MASSACRE OF ARMENIANS
Equals the Bulgarian Butcheries Which Led to War.

OVER SIX THOUSAND MURDERED

Women Outraged and Babies Impaled
—The Sultan Shocked by the Horrible Story—England Investigating.

LONDON, Nov. 18.—The Standard’s correspon-
dent in Varna describes the recent massacre of Armenian Christians as of
equal importance with the Bulgarian butcheries which led to the Russo-Turkish war.
He says:

"The trouble began with the refusal of the Armenians to pay taxes, on the ground
that the Kurdish raids had so impoverished them as to render it impossible. This probably
was true. Troops were sent to enforce the payments, but were beaten off. The Governor of Bitlis then arrived with an
imposing force of regulars.

"The people, seeing that the struggle was hopeless, yielded, but the Governor resolved
to make an example of them. He ordered the troops to fire on the defenseless popu-
lace, and they obeyed with alacrity. They only ceased when the residents of twenty-
five villages, numbering some thousands, had been killed. Some reports say 6,000
were slain.

"Great Britain sent her Consul in Van, Mr. Hallward, to report on the slaughter.
The British Ambassador in Constantinople, upon receiving the report, communicated it
to the Porte. The Sultan was horrified, and he ordered the local military commander,
Zekl Pasha, to make his report on the matter at once.

"Zekl had been originally instructed to proceed to the scene after the repulse of
the troops, but the Governor of Bitlis arrived there ahead of him. It seems that
Zekl’s report confirmed Mr. Hallward’s, whereupon the Governor formulated the
deplorable charge that the latter was inciting the Armenians to revolt, thus causing the
whole original disturbance. This was submitted to Sir Philip Currie, who has sent
out British officials to make inquiries."

Mr. Hagopian, Chairman of the Armenian Patriotic Association in London, has sent
Lord Kimberley, Foreign Secretary, a letter sent from Bitlis on Oct. 9. Mr. Ha-
gopian, after declaring his belief in the reports of the massacre, submits that, in view
of the horrible tortures and persecutions of the Armenians, the time has come to
abolish the administration of the Porte, and substitute a régime approved by the
signatories of the Berlin treaty.

The letter from Bitlis gives details of the origin of the disturbance. There was a
Kurdish raid on Armenian cattle, resulting in a fight, in which two Kurds were killed.
The friends of the Kurds took the corpses to Moush, and declared that the Armenians
had overrun the land, and were killing and plundering right and left. This furnished
the pretext for the massing of the troops.

The letter then describes the horrors of the massacre. It says that on the admissions of the Turkish soldiers, some of whom
tearfully protested that they merely obeyed orders, no compassion was shown to age
or sex. In one place, 300 or 400 women, after having been forced repeatedly to sub-
mit to the soldiery were hacked to pieces with swords and bayonets. In another place
200 weeping women begged at the commander’s feet for mercy. The commander, after
ordering that they be outraged, had them all dispatched with the sword.

Similar scenes were enacted in other places. In one case sixty young brides and
maiden were driven into a church and were violated and butchered until their
blood flowed from the doors. A large company, headed by a priest, kneel near the
church, begging for compassion, averring that they had nothing to do with the cul-
prits who killed the Kurds. It was in vain; all were killed.

Several attractive women were told they might live if they would recant their faith.
They replied: “Why should we deny Christ? We have no more reason to do so than
had these,” pointing to the mangled bodies of their husbands and brothers,
“kill us, too.” This was done.

The letter says that between 6,000 and 10,000 were killed. Babes were impaled on
the same weapon with their mothers. Se-

eral soldiers admitted that they had dis-
posed of a hundred victims each. Nearly
thirty villages were destroyed. Some fami-
lies were burned with kerosene in their own
houses.

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