him.

NO CHANCE FOR THIS BILL.

The chances for the Marine Artillery bill being enacted into law are nil. Its deathblow was dealt when, a few days ago, both Major General Schofield and Colonel Heywood, commandant of marines, reported upon it adversely, declaring that it would be disastrous to both services were such legislation ever placed upon the statute books.

It is now expected that Secretary Lamont and Secretary Herbert will transmit to Congress their opinions on this subject, together with the views of their subordinates. From the first officers of both the army and navy have been averse to legislation of this character. There are a few officers who would be benefited by the arrangement, but no good would result from it. It is thought, and the discipline of both the artillery and marine corps would be ruined by it. Colonel Heywood, now commandant of

marines. If the bill were enacted, would be superseded by several officers now his inferiors in rank in the artillery service. Both General Schofield and Colonel Heywood have thoroughly investigated the matter.

The Naval Ordnance Bureau has recalled its request for bids for electric machinery for rotating the turrets for the Brooklyn and the battle ship Iowa and is preparing different designs for other bids. The changes are not in the system proposed to be placed on board these vessels, but in the size of the machinery which will be necessary to operate it.
