

RED HORRORS IN THE SASOUN.

The Atrocities in Armenia Not Exaggerated.

Revolutionary Conspirators Are to Blame.

What a Correspondent Learned in the
Blood-Stained Country--Bombs
Made of Human Beings.

LONDON, Feb. 2.—A letter has been received here from a special correspondent of the Associated Press who was sent to Armenia from London to investigate the reported Armenian atrocities, and who at present is in Armenia. For reasons that will be readily understood, the name of this correspondent is withheld, but he is a newspaper man well known in America, and he was instructed to make an impartial investigation of the stories told of Turkish cruelty. The correspondent spent a week or more in Constantinople before starting for Armenia, during which time he investigated the reports current there and continued his journey. His first letter has just reached here after having been posted by a trusted messenger at Tiflis, Russia. It contains the first authentic news from Armenia direct and says:

"Whatever secrets may lie under the snow on the Armenian mountains, it seems beyond dispute, from what I have heard from many lips, that the published stories of ferocious butchery and red horrors in the Sasoun villages have at least a reasonable foundation of truth, and that any change, authorized by further investigation, will deal more with numbers than with the degree of the horrors.

HUMAN BOMBS.

"But no matter what light we throw upon the spasmodic wickedness of the Turk or upon the ingenious deviltry of the revolutionary conspirators, we find that it is still the innocent that suffer most. The Turk declares that the Armenians have inflicted shocking outrages upon Turkish men and women and from what is already known of conspiracy methods it is quite likely that the assertion is true.

"For instance, it is reported that as a means of inciting the Turks to commit outrages that will bring down upon them the wrath of a civilized world, Armenians have thrust gun cartridges into the bodies of living Turkish men and women and have exploded them and that in the case of one man, a hole was made just below the bones of the chest for the insertion of a quantity of gunpowder which was then ignited as a sort of bomb.

"These facts are known to the embassies at Constantinople and probably they have been transmitted in reports to the various governments.

"The impartial truth of the Sasoun massacre will probably never be known, for the dead tell no tales. A careful sifting of all the facts obtainable from trustworthy sources in Constantinople, Sasoun, Kerasund, Trebizonde and Bitlis indicates that this is what happened:

THE CRUEL KURDS.

"Certain Armenian peasants to the number of several thousand were tending their herds and flocks in their summer pastures in the Sasoun mountains along the borders of Kurdistan. They were living in mere temporary villages which they inhabited only during the summer pasture season, their winter herds going far down the valley. They were under contract to defend them against the raids of cattle stealers and Kurdish bands. A short time before the villagers were ready to return to their homes in the valleys with their fattened cattle, a band of Kurdish bandits, industriously searching for a winter's supply of provisions, raided

their stock. The villagers and their Kurdish protectors made a vigorous defense. They would have ended it but before the fighting was over the Turkish government came into the affair and then the real trouble began. Some of them telegraphed that a conspiracy was in progress among the Armenians in the mountain villages and the order came straight from the palace:

"Punish the villagers to the utmost extremity."

The palace has not paused to inquire into the truth of the rumor and the officers entrusted with the execution of the order did not investigate the facts when the troops arrived on the ground. The Kurdish band joined forces with the Turkish regulars and even the Kurds, who had been defending the Armenians, turned traitors and swelled the numbers of the government troops. The poor Armenian peasants were then left at the mercy of a force of Turkish regulars and two bands of Kurds. The massacre began. For the Armenians it was a fight without hope, but still they fought as only men can to defend their wives and children from outrage and death. They took refuge in their houses and barricaded themselves in, but the Kurdish cannon made short work of these, and when the men in terror from their hiding places ran, they were slain without mercy, man, woman and child. The outrage of Armenian women and children by the Turks in that part of the country is so common a thing, even at times of absolute quiet, that there can be no doubt this massacre was attended with outrage and atrocity to horrible to think of. The Armenians in Athens and Constantinople assert that 42 villages were destroyed and nearly 10,000 persons massacred; but more impartial and equally informed persons put the number at 25 villages and from 1000 to 3000 persons killed. The exact number will never be known.

A FRAUDULENT COMMISSION.

As for the Turkish commission, it is such a fraud that it is a waste of breath to talk about it. The sultan's promise of reform will not be binding upon the

Armenian revolutionary agents, no matter what may come, and until the revolutionary agitation is provided for one way or another by the Christian powers of the world, there will be no end to the disturbances in Armenia. This is the revolutionary party's opportunity and it will make the most of it. If Christianity does not step in now and put an end to the question once for all, crimes, massacres and the nameless atrocities will continue.

Not only should the Sassoun massacre be probed to the bottom, but all the attending circumstances should be carefully considered. For one thing the state of morals in Armenia, and especially along the Kurdish frontier, should receive the closest scrutiny. The facts that are now and then told as merest matters of course, are most ap-

palling in the depths of depravity. When an Armenian girl is to be married she is taken from her home and outraged by bands of Turks and Kurds, and any member of her family who lifts a hand in defense of her honor is shot down.

THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN MUST SUFFER.

On the Kurdish frontier the ravishers do not even wait for the approach of a girl's wedding, but they seize her when she has reached a certain age and carry her off to the mountains where she is most shamefully treated. In a few days she is allowed to return to her home. This infamous practice is so common that it is declared there is not a young Armenian woman living along the Kurdish frontier who has not been a victim of it. Even children of tender years are not exempt, and some have actually died in the most frightful agony. Any attempt of the Armenians to combat this question, or to punish the perpetrators of the outrages, is met by severe measures. It is a significant fact that outrages are never perpetrated by Turks upon other Turks, or by Kurds upon their fellow tribesmen. It is always upon the Armenian Christian that

Turk and Kurd let loose their depravity. It is the difference of religion that is the basis of all this injury, oppression and wrong. What will the practical Christianity of England and America do about it? Will it help the Armenian revolutionist party to form an independent state in order that the women and children may be protected against outrage and death? Will it give Armenia to Christian Russia, where already many thousands of Armenians are living in peace and prosperity? Will it drive the Turks from power and divide their empire among the nations of Europe? Whatever practical Christianity decides to do it will not do it as a result of the report of the Turkish commission of inquiry.

As the situation now stands, one is forced to believe both Turk and Armenian are in the wrong.

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