

balance to be held in the United States treasury for the benefit of the Indians.

As might have been expected, the Indians get decidedly the worst of it. On its face the measure seems fair, in allotting to the natives agricultural land on the present reserve, and making the other provisions named. But when it comes to applying the law, its effect is practical robbery of the red man. There are very few, if any, of the Southern Utes who are qualified to receive lands in severalty as proposed; therefore the Indians virtually will be confined to the new boundaries. The bulk of the land will go to white men, and the Indians will be on the poorer section of the country both in Colorado and New Mexico, where their lot will be much worse than it is now.

In the meantime, action cannot be taken too promptly in opening San Juan county, Utah, to settlement. The restriction of the Indians to a smaller area and a more forbidding section than they have been accustomed to no doubt will cause a stronger desire on their part to break beyond bounds; and in order to preserve the rights of San Juan settlers no time should be lost in opening the way for them to obtain government title to the land that is no longer intended in prospective for Indian occupancy. In the interests of the people of that county, someone directly associated with this matter should move at once to secure the proper official action by the interior department.

THE ARMENIAN MASSACRE.

The report now published on the conditions prevailing in Armenia embodies the results of an impartial investigation and appears thoroughly reliable. It more than confirms the rumors that for some time have shocked the civilized world.

The Armenian question necessarily must be considered in connection with the record of the Turkish government during the past years. An Eastern exchange, quoting authorities on the history of the Sublime Porte, proves that since 1822 the enormous number of 93,000 Christians have been slain in Turkey, in the most cruel manner. In the year mentioned 50,000 Greeks were massacred on the island of Scio. In 1850, 10,000 Armenians suffered death near Mosul. In 1860, Syrian Christians to the number of 11,000 were wiped off the earth; 10,000 Bulgarians in 1876 were cruelly murdered, and in 1892, 2,000 inhabitants of Yezidee were similarly treated. All these atrocities are on record, and if any conclusion is to be drawn from the facts, it is that the policy of the government is to keep the conquered nations in subjugation by means of a rule of terror, barbarous in the extreme. In fact, the supposed necessity of this has been maintained by the sultan's trusted servants. One of them, a governor of Damascus, expressly stated that "the government can only maintain its supremacy in Syria by cutting down the Christian sects."

No satisfactory solution of the Armenian problem can be expected as long as the Christians in that country

remain under Turkish dominion. The antagonistic elements represented by the Mohammedans and the Nazarenes will always cause conflicts. The common Turks have never ceased to believe that it is a meritorious act to exterminate the "unbelievers," nor will they neglect an opportunity of doing so. Greeks and Bulgarians were torn from Turkish rule after years of suffering. Europe sickened by the horrid details of the repeated massacres, gave those countries independence. Not till similar action has been taken with regard to Armenia can the trouble there be considered settled.

The Armenians are probably not altogether blameless in the matter. They are Christians, but they may not as a general rule be animated by a spirit of martyrdom that induce them to suffer without efforts at retaliation. Probably their moral and intellectual status is but what can be expected after centuries of degrading servitude. But as a people they are on a level with the Greeks and Bulgarians, at the time of their liberation. They are progressive and longing for the blessings of civilization. The sufferings to which they daily are subjected constitute a strong appeal to the world for aid. England's statesmen are under moral obligation to listen to this appeal. Every time other nations have threatened to interfere, they have saved Turkey and promised to see that the Christians enjoyed liberty, but the promises have never been fulfilled. Now the time seems ripe again for some decisive action. Why not draw a line of demarcation between Christians and Mohammedans, placing the former under the protection of some Christian country and leaving the latter to govern themselves as they see fit? Public opinion is commencing to point to this natural and only effective remedy of the evils involved in the "eastern question."

THE COLOMBIAN WAR.

Meager accounts only are received of the war now progressing in the United States of Colombia. The little news that does come gives a general impression that the government forces are having things pretty much their own way, and consequently that the rebellion does not amount to much. This feature may be explained in the fact that the ports from which the only intelligence is obtainable are in the hands of the government, which is very careful to permit no specially unfavorable news to get out if it can be avoided. The different points at which the government claims to have been victorious, however, show that the rebellion is widespread; that it is powerful also is proven by the fact that the rebel army which started for Bogota several weeks ago has been able to force its way nearly three hundred miles to the capital city, where it is stated the attack was repulsed by troops under the command of the president.

It will not be a surprise, even with the reports of government victories, to learn of the Colombian rebellion developing into a successful revolution. The federal republic after the

form of the United States Constitution has been abolished in Colombia, a return having been made to the former centralized system; and the president lacks nothing but the title of an absolute sovereign. He chooses the ministers, departmental governors, ambassadors, councillors of state, military chiefs, and nearly all the higher officials. The courts depend on the central government, which has suppressed the militia formerly maintained by the several states. Since the institution of this policy the party opposed to it has been gradually augmented, until now it is equal or even superior in numbers to the administration party. The rebels have the sympathy of the liberal or opposition party, but the conservative leaders of the latter indicate a preference to wait for a change until the president's term expires. Others, however, insist that he will renege himself, and prefer the attempt to compel the change by force of arms and at the same time establish a less tyrannical system than now prevails. Even in Bogota, the capital, which has 100,000 population, the president was able to secure only meager support outside of the regular army. Should the future of the insurrectionists indicate a probability of success, there is no question that they would receive the unanimous support of the opposition party, and then be joined by that class on the other side which always goes with the most powerful faction. If the rebels should be successful it would mean a more liberal system of government in the valley of the Magdalena, where nearly twenty-five centuries ago were fought some of the greatest battles of hate in behalf of popular government.

FOR THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

As a public organization whose object is advancing the interests of Salt Lake City in particular and of the whole Territory in general, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has a splendid opportunity to display ability of a high order in the work of the coming season. In the important department assigned to it, the Chamber should receive the full and hearty support of every public spirited citizen, in the way of material assistance with funds and with suggestions as to lines in which advance may be profitably made. At present there are before the Chamber promotion schemes and plans for a generous advertising of Salt Lake's resources, which no doubt will receive the most careful attention, and from which, in all probability, suitable measures to effect the desired purpose will be evolved.

A chief aim of judicious advertising is to bring in a desirable class of citizens, with capital and energy to inaugurate and build up enterprises that will prove of permanent benefit to those who dwell here. If this purpose is achieved, it means that the population of this city will be largely increased. There are some who are so sanguine upon this point as to declare that here there are ample facilities for a thriving metropolis of half a million inhabitants, whose people could be supported in comfort in Utah's capital, without the usual unpleasant features