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## THE TURKS AND THE ARMENIAN S.

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EXTRACTED FROM "LITTLE  
KNOWN PARTS OF ASIA MINOR"

by

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### VOL. I. CHAP. X

"We are aware that a different opinion prevails in Europe, and that many suppose that modern civilization can be grafted upon Mohammedan faith, just as effectually and as easily as it is supposed to have been grafted upon Christianity. This hypothesis is based upon two radical mistakes. It ignores the influence of Christianity in producing modern civilization, and ascribes the changes wrought by the latter to its own inherent power. But the other mistake is still more glaring. It forgets the nature of Islam, which comprises a complete system, not only of faith, but of morals, civil polity, and law; the whole originating from one mind, closely bound together in all its parts, and bearing the sanction of a Divine, and, therefore, infallible revelation. It is easy to see that such a system can exist only in its integrity: if one portion be rejected, the whole necessarily falls to the ground. The reforms that have thus far been made by the Turks, refer only to matters unrevealed in the Koran, i. e. the costume of the people, the military organization, and affairs of a secondary nature. It has been extremely difficult to bring about these reforms on account of the strong prejudices of an ignorant and bigoted population, who are accustomed to believe that nothing good can come to them from Giaours. But the Koran remains as yet untouched. The nearest approach that has been made to the violation of its principles, has been the removal of the hateful and humiliating capitation tax, whereby every Christian was obliged to pay a yearly tribute for the privilege of carrying his head upon his shoulders (†). But in its stead another tax has been substituted, bearing a different name, and much larger in amount. This was done after duly consulting the "law officers of the Crown," and ascertaining from them that it could be done without really disobeying the commands of the Koran. But all attempts to introduce the taking of the testimony of Christ-

ians in cases affecting Muslims have failed, and will prove unavailing. Even were the Government finally compelled to keep the promises which, for the mere purpose of gaining time, they have made, upon the subject, to the European powers; the judge whose only law book is the Koran and its Commentaries, would feel bound to pay no attention in his decision to anything advanced by a Giaour. So also respecting the false witness of a Mohammedan; as long as it is sanctioned by "the Book," which, by requiring such witness to be accepted, apologizes for the perjurer, and screens him from punishment, it will be found impossible to purify the courts of justice, without denying the authority of that book. The same principle is made apparent in another notorious fact. The Government, ever awake to the importance of maintaining a high character with the European powers, and of throwing dust in their eyes, have established in all the large cities, where they are watched by the eagle-eyed consular body, schools which profess to go beyond mere Mohammedan law, and to teach modern science; and as no suitable teachers can be found among the Turks, the professors are foreigners. But it is found that these schools never prosper, and the only reason assigned for it is that the branches taught in them have an infidel tendency, i. e. they are opposed to the teaching of the Koran. The consequence is that very few men, such only as have already lost their faith in Mohammedanism, are willing to send their children to them. And they must also be ready to encounter public opinion, which considers these institutions Giaour expedients for sapping the foundations of their faith. Turn on the other hand to the Christians, and see the gratitude with which they receive the blessings of an enlightened education, and the proof is irresistible that the hopes of the country lie with them. We are, therefore, firmly and intelligently of the opinion, that as long as Mohammedanism stands, a sufficient reformation in civil and social matters among its votaries is an impossible thing."

### VOL. I. CHAP. XI.

"The Armenians are the inhabitants of the eastern portions, nearly as far as the Caspian Sea. Having even possessed the whole country for a short time, and being ever of an enterprising and inquisitive turn of mind, they have gone forth from their impoverished land and are to be found in all the cities of

the empire engaged in trade and the mechanical arts. They lay claim to a very ancient and honourable ancestry, for they believe themselves to be the descendants of a portion of Adam's posterity, the sons of Haik, who did not after the Deluge, leave their patrimonial estate in the neighbourhood of Ararat, but by remaining near the site of Eden when the rest of mankind had moved down to the plains of Assyria, escaped the confusion of tongues which was produced by the abortive enterprise at Babel, and have preserved, for the most part unchanged, the language of our first parents, which was, therefore, the Armenian. These people generally possess well-proportioned features, dark hair and eyes, and a fair complexion. The women are often possessed of great beauty, and men are met with whose features are marked and prominent. Light hair and blue eyes are unusual, but they sometimes occur."

"The Armenians are fast recovering their own language, which the tyranny of their Muslim masters had compelled them to relinquish for Turkish. They are distinguished from all the rest of the population by their desire for instruction, their national spirit, and their indomitable enterprise and perseverance. They generally have little taste for agricultural pursuits, but their mechanical genius and commercial enterprise have led them to occupy high positions throughout the empire, and have indeed carried them to the very ends of the earth. They have made the greatest progress in education."

After introducing these two nationalities in the western part of Asia through the above mentioned late Rev. H. J. Van Leunep D.D., we come to call the attention and beg the sympathy of the civilized world; of the most liberal Republican Government of the U.S. of America who is well aware of the hostilities and the terrific persecutions to which this Armenian people is subjected not for any other reason but for her Christian religion.

The Turkish Sultan so long as he is a true Muslem and protactor of the Koran and a successor of Mohamed is bound to abuse the Christians directly or indirectly, secretly, or manifest until

they all be obliged to become Mohammedans or perish away, because as they think the whole of the world is created for the Mohamed and his believers.

And for this very begotry the Sultans past and the present Sultan persecute the Christians having their instruments the Governors and the chiefs of various Mohammedan savage tribes and the whole of the Mohammedan communities including the police and the military force and the licensed robbers as is the menslouther Moussa Bey who with his 500 men assailed and killed about 60 Armenians and carried away and violated girls and women forcing them to deny their religion and confess Mohammedanism and burned a whole village by night, murdering those who escaped the fire without regarding the sect and the age and who robbed hundreds of travellers and wounded also an American Missionary, and who is threatening the judges of Constantinople to show his license from the greater authorities and perhaps from the Sultan himself. The Sultan having all these cruel instruments in his hand lies upon the Christian subjects and specially upon those who are too far from being sympathized with any who can be dangerous to his government.

And so they dealed with the Greeks Bulgarians, Servians Roumanians and Montenegrins, until they all gradually rebelled and obtained independence.

And now they are lying upon the Cretans and rather more upon the helpless Armenians like mad bears and hungry wolves.

Is it not yet time for the U. S. Government to find reason and interest enough to exert her influence upon this western part of Asia as well as any European power; while she is more civilized and desirable to all the people of the world than any of European powers which are but the remnants of ancient tyrants?

We earnestly beg the U. S. Government to give her Minister of Constantinople power to watch with protective eyes upon all those affairs as strongly as any European power.

P. H. VARTOOGIAN.

(†)And alas! even with that tribute their heads are not secured. P. H. V.





