

The great difficulty about the Armenian massacres is the difficulty of getting correct intelligence. There is a great deal of Turkish oppression going on in those remote regions, aggravated by the marauding and kidnapping of the Kurds, and there is intense hatred between the Christian and Mussulman populations, and both sides, of course, exaggerate this feeling for the purpose of working on European opinion. But that the Turkish oppression is frightful there can be no doubt, and it is highly probable that some Armenian resistance was punished by wholesale massacre. This has been the Turkish mode of repressing insubordination of any kind on the part of its Christian subjects ever since the Turks began to have any Christian subjects. They have perpetrated these massacres now and again in every part of their dominions. That of Scio in 1822 made a profound impression on Christendom, but that of Bulgaria in 1876 was nearly as bad, but would have passed comparatively unnoticed if Mr. Schuyler and Mr. McGahan had not happened to be on the spot. The truth is that there are no remedies for Turkish rule but abolition. The Armenians, once a warlike people, and furnishing some good soldiers in the Russian service, have, through

ages of oppression, become unwarlike and are incapable of effecting their own deliverance. It will probably come some day from Russian interference. In letting the Turks have a free hand in that region the western Powers are playing into Russian hands. But there is little use in remonstrating with the Turks or exposing them, and their own press, even the European version of it, is muzzled by censorship such as has not been seen in Europe since the middle ages. One of the horrible incidents of Turkish rule from which the Armenians suffer severely is the insecurity of their young women. The kidnapping of Christian girls is a time-honored Turkish pastime, and keeps the Christian parents of pretty daughters in horrible anxiety. Down to the emancipation of Bulgaria, the entrance of Turks, especially high official Turks, into a Christian village in that province was always a signal for the close concealment of the young women. The Greek who brought his son up to believe that his most sacred duty was to kill one Turk a day had, in fact, much excuse.

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