

GENERAL MASSACRE FEARED

Terror Among Christians in Turkey

New York, Feb. 2—Fears have been repeatedly expressed during the last three months that the Turks are planning another general massacre of the Christians in the interior of Turkey. The Kurds, particularly in Kurdistan, are much excited, and it needs only a spark to start them. The World has information which indicates that at Mardin, Bitlis, Diarbekr and Harpoot, the principal cities of Central and Eastern Turkey, the Mussulmans are only waiting a favorable opportunity to repeat the work of the fall of 1895 and the spring of 1896, when village after village of unprotected and innocent Armenians was wiped out of existence because the inhabitants would not renounce Christianity and bow down to Islam. At Harpoot the Armenians live in a constant state of terror, and this is true of many of the other cities in Asiatic Turkey. The Turks threaten the Armenians openly in the market place, and tell them that they have but a short time to live. A letter written by the World correspondent at Trebizond, a seaport town on the Black Sea, dated Dec. 31, says:

"There is much talk among the Turks

throughout Asiatic Turkey to the effect that Armenians were conspiring against them. The former are planning what they will do when such an exigency arrives. Of course the talk of the Armenians revolting is idle, for they are completely crushed. But this is just the kind of talk the Turks indulged in previous to the massacres of 1895. Two weeks ago there was a good deal of fear and anxiety at Mardin. It was understood that a massacre of the Armenians by the Turks was very carefully planned. Every Armenian was to have been killed and all his property confiscated by the Government. Providentially a telegram came from Constantinople in time to stop it. Large patrols were sent out at night by the military governor, and the soldiers were ordered to sleep with their arms by their sides. The Armenians wondered at the patrols, but only learned of their danger after the crisis seemed past for the time. I learn that at Harpoot too a massacre had been planned. A friendly Turk told an Armenian that the Mussulmans were waiting for an outbreak somewhere as an excuse for another raid on the Christians. The unruly Turks have very little fears of the Government, while it is not at all certain that the Government does not wish another outbreak. The local Government is very slack. Leading men have told me that they were sure there was to be another reign of terror."