

Under The Turk.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LATE MASSACRES BY THE TURKS IN MACEDONIA, WITH AN ACCOUNT OF SIMILAR BARBARITIES IN BULGARIA.—RETROSPECT OF THE VICISSITUDES OF CATHOLICITY IN THE LATTER COUNTRY.—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF ITS PEOPLE, ETC.

OUR readers will need no introduction to the writer of the following article, namely, the Very Rev. A. M. Blakely, C. P., having become acquainted with him through his contribution to our magazine, entitled "Notes of a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land," etc.—Father Blakely, who represents the American province of his Order in the Bulgarian mission field, gives a striking portrayal of the history and mode of life of the people for whose welfare he and his brethren are laboring, and touches incidentally on cognate topics. Here is what he says :

Recent dispatches from the Orient have appeared in the public press of this country relative to the acts of fiendish barbarity committed by the Turks against the Christians of Macedonia within the last few weeks. On December 20, the "Pittsburg Daily News" published the following report :

"VIENNA, Dec. 20.—Further details of the massacre of the Christians in Macedonia by Mussulmans are received from Salonica. Horrible outrages have been committed. In the village of Bituch, in Northern Albania, a horde of Mohammedans crucified every male Christian in the place, fixing them to trees with stakes driven through the hands and feet. Many of the women were outraged, and all were carried off to the Mohammedan harems. Children were chopped up before their parents' eyes.

"At Gruma, south of Bituch, women were violated in front of their husbands and fathers; the men were terribly mutilated, having their ears, fingers, toes and limbs cut off. Many Christians were drowned.

"At Ribaritz the entire population was massacred, after the victims' flesh had been sliced off. At Banishka a bonfire was made of 20 Christians. At Genevitza a priest of the Melumkovics was tied in a sack and thrown into the river.

"The ringleader of the Mohammedans is the fanatic Haiduk Islam, who boasts, of having slaughtered 200 'infidels' with his own hands.

"The Servian consul at Mitrovitza estimates the number of Christians killed at 470 men, 110 women and 430 children. He places the number of Christian women outraged at 385. The Turkish authorities are indifferent to the outrages, though they were committed in the sultan's domain."

Our blood runs cold on perusing these horrible details, and we ask ourselves how it is that Christian (?) Europe and enlightened America can look on unmoved, while an innocent people, whose only 'crime' is their attempts to free themselves from the most brutal despotism known—that of the Moslem—is being subjected to every species of maltreatment by these demons in human form, and that, too, with all the refinements of cruelty with