
A Word to Turkey.

Washington now admonishes Turkey that if she wants to maintain friendly relations with the people of the United States she must put an end to the Armenian atrocities. It is a word well spoken at a fitting time. It is, moreover, a word such as the Christian allies of Turkey should have spoken before this.

Perhaps it is too much to expect that Germany, held in the thrall of the Prussian theory of "frightfulness" in war, should object to the Turkish effort to wipe the Armenian nation out of existence with one bloody stroke.

But Germany is Christian, as the Armenians are. Germany may justify alliance with Mohammedan Turkey on the sure ground of strategic necessity. But there is no necessity, strategic or otherwise, for Armenian slaughters. There is no gain for Germany or for Turkey in wholesale assassination of a people whose life or death cannot possibly affect the result of the war.

Washington has spoken well. Many patriotic Americans would have had Washington speak in a similar vein when Belgium was violated. But there is a difference, after all, unjustifiable as was the Belgian affair. For Belgium lay in the actual theater of war—just as it has always lain when Europe has fallen to fighting.

But the Armenians are far away from the clash of contending forces. They are touched only by the minor contention in the Caucasus, where Russ and Turk are at grips. There is no conceivable reason for the Armenian atrocities, save black religious hatred and bloody racial prejudice.
