

# The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, February 6, 1896.

## To Help Armenia.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fact that the Sultan of Turkey has refused to allow the Red Cross Society or any other foreign agency to distribute relief funds among the Armenians, a number of representatives of the Society have started for the scene of the Armenian Massacres from New York with help to the sufferers, and their departure has aroused deep interest in the United States and the Senators are taking a part in the discussion of the atrocities, calling upon Congress to interpose if possible in an effective manner. The following resolution is under consideration:—Whereas "Liberty and the outward exercise of all forms of worship are assured to all, and no hindrance shall be offered either to the hierarchical organization of the various communions or to their relations with their spiritual chiefs. The right of official protection by the diplomatic and consular agents of the powers in Turkey is recognized both as regards the above mentioned persons and their religious, charitable and other establishments in the holy places, and Whereas, The American people, in common with all Christian people everywhere, have beheld with horror the recent appalling outrages and massacres of which the Christian population of Turkey have been made the victims: Resolved, By the Senate of the United States, the House of Representatives concurring, that it is an imperative duty in the interests of humanity to express the earnest hope that the European concert, brought about by the treaty referred to, may speedily be given its just effects in such decisive measures as shall stay the hand of fanaticism and lawless violence, and as shall secure to the unoffending Christians of the Turkish Empire all the rights belonging to them, both as men and as Christians, and as beneficiaries of the explicit provisions of the treaty above recited. Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate these resolutions to the governments of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Russia. Resolved, further, That the Senate of the United States, the House of Representatives concurring, will support the President in the most vigorous action he may take for the protection and security of American citizens in Turkey, and to obtain redress for injuries committed on the persons or property of such citizens."

Action on the part of the United States has not come too soon and it is hoped, the European powers may renew their efforts in response to this appeal.

## The Transvaal Trouble.

An article possessing more than ordinary interest has been published by Rev. Mr. White, M.A., Blairgowrie, on the situation in the Transvaal and which if it could have been published in its entirety in our columns would prove suggestive to our readers on account of the

importance which the author places upon the work of the Church in new communities. If, Mr. White contends, "Scotland represented the ruling power in the colonies, the idea of war with the Transvaal could not be so industriously fostered." And the reason he gives for this singular statement may well be deeply pondered. "It is," he says, "England, however, that rules. English views of driving Sunday trains onwards to the gold and diamond fields make short work of Dutch Sabbatarian prejudice. The English Church in South Africa hardly presents a shred of the evangelical life of England. It is scarcely to be distinguished from the Church of Rome. These things have a mightier influence than politicians dream about. The Dutch know well the charm of England's wondrous name, and the witchery of England's once Protestant, but now ritualistic church. To preserve their children from going through the door of the Church of England into Rome, they have fallen too readily in with the cry of 'Africa for the Africans.' This is the Home Rule cry of the distant South which has been increasing in volume for years." There is here much food for serious thought and as Mr. White labored in Africa he writes with authority. Scottish Presbyterianism he believes would not have encroached upon the Sabbath and would respect the religious beliefs and opinions of the people. The foundations cannot be too carefully laid in a new country—as the Canadian Church well knows. The experience of South Africa ought to operate as a warning against the tendencies of the day to secularize the Lord's Day by the introduction of unnecessary labor, and the non-observance of the public worship of God in the Churches. In old countries as well as new evil alone can follow the free play given to that worldly spirit which in its mad rush for riches would bear down before it all restraint upon license to pursue evil courses, but in a new country where the associations between man and his fellows are not as strong and binding as in older lands, the danger is seven-fold, and the vigilance of the Church all the more necessary. That sound doctrine should be preached, that the ministers of the Gospel should be respected, that reverence to truth should be deepened are of the utmost consequence to the public well-being of a country, and that the Sabbath laws should be sufficient for the right observance of the Day of Rest, is a truth that ought to be maintained by every professing Christian in the land. That these things "have a mightier influence than politicians dream about," no thoughtful man who has enquired into the present state and history of public morals and of religion, will deny; and it behoves the people of Canada to see to it that their Sabbath and their evangelical doctrines are not insidiously sapped by designing corporations and worldly-wise politicians.

## Knox College Alumni.

The Alumni of Knox College are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the conference held under the auspices of their Association both this week and last. The reports which have reached the public by means of the press, satisfactory as they, on the whole have been, have not reflected the real importance and value of the conference to those who have been attending its sittings. The college has done really good work in furnishing such excellent material as that produced by the able writers of the papers, and in addition has furnished proof of the mental calibre of its leading Alumni. The College authorities and the Alumni Association have during the past few years shown