

March 19, 1895

KURDISH FIENDISH CRUELTY.

Horrible Tales of Witnesses Before Armenian Inquiry Committee.

LONDON, March 18. ? The Daily Telegraph has a Moosh dispatch, sub-dated from Kars yesterday. The dispatch says:

“The difficulties placed in the way of witnesses coming to testify before the Commission of Inquiry are almost insuperable. Every road is patrolled by bands of gendarmes, who put intending witnesses out of the way. Persons from villages in the Sassoun district and survivors of the massacre are treated as criminals.

“The Armenians who feed or shelter them are imprisoned and beaten. The testimony of several witnesses piles horror on horror. For instance, a witness hiding in the oak scrub saw soldiers gouge out the eyes of two priests, who in horrible agony implored their tormentors to kill them. But the soldiers compelled them to dance while screaming with pain, and presently bayoneted them.

“The number of witnesses is increasing. The stories are essentially identical. The mass of evidence is so overwhelming that the Government may soon admit that the massacre has been proved, and relieve the commission of further inquiry. When the weather shall permit the members will go to Sassoun to inspect the four pits filled with mutilated bodies.”

Sir Edward Grey announced that, in consequence of the Government's having received information alleging that as a result of mock trials, or without trial at all, 2,500 Armenians had been sentenced to imprisonment and were still confined, representations had been made to the Porte for the purpose of ascertaining the truth and the attending circumstances.

The New York Times