

THE ARMENIAN OUTRAGES.

MR. CLEVELAND SENDS THE CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SENATE.

Minister Terrell Advised that the First Reports Were Exaggerated—Afterward He Modified That Report and Our Consul at Sivas Was Ordered to Accompany the Investigating Commission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The President to-day sent to the Senate, in response to the Hoar resolution, the Armenian correspondence, consisting of a letter from the Secretary of State and a copy of a cable message to Minister Terrell. The Secretary, after reciting the resolution, says: "The department has received no information in regard to alleged cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey," other than the statements that have been made by the Turkish Government, the current reports in the press, and two telegraphic reports from the Legation of the United States at Constantinople. These statements and reports contain nothing as to any cruelties committed upon persons who are described in the resolution as 'citizens who have declared their intention to become naturalized.' The undersigned is not aware that there are American citizens in Armenia or elsewhere who are such otherwise than by birth or naturalization. The department is not informed that Turkish subjects who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States and have acquired a domicile in this country, have, upon returning to the land of their birth, been subjected to cruelties.

"In the absence of authentic information in regard to the matters in question, no 'expostulations' have been addressed to the Government of Turkey concerning them.

"As to 'proposals made by or to this Government to act in concert with other Christian powers,' the undersigned has the honor to say that on the 30th ult. the American Minister at Constantinople telegraphed that the Sultan had expressed a desire that a citizen of the United States should accompany 'a Turkish Commission' to investigate the alleged cruelties. This solicitation, which is doubtless one of the 'proposals' referred to in recent public rumors, was, though fully appreciated, declined for the following reasons:

"The position of the Christian subjects of Turkey is guaranteed by certain stipulations in the Treaty of Berlin of 1878, which forms part of what is known as the European concert. The Government of the United States is not a party to that treaty. By its sixty-first article, it is provided:

"The sublime Porte undertakes to carry out without further delay the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds. It will periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the powers, which will superintend their application.

"It is obvious that the intervention of the United States, at the solicitation of Turkey, in a matter to which these stipulations expressly relate, would not have been timely and judicious, either on the score of propriety or expediency. On the contrary, it might have proved to be exceedingly embarrassing to the European powers whose duty it is to see that the guarantees in favor of the Armenians are executed.

"Subsequently, however, the British Government, one of the principal signatories of the treaty, having taken steps in the matter, expressed a desire that a capable and upright citizen of the United States might participate with the Commission in an investigation now to be made. With this request, which was supported by the Porte, it was decided to comply, and Mr. Jewett, Consul of the United States at Sivas, was designated for the duty.

"The undersigned deems it superfluous to say it is the desire of the department that a complete and impartial investigation may be made of the matters referred to in the resolution of the Senate, to the end that the facts may be fully elicited and the requirements of justice and humanity, as well as of the treaty stipulations, duly observed. Respectfully submitted,

W. Q. GRESHAM."

The following telegram was sent to Minister Terrell at Constantinople under date of Dec. 5:

Since my telegram of 2d inst. declining participation of this Government in proposed investigation of reported occurrences at Sassoun your supplementary telegram of the same date has been received. The Turkish Minister yesterday repeated the Sultan's desire that an American join the Turkish Commissioners in the investigation; and, moreover, the British Government, a party to the treaty of Berlin, has expressed its desire that a capable and upright citizen of the United States participate and report his individual conclusions. The President therefore directs that Mr. Jewett, Consul at Sivas, accompany the Turkish Commission, not however as a member of it, to the district in which the alleged atrocities were committed, and after full and impartial investigation report the facts for the information of his Government. He will not join the Turkish or other Commissioners in any report. You will inform the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and, if necessary, ask proper escort for Mr. Jewett.

GRESHAM.

This letter of transmission from the President accompanied the letter of Secretary Gresham. The President quoted the Senate resolution and then said:

"In response to said resolution, I beg leave to inform the Senate that I have no information concerning cruelties committed upon Armenians in Turkey or upon persons because of their being Christians, except such information as has been derived from newspaper reports and statements emanating from the Turkish Government denying such cruelties and two telegraphic reports from our Minister at Constantinople. One of these reports, dated Nov. 28, 1894, is in answer to an inquiry by the State Department touching reports in the press alleging the killing of Armenians, and is as follows:

"Reports in American papers of Turkish atrocities at Sassoun are sensational and exaggerated. The killing was in a conflict between armed Armenians and Turkish soldiers. The Grand Vizier says it was necessary to suppress insurrection and that about fifty Turks were killed. Between three and four hundred Armenian guns were picked up after the fight and reports that about that number of Armenians were killed. I give credit to his statement.

"The other despatch referred to is dated Dec. 2, 1894, and is as follows:

"Information from British Ambassador indicates far more loss of lives in Armenia attended with atrocities than stated in my telegram of 25th.

"I have received absolutely no information concerning any cruelties committed upon citizens who have declared their intention to become naturalized in this country, or upon any persons who had a right to claim or have claimed for any reason the protection of the United States Government.

"In the absence of such authentic detailed knowledge on the subject as would justify our interference, no expostulations have been addressed by this Government to the Government of Turkey in regard to such matters.

"The last inquiry contained in the resolution of the Senate touching these alleged cruelties seeks information concerning any proposal made by or to this Government to act in concert with other Christian powers regarding the same.

"The first proposal of the kind referred to was made by the Turkish Government through our Minister on the 30th day of November, when the Sultan then expressed a desire that a Consul of the United States be sent with a Turkish Commission to investigate the alleged atrocities on Armenians. This was construed as an invitation on the part of the Turkish Government to actually take part with a Turkish Commission in an investigation of these affairs, and any report to be made thereon. The proposition came before our Minister's second despatch was received, and at a time when the best information in the possession of our Government was derived from his first report, indicating that the statements made in the press were sensational and exaggerated, and that the atrocities alleged really did not exist. This condition very much weakened any motive for an interference based on considerations of humanity, and permitted us without embarrassment to pursue a course plainly marked out by other controlling incidents.

"By a treaty entered into at Berlin in the year 1878 between Turkey and various other Governments, Turkey undertook to guarantee protection to the Armenians and agreed that it would 'periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the powers, who will superintend their application.'

"Our Government was not a party to this treaty, and it is entirely obvious that in the face of the provisions of such treaty above recited our interference in the proposed investigation, especially without the invitation of any of the powers which had assumed by treaty obligations to secure the protection of these Armenians, might have been exceedingly embarrassing, if not entirely beyond the limits of justification or propriety.

"The Turkish invitation to join the investigation set on foot by that Government was, therefore, on the 2d day of December declined. On

the same day, and after this declination had been sent, our Minister at Constantinople forwarded his second despatch tending to modify his former report as to the extent and character of the Armenian slaughter. At the same time the request of the Sultan for our participation in the investigation was repeated, and Great Britain, one of the powers which joined in the treaty of Berlin, made a like request.

"In view of the changed conditions and upon reconsideration of the subject it was determined to send Mr. Jewett, our Consul at Sivas, to the scene of the alleged outrages, not for the purpose of joining with any other Government in an investigation and report, but to the end that he might be able to inform this Government as to the exact truth.

"Instructions to this effect were sent to Mr. Jewett, and it is supposed that he has already entered upon the duty assigned him.

"I submit with this communication copies of all correspondence and despatches in the State Department on this subject, and the report to me of the Secretary of State thereon.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, Dec. 11, 1894."

THE SULTAN ALARMED.

Turkey's Ministry May Resign as a Result of the Armenian Question.

VIENNA, Dec. 11.—Despatches from Constantinople indicate that the Armenian question is likely to lead to the resignation of the Turkish Ministry. The Sultan is believed to be greatly exercised over the movement of the powers in matter and to await the result of the Commission's inquiry with concern. It is believed that Russia, France, Italy, and possibly Austria, will support Great Britain, which is supposed to be awaiting the moral support of the powers before taking further action.

THE TURKISH VERSION OF IT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The Turkish Legation has received a statement to the effect that in July last there was an uprising of Armenians against Turkish rule among the mountains of Mush and some neighboring districts. The insurgents were led by one Hampartzoun, who assured the credulous people that he was a foreign agent, backed by all the European powers in his plans to upset the Turkish authorities. All the Mohammedans who fell into their hands were murdered in a most horrible fashion. In August the regular troops put down the rebellion. The troops treated women, children, and invalids with consideration. The rebels who were caught in arms will be punished according to law.

To Protest Against Turkish Butchery.

A mass meeting will be held in Chickering Hall next Monday night to protest against the recent butchery of the Armenians by the Turkish troops.

It is intended to assert "the right of American citizens, not to interfere with the internal management of the Turkish empire or take any steps looking toward a dismemberment of it, or to severance of its connection with any of its provinces, but to lift up their voices in the cause of humanity."

Among others Gen. James R. O'Beirne is interesting himself in the arrangements for the meeting.

MISSING BICYCLIST LENZ.

British Consul Graves Thinks He Has Been Murdered by Turkish Brigands.

EAST LIVERPOOL, Dec. 11.—Attorney J. J. Purinton of this city, who had been making an active effort to find some trace of Frank Lenz, the missing Pittsburgh bicyclist, who started out to go around the globe on his wheel for *Outing*, and who was last heard from at Tabreez, Persia, on April 28 of this year, received a letter yesterday from R. W. Graves, British Consul at Erzeroum, Turkey. Mr. Graves says that he has little doubt but that the wheelman has fallen in with the brigands in Asiatic Turkey, and been robbed and murdered.

Lenz, he says, passed through Diadin, just west of the Persian border and 150 miles from Tabreez, on May 7. He has asked the Governor of the province to make a thorough search. Ziegler & Co. of Erzeroum had received an order from Tabreez instructing them to honor a draft for £10 presented by Lenz, but the draft was never presented.

Mr. Purinton has forwarded the letters to the State Department at Washington with a request for a complete investigation.