

The Nebraska Advertiser.

MORE ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

Some Fugitives of 1895 Return to Turkey and Bloodshed Speedily Follows.

The reports have come of the renewal of massacres of Armenians in the villages of Erzeroum, in Asia Minor. The district of Alashgird, in which they are said to have taken place, is near the Russian frontier, and is one of those from which the Armenian inhabitants were able to escape across the border at the time of the great massacres in 1895, and subsequently. Until last spring the Russian government allowed the fugitives the hospitality of its territory among their fellow-countrymen who were delivered from Turkish rule in 1878, but partly on account of the burden of their maintenance and for political reasons, Mr. Zinoveiff, the Russian ambassador at Constantinople, was instructed to press on the Turkish government the necessity for provision being made for their return to their abandoned homes. The Turkish government, however, represented that the villages and farms from which the Armenians had fled, had been occupied by Kurds who refused to give them up to their original owners, and whom it could not expel by force, and that the return of the Armenians after so long an absence would infallibly result in bloodshed.

Under the circumstances the Russian government did not insist on the refugees leaving its territory, but many drifted back and rejoined those who had survived the great massacre of four years ago. It is possible that matters might have settled down but for the action of some revolutionary Armenians who crossed into Turkish territory during the past autumn, and in the fighting that took place killed a number of Kurds, themselves losing many of their band. The massacre now reported to have taken place in the Alashgird district is declared by the Turkish authorities to have been in revenge for the killing of Kurds by the Armenians in the raid alluded to.

Whatever the truth of the matter may be, the lot of the unfortunate Armenians in Asia Minor, more particularly in the Kurdish districts, is unhappy. They obtain no protection from the government to which they owe allegiance, and they are unwelcome in the Russian territory where alone they can find sure refuge. The European governments regarding them as a disturbing element in a part of the world where they all desire to see peace maintained, have long ceased to take any account of their grievances and complaints; and the sixty-first article of the treaty of Berlin by which united Europe promised the Armenians an amelioration of their condition has long since become a dead letter. These last massacres, therefore, receive only a passing notice.—N. Y. Sun.

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