

**TO DIVERT ATTENTION.**

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**Sultan Said to Have Ordered Massacre of Christians in Armenia.**

Berlin, April 30.—Die Information reports that the sultan recently summoned the Kurd chiefs in Asia Minor to Constantinople and instructed them to recommence the Armenian massacres which caused such a sensation throughout the civilized world six years ago. Abdul's idea, the paper asserts, is that bloodshed on a large scale in Armenia would distract attention from Macedonia and relieve the pressure in European Turkey.

Armenian massacres, the paper's correspondent says, have already occurred in the districts of Van, Vaspurakan, Mush and Sassun. In a fight near Van the Armenians fought the Kurds fiercely, with the result that nearly 200 were killed and several hundred wounded. The majority of the casualties was among the Kurds. The Armenian fugitives crossed the Russian frontier pursued by the Turkish cavalry. The Turks continued the pursuit over the border. Russian frontier guards raised an alarm and a regiment of Cossacks appeared and fired on the Turks. A brief encounter followed, then the Turks retreated. The Local Anzeiger's correspondent also reports an encounter and says a Turkish officer and six of his men were killed.