

Mr. Gladstone spoke for a quarter of an hour. He was remarkably deliberate in his delivery and vigorous in action and gesture. He was loudly cheered as he concluded his remarks.

Mr. Gladstone has expressed, through the newspapers, his thanks for birthday congratulations. Among the birthday greetings were those of the noblest of Mrs. Richards, the mother of the novelist Henry James, for Mr. Gladstone and the other for his granddaughter, Dorothy Drew.

WILL BACK UP ARMENIA.

British Liberals Resolved on Forcing the Government to Some Practical Intervention.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 29, 1894.—As the great body of the members of the liberal party are resolved that there shall be some practical intervention in Armenia, and have relied upon the government to carry out their plans, there is great surprise among them at finding that the Foreign Commission of Inquiry which is going to Armenia is composed of one of the dragons of Russia's delegate, M. Malor, has been a dragoman attached to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople; M. Vilbert, the French delegate, is an interpreter in the employ of the French Consulate at the Turkish capital, and England's delegate, Mr. Shapley, is a Vice Consul to Turkey.

The personnel of the commission, as thus described, gives no security, says the Speaker, that there will be satisfactory inquiry. Especially since the American delegate has been refused permission to make an independent investigation. There is little to be said, he continues the Speaker, of getting at the truth, even if the dragons should be allowed, as they will not be, to take an active part in the investigation. England ought to come to some agreement with Russia without delay to the end of taking action together or without the co-operation of the other Powers, and then should act at once. A word from England would lead to a revolution in Crete and Macedonia, and even in Constantinople. The Speaker gives expression to the popular feeling on the subject, which has been greatly intensified by the ringing speech delivered by the Armenian deputation by Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden today.

COMING TO HIS SENSES.

Secretary Gresham Beginning to See the Impropriety of His Intermeddling in Armenia.

[BY TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1894.

The Herald's cable this morning from Rome, giving an interview with an official of the Turkish Embassy, of that city, regarding the alleged Armenian atrocities, agrees exactly with the news of the State Department officials. Although none of them will consent to be quoted in speaking of the subject, the Secretary and his assistants have, in private conversation, frequently expressed the opinion that the reports of the alleged massacre are grossly exaggerated, and they have deprecated the action of the European Powers in the undue haste displayed in entering a protest. In the absence of official information concerning the alleged massacre, the authorities can only venture an opinion as to the correctness of the sensational reports which have been sent out about the affair.

The authorities, it may be stated, are practically unanimous in the belief that the stories have been highly colored, and that, although a few innocent persons may have been slain, the Turkish government was justified in suppressing the rebellion. As one of them expressed today, "Turkey discovered the hotbed of a rebellious movement in Samsun, and believed that such measures were necessary to prevent disastrous consequences to her own government."

Although rather late in the day, Secretary Gresham, I understand, has expressed the opinion that the State Department, in accordance with diplomatic custom and propriety, is bound to express the Turkish regret to the European Powers, further investigation by outsiders proves conclusively to the country. Having failed in the attempt to take a hand in the investigation by reason of the Sultan's flat refusal to grant the permission required in behalf of Consul Jewett, Secretary Gresham does not now hesitate to say that the State Department cannot take any action in the matter. It remains to be seen whether or not he can keep his hands off. In justice to the Turkish government, it should be said that the department is still being urged by those who take sympathetic interest in the condition of Armenia and by political jingoists to insist upon an investigation by American representatives, and some go so far as to urge that protests be made advance of any further investigation.

At the Turkish capital, the story of the rebellion is in great demand. In accordance with the rules for the members of the Diplomatic Corps of this country, the report of the Herald is being widely circulated. He had nothing further to add to what the Herald stated this morning, the ambassador, however, made some allusions of the Legation, he was very much pleased at the publication of the interview. "We are glad to see the truth," said one of the officials, "The Herald's story this morning tallies with the information we have received."

[From the London Times, Dec. 29.]

DISTURBED ARMENIA.

Admiral Commerell, of the British Navy, Was Words of Praise for the "Unspeakable" Turk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES:—

SIR—I am sure that every right thinking and fair minded man, whatever his political proclivities may be, will entirely agree with your leading article of Tuesday. At the present moment it is not a question of whether the Turkish authorities have been wrong or right in their manner of suppressing the rebellion, which, it is stated, was forced upon them by the action of the revolutionary Armenian committees in many of the capitals of Europe, notably London and Athens, but it is a question of whether fair play should be accorded to Turks as well as Christians. I think, sir, the influential nature of the meeting at St. Martin's Hall will speak for itself.

The question is, Are we to have the old, old story of the Bulgarian atrocities revived, with all the silly statements—which at this day nobody whatever believes—of the crucified Christians on the banks of the Save? I believe that few people during the last thirty years have seen as much of Turkey as I have. My experience has not been gained either at Constantinople or the Olympia, but I have travelled frequently in Asia Minor, and mixed with all denominations of Turkish subjects, both Kurds, Armenians, Roumelians, Lazos, and Bosnians, and I have no hesitation in saying that, if let alone and not incited to rebel by outsiders, they would, under the Turkish government, live fairly happily and contentedly.

During a stay of six weeks at Gallipoli, in the centre of a Turkish force amounting to nearly 30,000 men, I was struck with the order, discipline and personal kindness of the Turkish

soldier. Under very great difficulties as regarded their commissariat, for months and months they lived upon very little more than a couple of coarse black biscuits. I heard of no outrages or robberies practised on the inhabitants. I have seen these Turkish soldiers, as they are described by this meeting last night as "unspeakable Turks," sitting by the wayside distributing the little scraps of food which they crowded round them a portion of their meagre fare, which would hardly keep their own lives and limbs together.

During the whole of these six months I only heard of two men having been found murdered, and that were Turkish soldiers supposed to have been killed by the villagers while peering in a melon field. The ships' companies and officers of the squadron of Gallipoli under my command were allowed to land freely, and there was never the slightest attempt to interfere or meddle with them except on one occasion, when a boy was violently assaulted by two Greek villagers.

As chief of the Stafford House Committee at Gallipoli I visited frequently the hospitals of that theatre, and I can say that if some of these clergy men, who from absolute want of knowledge are raving and storming in rose colored, incharitable language against the Turkish soldier, could have seen the gratitude and affection exhibited by these poor creatures to their doctors and nurses, and to me, I should, I feel sure, be sorry that they have attempted to prejudice the case before the trial.

Now, sir, it has been known perfectly well for the last year that at the instigation of the Armenian revolutionary party, troubles were imminent. The Rev. Dr. Hamlin, founder and first president of the Robert College, Constantinople, warned the missionaries in America that they should have nothing to do with this society, and that if they did they would mean in their power to start a revolution, not caring a bit what terrible outrages there might be committed on either side. The Rev. Dr. Hamlin was president of an affiliated society, if not the one itself. To suppose it possible that such a Turkish clergyman would do this and see their wives and children shot down and maltreated without retaliation is, I think, out of all possibility.

We are told that twelve soldiers entered an Armenian village for the purpose of demanding their government taxes and that they were massacred. Is it likely that, when their comrades got the upper hand, they would not attempt to revenge the death of their comrades?

I have been frequently told that I and a Turkish phillie, I am proud to say that this is the case, and I am so from sheer conviction gained in an experience of thirty years, and no other more than I do the acts which are committed on Turkish soil, but I am perfectly satisfied that the unfair treatment of the Armenians by the government is being subjected will tend to a great deal more harm than it ever can do good. His Majesty, the Sultan, has come to the conclusion that inquiry on what has really occurred, and I cannot see what right we have to suppose and assume that such a thing would be a fair one. We have further to see what have been the provocations which have been given for these supposed atrocities, and that even since the Turkish authorities have the cases which led to the rebellion, and how far they have been incited by the revolutionary committee. Would it not, therefore, be better to wait for that inquiry and not attempt to prejudice the case beforehand?

I remain, sir, yours faithfully,
J. E. COMMERELL, Admiral of the Fleet.
No. 45 RUTLAND GATE, W., Dec. 18.

ATROCITY-HILL IMMIGRANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The Armenian who has been permitted to land in strict violation of our immigration laws pleaded that he would be arrested by detectives who are looking for him on the other side. How do the Ellis Island authorities know whether that man is not wanted for murder or some other crime? Is it sufficient for a criminal, many of whom are coming to our shores, to declare that he is hunted on the other side? I believe that the authorities should not merely take the word for it of a man who admits that he is a fugitive from justice. Philanthropy is an admirable feature of civilization, and it is Christianlike and Americanlike to side with the persecuted and receive them on our hospitable shores, but permit me to ask, is this prevailing Philanthropic feeling not carried a little too far?

It will be shown soon that our sympathies have been too often misplaced, for to-day I mention only one name, well known to the Armenians in this country, that of Hampergoun, a man who came to America, a few years ago, for the sole purpose of obtaining American citizenship, then returned and incited rebellion against the Turkish government, and shielded himself against prosecution with his citizen's paper. The investigation now under way will no doubt bring out some very interesting facts to some of our Armenian citizens here and abroad, and it would be well and only fair to postpone judgment until the European Powers, who have at least as much, if not more, interest in Armenian affairs, will have looked into this matter more closely.

Don't let me stop, but I am very glad that the Armenian pie. There is very little glory in it. To our philanthropic citizens, I would say that it is very nice and sweet to extend a helping hand to the suffering and downtrodden over the seas and around the globe, but at the same time I believe that charity begins at home, and heaven knows there is much distress, suffering and undesired hardship right here among us in this poor old land of ours.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1894. C. N. H.

MR. GLADSTONE ON ARMENIA.

Birthday of the Ex-Premier Made the Occasion for an Anti-Turkish Demonstration.

A SPEECH BY THE G. O. M.

Outrages and Abominations of 1876 in Bulgaria Repeated in Armenia in 1894.

OTHER SIDE OF THE CASE.

A British Admiral Writes to the London Times in Defence of the Turks.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 29, 1894.—Mr. Gladstone celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday to-day, and was the recipient of hundreds of letters and telegrams of congratulation and parcels containing birthday gifts. Mr. Gladstone was in remarkably good health and spirits, and, despite the stormy weather, drove through the village of Hawarden to the church, where he met a deputation of Armenian Christians from Paris and London. The deputation presented a silver chalice to the church. The chalice was presented to the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, son of the ex-Premier and rector of the Hawarden Church, in recognition of the interest his father has taken in the Armenian outrages.

THE SAGE OF HAWARDEN'S REPLY.

Mr. Gladstone in his reply to the deputation's address said that it was not their duty to assume that all the allegations of outrages were true, but rather to await the result of the inquiry which had been instituted. However, he said, the published accounts pointed strongly to the conclusion that the outrages, slays and abominations committed in 1876 in Bulgaria had been repeated in 1894 in Armenia. Continuing, Mr. Gladstone said:—

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