

Those Armenian Atrocities.

Recent advices by cable leave little doubt of the truth of first reports of the terrible atrocities lately perpetrated on Armenian Christians in Asia Minor. The facts themselves outrival all comment. For example, peruse this:

For about eighteen months, the Armenian refugees say, the Province of Sassoun has been surrounded by Turkish troops and nobody has been allowed to enter it or leave. About four months ago the Turkish authorities learned that the inhabitants of Vartemis, a village outside the frontier of Sassoun, were sending for the necessaries of life to the village of Dalvorig. Such communication between the two villages being prohibited, the Turks massacred nearly all the inhabitants of Vartemis. Dalvorig, it appears, is the largest village in the Province of Sassoun, and its inhabitants, when they learned of the horrors perpetrated by the Turks at Vartemis, attacked the Turks on the frontier. The Turkish commander eventually sent twelve soldiers into Dalvorig in order to learn what occurred. The Armenians, filled with indignation at the atrocities committed by the Turks at Vartemis, attacked this detachment of Turkish soldiers and put them all to death.

This was the first episode in this almost unparalleled international tragedy. The second is thus narrated:

When the Turkish commander heard of the death of his soldiers, he determined upon avenging it in the most bloody manner possible. A strong force of Turkish troops was sent to the village with artillery and the massacre began. The gun kept up a continuous fire upon Dalvorig until, practically, not one stone was left standing upon another. Selo, the Bey of Initzoun, a Kurd with a detachment of Kurdish cavalry, went with the Turkish soldiers to the village of Semial and forcibly took the Armenian priest from his church and bound him on a donkey which they drove a distance of a few yards. The soldiers then fired at the priest and killed him and the beast he was bound to. From this village Selo forcibly took eight Armenian girls and sent them to his harem at Initzoun. Further atrocities were committed by the Turks at the village of

Kellehuzen. Before dawn, this place was surrounded by soldiers and while the inhabitants were still asleep, it was set on fire. The brutal soldiers entered the residence of a man named Arakel, who was asleep with his wife and tortured them both internally, in a terrible manner with red, hot irons. At Kellehuzen the soldiers killed the Armenian priest, Margosv, who, with twenty other inmates of a house, was burned to death, the soldiers preventing anybody from escaping from the burning dwelling. The chief of the village of Cheneg was captured by the soldiers and bound to his two daughters. All three were then scalded to death with boiling water. A detachment of twenty-five regulars of the Turkish cavalry, after committing inexpressible horrors at the village of Sebhank, went to the village school and tortured the girls found there. The cavalymen then devastated the building. Ibo Bey, a notorious Kurd brigand of the village of Djibran, and a colonel in the regular army, went with a detachment of Turkish troops to the Armenian villages of Bahlou, Hatezgent and Komk, and at each place they committed every crime which it was possible to commit. After driving out men they collected the female children of Bahlou together, about 200 in all, and killed them all with guns and swords. After this massacre the Turkish soldiers regaled themselves with wine and whatever else they could find in the village. The number of villages devastated in this manner is said to be over thirty-two.

It is announced that the Turkish government has agreed to "institute an inquiry;" but the moral effect of such a proceeding has been pretty effectually discounted by its action in interdicting all American newspapers containing accounts of the atrocities. Even if the Porte had a good reputation for promptness and thoroughness in the correction of injustices, this intimation of a star-chamber purpose would excite suspicion. As the case stands, it looks as if the Christian powers were now in honor bound to take cognizance of these massacres in a manner which will effectually prevent their recurrence. A wiping of Turkey off the map would be none too radical a reprisal for such unblushing barbarity.