

on the Northern train, many of whom had seen the act, their attention being attracted by the slowing down; they knew that a misstep meant widowhood for Mrs. Wilkina and sorrow for five young children in the town of Nyec, where the fireman's home was; and the knowledge of the danger that had been passed through in saving the woman's life brought hearty cheer and congratulations for the brave fireman. His courage is of that high order that is inspired by that greater love which seeks its reward in the salvation of a fellow being, and which receives its full recompense from a source higher than all mortal conditions.

ARMENIANS IN FRANCE.

In a dispatch from France the condition of Armenian refugees now in that country is described as pitiable. There are in Marseilles about 500 of them, who have escaped the scenes of carnage in Abdul Hamid's country and made their way to the western shores of Europe in the hope of being able to cross the ocean that intervenes between them and religious and political liberty. In France, however, they learned that the "land of the free" is not open to them, on account of the strictures of the immigration laws, and now they are in France without friends, subsisting on public or private charity, suffering and dejected.

European philanthropists are knocking loudly at the gates of the United States in their behalf, suggesting that the emergency demands an exception from the rule. Perhaps they are right, since by the glorious traditions of this country it claims the distinction of being a place of refuge for oppressed humanity. But there is another side to the question, which should be recommended to the consideration of Europe's professional philanthropists and statesmen. It is the European powers that, by their contemptible oriental policy, are under the strongest possible moral obligation to care for the suffering Armenians. They should not look to America for relief from a burden it is their duty to carry.

There is no need for the spectacle now presented of starving Armenians inundating European seaports. The region of Asia Minor, which is theirs by right of inheritance, is a rich, beautiful country more than capable of sustaining the population. It is not on account of bad crops or epidemics or earthquakes that they have been driven away from their mountain homes, but by bitter persecution and most cruel oppression. They have seen their fathers and brothers slaughtered in cold blood; their mothers and sisters burned at the stake; their children, even the babes, cut to pieces or pierced by spears. Their homes have been burned and their fields laid desolate. Extermination stared them in the face. And all this work of cruelty has been carried on at the very threshold of Christian civilization, Europe being all the time conscious of her power and her duty to stop the carnage, but refusing to do so. The chief responsibility, it is now conceded, rests with Abdul Hamid, who has contrived to make for himself one of the more sanguinary records of Mohammedan blood-stained annals,

but next to him the responsibility is to be traced to the powers on whose supporting arms he leans. They should not, therefore, now, when a few hundred of the victims of their selfish policy appeal to them for a piece of bread, ask the United States for charity's sake to take the poor wretches off their hands. They would not do so, were their honor first consulted.

The Anglo-Turkish convention of 1878 is still in force. England occupied the island of Cyprus in order to enable her to execute the engagement entered into by that convention, and she still holds the pledge and with it the obligation it implies. According to the treaty entered into the sultan promised to protect the Christians in Armenia and elsewhere in Turkey, and England undertook to see to it that these promises were carried out. This is where the matter still rests, and until England evacuates Cyprus, Armenians have a right to look to Great Britain especially for aid and protection.

OFFICERS WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

There are times and places when it is consistent to require public officers to serve without pay in money. This is in cases when the incumbent of the office may be made to feel that the honor of serving on the opportunity of accomplishing a public good is sufficient reward for the time, labor and thought expended in the duties of the office, and where the individuals elected to perform those labors are among those whose business interests are not made to suffer thereby. On these cases are State boards of charitable and in some cases of educational institutions. For these, the comparatively small number required can be found among people to whom financial remuneration for time occupied would not be a consideration or impotence.

But when it comes to some other offices, the force of the rule is overcome by that of other necessities. This is now being shown clearly in practice in the effort to get election officers. The law provides that "judges and clerks of election shall serve without compensation." In the division of election precincts throughout the State, the conditions are such that, to secure good election officers in the positions described, calls must be made upon people who cannot afford to donate the time required to the duty of State, in comparison with the fact that other offices are paid. They are persons who, in many cases, in order to do the work, must be relieved from regular employment at a loss to themselves; they are of the laboring class, hence cannot afford to bear the loss out of any desire for the honor there is in the office, but were it neither glory nor satisfaction in the irksome and responsible duty of judge or clerk of election. Therefore we have the spectacle of many acceptable persons declining to have anything to do with it. Some there are who, out of a desire to see the work done right, respond to the call made, but even these feel that the right thing is but being done to them. As a result there is almost a necessity to seek for some judges and clerks of election

among persons who would not be first choice if the whole field of citizenship were available.

If the State, county, or other political district receives valuable consideration in official service, it is as proper to pay for it in the case of election offices as in any others. The public has no more real desire to receive something for nothing in this way than it has to pay salaries to persons who do not earn them. The law requiring judges and clerks of election to serve without compensation ought to be changed, as should also that making the same requirement of members of boards of education. Neither of these offices should go begging for efficient incumbents and be compelled to accept persons obligated to some financial or political boss, and who take the office to make it subservient to that obligation. The laborer is as worthy of his hire by the way of salary in the duties of these offices as in any others, and more so than in some where there is a consideration of honor and prestige partially or wholly to compensate the incumbents. The next Legislature ought to remedy the defect now existing in this particular.

THE BALMORAL CONFERENCE.

A great deal of interest is manifested in Europe regarding the conference this week between the czar and Lord Salisbury regarding the Turkish question. It is believed some understanding will be reached, which may result in some despatch action in behalf of the Armenians.

Russia and England have changed roles entirely. In 1878 the former country was resolved to make an end of the sultan's rule, but the latter country stepped in and saved the situation. Now England, forced by the clamor of public opinion, demands a change, while Russia takes the sultan to her protecting bosom. It is hoped that the influence of the queen over the czar will do much to change the policy of Russia in behalf of the suffering Armenians.

ONE OF the remarkable phases of the Turkish enigma is the fact that every time Abdul Hamid plans a new massacre on Christians, the ambassadors at Constantinople notify their governments that the reforms so much spoken of will be carried out shortly and that the Turkish question has lost "much of its acute character." The sultan must be a great reformer by this time, able to turn himself into a cave of skulls like the other reformer, the king of Asbantee.

THE READINESS with which many moneyed men are able to denounce the moneyed interests when occasion suits them is thus made a point of by New York exchange:

"For years," says Mr. Hearst's able and enterprising Journal, "there has gone up in this Republic an earnest and bitter cry against the growing power of money." On the next page Mr. Hearst explains how he has lately converted some \$7,500,000 worth of his mining property into ready cash in order to have it handy. In Mr. Hearst's immediate neighborhood, the aforesaid earnest and bitter cry against the growing power of money appears to be set to an accompaniment of jingling gold.