

# Story of the Massacre Told by an Eye-Witness

**Armenians Shot Down by American Missionary's Side  
While Begging Official to Protect Them—"Adana  
Was a Hell"—Military Commander a Craven.**

Adana, Asiatic Turkey, via Constantinople. — The Rev. Herbert Adams Gibbons, of Hartford, Conn., a missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions stationed here and at Tarsus, was an eyewitness of the scenes of terror and destruction at the centre of the Moslem uprising. He gives the following story of massacre, rapine and incendiarism:

"The entire vilayet of Adana has been visited during the last five days with a terrible massacre of Armenians, the worst ever known in the history of the district. The terror has been universal, and the Government is powerless to check the disorders. Adana, the capital of the province, has been the storm centre.

"Conditions have been unsettled for some time past, and there has been animosity between Turks and Armenians, owing to the political activity of the latter and their open purchasing of arms.

"Early last Wednesday morning, while I was in the market, I noticed that the Armenians were closing their shops and hurrying to their homes. An Armenian and a Turk had been killed during the night, and the corpses were paraded through their respective quarters. The sight of the dead inflamed the inhabitants, and crowds at once began to gather in the streets armed with sticks, axes and knives. A few young Armenians assembled in the centre of the covered market and began firing revolver shots into the air. By 11 o'clock in the morning the crowd had begun the looting of shops.

**Military Commander in Seclusion.**

"The military commander of Adana was by my side in the market when the firing commenced. He had not the courage to endeavor to disperse the mob; he returned to his residence and did not venture out for two days.

"William Chambers, Field Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, and myself proceeded to the Konak and found a howling mob demanding arms with which to kill the Glacours. We then went to the telegraph office to summon the British Consul. On the steps of the building we saw three Armenians who had been killed. Their bodies had been mutilated. While we were in the telegraph office a mob burst into the room where we were and killed two Armenians before our eyes. The unfortunates were supplicating the protection of the Vail when they were struck down.

"We managed to make our way into the next room, where we made representations to the Vail. This official said he could do nothing. He was afraid for his own life, and he made no attempt to protect us. Somehow we managed to get to the interior of the Konak, where we remained at the side of the Government officials for the next forty-eight hours.

"That afternoon the situation grew distinctly worse. The Armenians withdrew to their quarter of Adana, which is situated on a hill, and converted the houses that held advantageous positions into fortresses. Here the fighting went on for two days, during which the Armenians succeeded in beating off their Turkish assailants.

### **British Woman Cares For Wounded.**

"Wednesday evening Major Daugherty-Wylle, the British Vice-Consul at Mersina, arrived at Adana and established headquarters in the house of the dragoman of a wealthy Greek resident, where many refugees had been received. The wife of the British Vice-Consul, who was brought into Adana under fire on Thursday, tended personally to many wounded women and children.

"Adana was a hell. The bazaars were looted and set on fire. There was continuous and unceasing shooting and killing in every part of the town, and fires raged in many quarters.

"Moslems from the neighborhood began pouring into the city, and notwithstanding our protests, the Vail distributed arms to these men, alleging that they were Turkish reserves.

"Major Daugherty-Wylle, at the head of troops which he compelled the Vail to supply, went to the railroad station of the town and was successful in preventing the villagers from coming into Adana. Later, while the Major was attempting to pacify the town he was shot and disabled.

"Missionaries of the Central Turkey Mission had assembled for a district conference in the centre of Adana on the day of the outbreak. They received and protected hundreds of refugees in the American Seminary for Girls, and courageously endeavored to pacify the warring elements.

### **Missionaries Treacherously Killed.**

"On Thursday Daniel Miner Rogers and Henry Maurer, American missionaries, were killed under treacherous circumstances.

"On Friday the Armenians yielded, since when there has been little murdering.

"Adana is in a pitiable condition. The town has been pillaged and destroyed, and there are thousands of homeless people here without means of livelihood. It is impossible to estimate the number of killed. The corpses lie scattered through the streets. Friday, when I went out, I had to pick my way between the dead

to avoid stepping on them. Saturday morning I counted a dozen cartloads of Armenian bodies in one-half hour being carried to the river and thrown into the water. In the Turkish cemeteries graves are being dug wholesale.

"The condition of the refugees is most pitiable and heartrending. Not only are there orphans and widows beyond number, but a great many, even the babies, are suffering from severe wounds.

"The situation in Adana itself is unspeakable. On Friday afternoon 250 so-called Turkish reserves, without officers, seized a train at Adana and compelled the engineer to convey them to Tarsus, where they took part in the complete destruction of the Armenian quarter of that town, which is the best part of Tarsus. Their work of looting was thorough and rapid. It is said that they spread with kerosene and fired the great historic Armenian Church at Tarsus, the most important building in the city. They demolished marble statues and shattered important historic tablets. Everything portable was carried away, but the church itself resisted their attempts to burn it. Fortunately few persons were killed here. This was owing to the proximity of the American College, where 4000 destitute and homeless persons had sought and found shelter."

### **Man Beaten to Death.**

Thomas Brown, sixty-six, was found beaten to death at his home in President street, Brooklyn, N. Y. His son Edward, seemingly insane, was accused of the murder.

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