

Cosh of Belfast; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, rector of Burslem; Rev. A. Dallas of London; Rev. Dr. Edgar of Belfast; Rev. Dr. Candlish; Representatives from the West London Protestant Institute, the Islington Protestant Institute, the South West Protestant Institute, the Church Defence Society, the Colonial School Society; Rev. Dr. Begg of Edinburgh; Rev. Dr. Hetherington of Glasgow; Professor Gibson of Belfast; Rev. Dr. Johnstone of Tullylish; Rev. Hugh Hanna of Belfast; Rev. D. McColl of Glasgow, &c., &c. From the character of the papers already received the whole proceedings will be intensely interesting and of the most important kind.

**THE SYRIAN MASSACHES.**—The Rev. Dr. Thompson, the oldest American Missionary in Syria, has written to Sir Culling Eardley an appeal on behalf of the destitute Christians. He says that he has been familiar with 6 bloody wars in that country during the past 27 years, but that they were mere boys' play, so far as atrocity is concerned, in comparison with the dismal butchery which has just taken place. He estimates the number of destitute at 75,000, including 10,000 widows. Authentic accounts from Damascus, he says, raise the number of the slaughtered in that city to 5,000, and the number of homeless victims there to something nearer 20,000 than 10,000. The number of fugitives flocking into Beyrout will soon, he adds, make it utterly impossible for the charitable residents to meet the demands upon them, and he therefore entreats the aid of England in this terrible emergency. Mr. Cyrus R. Edmonds, Secretary of the Syrian Relief Fund of London, states that the suggestions made by Dr. Thompson have in fact been carried out here, and that £2500 have already been transmitted to the Relief Committee established at Beyrout and Damascus. He points out that the Queen and Prince Consort have put themselves at the head of the national charity, and suggests that, although money is flowing in and through all the great mercantile firms of London, the whole country needs to be moved, and that this may be effected through the earnest co-operation of the ministers of religion of every sect, and by the mayors and corporations of towns and cities originating local efforts.

Subscriptions for the suffering Christians in Syria have been opened at several newspaper offices in Paris, but hitherto very little money has been collected. On such occasions the French do not generally show much metallic generosity. The *Moniteur*, however, has now taken the work in hand. It has opened a national subscription for the benefit of the Syrian Christians, and promises to publish the names of subscribers. The Emperor Napoleon has subscribed 25,000*l.* (£1000.)

**THE MASSACRE AT DAMASCUS.**—The Beyrout correspondent of the *Daily News* supplies details of the fearful massacre at Damascus. He says:—

"On Sunday the 8th July, when the Christians came out of their various churches, a mob of Moslem lads were busy in the streets making crosses in chalk on the ground, and then stamping and spitting on the sacred emblem. It so utterly downhearted were the Christians that they did not even complain to the authorities of this wanton insult. On the contrary all they did was to confine themselves still more strictly within their houses for the rest of the day. What must then have been their astonishment on the Monday morning to see these same lads, who had made and spit upon the crosses on the previous day, sweeping the streets of the Christian quarter in chains by order of the Turkish head of police. They at once supposed that this order must have been given for the very purpose of exciting a riot, and they were not mistaken. At 2 P. M. some

of the lowest Moslems rushed armed into the Christian quarter, crying out 'Slay the dogs of Christians!' and immediately the work of plunder, burning and murder commenced. Achmet Pacha, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the place—a field marshal in the Sultan's army—was at once informed of what had taken place. But, although he had at his disposal some regular troops and several field-pieces, not a man or a gun did he move. He never showed himself in the streets, nor took any steps whatever to stop the massacre, declaring—the old story of Hasbeyia, Resheyia, Deir-el-Kamar, and Sidon—that he had not troops enough to do any good.

The Russian Consulate was almost the first house attacked, and all those Christians who did not take refuge with the famous Algerine chief, Abd-el-Kader (who has behaved most nobly throughout the business) were murdered at once. But, although the affair might have been stopped with the greatest ease before dark on the Monday, after that hour the mob increased in numbers every minute. Late in the evening about 300 soldiers were sent to put a stop to the outrage, but very shortly joined in the plundering; such as did not do so actually used their arms to massacre the Christians. The whole Christian quarter, which includes some of the finest palaces to be found in the empire, was soon one mass of flames, and for this there is the positive authority of a European eye-witness, who was hiding in the neighbourhood all that fearful night. As the Christians tried to escape from the flames, they were thrust back on the burning piles by the bayonets of the Turkish regular troops. However, when we recollect that one of the military chiefs who commanded in Damascus was Osman Beg, the miscreant who but three weeks previously had delivered up at Hasbeyia upwards of 1,500 Christians to be massacred by the Druses, all wonder at the conduct of the military ceases at once. An Englishman, who has shown great personal courage and example throughout this awful tragedy, writes that from the very first the mob cried out that the soldiers were on their side, and would not hurt them, using this as an argument to their brother fanatics to "kill all the dogs of Christians, not to spare one, to burn their houses, plunder their property, dishonour their wives, tear in pieces their children, and rid the holy city of all save the true followers of the true prophet." In another letter from a sober-minded Englishman, whose word no one can doubt who knows the man, the writer says:—"All this last fearful night Turkish soldiers and Moslem men, women and children continued to pour past my door in an unbroken stream; all laden with spoil, most drunk with blood and rapine. All blaspheming the name of Christ and Christians in shouts fearful to hear and too horrid to repeat."

"What the Turkish authorities did may be summed up in one word—'Nothing.' No less than 6 times did that gallant old man, Mr. Brant, the English consul, and the Rev. Mr. Robson, Irish Presbyterian missionary, at the utmost risk of their lives go together to the Pacha Achmet, and urge him to do something to save the lives of the Christians. No; he said he could and showed that he would do nothing, but remained "consulting in the castle."

"When the last despatches left Damascus at 2 r.m. on Thursday, the 12th instant, the burning, slaughter, murder, pillage and other atrocities continued, not merely as had but worse than ever, for the miscreant fanatics of the place had been just then joined by a host of Bedouins, Kurds, Druses and other scoundrels who were only too happy for the chance of pillage. When our last advices from Damascus left that place, the whole Christian

quarter had been utterly destroyed. 4,000 Christians had taken refuge in the house of Abd-el-Kader, who defended them against all comers. 3,000 had taken refuge in the castle under the Pacha, and several hundreds in the English Consulate, which as yet—being situated in the Moslem quarter of the town—had been respected. Upwards of 2,000 Christians, it was calculated, had been murdered, all in cold blood; and the estimated loss of property, money, valuables, &c., was £1,200,000 sterling. It will hardly be believed that, with all these facts, more or less known to the authorities, the Turkish troops, who arrived here before daybreak on Tuesday, the 10th inst., from Constantinople, only left yesterday (Saturday, the 14th) for Damascus.

"As I write, news from Damascus down to Thursday evening the 12th inst. has reached Beyrout. The Rev. Mr. Graham, of the Irish Presbyterian Mission, had been murdered in the open streets whilst endeavouring to make his escape from a Moslem house, where he had been concealed, to the British Consulate. He had a guard of Turkish soldiers with him, but they did nothing towards defending him from the Moslem mob. The Bedouins and Arabs were pouring into the town to join in the pillage. The Franciscan friars, 8 priests and 2 lay brothers, all Italians or Spaniards, had been butchered. Of Greek, Catholic, Maronite and other Eastern sects some 45 priests had been killed. The Sisters of Charity and the Lazarist priests were at Abd-el-Kader's, who held out bravely."

The writer states that fears are entertained of a Moslem rising at Aleppo, and that every native Christian who could was leaving every place where the Moslems had power. In Alexandria all the refugees that have fled thither have been very handsomely treated by Said Pacha, who gives food to the poorest, money to many, houses to all. In Beyrout the English and Americans have formed a fund to relieve the poor, who have fled to this place in thousands, the French have done the same, the Sisters of Charity have relieved hundreds every day with food, the French, English, Russian, Austrian and Prussian consuls (to say nothing of the American missionaries, who daily feed 300 people) give bread, cooked meat, rice, clothes, &c., to several hundreds of these poor, starved, burnt-out peasants. All the medical men have attended to their wounds and sickness gratis, and even the crews of her Majesty's ships Exmouth and Mohawk, as well as the French Imperial frigate Zenobie, have contributed their mites. The Turkish local authorities have done nothing to relieve all the gigantic misery, for such it must be, considering there are 150 Christian villages burnt and 75,000 Christians without home or bread. "Throughout the land, nay, even amongst the more respectable Moslems themselves, but one opinion prevails among all classes of men, that there has been on the part of the Turkish Government a gigantic scheme or conspiracy to crush out the whole Christian element in Syria, and that what we all looked upon at first as a mere sectarian war between the Druses and the Christians of Lebanon, was in point of fact part in the plan by which, in using the Druses as their unconscious weapons, the Turks succeeded in cutting down and rooting up nearly the whole population of the mountain."

**BEYROUT, August 6.**—Official despatches from Beyrout state that upwards of 400 persons were executed for participating in the recent massacres, incriminated on charges of the consuls, foreign agents, and natives. The arrested include Colonel Ali Bey, and other influential Mohammedans. An extraordinary Commission was appointed to try the accused summarily. Those convicted were to be executed.