

GLADSTONE'S GREAT TALK

Denounces the Sultan for Permitting Plunder, Murder and Torture of Armenians.

MENTIONS AMERICAN SYMPATHIZERS

Not a Question of Politics, but of Humanity, and It Should Be Settled.

NO MATTER IF TURKEY DOES RESIST.

Must Not Accept Promises of Her Ruler, for They Are Made Only to Be Broken.

CHESTER, England, Aug. 6.—The Town Hall was crowded to-day, the audience, including numbers of Armenians in anticipation of hearing the long-expected speech of Mr. Gladstone upon the Armenian question. Among those present were the Bishop of Ripon and D. R. Clifford and Robert T. Paine, of the American Peace Society.

It was the Grand Old Man's first public speech since his retirement from politics, and it may be the last public speech that he will make. Aside from general interest in the Armenian question, it was the man rather than the motive that drew so large a crowd to the Town Hall. But he is not the Gladstone of five years ago, and, in speaking upon a topic which has been a vital one with him, whether in power or in leading the opposition, he chose a hall near his home and in every way suited to what is left of his voice.

The audience rose with vociferous cheering when Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, the Duke of Westminster, the Bishop of Chester and the Mayor of Chester entered the hall. The distinguished visitors were conducted to seats on the platform, and the cheering did not subside until the Duke of Westminster rose to speak. The Duke read a letter from the Marquis of Salisbury, notifying the Duke that the sum of £1,000, which had been subscribed for the relief of the Armenians, had been forwarded to the British Ambassador at Constantinople, Sir Philip H. W. Currie, who had been given full discretion as to the manner in which the money was to be distributed.

After the usual preliminaries Mr. Gladstone arose amid an outburst of enthusiastic applause. After it was stilled he said that the Armenian question was not a party matter or a religious dispute. The present situation in Armenia resulted from intolerably bad government—perhaps the worst on the face of the world. Mr. Gladstone then read a resolution that:

This meeting expresses its conviction that Her Majesty's Government will have the cordial support of the entire nation, without distinction of party, in any measures it may adopt in order to secure for the Armenians such reforms in the administration of the province as to provide effective guarantees for the safety of life, honor, religion and property, and that no reforms can be effected without the continuous control of the European powers.

Speaking on this resolution Mr. Gladstone said that it expressed not only his own sentiments but those of their transatlantic brethren, who felt the situation even more strongly than did those present. The dispassionate inquiry made after the Sassoun massacre showed that powers of language did not suffice to describe statements which made the blood run cold. The inquiry, he continued, had verified all the sickening details not only of European but of American testimony; the latter was doubly entitled to credence as America, politically, had no interest in the Levant.

This testimony, said Mr. Gladstone with great energy, summed up into four words, was "Plunder! Murder! Rape! Torture!"

"This is not the work of the dangerous classes," continued Mr. Gladstone, "but of the Government of Constanti-

nople and its agents. There is not one of their crimes for which the Government is not responsible. The Kurds, troops, police and tax collectors entered into competition as to which should prove the most adept in this horrible, infernal work. But guiltier than they are the higher officers of the Government.

"It is not true that the acts of the Turks were reprisals upon the Armenians for rebelling. On the contrary, the Turkish Government disarmed the Armenians and then turned out upon them the barbarians and villains masquerading as the Sultan's cavalry. If there were the slightest foundations for hopes of better government the Constantinople authorities would have been eager to discover and punish the perpetrators of these outrages. But the Government

only met the allegations made against it with denial and falsehood—weapons familiar to the Turks.

"The treaty of 1878 bound the Sultan to carry out reforms and gave England the power to redress wrongs. He has made three propositions that these demands be moderated. But we must not accept Turkish promises. We must not fear the word 'coercion.' It is a word which is heartily appreciated at Constantinople.

"We are sensible as to what is due our honor. We must interpose to demand no more than what is just. But we must demand as much as is necessary and determine that this be accomplished whether it is met with resistance or not."

The resolution read by Mr. Gladstone was then carried.

A number of influential New Yorkers have organized a committee to gather funds for the suffering survivors of the Armenian massacre. They are Mrs. Robert Abbe, Prof. N. Murray Butler, Morris K. Jesup, Jacob H. Schiff, Spencer Trask, Mrs. Henry Villard, Everett P. Wheeler and Dr. Antranig Ayvazian, of No. 424 West Fifty-seventh street, Secretary. Mr. Trask is Treasurer, and will receive contributions at his office, No. 27 Pine street.

Chairman Wheeler has sent out a circular asking for help.

The New York committee will work in conjunction with the English committee.