

## THE ARMENIAN QUESTION

### England and America Cannot Afford to Throw Stones, Says a Correspondent.

To the Editor of The New-York Times:

Lord Salisbury's assertion in his speech on the address, namely, that Turkey's independence "exists by reason of the agreement of other powers that they will not interfere with it, and that they will maintain it," may sound well to the ears of Turkey's detractors, but, if true, the same assertion may also be considered as applying with equal force to every power on earth. And the reason is simple enough. Suppose, for argument's sake, that the European powers, one and all, were to combine their forces, by land as well as by sea, and, with a unity that necessarily would become overwhelming, were to fall upon all British possessions, where would the "independence" of the British Empire be? No doubt it would speedily vanish.

An "agreement," therefore, tacit or not tacit, always exists between civilized nations, an agreement the purport of which is that they will not "interfere" with each other's "independence," and that they will "maintain" it. Otherwise, there would be no stability in human affairs, no political life among nations, no progress. Now, Lord Salisbury may think, if he chooses, that England is an unassailable power, whose first serious defeat from a coming foe would not be the certain signal of her collapse and dismemberment. He may assert that Turkey is, on the contrary, a vulnerable power. But let him ask the Russians what they think of the Turkish soldiers. Let the whole world answer to this, Turkey's "independence" is as certain as England's. To break down her "independence" Turkey's enemies must fight first. Words are misleading when they do not correspond to facts.

It seems, however, as if Lord Salisbury had lost the memory of some facts especially concerning English cruelty. His non-reference to the Indian mutiny of 1857, and his abstaining to compare it with the Sassoun revolt were most characteristic. Anybody who knows anything about English history and English tenderness of heart remembers with what savage cruelty, with what streams of blood, the English soldiery put down the rebellion of that year. Even Armenian falsehoods as applied to Sassoun were below the truth in comparison with the English application in India of an imperial policy of extermination and death. Such words as "butchery," "hellish deeds," "piteous moans," "piercing cries," "shrieks," "screams," "vain voices of blood and agony," and the like, that fill Mr. Dillon's article on Turkey which has just appeared in an English magazine, apply a thousand times more to the British repression of the Indian mutiny of 1857 than to the Turkish repression of the Armenian revolt of Sassoun of 1894.

Even to-day, if there were to manifest itself in India an agitation equal to the one described by the Rev. Cyrus Hamlin himself as having existed eighteen months ago in Asiatic Turkey among Armenians, the same English soldiery would use absolutely the same cruel means for preserving the "integrity" of the British Empire. And yet no Christian power would think of raising its voice against such a policy. No public meetings would take place in America to condemn a Protestant country. The past has shown us that such would be the case. And even in the present time, who in Europe or in the United States sends a word of sympathy to those Mussulmans, to those Mussulman women and children, to those Mussulman villages that are being plundered and outraged by savage Bulgarians?

Whatever the cause of this conduct may be, nothing, we consider, will be found more instructing and more edifying than the perusal of a remarkable letter published by Mrs. S. L. Baldwin, in The New-York Tribune. Every impartial American will surely judge Turkey with more charity after reading the following passages of said letter:

"Let us be correct and fair in our records. There is cause for us Americans not to be too free with our exhortations, epithets, and threats. The Chinese are not sinners above all others. If you will grant me space in your paper, I will give you reliable details of such outrages against the Chinese in the United States—not in interior cities, but that have taken place in Boston, New-York, and Brooklyn, as well as in San Francisco, San José, Sacramento, Tacoma, Denver, Seattle, and other places—that at least ought to make us silent as well as sad in our present grief over the Ku-Cheng cablegram. I know of no terrible massacre in China in 1885; but I can give the most horrible details of one that occurred right here in our honorable (?) country. I had the painful duty of writing the only detailed account of it published in the East, and had to lay down my pen and leave my desk three times before I could go through with it. I had the triple official documents—Chinese, United States, and Union Pacific Railroad—from which to make my painful, reliable record.

"In that massacre, which does distinguish 1885 in our history, more Chinese were killed, shot down, burned alive, in one awful hour, that day in September, at Rock Spring, Wyoming, than were English and Americans killed in China in twenty-five years. For the Ku-Cheng outrage men will be arrested and executed, officers will be removed and degraded, and all destroyed property will be made good. For the Rock Springs massacre of fifty perfectly innocent people—so all authorities, our own, Messrs. Cleveland and Bayard among them, declared—up to this date of Aug. 6, 1895, no human being has been arrested, much less punished. All the hard-earned gains of these fifty people were stolen or destroyed, for which our highest authorities declared that 'in justice' there was no claim for indemnity, but 'ex-gratia' it might be given; but even 'ex gratia' it was not granted until, a few years later, our own West China Mission was raided—no one hurt—and we wanted \$25,000 for our destroyed property, and our Government had enough shame left to hurry up and pay the 'ex gratia' sum before it shook the American flag before the Chinese Government and threatened a gunboat if the said Chinese Government—so infamous—did not right our fearful wrongs, and 'in justice,' not 'ex gratia,' pay up quickly! Again I say, let us be fair!

"I conclude with a question: Is it a greater offense to 'Our Father' for His American, English, and French children to be killed in China than His Chinese children to come to a like tragic end in the United States? If an offender's sin is to be judged by the light he has, what must the answer be? I am in deep grief for the beloved friends thrust out of life in Ku-Cheng, and I am and have been these many years in as great sorrow for my Chinese friends so brutally robbed and killed in this land filled with gospel light."

Constantinople, Sept. 16.