

THE CRY OF ARMENIA.

DR. TALMAGE RELATES THE HORRORS OF THE MASSACRE.

The Turk Places No Value on the Life of a Christian—Heroic Work of Missionaries—Duty of the Nations to Stop Persecution—Christendom Apathy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12.—It was appropriate that in the presence of the chief men of this nation and other nations Dr. Talmage should tell the story of Armenian massacre. What will be the extent or good of such a discourse none can tell. The text was 11. Kings xix, 37. "They escaped into the land of Armenia."

In Bible geography this is the first time that Armenia appears, called then by the same name as now. Armenia is chiefly a tableland, 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, and on one of its peaks Noah's ark landed, with its human family and fauna that were to fill the earth. That region was the birthplace of the river which fertilized the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve lived there, their only roof the crystal skies and their carpet the emerald of rich grass. Its inhabitants, the ethnologists tell us, are a superior type of the Caucasian race. Their religion is founded on the Bible. Their Saviour is our Christ. Their crime is that they will not become followers of Mohammed, that Jupiter of sensuality. To drive them from the face of the earth is the ambition of all Mohammedans. To accomplish this, murder is no crime, and wholesale massacre is a matter of enthusiastic approbation and governmental reward.

The prayer sanctioned by highest Mohammedan authority and recited every day throughout Turkey and Egypt, while styling all those not Mohammedans as infidels, is as follows: "O Lord of all creatures! O Allah, destroy the infidel and polytheists, thine enemies, the enemies of the religion! O Allah make their children orphans and defile their bodies! Cause their feet to sin, give them and their families, their households and their women, their children and their relatives by marriage, their brothers and their friends, their possessions and the race, their wealth and their lands as booty to the Moslems, O Lord of all creatures!"

The life of an Armenian in the presence of those who make that prayer is of no more value than the life of a summer insect. The Sultan of Turkey sits on a throne impersonating that brigandage and assassination. At this time all civilized nations are in horror at the attempts of that Mohammedan Government to destroy all the Christians of Armenia. I hear somebody talking as though some new thing were happening, and that the Turkish Government had taken a new role of tragedy on the stage of nations. No, no! She is at the same old business. Overlooking her diabolism of other centuries, we come down to our century, to find that in 1822 the Turkish Government slew 50,000 anti-Moslems, and in 1850 she slew 10,000 and in 1860 she slew 11,000 and in 1876 she slew 10,000. Anything short of the slaughter of thousands of human beings does not put enough red wine into her cup of abomination to make it worth quaffing. Nor is this the only time she has promised reform. In the presence of the warships at the mouth of the Dardanelles she has promised the civilized nations of the earth that she would stop her butcheries, and the international and hemispheric farce has been enacted of believing what she says, when all the past ought to persuade us that she is only pausing in her atrocities to put nations off the track and then resume the work of death.

In 1820 Turkey, in treaty with Russia, promised to alleviate the condition of Christians, but the promise was broken. In 1839 the then Sultan promised protection of life and property without reference to religion, and the promise was broken. In 1844, at the demand of an English Minister Plenipotentiary, the Sultan declared, after the public execution of an Armenian at Constantinople, that no such death penalty should again be inflicted, and the promise was broken. In 1850, at the demand of foreign nations, the Turkish Government promised to protect the Protestants, but to this day the Protestants at Stamboul are not allowed to build a church, although they have the funds ready, and the Greek Protestants, who have a church, are not permitted to worship in it. In 1856, after the Crimean war, Turkey promised that no one should be hindered in the exercise of the religion he professed, and that promise has been broken. In 1878, at the memorable treaty of Berlin, Turkey promised religious liberty to all her subjects in every part of the Ottoman Empire, and the promise was broken. Not once, in all the centuries, has the Turkish Government kept her promise of mercy. So far from any improvement, the condition of the Armenians has become worse and worse year by year, and all the promises the Turkish Government now makes are only a gaining of time by which she is making preparations for the complete extermination of Christianity from her borders.

Why, after all the national and continental and hemispheric lying on the part

of the Turkish Government, do not the warships of Europe ride up as close as possible to the palaces of Constantinople and blow that accursed government to atoms! In the name of the eternal God let the nuisance of the ages be wiped off the face of the earth! Down to the perdition from which it smoked up sink Mohammedanism! Between these outbreaks of massacre the Armenians suffer in silence wrongs that are seldom if ever reported. They are taxed heavily for the mere privilege of living, and the tax is called "the humiliation tax." They are compelled to give three days' entertainment to any Mohammedan tramp who may be passing that way. They must pay blackmail to the assessor, lest he report the value of their property too highly. Their evidence in court is of no worth and if 50 Armenians saw a wrong committed and one Mohammedan was present the testimony of the one Mohammedan would be taken and the testimony of the 50 Armenians rejected. In other words, the solemn oath of a thousand Armenians would not be strong enough to overthrow the perjury of one Mohammedan. A professor was condemned to death for translating the English "Book of Common Prayer" into Turkish. Seventeen Armenians were sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment for rescuing a Christian bride from the bandits. This is the way the Turkish Government amuses itself in time of peace. These are the delights of Turkish civilization.

But when the days of massacre come then deeds are done which may not be unveiled in any refined assemblage, and if one speak of the horrors he must do so in well poised and cautious vocabulary. Hundreds of villages destroyed! Young men put in piles of brushwood, which are then saturated with kerosene and set on fire. Mothers, in the most solemn hour that ever comes in a woman's life, hurled out and bayoneted! Eyes gouged out and dead and dying hurled into the same pit! The slaughter of Lucknow and Cawnpore, India, in 1857, eclipsed in ghastliness! The worst scene of the French revolution in Paris made more tolerable in contrast! In many regions of Armenia the only undertakers to-day are the jackals and hyenas. Many of the chiefs of the massacres were sent straight from Constantinople to do this work, and having returned were decorated by the Sultan.

To four of the worst murderers the Sultan sent silk banners in delicate appreciation of their services. Five hundred thousand Armenians put to death or lying of starvation! This moment, while I speak, all up and down Armenia sit many people, freezing in the ashes of their destroyed homes, bereft of most of their households and awaiting the club of assassination to put them out of their misery. No wonder that the physicians of that region declared that among all the men and women that were down with wounds and sickness and under their care not one wanted to get well. Remember that nearly all the reports that have come to us of the Turkish outrages have been manipulated and modified and softened by the Turks themselves. The story is not half told, or a hundredth part told, or a thousandth part told.

None but God and our suffering brothers and sisters in that far off land know the whole story, and it will not be known until, in the coronations of heaven, Christ shall lift to a special throne of glory those heroes and heroines, saying, "These are they who came out of great tribulation and had their robes washed and made white in the blood of the lamb!" My Lord and my God Thou didst on the cross suffer for them, but Thou surely, O Christ, wilt not forget how much they have suffered for thee! I dare not deal in imprecation, but I never so much enjoyed the imprecations of David as since I have heard how those Turks are treating the Armenians. The fact is, Turkey has got to be divided up among other nations. Of course the European nations must take the chief part but Turkey ought to be compelled to pay America for the American mission buildings and American school houses she has destroyed and to support the wives and children of the Americans ruined by this wholesale butchery. When the English lion and the Russian bear put their paws on that Turkey, the American eagle ought to put in his bill.

Who are these American and English and Scotch missionaries who are being hounded among the mountains of Armenia by the Mohammedans? The noblest men and women this side of heaven, some of them men who took the highest honors at Yale and Princeton and Harvard and Oxford and Edinburgh; some of those women, gentle and most Christlike, who, to save people they never saw, turned their backs on luxurious homes to spend their days in self-expatriation, saying good by to father and mother and afterward good by to their own children, as circumstances compel them to send the little ones to England, Scotland or America. I have seen these foreign missionaries in their homes all around the world, and I stamp with indignation upon the literary blackguardism of foreign correspondents who have depreciated these heroes and heroines who are willing to live and die for Christ's

sake. They will have the highest thrones in heaven, while their defamers will not get near enough to the shining gates to see the faintest glint of any one of the twelve pearls which make up the twelve gates.

This defamation of missionaries is augmented by the dissolute English, American and Scotch merchants, who go to foreign cities, leaving their families behind them. Those dissolute merchants in foreign cities lead a life of such gross immorals that the pure households of the missionaries are a perpetual rebuke. Buzzards never did believe in doves, and if there is anything that nightshades hates it is the water lily. What the 550 American missionaries have suffered in the Ottoman Empire since 1820 I leave the angel to announce on the day of judgment. You will see it reasonable that I put so much emphasis on Americanism in the Ottoman empire when I tell you that America, notwithstanding all the disadvantages named, has now over 27,000 students in day schools in that empire and 35,000 children in her Sabbath schools, and that America has expended in the Turkish Empire for its betterment over \$10,000,000. Has not America a right to be heard? Aye! It will be heard! I am glad that great indignation meetings are being held all over this country. That poor, weak, cowardly Sultan, whom I saw a few years ago ride to his mosque for worship, guarded by 7000 armed men, many of them mounted on prancing chargers, will hear of these sympathetic meetings for the Armenians, if not through American reporters, then through some of his 300 wives. What to do with him? There ought to be some St. Helena to which he could be exiled, while the nations of Europe appoint a ruler of their own to clean out and take possession of the palaces of Constantinople. To-night this august assemblage in the capital of the United States, in the name of the God of nations, indicts the Turkish Government for the wholesale assassination in Armenia and invokes the interference of Almighty God and the protest of eastern and western hemispheres.

But what is the duty of the hour? Sympathy, deep, wide, tremendous, immediate! A religious paper, The Christian Herald of New York, has led the way with munificent contributions collected from subscribers. But the Turkish Government is opposed to any relief of the Armenian sufferers, as I personally know. Last August, before I had any idea of becoming a fellow citizen with you Washingtonians, \$50,000 for Armenian relief was offered me if I would personally take the relief to Armenia. My passage was to be engaged on the City of Paris, but a telegram was sent to Constantinople, asking if the Turkish Government would grant me protection on such an errand of mercy. A cablegram said the Turkish Government wished to know to what points in Armenia I wished to go with that relief. In our reply four cities were named, one of them the scene of what had been the chief massacre. A cablegram came from Constantinople saying that I had better send the money to the Turkish Government's mixed commission, and they would distribute it. So a cobweb of spiders proposed a relief committee for unfortunate flies! Well, a man who would start up through the mountains of Armenia with \$50,000 and no Government protection would be guilty of monumental foolhardiness.

The Turkish Government has in every possible way hindered Armenian relief. Now, where is that angel of mercy, Clara Barton, who appeared on the battlefields of Fredericksburg, Antietam, Falmouth and Cedar Mountain, and under the blaze of French and German guns at Metz and Paris and in Johnston floods, and Charleston earthquake, and Michigan fires and Russian famine? It was comparatively of little importance that the German Emperor decorated her with the Iron Cross for God hath decorated her in the sight of all nations with a glory that neither time nor eternity can dim. Born in a Massachusetts village, she came in her girlhood to this city to serve our Government in the patent office, but afterwards went forth from the doors of that patent office with a divine patent, signed and sealed by God, Himself, to heal all the wounds she could touch and make the horrors of the flood and fire and plague and hospital fly her presence. God bless Clara Barton! Just as I expected, she lifts the banner of the Red Cross.

Turkey and all nations are pledged to respect and defend that Red Cross, although that color of cross does not in the opinion of many, stand for Christianity. In my opinion it does stand for Christianity, for was not the cross under which most of us worship red with the blood of the Son of God, red with the best blood that was ever shed, red with the blood poured out for the ransom of the world? Then lead on, O Red Cross! And let Clara Barton carry it! The Turkish Government is bound to protect her, and the chariots of God are 20,000, and their charioteers are angels of deliverance, and they would all ride down at once to roll over and trample under the hoofs of their white horses any of her assailants. May the \$500,000 she seeks be laid at her feet! Then may the ships that carry her across Atlantic and Mediterranean seas be guided safely by Him who trod in sapphire pavement bestormed Galilee! Upon soil incarnadined with martyrdom let the Red Cross be planted, until every demolished

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