

Russia during the last famine, and the people there ate up between two and three million dollars' worth of food every day. This was kept up for months, and I was told that the famine had cost very nearly half a billion dollars. The private gifts of the Russians amounted to \$180,000,000. The government gave nearly as much, and the present czar, who was then the crown prince, was at the head of the relief fund. Our gifts to Russia in food and money amounted to less than a million dollars. They were merely a drop in the bucket in comparison to what was given by the Russians themselves. In Russia it was estimated that one person could be fed for five cents a day. It will probably cost more than that in Armenia, as all of the food will have to be brought in from Europe. But even at five cents a person it will require \$17,500 a day, or more than half a million dollars a month for the food alone of those who are now starving. In addition money will be needed for clothes and shelter during the winter. The farmers will have to be aided in planting their crops, and it is hard to see how the people can be kept from now until harvest for less than \$5,000,000. In this relief every cent will have to come from the outside, and if the other nations of Europe do not unite with us it is doubtful whether enough funds can be raised to do effective work. The Rich Armenians living outside of Turkey will probably help, and considerable aid may be expected from them.

The Armenians are the Yankees of the orient. They are the brightest, brainiest and smartest of all the people of Asia Minor. They are superior to the Jews or Greeks in business. The Turks say "twist a Yankee and you make a Jew, twist a Jew and you make an Armenian." The Greeks say that "one Greek is equal to two Jews, but that one Armenian is equal to two Greeks." Another proverb current in Turkey is "From the Greeks of Athens, from the Jews of Salonika, and from the Armenians everywhere, good Lord deliver us!" I met the Armenians everywhere during my travels in Asia Minor and I found them acting at the heads of all kinds of businesses. There are many rich Armenians in India. I traveled with one coming from Singapore to Calcutta, who told me he was on his way back from Hong Kong, where he had gone to sell pearls to the Chinese. I found the conductors on the Egyptian railroads to be Armenians, and when I traveled over the transcontinental railway to Paris the guards on the train and the men who took up my ticket were Armenians who spoke English and French. There are hundreds of thousands of Armenians in Europe. There are a large number in Persia, and those who live in different parts of Turkey are said to number about one million. There are a number in Constantinople. They manage most of the banking business of the Turkish capital and the large mercantile establishments there belong to them. When the riots occurred in Stamboul a few weeks ago nearly all the stores were closed, their Armenian owners fearing they would be looted by the mob. When I visited the government departments of the sultan I found that, though the chief officers were Turks, the clerks were in most cases, Armenians, and the brightest men whom I

met in Turkey was one of the sultan's secretaries, who was of Armenian birth. He spoke a half dozen different languages and was a man of great influence. There are Armenian engineers, architects and doctors in Constantinople, and when I got money on my letter of credit it was an Armenian clerk who figured up the exchange, and an Armenian cashier who handed out the money. The Armenians of Armenia proper are almost all farmers, and the exorbitant taxes of the sultan have made the most of them poor.

I saw a large number of Armenian pilgrims during one Easter that I spent at Jerusalem. They had come from all parts of Asia Minor to pray at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. They have a patriarch at Jerusalem who leads them in these celebrations. He is a tall, thin man with a long gray beard, and a face not unlike that of a typical Georgia cracker. He usually wears a long gown, and has a little skull cap on the crown of his head. During the Easter celebration his head was covered with a tiara, which blazed with diamonds, and his gown was a gorgeous silk robe, which was decorated with diamonds. The Armenians are, you know, Christians, and their customs are much like those of the Greek Church. They have monasteries and churches scattered throughout Asia Minor, and they claim to be the oldest of all Christian people.

The Armenians assert that their country is the holiest land upon earth. It lies in Asia Minor, southeast of the Black sea and between it and Persia. Mount Ararat is situated in it, not far from the locality in which these outrages are now taking place, and some of the monasteries claim to have pieces of the identical ark in which Noah landed upon the mountain, and there is a ravine near it which is pointed out as the site of Noah's vineyard. The vineyard has a monastery connected with it, and the monks show a withered old vine, which they assert is the very one from which was made the wine which made Noah drunk. He cursed it after he got over his spree, and it has borne no grapes unto this day. Noah's wife is said to be buried on Mount Ararat, and the Armenians trace their ancestry back to Japhet in one long genealogical tree. They have a tradition that the Garden of Eden was located in Armenia. It was situated almost in the center of the region where the most massacres have occurred, and it is now one of the barren parts of the country. The Armenians believe that the wise men of the east, who followed the star of Bethlehem to find the young Christ, came from Armenia, and that the star first appeared in the heavens not far from Mount Ararat.

Another curious Armenian tradition is as to Adam's fall. According to this, when Adam was in the Garden of Eden his body was covered with nails, like those which we have on our fingers and toes. These nails overlapped each other like the scales of a fish, thus giving him an invulnerable armor. After the fall the nails all dropped off except from the end of his fingers and toes, where they remain to this day to remind man of his lost immortality. The Armenians say that when God made Adam of clay he had a little piece left over. He threw this upon the ground, and as it fell it became gold and formed

all the gold of the world. The Armenians believe in the Bible and they are naturally a religious people.

The condition of the women of Armenia is now terrible. They have no refuge from the Turks, and outrages of all descriptions are perpetrated, ending in death. In some of the Armenian cities during the late massacres the girls were collected into the churches and were kept there for days at the pleasure of the soldiers before they were killed. One statement describes how sixty young brides were so treated and how the blood ran out from under the church doors at the time of their murders. These Armenian women are among the most attractive of the far east. I saw a number of them during my trip through Asia Minor. They have large, dark, luminous eyes, with long eyelashes, and their complexion is that of rich cream. Many of them have rosy cheeks and luscious red lips. They are tall and straight, becoming soon fat after marriage. They are very intelligent, and not a few of them are married to Turks. These women have a dress of their own. They wear red fez caps with long tassels, much like some of the country girls of Greece. The richer ladies wear loose jackets, lined with fur, and long, plain skirts of silk or fine wool. In the province of Van, where some of the outrages have occurred, the girls wear trousers under their skirts, which are tied at the ankles. Some have long, sleeveless jackets, or cloaks, reaching almost to the feet and open at the sides up to the waists, and others wear gorgeous head dresses, covering the front of their caps with gold coins, which hang down over the foreheads. Girls often wear their whole dowry on their persons, and in massacres like those which have occurred rings are torn from the ears, arms are cut off for bracelets and many a woman is killed for her jewelry. The poorer women are hard workers. Nearly every household has some kind of labor by which it adds to its income. Some of the finest embroideries we get from Turkey are made by Armenian women, the best of the work being done by hand in hovels.

The houses in which the Armenians live are different in different countries. In many of the climes of Turkey there is an Armenian quarter, and the older Armenian houses of Smyrna are built like forts. They have no windows facing the street, and it has only been of late years when the people have considered themselves safe from religious mobs, such as have lately occurred, that they have built houses more like the Turks. In Armenia proper, where the outrages are going on, the poorer classes have homes which would hardly be considered fit for cows in America. The cow, in fact, lives with the family. The houses are all of one story, and it is not uncommon to build a house against the side of a hill, in order to save the making of a back wall. The roofs are flat and often covered with earth, upon which grass and flowers grow, and upon which the sheep sometimes are pastured. The floors are usually sunken below the level of the roadway, and the ordinary window is of about the size of a port hole. You go down steps to enter the house, and you find a cow stable on one side and on the other the kitchen and private apartments of the family. Each room has a stone fireplace, and the cooking is