

come Moslems. Russian policy has taken advantage of this, and sent into Turkey these pretended patriots to stimulate revolutionary assassins to murder Moslems and then make their escape. This gives the Sultan a much-desired excuse for his barbarous treatment of an innocent people.

"These Russian-Armenian Hunchags are themselves murderers and assassins. They have caused the massacre of many thousands of their innocent fellow-Armenians.

"There is one noble trait that has come out in this terrible persecution, which has astonished the world and has enraged the bloody persecutors.

"It is the firm refusal of men and women—of young men as well as of old—to save life by professing Islam. The confession is very brief. Only say, 'There is but one God, and Mohammed is his Prophet,' and wear the Moslem turban, and your life is spared.

"The eighty to one hundred thousand who have perished might have saved their lives by this confession, and by then adopting the Moslem dress and worship, and trampling upon the cross. They have died the death of martyrs. Many have saved their lives by this confession, it is true; but most of these acknowledge their present extreme wretchedness, and some have been killed for showing this keen regret.

"There is now an immense number of sufferers scattered through all the regions where massacres have occurred, who have lost fathers, brothers, property, dwellings, and who are simply fighting for life. Many thousands of them will perish of cold and famine. This number is estimated at from three to four hundred thousand. They suffer for clothing, for food, and for shelter. As all their tools have been destroyed or stolen, their

miserable 'dug-outs' resemble the lairs of wild beasts.

"And yet all this they endure rather than deny the faith. They suffer 'scourgings and cruel mockings; yea, moreover, of bonds and imprisonments—they wander about in sheep-skins and goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented.'

"All these can escape their misery by professing Islam. They, as well as the thousands slain, are martyrs of Jesus. They may be much less enlightened in Christian doctrine than we, but they have a faith that enables them to 'resist unto blood.' They suffer the most cruel torture and death rather than say Mohammed is Lord, and not Jesus of Nazareth.

"There is another great and unexpected result from this Mohammedan persecution. The old Armenian Church, which has survived all the vicissitudes and persecutions of fifteen centuries, became generally hostile to the evangelical movement inaugurated by the missionaries. Under the influence of St. Petersburg, it became for a time a persecuting Church. But for the last twenty-five years it has been growing less hostile, and in many cases positively friendly. The distribution of the excellent translation of the Scriptures and of many school books and a great deal of Sunday-school literature had prepared the way for a great change.

"That change has come through this persecution. The Gregorian Churches are now all open for the missionaries or the native pastors of Protestant Churches to preach in them. Prayer-meetings are held, in which there is no distinction of sect whatever. The distribution of funds collected by the late Armenian patriarch for his people was entrusted to the American missionaries, who were requested to use their own judgment