RED HORRORS IN THE SASOUN.

The Atrocities in Armenia Not Exaggerated.

Revolutionary Conspirators Are to Blame.


LONDON, Feb. 2.—A letter has been received here from a special correspondent of the Associated Press who was sent to Armenia from London to investigate the reported Armenian atrocities, and who at present is in Armenia. For reasons that will be readily understood, the name of this correspondent is withheld, but he is a newspaper man well known in America, and he was instructed to make an impartial investigation of the stories told of Turkish cruelty. The correspondent spent a week or more in Constantinople before starting for Armenia, during which time he investigated the reports current there and continued his journey. His first letter has just reached here after having been posted by a trusted messenger at Tiflis, Russia. It contains the first authentic news from Armenia direct and says:

"Whatever secrets may lie under the snow on the Armenian mountains, it seems beyond dispute, from what I have heard from many lips, that the published stories of ferocious butchery and red horrors in the Sasoun villages have at least a reasonable foundation of truth, and that any change, authorized by further investigation, will deal more with numbers than with the degree of the horrors.

HUMAN BOMBS.

"But no matter what light we throw upon the spasmodic wickedness of the Turk or upon the ingenious deviltry of the revolutionary conspirators, we find that it is still the innocent that suffer most. The Turk declares that the Armenians have inflicted shocking outrages upon Turkish men and women and from what is already known of conspiracy methods it is quite likely that the assertion is true.

"For instance, it is reported that as a means of inciting the Turks to commit outrages that will bring down upon them the wrath of a civilized world, Armenians have thrust gun cartridges into the bodies of living Turkish men and women and have exploded them and that in the case of one man, a hole was made just below the bones of the chest for the insertion of a quantity of gunpowder which was then ignited as a sort of bomb.

"These facts are known to the embassies at Constantinople and probably they have been transmitted in reports to the various governments.

"The impartial truth of the Sasoun massacre will probably never be known, for the dead tell no tales. A careful sifting of all the facts obtainable from trustworthy sources in Constantinople, Sasoun, Kerasund, Trebzon and Bitlis indicates that this is what happened:

THE CRUEL KURDS.

"Certain Armenian peasants to the number of several thousand were tending their herds and flocks in their summer pastures in the Sasoun mountains along the borders of Kurdistan. They were living in mere temporary villages which they inhabited only during the summer pasture season, their winter herds going far down the valley. They were under contract to defend them against the raids of cattle stealers and Kurdish bands. A short time before the villagers were ready to return to their homes in the valleys with their fattened cattle, a band of Kurdish bandits, industriously searching for a winter's supply of provisions, raided
their stock. The villagers and their
Kurdish protectors made a vigorous de-
fense. They would have ended it but
before the fighting was over the Turk-
iah government came into the affair and
then the real trouble began. Some of
them telegraphed that a conspiracy was
in progress among the Armenians in the
mountain villages and the order came
straight from the palace:

"Punish the villagers to the utmost
extremity."

The palace has not paused to inquire
into the truth of the rumor and the offi-
cers entrusted with the execution of the
order did not investigate the facts when
the troops arrived on the ground. The
Kurdish band joined forces with the
Turkish regulars and even the Kurds,
who had been defending the Armenians,
turned traitors and swelled the numbers
of the government troops. The poor
Armenian peasants were then left at the
mercy of a force of Turkish regulars and
two bands of Kurds. The massacre
began. For the Armenians it was a
fight without hope, but still they fought
as only men can to defend their
wives and children from out-
rage and death. They took refuge
in their houses and barricaded them-
selves in, but the Kurdish cannon made
short work of these, and when the men
in terror from their hiding places ran,
they were slain without mercy, man,
woman and child. The outrage of Ar-
menian women and children by the
Turks in that part of the country is so
common a thing, even at times of abso-
lute quiet, that there can be no doubt
this massacre was attended with out-
rage and atrocity to horrible too think of.
The Armenians in Athens and
Constantinople assert that 42 villages
were destroyed and nearly 10,000 per-
sons massacred; but more impartial
and equally informed persons put the
number at 25 villages and from 1000 to
3000 persons killed. The exact num-
ber will never be known.

A FRAUDULENT COMMISSION.

As for the Turkish commission, it is
such a fraud that it is a waste of breath
to talk about it. The sultan's promise
of reform will not be binding upon the

Armenian revolutionary agents, no
matter what may come, and until the
revolutionary agitation is provided for
one way or another by the Christian
powers of the world, there will be no
end to the disturbances in Armenia.
This is the revolutionary party's oppor-
tunity and it will make the most of it.
If Christianity does not step in now and
put an end to the question once for all,
crimes, massacres and the nameless
atrocities will continue.

Not only should the Sassoun massacre
be probed to the bottom, but all the at-
ten ding circumstances should be care-
fully considered. For one thing the
state of morals in Armenia, and espe-
cially along the Kurdish frontier,
should receive the closest scrutiny. The
facts that are now and then told as
merest matters of course, are most ab-
palling in the depths of depravity.
When an Armenian girl is to be mar-
ried she is taken from her home and
outraged by bands of Turks and Kurds,
and any member of her family who lifts
a hand in defense of her honor is shot
down.

THE ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN MUST SUFFER.

On the Kurdish frontier the ravish-
ers do not even wait for the approach
of a girl's wedding, but they seize her
when she has reached a certain age
and carry her off to the mountains
where she is most shamefully treated.
In a few days she is allowed to return
to her home. This infamous practice
is so common that it is declared there
is not a young Armenian woman
living along the Kurdish frontier
who has not been a victim of it.
Even children of tender years are not
exempt and some have actually died in
the most frightful agony. Any attempt
of the Armenians to combat this ques-
tion, or to punish the perpetrators of
the outrages, is met by severe meas-
ures. It is a significant fact that
outrages are never perpetrated by
Turks upon other Turks, or by Kurds
upon their fellow tribesmen. It is al-
ways upon the Armenian Christian that
Turk and Kurd let loose their depravity. It is the difference of religion that is the basis of all this injury, oppression and wrong. What will the practical Christianity of England and America do about it? Will it help the Armenian revolutionist party to form an independent state in order that the women and children may be protected against outrage and death? Will it give Armenia to Christian Russia, where already many thousands of Armenians are living in peace and prosperity? Will it drive the Turks from power and divide their empire among the nations of Europe? Whatever practical Christianity decides to do it will not do it as a result of the report of the Turkish commission of inquiry.

As the situation now stands, one is forced to believe both Turk and Armenian are in the wrong.