

THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES.

In dealing with the Armenian question or that portion which relates to the killing of thousands of innocent men and children and the carrying away of hundreds, and probably thousands, of women to be wives in the homes of the victorious, it is necessary to enter into a rather detailed investigation of the social fabric and the general make up of the Turkish empire. We must understand something of its rise and whence it has its peculiarities that makes possible such outrages in this enlightened age. We will also show where enlightenment has its home and where, and only where, we can speak with any degree of justice of real enlightenment. Otherwise we can soon end our article by simply taking up the common cry against the Turks that they ought to be removed from being rulers and driven back to Asia whence they came. Just as though this aggressive age would expect to leave them entirely to themselves there to worship Allah according to their own conscience without ever being noticed or called to account.

The reader who has taken any interest in the political movements among the powers will at once see how utterly foolish such an expression is. Expel them? Where to? To a place where no European power has any interest or where the eagle eye of some shrewd statesman has not been seeking territorial extension or prestige or absolute rulership if he possibly can? Such a place is nowhere in Asia now. The great powers are dreaming of dividing the world between themselves, excepting that portion which Uncle Sam attends to, and who knows how many hours they lie awake thinking what a sweet morsel America will be when they have fully digested the rest of the world?

Coming back to the question of our Mohammedan friends, brother or fellowman, they have their life and existence by the grace of the same God and Creator as any other people which may lay claim and also possess more light and advancement than they. Their institutions are originated and established upon certain pre-existing conditions just the same as every other nation which can only claim their own peculiarities, be they good or bad, by looking into the work at times long prior to their coming into any real notice. Great nations and movements are either the outgrowth of the enthusiastic and diligent labors of a few strong men who have labored to one common end, or the outgrowth of a combination of causes, religious or social conditions that have given rise to a peculiar people, or both. Sometimes excellent location for defense has led to power; sometimes the richness of the soil to sustain life in great abundance. Often nations who have nearly governed the world had their seat in some commercial city on the coast of the Mediterranean or elsewhere, that by the activity and commercial ability of its citizens gathered riches in great abundance whereby they could build ships, hire soldiers and menace the peace of nearly the whole world, not to forget a certain class of people whom the Lord called His own and to whom He gave great power when they served Him and kept His commandments. But in this case the Ruler of the universe often took great pains to lay a good foundation for the coming nation. Just as He did with all others over whom He assumed, as it were, only indirect control, that is by withholding from them prophetic or specially authorized leaders. We as a people, of course, acknowledge the hand of God in this government of the whole world; yet He exercises more direct influence over His chosen people. And to follow this a

little farther we have clear proof of the Lord's hand having been engaged for generations to bring about the restitution of all things of a spiritual and temporal nature and in restoring a lost knowledge as well as raising up men who are born with superior inherent powers which only need the freedom and advantages which have also been given to bring to light hidden treasures of knowledge greatly to our surprise while they accomplish His will.

Taking this as the grand key to the understanding of why nations are as they are, when we see them in their greatness and power; when it would appear that they had an everlasting lease of life, because we do not behold the poisonous and destructive seeds, the destroyers of all good has so industriously been sowing along side by side of the good husbandman. With this key we can examine the past of the Musselmen and find that after all they are carrying to its logical conclusion, the problem submitted to them precisely as do the Britons and the people of Northern Europe, to whom a mission of a very different character seems to have been given. This mission has not been apparent so very long either. It has been struggling in its birthplace for centuries. It has placed upon the martyr's altar millions of lives; many as heroes of a perfectly well understood cause, but the greater part as slaves led out by rulers, some for gain, others for principle. Some have been reformers of law and government, some have been reformers in the social circle. Again others have tried to reform the various existing forms of Christianity, and with this they have dug down deep into the moral seat of the noblest thoughts of man and though they have not always attained to these excellences themselves; yet their very mistakes have often been the opening wedge to their future treatise upon these glorious subjects which have had the effect to awaken the moral courage in man far superior in quality and much harder to exercise than was the physical courage and strength exercised by the warriors and gladiators of bygone ages. In the proper time the process of primitive ways introduced by men being raised up for that purpose and the thoughts and efforts of good men became immortalized by the press. Every generation became wiser by these interchanges of thought, man discovered that to live right was to live unselfish and pure. Purity begotten and nourished from an inward force for the love of honor and a good conscience was quite a different position from that of having virtue and honor and truth and general uprightness enforced by law and surroundings. The latter is the condition of the Turks, but we are not quite ready to go into the history of their civilization.

In course of time new continents was discovered to which flocked the oppressed of all nations. It was called an assignment of the persecuted of other people. There the noblest thought and labors of centuries were brought together to effect liberty and freedom of speech and the press, until today we find a nation stepping out in the defense of these glorious principles—a nation whose moral courage defies the world to show its equal, while Providence kindly lends His protecting care to such an extent that even the unlearned here who have learned the facts cannot but express great astonishment. Great naval battles with all the loss on one side, who has heard the like? Great battles by land against superior forces and great odds and yet successful. Now what are the conclusions to be derived at? They are these: That we have nothing particular to be proud of in ourselves, nor any just cause to look disdainfully upon other people who are

not so fortunately placed in life. For remember we did not make this situation; we have inherited it. It is the fruits of other generations. Our parents and our grandparents labored and taught us self-reliance and moral courage. We were taught, as a rule to cherish the noblest and finest feelings divinely planted in man; to be truthful, honest and virtuous, because they were the foundation of character, and then to look the world straight in the face, improve upon and defend the institutions of our country as we found them, and trust to God for the rest. In this condition we have found ourselves, and many times we take great glory to ourselves because of what we do or have done, and often condemn others because they have not done likewise. But let me ask, where are those reformers and wise men, whom the Lord has persistently sent? The answer says in Europe and in America. Where are the many fine spirits born who have been willing to accept truths as they have been discovered? Not in Turkey, but in northern Europe and America. Of course it must be admitted there are also other nations that have produced great men and women, but the great majority have found life among the Protestant nations, where it seemed more natural to their development. From this I deduct that had the circumstances been different and the Lord given the same attention to the Mohammedan world as He has to us, and left us in the barbarous condition that Christianity found our forefathers, we would in all probability have been the barbarians, still, far worse, than the Turks are today, and they would have been the center of attraction. Or take it as individuals, how many Christians dare affirm that if they had been born and reared here in Turkey under the teachings and influences of the Koran, would ever think of leaving Islam for anything so doubtful as Christianity, looking at it from a Mohammedan standpoint? Yet I can assure you that had the Turks been favored with birth and breeding among Christians in America, and had they been educated as we are, free from the traditions and hatred engendered from their very birth, they would be as good Christians as the most. I dare say, better than the common. But such is our fortune and their misfortune, and we don't know it. We have many proofs of this, and the Christians as well as Turks admit of the truth of the argument.

It may not be generally known that a very large percentage of the Osmalis are of Christian origin, both Greek and Armenian. Not to say thousands of Bulgarians and Syrians who in times past found it to their advantage, either spiritually or temporally, to join the faith of the Arabian prophets. Yet withal, this produced no reformation. The converts were initiated by circumcision and other rites, and they are today as faithful and fanatical as any. I maintain we have nothing to boast of but very much to be thankful for to our Creator that He has given us the privileges we have; for I tell you in all soberness that it is no use to say what you would do were you in such a place, for there is simply nothing to be done except to submit, even though you might faintly see something better. Those institutions are built upon a very different foundation and for a very different purpose, which we shall presently see. And they answer their purpose and their ends admirably and in the great eternity I suppose they will have lost nothing, as that is their calling. Only remember this, that we speak of this enlightened age we after all refer to a small place on the globe and to a very small minority of its inhabitants. The intelligence of the nineteenth century in America is not known here in Turkey. America's ex-