

can have not manifested honor, truth or decency. They have made no efforts to determine the cause of the outrages in Armenia.

The rupture between the Turkish and the European commission was caused by the refusal of the Turks, on purely farcical grounds, to hear important witnesses on matters pertaining to questions at issue. It was evident that the Turks were afraid the issue of falsehoods that they have thrown around the situation in Armenia would be broken down.

The following report is made by a special correspondent of the Associated Press, dated Djoulfa, Persia, May 7.—The Turkish government, it is claimed, has just taken the preliminary steps in what may result in a massacre of Nestorian Christians in the mountains of Kurdistan. It is asserted that the government has given orders to starve the independent tribes of Nestorians in the mountain region immediately west of Gawar, which may be described as lying about midway between Mosul and Lake Van, about fifty miles west of the Persian frontier. The orders, it is stated, are that no food supplies of any kind shall be allowed to enter the territory of the independent tribes, and measures are said to have been taken to enforce these orders to the letter.

This again is apparently taken as a means of compelling the independent tribes to submit to the Turkish authorities and to pay the taxes demanded by the government, and is regarded as the first serious attempt the Turks have made to extort taxes from the independent tribes.

From the earliest times in the history of the Ottoman empire these tribes have been independent of Turkish rule. They have paid no taxes and they have acknowledged no allegiance to the Turkish government. The present course of the government is taken in some quarters as an indication that the sultan has set on foot a systematic persecution of Christians in all parts of the empire. The sultan has plenty of opportunity for knowing that the independent Nestorians are too poor to pay taxes, and that many of them make a living by going down into the villages of their less wrecked fellow countrymen and begging.

These poor creatures, according to the story, are to be starved because they will not share with the sultan of Turkey the scraps of bread, the refuse bits of meats, and the odds and ends which they have obtained by begging. Their homes are in a wilderness of mountain peaks and narrow rocky valleys, where nothing will grow except a tuft of broom corn here and there in the crevices on the rocks of the mountain side, and a few stocks of millet in a casual square yard of soil in the valleys.

It is difficult to forecast the probable result of the starvation of this race of beggars should the report turn out to be correct. Driven desperate by hunger, the people will endeavor to obtain food from Gawar and other outside districts, and there will be fights with the Turkish troops, the villages will possibly be attacked, and some of the wretched people will be killed, and not man can prophesy where the persecution will end.

I have just returned from a rapid journey to the Kurdish mountains for the purpose of investigating the report that fourteen villages had been attacked and devastated by a raid of Kurds last week. The original rumor had it that the Kurds had massacred many Christians and had carried off women and girls to the mountains. After riding day and night to reach the scene of the raid, I at length arrived at the Mergutsever valley, which lies, like the bottom of a boat, beneath mountains covered from base to summit with almost unbroken expanses of snow. It was in this valley that the raid took place. I found that a band of Kurds from the mountains had indeed raided fourteen villages in this valley, but the raid was directed against other Kurds, and not against Christians. There were a few Nestorian Christians living in the valley, but they were not molested in any way.

As this raid was not a race or a religious raid, it will probably have little interest outside of the valley. I regret to say that Mr. Paton, the British consul general in Tebriz, Persia, is very much in disfavor with the gentlemen who are conducting the Armenian revolutionary movements. In spite of the fact that Mr. Paton has been collecting evidence of the Sassoun and Moosh massacre for the use of the British government, the Armenians look upon him as a spy. They may go to the length of doing him bodily harm.

The closing of the Caravan routes to Van has rendered more acute the suffering from famine in the devastated districts near Van. The only hope of relief is now out off.

A LAMENTABLE ACCIDENT.

For the third time in his life Douglas Ferguson, son of Mr. Dr. E. B. Ferguson of the Eighteenth ward, this city, met with a very painful and serious accident.

Mr. Ferguson left his home early in the evening intending to take the train for Provo but on account of his watch being a little behind time he arrived at the depot too late. He then returned up town and made two or three business calls after which he took the car which leaves the Deseret National bank corner, at nine o'clock, for home. On reaching the corner of B and Third streets the car was stopped for him to get off. In alighting from the platform he stepped on a stone and was thrown or rather fell towards the track. He involuntarily put out his hands to break the fall and in doing so extended his left one too far, it being placed directly across the nearest rail where it was frightfully mangled by the wheels.

He was immediately picked up and conveyed to his mother's home, just a few rods below where the unfortunate accident occurred. Mrs. Ferguson was away on professional business at the time and in order that his sisters might not be unduly exercised over the misfortune that had befallen him, he made lightly of it, even going so far as to whistle and talk of trivial matters. That it was extremely difficult, however, for him to maintain such a demeanor was evidenced by the fact that he would occasionally turn to a friend and exclaim

in an under tone that he was suffering the most intense pain.

Drs. McLean and Bowers were sent for and an examination convinced them that amputation was absolutely necessary and the operation was quietly and uncomplainingly submitted to by the patient. Twice before has he felt the keen edge of the surgeon's knife on account of accidents. The first time that was necessary was in Illinois when he was a school boy 14 years of age when he lost a portion of the index finger of the hand injured Monday by having it crushed between the bumpers of two freight cars while he was engaged in the playful task of coupling them together. The second was eleven years ago when through a mising accident at Park City he was called upon to part with his left leg.

PANGUITCH STAKE CONFERENCE.

The Pangutich Stake conference convened in Escalante June 2nd, at 2 p.m., after the close of the Sunday School conference, which was both interesting and instructive.

There were present Elders J. W. Crosby Jr., M. M. Steele and David Cameron, of the Stake presidency; Elders George Goddard, George Reynolds and Edward Bunker were also in attendance, besides other visiting brethren of the Stake.

Elders Bunker, Reynolds, Goddard, J. W. Crosby Jr., M. M. Steele, David Cameron, A. J. Hansen, Rufus A. Allen, John F. Chidester and A. P. Schow were the speakers at the conference, which lasted one day and a half. They dwelt upon the various principles of the Gospel, the Word of Wisdom being prominent among the instructions given. The Spirit of the Lord was poured out in rich abundance on the speakers and hearers also, and all rejoiced and expressed themselves to the effect that it was one of the best conferences ever held in the Stake.

After singing the hymn, "Come, O Thou King of kings," benediction was pronounced by Elder J. W. Crosby Jr., when conference adjourned until September 1st, 1895, to be held at Pangutich.

JOHN F. CHIDESTER,
Clerk of this Conference.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder Charles D. Evans Jr., of Springville, arrived in this city June 5, returning from a mission to the Southern States. He left for his field of labor July 19, 1893, and has been laboring in the West Virginia conference. During his absence he enjoyed good health and met with fair success, he says, meeting many kind friends in various parts of the missionary field he visited.

Elder Hebet C. Boden, of Brigham City, Utah, made the News a pleasant call June 8. Elder Boden recently returned from a mission to Great Britain, on which he started in April, 1893. The first eleven months of his mission was spent in the Birmingham conference, and the remainder of the time in the Liverpool conference. He reports the mission in good condition, and has enjoyed his labors very much during his absence.