

and subsists chiefly on hard-boiled eggs, into which he conceives it is impossible to introduce poison. Spies swarm everywhere. Even the victorious Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, has been placed under arrest on a groundless suspicion. His sworn advisers he cannot trust, hence the frequent and sudden changes of ministry. The press censorship is the most rigid in Europe, or in the world. Even the plays of Shakespeare, the Bible, the standard histories and current newspapers are mutilated or excluded by the jealous and childish censor.

It is the settled policy of Turkey to crush, if she cannot exterminate, her Christian population. The massacres of Crete, of Scio, of Mount Lebanon and Damascus, of Bulgaria, and now the exceeding bitter cry of Armenia, are all demonstrations of this diabolical policy. It is not war, it is murder,—most foul, reckless and ruthless murder.

The condition of Armenia appeals with strongest claim for the sympathy and succour of the civilized world. One of the oldest countries of the world, it has had most tragic history. In the fourth century, the Golden-Mouthed Chrysostom writes of the religious persecution of the Armenian Christians by the savage Kurds of that day in language that will apply with equal force to the atrocities perpetrated in the same land on the Armenians of to-day: "Like ferocious beasts, the Kurds fell upon the unhappy inhabitants of Armenia and devoured them. Hundreds of men, women and children have been massacred; others have been frozen to death. The towns and villages are desolated; everywhere you see blood; everywhere you hear the groans of the dying, the shouts of the victors, and the sobs and tears of the vanquished."

At one time Armenia numbered

at least 25,000,000 of people, but now not more than 5,000,000 remain in their native land, and, unless God in his providence interferes, these are threatened with absolute extermination.

The veteran missionary to Turkey, now in his eighty-second year, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, writes:

"Never has an innocent and faithful people been subjected to such an ordeal as the Armenians in the Turkish Empire. The terrible massacre at Sassoun was only the beginning of horrors which continue here and there to this day. In Constantinople, where there is a population of more than 100,000 Armenians, they are hunted from their hiding-places and killed with clubs by furious mobs, as though they were wild beasts. Eighty to a hundred thousand have fallen or have died of want, and hundreds of thousands are without homes and destitute of all the comforts of life. All the Armenians of Asia Minor and Mesopotamia are trembling for their lives and suffering from want. Never in the history of man has a nation been so long and brutally tried by torture and death, without a form of trial, without a notice of impending doom. Thousands have been clubbed to death in the streets of the capital—where carts were ready to receive their bodies and carry them off for burial or to be thrown into the sea.

"This fearful trial has taken hold of every Armenian man, woman and child. In some it has induced desperation and despair. 'Christians do not care for us,' they cry. 'Christian nations do not listen to our cry of anguish. Our property is gone; our homes are in ruins. Many of our dearest ones are killed because they would not deny their Lord. We are all devoted to a cruel death at the hands of those to whom we have done no wrong. Oh, that another