

THE MARSOVAN CONSPIRACY.

Result of Investigations Made by the American Secretary of Legation.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 17.—H. R. Newberry, Secretary of the United States Legation in this city, who returned last week from Cæsarea and Marsovan, where he investigated the recent reports of the persecution of Christians by Mahomedans and the burning of the Marsovan College, conducted by Dr. Herriok, has made a statement in regard to the origin of the disturbances.

Mr. Newberry says that the disturbances had their beginning in Turkish or Armenian conspirators inciting the populace to revolt by seditious placards which were stuck on the doors of the American school. These placards were handwritten in the Turkish language. They were of a very inflammatory and treasonable character, and declared that it was necessary for the people to shake off the yoke of slavery laid on them by the tyrannical Sultan. Mr. Newberry also found that bombs charged with dynamite had been seized by the authorities.

On account of these facts, showing that a genuine and dangerous plot existed, Mr. Newberry considered that the arrest of the plotters was justified. As there were doubtless many innocent persons among the 900 who were arrested on the charge of having been concerned in the conspiracy, Mr. Newberry induced the Grand Vizier to grant amnesty to 600 of the prisoners, who were released, and the remaining prisoners are to be brought to trial in court at Angora, in Asiatic Turkey.

Mr. Newberry denied the truth of the report that letters addressed to the American Legation had been opened by the Turkish authorities. The letters, Mr. Newberry explained, had been delayed owing to the couriers being provided with bad horses and to the insufficiency of the escorts. The American Legation has therefore demanded that the Turkish Post Office authorities shall organize an efficient and well-protected mail service, traveling at more frequent intervals and giving prompter and more regular delivery than at present.

LONDON, April 17.—In the House of Commons to-day, Sir Edward Grey, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated that the amnesty granted to certain of the prisoners arrested in Armenia on charges of a conspiracy left only fifty persons to be tried.