

# The PERIL of BEING A CHRISTIAN in the EAST



MOHAMMEDAN VILLAGERS AT SHIRAZ

**A**DANA, the storm center of the recent massacres of Armenians, is the capital of a vilayet of its own name on the right bank of the Sihun river, thirty miles from the sea, in Asiatic Turkey. Desolatory civil war has also added to the simmering unrest of the farther east. Tabriz is the center of the trouble in Persia. In the first instance, Turkish soldiers without officers led in massed attacks, rapine and incendiarism. In the second, insurgents in Persia carried on their revolt under the leadership of Sattar Khan, who boasted that he was well supplied with men, money, arms and ammunition.

Conditions in the center of the Moslem uprising have been unsettled for some time. Animosity has existed between the Turks and Armenians, owing to the political activity of the latter and their open purchasing of arms. The first aggravated massacre broke out in the district north of Latakia, Syria, April 23, when thousands of Turks swept down upon the Armenian section of the town of Kersal and other places, burning all buildings, killing many men and driving others, together with women and children, into the mountains. Many of these reached Daskia by land or sea, hungry and worn by flight.

The editorial secretary of the American board of foreign missions in Boston, commenting upon the situation, said: "It appears that the sedulous activity of the Armenian Nationalists is the provoking cause." A former secretary of the board referred to the elements that brought on the conditions in Asia Minor as "revolutionary Armenians" and "fanatical and reactionary Moslems."

The recent uncertainties preceding the dethronement of Sultan Abdul Hamid aided the malcontents in the disturbances in Asia Minor. Ever since the Young Turks brought on the changes of last summer the Moslem fanatics have been restless. The Young Turks proclaimed freedom and equality and advocated the amalgamation of Christians and Turks in the army. This was taken by the Moslem faction as an attack on their ancient faith. The nearer the Young Turks came to bringing about their reform the more discontented the Moslems grew. It is the consensus of opinion in many circles that the former Sultan Abdul was in accord with the malcontents and that this culminated in the revolt of April 13, which later led to the expulsion of Abdul Hamid. Encouraged by the promised reforms of the Young Turks, many Armenians returned to Constantinople. It is believed that Abdul, fearing the result, undertook to offset it by indirectly, if not otherwise, fomenting feeling in Asia Minor which, before he was removed, led to the recedescant epidemic of massacre and rapine. Racial passions of the fanatical masses in Asia Minor constituted the hope of the old regime of Constantinople. This intensified anxiety in Russia.

The arrest of fifty Turkish officers at Erzerum April 27 by Turkish troops, who sent the officers to Trebizond, was believed to indicate the beginning of a revolt of the provincial troops.

What recently happened in Adana was a repetition on a larger scale of what has occurred in other years in Asiatic Turkey. Writing of the uprising at Adana, the Rev. Herbert Adams Gibbons of Hartford, Conn., said: "Adana is a hell. The bazaars were looted and set on fire. There were continuous and unceasing shooting and killing in every part of the town, and fires raged in many quarters. The town was pillaged and destroyed." The writer added that in a half hour he counted dozens of carts loaded with dead Armenians. The bodies were taken to the river and there dumped into the waters. During this scene of murder 250 so-called Turkish reserves without officers seized a train at Adana and compelled the engineer to convey them to Tarsus, where they took part in completing the destruction of the Armenian quarter. What massacre and looting have done for Armenia is graphically told in the brief statement that no longer ago than 1894 it was estimated that out of a population of 25,000,000 only 5,000,000 remained. The depopulation was not due entirely to murder, but murder and the conditions created thereby brought about the startling decimation. Untold numbers that were not killed fled the country and became wanderers on the face of the earth. Many are in the United States today.

Another element in Asia Minor that must be reckoned with in the fomentation of that section of the earth is the Druse tribesmen. A curious aggregation of fanatics, these Druses. They had a deputy in Constantinople to look after their interests. The deputy was killed by Mohammedans. The Druses have threatened retaliation on the Mohammedans of Beirut. No man can forget when this threat will be carried out. The Druses hold exclusive control of about forty cities and villages in Syria, and they are powerful in Lebanon and other surrounding districts. Originally their religion was Mohammedan, but in the eleventh century they protected Caliph Hakem of Egypt, who preached that God had been reincarnated in him, and they have held to that belief ever since with stern fanaticism. They have resisted attempts to subdue them for nine centuries.

Rampage by the Kurds. To return to the Armenians, who are just now the center of the stage of unrest, they call themselves Christians. They still have an independent church in Constantinople. The mosque of St. Sophia in the city of the crescent was formerly a Christian church. This is disputed, was held May 20, 1775. It has been asserted that there was another and that it was held May 31 of the same year. The assertion that the declaration was formulated in the latter convention raised the question and started a prolonged discussion. It has also been stated that the original copy of the declaration was destroyed by fire, but in April, 1810, what purported to be a copy was published in a Raleigh (N. C.) newspaper.

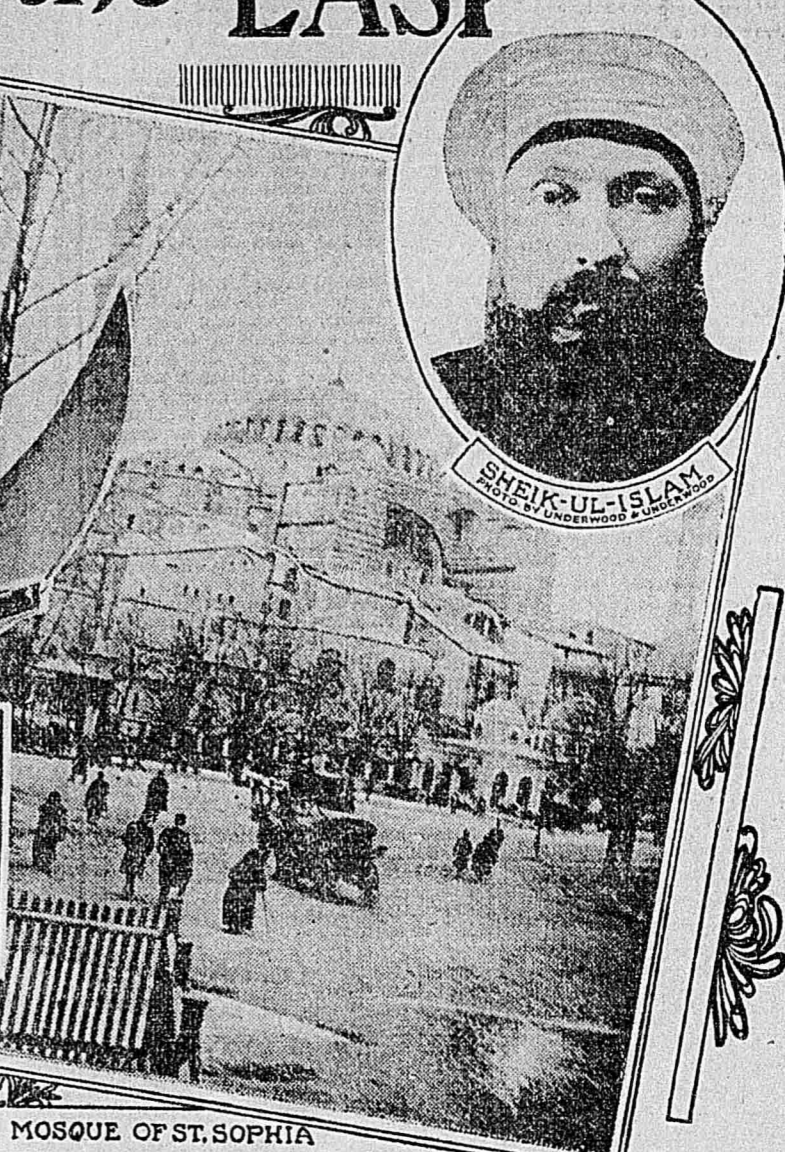
Certain phrases in this copy, similar to passages in the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776, have added doubt as to the authenticity of the Mecklenburg declaration. How the legislature of North Carolina in 1831, after an investigation of the subject, declared May 20 as the legal holiday to commemorate the signing of the Mecklenburg document.

In the manuscript collections of the Wisconsin Historical society is an article by Lyman C. Draper on the history of the Mecklenburg document. The conclusion of the article is against the authenticity of the declaration. On the other hand, other writers defend the authenticity. Among these is Bancroft, the historian.

There are few alibed paupers in Holland. A tract of public land containing 5,000 acres is divided into six model farms, to one of which the person applying for public relief is sent.



SATTAR KHAN



MOSQUE OF ST. SOPHIA



SHEIK-UL-ISLAM

## INFORMATION IN SNAPSHOTS.

**TRAVEL BY ANT NESTS.**  
A species of ant in Australia builds its nests along a north and south line so accurately that a traveler may direct his course by their aid.

**NO MINING IN ICELAND.**  
Up to the present time no mining has been done in Iceland. Investigations have shown that there are rich veins of gold in the vicinity of Reykjavik, the chief port.

**WEATHER CHARTS IN SCHOOLS.**  
Study of weather charts is now general in the elementary schools of Hanover and Schleswig-Holstein with the object of making their value in agriculture better known.

**ORIGIN OF THE EGGPLANT.**  
The origin of the eggplant is India; that of the broad bean is unknown, as also that of the lentil, the pea, chick-pea and haricot. The last named appears to have come originally from America.

**SNOW THE YEAR ROUND.**  
There is never a part of the year when Pikes peak is entirely without snow. In the hottest July and August weather snow is to be found even at a considerable distance from the top of the mountain.

**LEATHER SHOD HORSES.**  
In some parts of Australia the horse is shod with leather instead of iron, the feet receiving better support, but this novelty is employed only in regions where the ground is permanently covered with grass or fine sand.

**TIME IN JAPAN.**  
Japan has thirty-two timepiece factories, of which twenty-five are in Nagoya, one in Tokyo and six in Osaka. The annual output is 205,702 standing clocks, 441,755 hanging clocks and 25,350 watches, representing a value of \$74,900.

**WOMEN FOR TELEPHONE WORK.**  
The parliament of Greece has decided that women shall be eligible as telephone operators. Even the Chinese in San Francisco, in spite of their oriental conservatism, are said to employ Chinese girls for the Chinese telephone exchange.

**MASCOTS IN ANCIENT TIMES.**  
Mascots have had their place in the world for many generations. Cats, as with the ancient Egyptians; grasshoppers, as in Italy, and various other specimens of animal life have in their time been counted as sacred or lucky by different peoples.

**PEANUTS FROM AFRICA.**  
So many peanuts are eaten in this country that the native supply is not sufficient for the demand, and about \$3,000 worth of the African nuts were imported from Marssilles in 1906 and over \$75,000 worth in 1907. The west coast of Africa produces quantities of peanuts.

**EASTERN CHINA'S RAILWAY.**  
The railway in eastern China from Tientsin (the port of Peking) south to Nankin seems assured. This line will run nearly parallel with the existing Peking-Hankow railway and will be nowhere very distant from the Imperial canal, which unites the Yangtze and the Hoangho.

**ONLY FIT HORSES IN PARIS.**  
Wornout and attenuated cab horses will soon be an unknown quantity in the streets of Paris. A society known as the "Assistance aux Animaux," working with the proprietors and drivers' societies, seeks to provide Paris with cabs drawn only by horses in a perfect state of fitness.

**NO MORE RICE AT MARRIAGES.**  
Paper slippers and rose petals are taking the place of rice at fashionable weddings in Europe. The slippers and rose petals are heaped in great bowls in the hall. When the bride and bridegroom emerge, instead of being canonized with coarse rice and old shoes, a pink and silver slipper of rose petals and little shining clippers envelops them.

**HOW TO DETECT SEWER GAS.**  
Here is a test for the detection in an apartment of sewer gas: Saturate a glazed paper with a solution of one Troy ounce of pure acetate of lead in eight fluid ounces of rainwater, let it partially dry, then expose in the room suspected of containing sewer gas. The presence of gas in any considerable quantity soon blackens the test paper.

## NORTH CAROLINA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

President Taft to Be Present at the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Anniversary of the Signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration

**P**RESIDENT and Mrs. Taft will be the special guests of the city of Charlotte, N. C., Thursday, May 20, on the occasion of the one hundred and thirty-fourth anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence. There was some commendable rivalry in the hospitality shown to the city as to who should do the honors during the visit of the president and his wife, but it was arranged that the committee will officially look after the distinguished guests, while the entire city will be the beneficiaries. Mrs. "Stonewall" Jackson is said to take part in entertaining the Tafts.

It will not be the first time that a president of the United States has interested himself in the incident that put Charlotte in the light as the pre-eminence of the glory that made Philadelphia famous. Andrew Jackson had a copy of the Mecklenburg declaration on the walls of the Hermitage. James K. Polk believed that Charlotte was entitled to first place as the cradle of American independence. Theodore Roosevelt paid his tribute to the fine old town. The next will be President Taft. It is believed that he did not know that a declaration of independence had been formulated in Charlotte, N. C., until fourteen months after one had been framed in Philadelphia, that was his fault, as viewed from any locality in North Carolina.

May 20 is a legal holiday in North Carolina, and the Mecklenburg declaration is the reason therefor. It was on that date in 1776 that the monument to the memory of the signers of the declaration was unveiled in Charlotte. The monument erected to the site of an old museum that used to be the social gathering place of the city. One of the traditions of the ancient Charlotte is that when Cornwallis visited Charlotte county refused to be presented to his lordship because he was an enemy of her country and "because his private life had not been that of a gentleman in America."

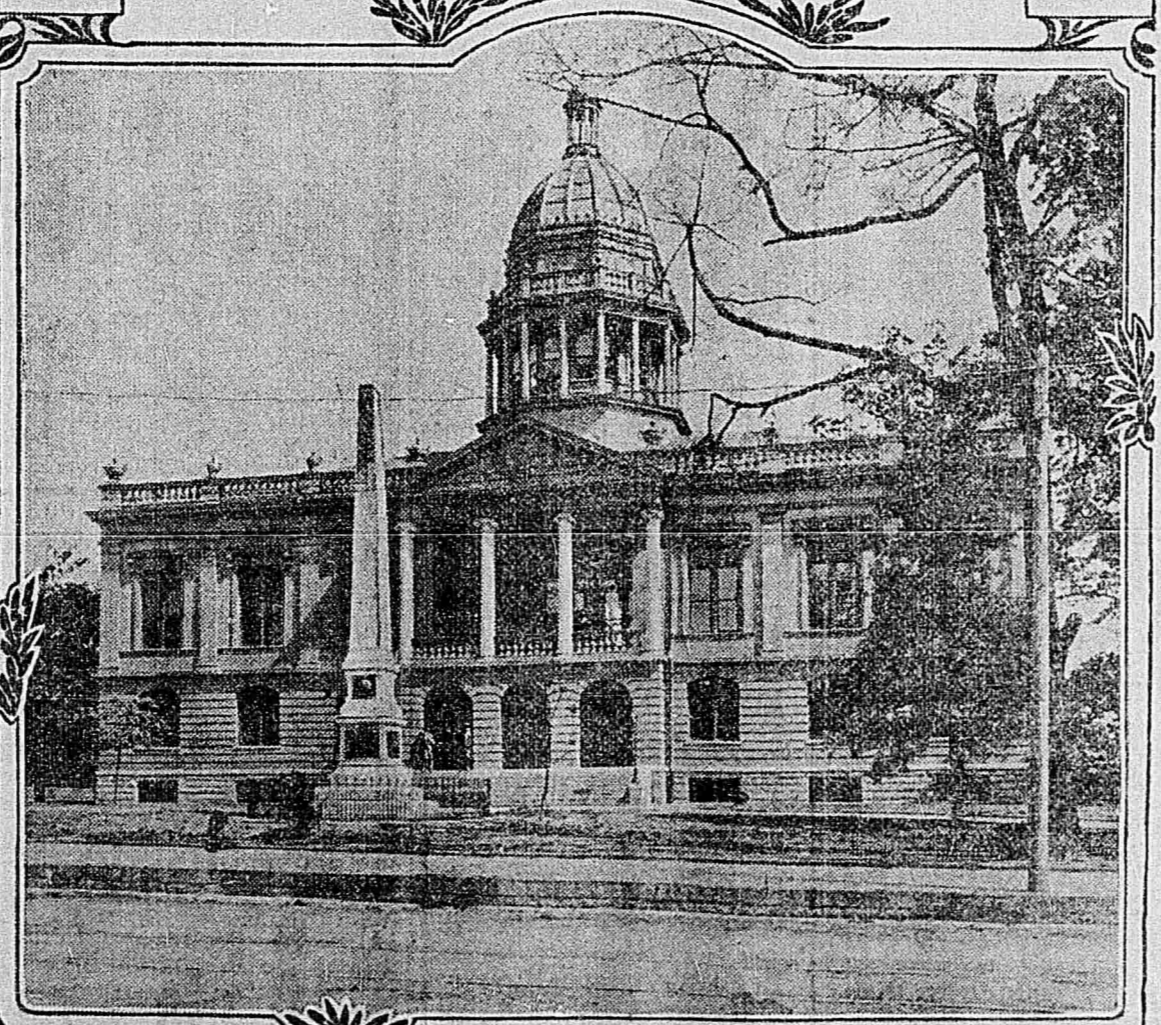
Mecklenburg county remains loyal to the memory of the signers. May 20 is a greater day in the old county than the Fourth of July in New England.

line of the subject will suffice in this connection. The first convention, although this

It is believed in North Carolina, as well as in some other sections of the country, that the declaration was signed in the nine militia districts in the county. It is still maintained that while the convention was in session a horseman galloped up to the house with a handbill containing the news of the battle of Lexington. That news learning the action of the convention, it is claimed, Mecklenburgers had taken part in the battle of the Alamance four years before, and Mecklenburgers, disguised by painting their faces black, had destroyed the powder wagons being transported by Colonel Moore, an ardent commissary of the oppressive Governor Tryon. A few years later Cornwallis marched through Charlotte, but the reception given him was so hot that he called the town "a hornet's nest." "Hornet's nest" it is to this day. On the monument erected to the signers of the Mecklenburg declaration is a hornet's nest in bold relief, bearing the graven words, "Let Us Alone." The Carnegie library has a hornet's nest on its bookplate. In very many ways the words of Cornwallis have been adopted as the symbol of the spirit of the town.

The "hornets" have marked the place where Andrew Jackson was born, in spite of the claim set up by South Carolina that he was born in that state. The monument is typical of the loyalty of North Carolina. It is constructed of granite. The shaft stands in Union county. Tablets in the sidewalks of Charlotte testify that the town has had history other than the declaration. One is in front of the house where Cornwallis had his headquarters when he found the town so hot. There is a tablet in front of the inn where Washington was entertained when he was president. Another tablet shows where Jefferson Davis stood making a speech when he was handed a telegram which told of the assassination of Lincoln. Not far from this site stands the house in which the last meeting of the cabinet of the Confederate states government was held.

The authenticity of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence has been discussed so often that a bare out-



COURTHOUSE AND MECKLENBURG MONUMENT AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.

FRANK H. BROOKS