

ences might have excited a deep and sympathetic interest in many hearts. One or two facts which he told incidentally in his graphic description of the home of his childhood were significant and suggestive enough. One was—that his sister was never allowed to go outside the walls of his father's courtyard without a male escort, and that when she understood American women could go where they pleased without fear or peril she could scarcely realize a state of affairs so completely different from that reign of terror under which the unhappy Armenians habitually live. The other was—that his father, a peaceful teacher in a Christian school, would, on three different occasions, have inevitably been assassinated by brutal robbers had he not, contrary to Turkish law, possessed a small revolver secreted on his person, with which he was able to defend himself. This prohibition to carry arms, of course, makes the Armenian people helpless victims whenever the marauding Kurds choose to descend upon their villages and farms, carry off their cattle and other possessions and not infrequently, out of sheer malignity, burn down their outstanding corn in the fields. Then, when the poor people are suffering from the spoliation, and are, of course, destitute of means, by a refinement of cruelty, the Turkish taxgatherers come down upon them; and as non-payment of taxes is a capital crime, the excuse is ready for a cold-blooded massacre! This is what happened so recently at Sassoun.

The young lecturer, to show the unchanged and apparently unchangeable cruelty of Moslem rule, took a retrospective glance over its record in the present century, noting the bloody footprints she has left on the page even of such very modern history over and above the never-ceasing oppression, the many unnoted imprisonments, judicial murders and secret assassinations which go on for ever. Each time she meets with a reverse in one part of her empire she wrecks her vengeance in another, no matter how peaceful and inoffensive it may be! The first great massacre of the century occurred when, smarting at the success of the Greek cause of Independence, she sent her fleet to the peaceful and loyal island of Chios, where the unsuspecting Christian Greeks turned out to give it a loyal welcome, and thirty thousand of them were ruthlessly slaughtered in cold blood. In the island of Cyprus, the following year, a massacre of the Christian inhabitants, lasted through thirty days of blood and horror. Coming nearer to our own time, in 1850, eleven thousand Armenian and Nestorian Christians were foully massacred in the beautiful district of Lebanon. The Bulgarian massacre of some ten thousand men, women, and children is still fresh in the minds of many, and has, happily, helped to win independence for the Bulgarian principality. Since then the massacre of ten thousand Armenians north-east of Van, and that of two or three thousand Yezidis in S. W. Mosul have occurred at briefer intervals. Only a few months ago, as it seems, the horrors of Sassoun shocked the whole civilized world, and for the last few weeks nearly every daily paper has been stained with the atrocities of the new reign of terror which has laid in ashes so many peaceful villages and slaughtered so many thousands of inoffensive peasantry, like sheep in their pens. It is not too much to say that it has lain like a nightmare on the hearts of all thoughtful and human-hearted people, wherever the news has spread; but, beyond ineffective representations in diplomatic circles, what real action has been taken? A second guardship, after much negotiation, has passed into the Bosphorus and there the matter seems to stand, while we know that at least one hapless Armenian city where the people, wearied with intolerable oppression, have made a desperate stand, is virtually lying at the mercy of these merciless fiends in human shape, and that a repetition of past horrors may at any moment be expected.

And then came the nine-days' sensation of a war scare between the two great Christian nations in whom, surely, lies Armenia's only hope; and in one, at least, of these great Anglo-Saxon peoples, the blood which apparently could not be stirred to action by the unspeakable sufferings and perils of helpless fellow-Christians, has been agitated to boiling point, among our neighbours, at least, over a petty question concerning the precise boundary line of a small South American republic! And over such a remote question as this, if certain rash and reckless spirits could have had their wicked way, the two sister nations to whom is entrusted the leadership of the world's progress would have spent in the "patri-

otic" task of devastating each other's territory, and crippling each other's resources, the power and energy which were surely given them for very different issues! Happily for once the wild and reckless spirits have not had it all their own way. These two nations are bound together by so many ties that a rupture is not, after all, so easy and is attended by consequences of a kind that the American people very readily appreciate. And the dignified attitude and sober good sense, which has, on the whole, characterized the attitude of both Britain and our own country, has met with a deepening response from the real heart and brain of the American nation, so that even those who at first talked most wildly would now probably be glad to have their utterances forgotten. But let us think for a moment of the "insanity" which could originate such a war-bubble, with all its lurid possibilities, and with so light a heart, so little counting of the cost! Britain and America have both grave cause of offence against Turkey; not even the shadow of offence against one another! Ever since the period of the Crimean War Turkey's record has been one long tissue of infamous breach of faith with the Power to which, mainly, she owes her present existence. As far back as 1844 we find Britain's foreign Minister, the then Lord Aberdeen, grandfather of our Governor-General, informing the Sultan that "the Christian powers will not endure that the Porte should trample on their faith by treating as a criminal any person who embraces it." Yet this has been "endured" for fifty years, and is being endured still. Surely the time has come for action, instead of vain protest! Did the British nation possess to-day half of the fire and *elan* of the Elizabethan period, half the simple faith of the time of Coeur de Lion, she would have found a way to save the unhappy Armenian people from the horrors they have been enduring. One of her own subjects, a Canadian missionary, has been brutally maltreated by the Porte's fanatical murderers and as yet we hear of no decisive step taken to punish that insult. Our own people should insist on the matter being taken up at once. We would not be unjust to our own Mother Country, which has long been called the "policeman of the Mediterranean," and has fought so many hard blows for the liberties of oppressed nationalities. But at present she certainly is not manifesting the firm and chivalrous spirit which she has often shown at far less urgent crises. Let us hope that some of the appeals which are being addressed to her by the leading periodicals of the day may have their effect and that she will follow some one of the alternative courses which have been suggested to render harmless, in the only possible way, a power whose bitter and relentless fanaticism towards our Christian faith will never be otherwise repressed.

As for America she too has suffered destruction of her property and injury to her citizens in the recent atrocities. Her mission-property, in which a large portion of her people are deeply interested, has been recklessly destroyed, and she is now demanding an indemnity of half a million; but had Great Britain been the aggressor in this instance would she have been satisfied with this calm and business-like procedure? Would not certain newspapers have been breathing fire and fury and sounding the call "to arms" in short order? Perhaps this is merely in accordance with the tendency of human nature to resent an injury or an offence more bitterly in proportion to the nearness of the blood-relationship. Yet, with all allowances, the contrast is suggestive. Professor Bryce, in a timely article in the *Century* for November, has pointed out the stake America holds in Turkey in connection with her long established missions and the eminent propriety of her joining with the European powers to close the present chapter of horrors. He suggested several alternative courses for stopping the fury of the oppressor and restoring something like good government to the distracted country. One of these would be the entire detachment of Armenia from Turkey and its erection into an independent principality, as has been successfully accomplished in the case of the other South-eastern Provinces. This is what the Armenians themselves ardently desire, the hope of all their patriotic and thoughtful citizens. But to this he thinks Turkey would never agree, except under the strongest pressure, because an independent Armenia on her borders would inevitably absorb into itself, in time, all her Armenian subjects, whom, despite her hatred of them, she finds so valuable, that, Pharaoh-like, she will not let them go, but forbids them to leave her realm under the severest penalties. Another plan is that of placing everywhere, on behalf of the