

American Board and to all the native Protestants in the empire. It has been steadily increasing for some years, and evidently has for its object the utter effacement of our missionary work. At first view there seems to be no ground for the remarkable change. The Protestant religion is less offensive to the Moslem than the Oriental. There are no forms of worship that are idolatrous, and the Turks have often befriended the Protestant from mobs and from many other forms of persecution. Some new force has come in to cause this great change.

That which is apparent is a weak and wicked thing which has foundations out of sight. There is a secret organization of Armenians residing abroad, keeping their own precious bodies safe, having probably some affiliations with Armenians resident in Turkey, through whose agency incendiary bulletins have been placarded on all the school-houses, places of worship, and other buildings belonging to the native Protestants and the missionaries. The object is to excite the Moslems to such a general massacre that Europe will be compelled to interfere and procure freedom generally. If not, Russia will march right in and do it in the name of humanity. The whole thing is a Russian plot. She is skilful in this way of acting. Three very similar plots could be mentioned by which she accomplished her purposes, but those who were her agents suffered.\* She works in the dark. Her agents are innumerable, and most of them fancy they are pursuing their own ends when in reality their end is destruction; but Russia accomplishes her object. In 1839 the great Russian ambassador, Bontineff, declared that the Emperor of Russia would never allow Protestantism to set its foot in Turkey. This policy has never changed. And there is reason for it. Russia intends to have possession of Asia Minor, where she will find some two or three millions of Armenians who will be of great value in peace and in war. She will pass them all, as she supposes, immediately into the Greek Church, and her young men will be enrolled in the army. She does not want an stubborn Protestantism to

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\* In the war of 1877-78 between Russia and Turkey, a revolutionary body of Russian-Bulgarians excited a "bogue" insurrection in European Turkey for the expressed though concealed purpose of arousing the Moslem population to a general massacre that would call for Russian intervention. A few Turkish villages were burned and a few women and children were murdered; and the perpetrators beat a swift retreat and escaped, scattering copies of a plan for universal rising and throwing off the yoke. The mixed Moslem population, composed of Turks, Chinganez, Pomaks and Circassian refugees driven out of Russia, all, terrified and enraged, sprung to arms, and fell upon a large Bulgarian village and destroyed it. They slaughtered between two and three thousand—all, indeed, who did not escape by flight. This was called the "Bulgarian Horrors." It was a atrocity perpetrated by a mixed mob. This (Russia's) plot succeeded perfectly. There cannot be found anything in history to equal it. Her agents spread the news. The exciting cause was kept out of sight. Mr. Gladstone took up the horrid tale of 15,000 slaughtered, and rode into office upon the tremendous excitement. He justified Russia. He called the emperor the "divine figure of the North." The world to this day has no history of that most successful and most atrocious plot. Russia has admirable facilities for working up anything of that kind. She has two consuls in all important places in Turkey—a commercial consul and a political one. Her work is always secret. She can influence the Moslem mind just as she pleases. Gold is one of her powerful aids; death or Siberia to those who oppose or are suspected of opposing her plans. It is humiliating that our callow statesmen should be so foolish or so wicked as to form a treaty by which our freedom-loving country becomes a trap to catch escaped Russian patriots and deliver them over to this cruel and remorseless power.