

Christian Observer of Public Events.

THE SYRIAN MASSACRES.

The frightful intelligence of Syrian massacres which has reached this country will have produced deep sadness and Christian grief in many a Canadian home, where, through the divine goodness quietness and peace prevail, and entire freedom from fear of such disastrous events. God be thanked for our civil and religious freedom. We have no need to bespeak the sympathy of our fellow-Christians in these lands, for we are persuaded that in all our borders a deep feeling pervades the minds of all classes, and many a prayer has gone up to God's throne for the preservation of those who yet live, and for the speedy deliverance of those who at present are in the power of their brutal murderers. It is also gratifying to know that in England and America a practical sympathy is manifested toward suffering Christians in Syria, and subscriptions have been made and forwarded with commendable promptitude. Further aid is solicited, and although at the time of our writing we have not heard of any movement in Canada, yet even we have an opportunity of aiding the widow and the fatherless, inasmuch as we can remit to the Treasurer of the Syrian Relief Fund in New York, Wm. A. Booth, Esq., 95 Front Street.

We have no space for details of these shocking disasters, but we may condense a few of the painful facts, and leave them on record as reasons for prayer and help to the extent of our power. It seems from authentic information, that the war has been raging on the sides of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and in the valley between them, and in the middle part of the Turkish Province of Syria. Serious fears are

entertained that it may soon extend as far north as Aleppo, and southward to Joppa and Jerusalem.

The enormities perpetrated in this horrible war equal, if they do not surpass, any that were enacted in the late Sepoy rebellion in India. It seems to be the settled purpose of the Druses and Moslems to destroy all the male christian population above ten years of age; while the women and children, if spared, are too often spared for treatment worse than death itself. More than one hundred and fifty towns and villages have been utterly destroyed! In this ruthless war, not only the houses, but the mulberry forests and the vines of the miserable inhabitants, who, two months ago, were living in comfortable, and many of them affluent circumstances, have been destroyed—as if these demons in human shape were resolved that no quality or ingredient of misery should be wanting wherever this desolating wave may roll. “Tens of thousands of people have been ruined—their houses burned to the ground, their crops destroyed, their flocks and beasts of burden have been stolen, their fathers, sons, brothers, husbands, friends, massacred in cold blood,”—we quote the language of the Rev. Mr. Jessup, who was an *eye-witness*—“and they are turned out penniless, homeless, and almost literally destitute of clothing, to live upon the charities of others, or die of exposure or starvation. Thousands have fled to Beirut, and other thousands are scattered through the land. The poor people—Protestants (converts through the labors of the American missionaries), Maronites and Geeeks alike—are driven about and slaughtered like sheep, and if they escape with their lives, it is in abject poverty, with not a