

throughout the fiercest trials and persecutions. Dogs that *they* were! They were no good at buying and selling.¹ An Armenian could beat a Turk at a bargain any day. Nay, was it not well said, 'An Armenian is as good as two Jews.' Why had the Turks come the day before and seized all the rifles and hunting knives which the Armenians had? Why did they refuse them the use of weapons? Was it not because they feared the Armenians and hoped in this way to keep them in subjection. But the Armenians did not need weapons. They could do without them. They would demonstrate their superiority to the Turks in spite of all obstacles. Why! Haji Ghazaros² himself had said the other day that the reason why England and Russia did not set the Armenians free was because they were afraid the Armenians, unless kept in submission, would grow too strong for them and perhaps conquer them. That was a great admission for those proud nations to make; but Haji Ghazaros must know, for he had been to Istanbul and Jerusalem and knew almost everything. Ha! Torkom had fooled the Turks when they came to his house. They had taken even his shot gun although he had secured a license for hunting that winter. But they did not know that there was a six-shooter buried in the earthen floor of his house, and beside it a tin of powder. The fire which he built in the middle of the floor and over which he cooked his meals, concealed all signs.³ And what did he care for his gun? He could get more than its value in actual gain out of these villagers who knew no more about driving a bargain than he knew about driving their dirty cattle. And perhaps he might persuade one of them to sell him his gun, for it was the same way he got one the other time.

These and similar reflections occupied Torkom's mind until he reached his booth. He took down the shutters, pausing to give a salaam to the Turk whose booth was next his own. Then he stepped inside and surveyed the orderly confusion in which his stores were displayed. Here were cups and fancy lamps that he had bought cheap because of flaws in their making. There hung ropes and onions. In the corners stood bags of salt and coffee and rice. Cobwebs and cheap ornaments darkened the windows, while spices from Arabia jostled Coleman's blue and Sunlight soap. A Lancashire Assurance Co. calendar and a Milwaukee beer advertisement decorated his walls. The civilization of the west had penetrated to this remote region. To be sure he knew nothing of insurance and the best drinks he could get were *raki* and wine from the café across the way. But he preferred a small cup of strong Turkish coffee, and as he sipped it, seated on a cane bottomed

1. The Armenian word for commerce is "ar-ev-door," literally, "give and take."

2. Haji is an Armenian title given to those who have visited Jerusalem, Ghazaros—Lazarus. The Armenians are very fond of Bible names. Benjamin, Zerubabel, and Jehoiachin are quite common.

3. The hunting-license is not a permit to hunt at certain seasons, but grants only the right to carry a shot-gun. A rifle is not allowed to the Christian subjects of his majesty. Powder is a contraband article (a government monopoly) and separate permission must be secured for every few pounds of it, which is all one can get at a time. Frequently the police raid the houses of Armenians and seize not only the shot-guns which they have secured permission to use, but even any large knives. Many are the ingenious modes of escaping "injustice," which the Armenians employ. Money often does the work.