

Rochester, Minnesota

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## THE ARMENIAN MASSACRES

It is, of course, as little as the Washington government could do to enter emphatic protest against the massacres of the Armenian Christians by the savage Mohammedans who have desired no better opportunity or excuse than that which war conditions have furnished them to conduct their religious persecutions with fire and sword.

The Turkish government has been told through Ambassador Morgenthau at Constantinople that public sentiment in this country has been so stirred by the reports of Armenian atrocities that a continuance of them is liable to cause a rupture of the friendly relations existing between Turkey and the United States.

In view of the fact that Turkey has already informed us that she desired no interference on our part with her internal affairs, the American protest is likely to have comparatively little effect.

Moreover, it is recalled that just a year ago this country had a little tiff with the Turkish minister, one A. Rustem Bey, who coupled, with an attack upon Great Britain and France, a gratuitous fling at the United States which he declined to modify or withdraw, and as a result of which he was requested to go home.

Mr. A. Rustem Bey on that occasion denounced Great Britain and France for their alleged effort to induce the United States to send warships to Turkish waters to prevent the massacre of Christians, and in the course of his criticisms took occasion to say this about the United States:

And since a large number of American papers are siding with Great Britain and France in this affair, I will permit myself to say that the thought of the lynchings which occur in the United States and the "water cures" in the Phil-

ippines should make them chary of attacking Turkey in connection with savageries committed by her under provocation, compared with which the economic competition of an Italian, or the sniping of a Filipino or even the outrage of a negro are as nothing.

It will be recalled that upon refusing to retract or to modify his statements, the aforesaid Turkish minister, who did not even think it worth the while to deny that savageries and atrocities had been committed in his own country, went home in response to official request on the part of the Washington government.

The interesting feature of the Rustem Bey incident, which happened in September, 1914, is that what he said probably expressed in very mild form the views and feelings of his own countrymen and of his government.

Certainly nothing has occurred since Rustem Bey went home to indicate that any representations from this government, of a purely humanitarian nature, would be more favorably received in Constantinople now than they would have been at that time.

Turkey has the advantage of us in her location, and also in the fact that the interests of American citizens in that country are greater than those of Turks in America. Besides, the rest of the world for whose opinion Turkey would give a thrip at this time is not going to concern itself over our protest where the lives and property of American citizens are not involved.

The American protest will fall, therefore, very much as water upon a duck's back. About all we can do in the matter, aside from severing diplomatic relations, is to go upon record in denunciation of the Turkish savageries and to hope and believe that ultimately the barbarians will be driven from Europe irretrievably and for all time.

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