

HORRORS IN ARMENIA

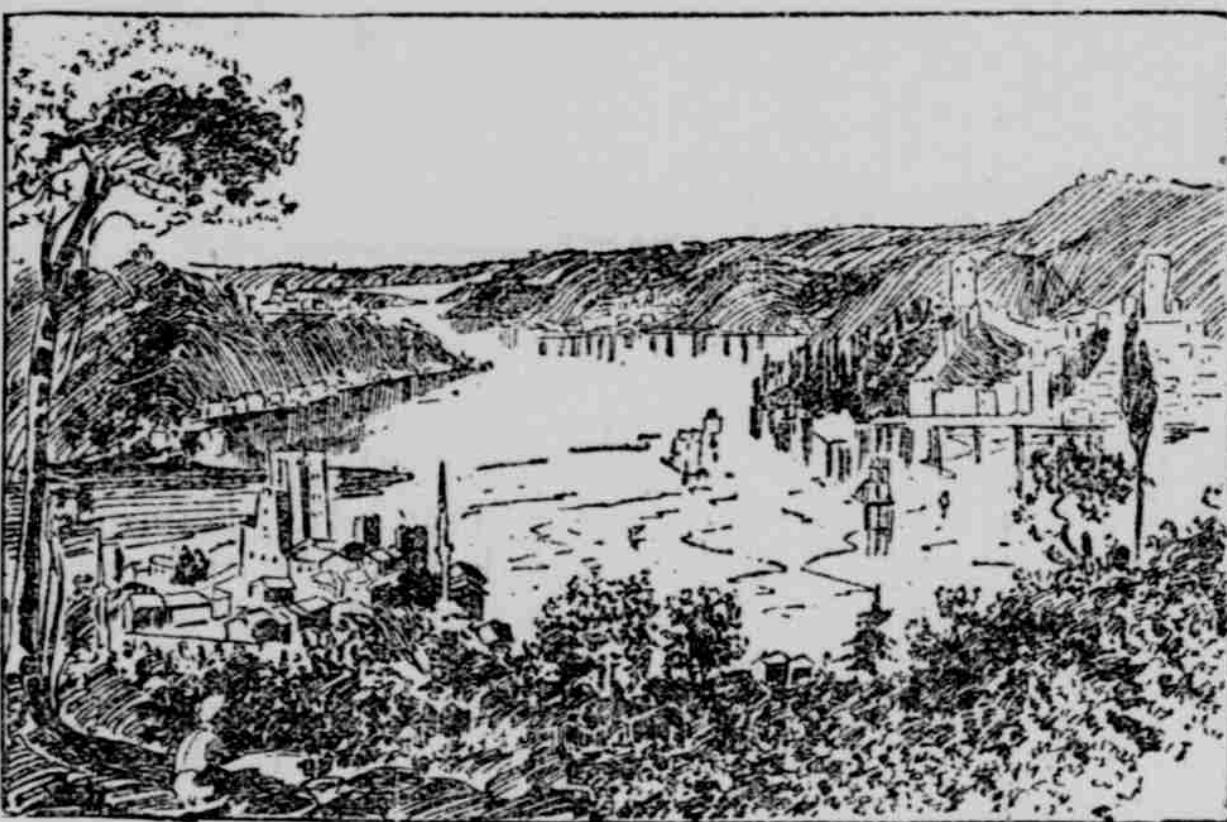
TURKS AND KURDS ARE THIRSTY FOR BLOOD.

All Moslems Are Becoming Aroused—Should the Prophet Declare War, Butcheries Would Be Terrible—Sultan Hopes the Powers Will Quarrel

Alarm for Constantinople.

The heart grows sick over the recital of the outrages and butchery of the Armenians by the Turks. So fearful were the massacres that it was hard to place reliance upon the earlier reports from the scene of disturbance. But as report after report came in they only confirmed the inhuman treatment heaped upon the helpless followers of Christianity. The testimony from a number of sources, whose reliability is undisputed, is that the worst has yet to be told. The latest advices are that the extermination of the Armenians goes right on despite the protests of Christendom and the presence of the warships of the civilized powers in Turkish waters. The Sultan cannot stop the butchery even if he so willed. His time is taken up in planning to ward off the assassins who are seeking his life. Therefore the murderous Turks are left free to carry out their blood-thirsty propensities. Until a checkmate can be applied to these uniformed ruffians the massacre will go on in spite of the appeals brought to bear to have them stopped. For days past Turks and Kurds have been pouring into Constantinople from the devastated regions of Asia Minor. Their primary object is the disposal of the plunder which they have obtained during the massacres. They are also hopeful of a richer harvest in the event of the Sultan's permitting a rising at Stamboul. Their stories, coupled with the display of plunder, have inflamed the lowest class of Moslems. They are ready to seize upon the slightest provocation for an attack. It is unwholesomely significant of this state of affairs that the government is seizing and deporting daily numbers of Armenians of the poorest but most robust class.

It is hard for the unseeing to believe



STRAITS OF THE BOSPHORUS.

would follow in all quarters of the East. Of course the powers would win in the end. The struggle would be a long one, so far as Abdul Hamid is concerned. His declaration of a holy war would mean his own deposition; but, in the meantime, and afterward, what? In the meantime, one of the bloodiest wars of history, and afterward the revival of the rivalries of the powers in sharper form than ever.

Great Powers Foes at Heart.

Although the powers of Europe have agreed to act in combination and probably will maintain that attitude for the present, it is not believed that there is any real accord among them. They are rivals to the bitter end in the East. Their ob-

jects are the continued outflow of gold and an uneasy feeling in business circles that the British gold standard is leading to results that were not anticipated by those who ignorantly placed their influence behind it. Behind this uneasiness in business circles is to be found an absolute depression of trade almost equal in extent to that which followed the fall in silver and the subsequent unconditional repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act in 1893.

The forts are not the chief reliance, the Turk has taken to the torpedo in a way that will astonish his enemies. The recent naval battles at the Yalu River and Port Arthur show the terrible effect of the modern torpedo when intelligently handled.

The bottom of the Dardanelles is lined with torpedoes, and there are a

number of submarine mines. The torpedoes are arranged to be fired by electricity from shore. Nearly all these fortresses along the Dardanelles have been built for many years, some for centuries. They have been remodeled again and again to keep pace with the modern progress in warfare. The Dardanelles is the Hellespont, or sea of Helle, of the ancients. It directly connects the archipelago, an arm of the Mediterranean, with the Sea of Marmora, which is practically the immense harbor of Constantinople. It is very narrow, and resembles rather a river at its mouth than a veritable sea.

Defenses on the Bosphorus.

Coming to Constantinople from the east, through the Bosphorus from the Black Sea, are heavy batteries on almost every point on either side. At the two Koyas, where the channel of the Bosphorus narrows, there is a formidable array of fortifications. They are arranged for a cross-fire, and five of them are of recent construction. These mount thirty heavy Krupp guns each and are capable of sinking any war ship. The Turk has been busily fortifying his frontiers since his last war with Russia, and he is now in a better position to fight than ever before.

The old fortresses of Asia and Europe stand on either shore of the Bosphorus, about half way up, where the channel is unusually narrow, and at a point once traveled by the celebrated bridge of Darius. The fort of Asia, Anadoli Hisar, rises on the lip of a pleasant rivulet, which empties itself into the Bosphorus. The fort of Europe, Reveneli Hisar, on the opposite shore, is of singular construction. The ground plan forms the characters of the prophet's name, by whom tradition says it was built in six days, by permission of the Greek Emperor. This fort possesses great strength, strategic and defensive. It is well supplied with water and the means of storing provisions.

The city of Constantinople itself occupies a triangular promontory above the Propontis. It has been strongly fortified on all sides, including the side washed by the sea and that which is the base of the mainland. The walls extend twelve miles, sweeping from sea to sea, running along the whole length of the harbor and terminating in the celebrated fortress of the Seven Towers. At some points the foundation of the walls is formed by huge masses of rock, a species of architecture still to be traced in a few of the most ancient Grecian structures and formerly termed Cyclopean. In other parts, particularly on the side of Marmora, the masonry commences regularly from the edge of the water. The most ancient portion of the walls is necessarily that which incloses the ancient Byzantium, now known as the Seraglio Point, where the

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MAP SHOWING THE APPROACHES TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

to realize that at this very moment, men, women and children are being butchered within sound of the guns of the fleets of Christian Europe. But such is the actual state of things, and while the sword of the Moslem runs red with Christian blood, Europe stands idly by uttering futile protests, whereas she should enforce her demands until the Turk was rendered harmless for oppression or wiped from the face of the earth. There should be no compromise when civilization meets savagery and fanaticism—the latter should go down to a resurrectionless grave.

Since the beginning of the Turk's rule of the sword in Armenia, only a few months ago, 500,000 people have perished or are on the verge, through starvation and suffering, of the grave. What the sword leaves undone starvation completes, and by the time Europe awakes to its responsibility the Armenian question shall have settled itself by the complete extermination of the Christian population of the country.

Holy War May Come.

The condition of things in Turkey under Abdul Hamid is strikingly like what it was nearly twenty years ago under Abdul Aziz. Turkey was insolent then as she is now. In 1876 the massacres were in Bulgaria. Now they are in Armenia. Then it was the slaughter of Turks by Bulgarian Christians who despaired of help from the powers that provoked the horrible slaughters in return. Now the Armenian Christians, despairing of help from the powers, have planned and carried out an uprising, which in turn has been put down with ferocious cruelty by the Sultan. In 1876 Abdul Aziz was called upon by the powers to introduce reforms which were tantamount to giving his Christian subjects immunities and rights not guaranteed to his Mohammedan subjects. The result was that the latter were inflamed to a dangerous pitch of revolt. That experience is duplicated now. Nothing more dreadful could happen to Christian humanity in the remote east than the outbreak of a "holy" war, a war in which the followers of Mahomet should draw the sword of extermination against not only every Christian missionary, but every citizen of a Christian state wherever found.

When it is borne in mind that the followers of Mahomet number at the lowest calculation 200,000,000, some idea may be gained of what a general religious outbreak against Christianity among them would mean. There are 5,000,000 in Egypt, vast numbers in the colonies of Southeastern Austria, at least 40,000,000 in India and 20,000,000 more in other British colonies. The Sultan is the recognized head of the whole Moslem world,

objects are conflicting, and it is only mutual fear which avails to preserve mutual deference. The powers do not care a whit for Turkey or its sovereign, and would sweep Abdul Hamid and his system off the face of the earth if they acted upon their impulses. But to do away with the Turkish empire means to invite a condition of things perhaps ten-fold worse than that which now exists. If Turkey were effaced as a geographical entity the powers would have more trouble in agreeing as to the division of the land among the conquerors than they have had over any problem of European politics.

Turkey must stand intact under some form of government, if the outward accord of the powers is to be maintained. The jealousies of England and Russia in Asia have been forcibly illustrated during the last twelve months in the Japan-China war and in the Korean imbroglio.



THE DARDANELLES.

But the matters at stake there are a mere bagatelle compared with those at the Bosphorus. It has been the steady policy of Russia for a hundred years to lose no more on the European chessboard that brings her nearer to Constantinople and the control of the Marmora Sea, and it is the determination of Europe that Russia shall not occupy Constantinople.

This is the Eastern question: What to do with Constantinople? The powers would take all the risks of a holy war if they could be sure that the overthrow of the Turkish empire and its partition would not fatally disturb the balance of power.

FORTS OF THE DARDANELLES.

What Gunboats Would Encounter En Route to Constantinople.

Naval engineers are of the opinion that Constantinople cannot be successfully assaulted by water. They claim that the

apex of the triangle divides the Propontis from the port, and instead of being peopled by the busy multitude of the city, is silent in the stillness of its gilded palace and overhanging groves. These walls that are now standing were built over 1,000 years ago.

The body of an unknown girl, who committed suicide at a fashionable boarding house, and who is supposed to be from Canada, lies at the morgue at Buffalo. It is that of a young woman about 24 years old. There is no clew to her identity and even the marks on her liner have been obliterated as if with careful purpose.

The Paris Figaro reveals an alleged secret in President Faure's family history which proves to have been simply that his wife's mother was abandoned by her husband two months after her marriage.



HOW GOLD STANDARD WORKS

THE present condition of affairs constitutes an object lesson that ought not to be lost on thoughtful people. We are realizing some of the results of our supreme folly in permitting British and foreign interests to dictate the character of our monetary system. The situation is more ominous than the symptoms that appear on the surface would indicate. Those surface symptoms are the continued outflow of gold and an uneasy feeling in business circles that the British gold standard is leading to results that were not anticipated by those who ignorantly placed their influence behind it. Behind this uneasiness in business circles is to be found an absolute depression of trade almost equal in extent to that which followed the fall in silver and the subsequent unconditional repeal of the Sherman act in 1893.

Two weeks ago the information came that various manufacturing industries were shutting down for the purpose of keeping up prices. That movement showed the desperate tactics to which our industries are driven to realize profits under the British gold standard.

The simple fact is that 'best' money means nothing more nor less than lowest prices, and lowest prices cannot possibly mean anything else than depression in industry and stagnation in business.

Dun's report says that there is no reaction from the business depression, and frankly adds that "efforts to explain it or to attribute it to this or that temporary influence are wasted." That is true. It can be explained only by the operations of the single gold standard, which constantly enhances the value of gold as compared with other forms of property and with all the products of human labor. There can be no prosperity under the single gold standard in a nation that is a heavy debtor of foreign countries.

The only prospect for relief in sight at present, therefore, or in other words, the only chance for getting a less valuable currency with advancing prices, is from the increasing production of gold, and from this cause, as we have previously pointed out, there is reason to be hopeful of good results. But the change cannot come at once. It will take time to develop the mines and get out the gold, and even with the large production of \$200,000,000 in gold a year, it will be some time before there can be a marked effect on the value of the world's stock of \$4,000,000,000 or over.

We may get some measure of relief from tariff changes which will tend to advance prices again, but this would be only temporary as long as the general movement of the world's currency tends to make it more valuable or 'better' as our financiers express it.

"It is no answer to say that this argument could be carried to an extreme and that a currency of copper or tin or iron would be cheaper and therefore bring more prosperity. We could simply ask how the other extreme would work with a currency of diamonds or some other metal of which only a few pounds could be supplied. We are arguing on the existing conditions and in a business way, and the only common sense business conclusion must be that the movement in the direction of 'better' or more valuable money as a measure of values must be stopped before there can be any confidence or assurance or profit in business operations.

We may have spurts in different lines and changes due to what might be termed local causes, but industry as a whole cannot prosper as long as declining prices destroy all chances of profit for the men who must take the lead in all various branches of wealth production. In so far as the recent great gold discoveries tend to this result there is promise and hope for the future."

The above utterance, coming from the representative journal of one of the heaviest items of manufacture in the East, may be classed as significant. It presents in business-like terms the relation of currency to commerce, a relation which the Eastern statesmen, blinded by the London single standard fog, have been muddling for some years with fine spun theories and high-sounding terms, which mean little or nothing to what might be termed local causes, but industry as a whole cannot prosper as long as declining prices destroy all chances of profit for the men who must take the lead in all various branches of wealth production. In so far as the recent great gold discoveries tend to this result there is promise and hope for the future."

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