

TESTON COURAGE HELD UNEXAMPLED

Berlin's Tolerance for Mur-
derers of Armenians
Is Boundless.

GERMANY'S GUILT IS CLEAR

Lack of Conscience and Foresight of
Kaiser's Government Enough to
Undermine Loyalty of Any
Man, Says Sturmer.

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ment.)

BY DR. HARRY STURMER.

Has there ever been a greater tragedy in the history of a people—and of a people that have never held any illusions as to political independence, wedged in as they are between two great Powers and who had no real independent feelings towards Russia and up to the moment when the Young Turks betrayed them shamefully and broke the ties of comradeship that had bound them together as revolutionaries against the old despotic system of Abdul-Hamid, were as thoroughly loyal citizens of the Ottoman Empire as any of the other peoples of this land, excepting perhaps the Turks themselves. I hope that these few words may have given sufficient indication of the spirit and outcome of this system of extermination. I should like to mention just one more episode which affected me personally more than anything I experienced in Turkey.

One day in the summer of 1915 my wife went out alone about midday to buy something in the "Grand Rue de Pera." We lived a few steps from Galata-Bazaar and had a good opportunity from our balcony of seeing the hands of Armenian deportees arriving at the police-station under the escort of gendarmes. Familiarity with such sights finally dulled our sympathies and we began to think of them not as episodes affecting human individuals, but rather as political events.

On this particular day, however, my wife came back to the house trembling all over. She had not been able to go on her errand. An Arab named the "karakol," she had heard through the open hall door the agonizing groans of a tortured being, a dull wailing like the sound of an animal being tormented to death. "An Armenian," she was informed by the people standing at the door. The crowd was then dispersed by a policeman.

"If such scenes occur in broad daylight in the busiest part of the European town of Pera, I should like to know what is done to Armenians in the un-civilized interior?" my wife asked me. "If the Turks act like wild beasts here in the capital, so that a woman going through the main streets gets a shock like that to her nerves, then I can't live in this frightful country." And then she burst into a fit of sobbing and let loose all her pent-up passion against what she and I had had to witness for more than a year every time we set a foot out of doors.

Germans Declared Brutes.
"You are brutes, you Germans, miserable brutes, that you tolerate this from the Turks, when you still have the country absolutely in your hands. You are cowardly brutes and I will never set foot in your horrible country again. God, how I hate Germany!"

It was then, when my own wife, trembling and sobbing, in grief, rage and disgust at such cowardliness, flung this denunciation of my country in my teeth that I, finally and absolutely broke with Germany. Unfortunately I had known only too long that it had to come.

I thought of the conversations I had had about the Armenian question with members of the German Embassy in Constantinople and of a very different kind, with Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador.

I had never felt fully convinced by the protestations of the German Embassy that they had done their utmost to put a check on the murderous attacks on harmless Armenians far from the theater of war, who from their whole surroundings and their social class could not be in a position to take an active part in politics and on the cold-blooded neglect and starvation of women and children apparently deported for no other reason than to die. The attitude of the German government towards the Armenian question had impressed me as a mixture of cowardice and lack of conscience on the one hand and the most short-sighted stupidity on the other.

The American Ambassador, who took the most generous interest in the Armenians and has done so much for the cause of humanity in Turkey, was naturally much too reserved on this most burning question to give a German journalist like myself his true opinion about the attitude of his German colleagues. But from the many conversations and discussions I had with him, I gathered nothing that would turn me from the opinion I had already formed of the German Embassy and I had given him several hints of what that opinion was.

The attitude of Germany was, in the first place, as I have said, one of boundless cowardice. For we had the Turkish government firmly enough in hand, from the military as well as the financial and political point of view, to insist upon the observance of the simplest principles of humanity if we wanted to. Ever, and still more Talat, who as Minister of the Interior and really dictator of Turkey was principally responsible for the Armenian persecutions, had no other choice than to follow Germany's lead unconditionally and they would have accepted without any hesitation, if perhaps with a little grumbling, any definite ruling of Germany's even on this Armenian question that lay so near their hearts.

From hundreds of examples it has been proved that the German Embassy never showed any undue delicacy, even perfectly legitimate Turkish interests and feelings in matters affecting German interests and that they always got their own way when it was a question, for example, of Germany being oppressed, or superseded by Turkey in the Government and ruling Turkey. And yet I had to stand and look on when our Embassy was not even capable of granting her due and proper rights to a perfectly innocent German lady married to an Armenian who had been deported with other Armenians. She appealed for redress to the German Embassy, but her only reward was to wait day after day in the vestibule of the Embassy for her case to be heard.

Turks themselves have found cynical enjoyment in this measureless cowardice of ours and compared it with the attitude of the Russian government, who, if they had found themselves in a similar position to Germany, would have been proved, in spite of the capitulations being abolished, to make a political case, if necessary, out of the protection due to one poor Russian Jew. Turks have, very politely but none the

less definitely, made it quite clear to me that at bottom they felt nothing but contempt for our policy of letting things slide.

Our attitude was characterized, secondly, by lack of conscience. To look on while life and property, the well-being and culture of thousands are sacrificed and to content oneself with weak formal protests when one is in a position to take most energetic command of the situation is nothing but the most criminal lack of conscience, and I cannot get rid of the suspicion that, in spite of the fine official phrases one was so often treated to in the German Embassy on the subject of the "Armenian problem," our diplomats were very little concerned with the preservation of this people.

Germans Hard-Hearted.
What leads me to bring this terrible charge against them? The fact that I never saw anything in all this pother on the part of our diplomats when the venerable old Armenian patriarch appeared at the Embassy with his suite after some particularly frightful sufferings of the Armenian population and begged with tears in his eyes for help from the Embassy, however late—and I assisted more than once at such scenes in the Embassy and listened to the conversations of the officials—I never saw anything but concern about German prestige and offended vanity. As far as I saw, there was never any concern for the fate of the Armenian people. The fact that time and again I heard from the mouths of Germans of all grades, from the highest to the lowest, so far as they did not have to keep strictly to the official German versions, expressions of hatred against the Armenians, which were based on the most short-sighted judgment, had no relation to the facts of the case and were merely thoughtless echoes of the official Turkish statements.

And cases have actually been proved to have occurred, from the testimony of German doctors and Red Cross nurses returned from the interior, of German officers light-heartedly taking the initiative in exterminating and scattering the Armenians when the less zealous local authorities who still retained some remnants of human feeling scrupled to obey the instructions of "Nur-el-Osmanieh" (the headquarters of the committee at Stambul).

The case is well known and has been absolutely verified of the scandalous conduct of two German officers passing through a village in far Asia Minor, where the Armenians had taken refuge in their houses and barricaded them to prevent being herded off like cattle. The order had been given that guns were to be turned on them, but not a single Turk had the courage to carry out this order and fire on women and children. Without any authority whatsoever, the two German officers then turned to and gave an exhibition of their shooting capacities!

Such shameful acts are of course isolated cases, but they are on a par with the opinions expressed about the Armenian people by dozens of educated Germans of high position—not to speak of military men at all.

Berlin Is Unresponsive.
A case of this kind where German soldiers were guilty of an attack on Armenians in the interior of Anatolia was the subject of frequent official discussion at the German Embassy and was finally brought to the notice of the authorities in Germany by Graf Wolff-Metternich, a really high-principled and humane man. The material result of this was that through the unheard-of cowardice of our government, this man—who in spite of his age and in contrast to the weak-minded Freiherr von Wangenheim, and criminally optimistic, had made many an attempt to get a firmer grip of the Turkish government—was simply hounded out of office by the Turks and weakly sacrificed without a struggle by Berlin.

What, finally, is one to think of the spirit of our German officials in regard to the Armenian question, when one hears such well-verified tales as were told me shortly before I left Constantinople by an eminent Hungarian banker (whose name I will not reveal)? He related, for example, that "a German officer, with the title of Baron, and closely connected with the military attaché," went one day to the bazaar in Stambul and chose a valuable carpet from an Armenian, which he had put down to his account and sent to his house in Pera. Then when it came to paying for it he promptly set the price 20 pounds lower than had been stipulated and indicated to the Armenian dealer that, in view of the good understanding between himself (the officer) and the Turkish president of police, he would do well not to trouble himself further in the matter! I only cite this case because I am unfortunately compelled to believe in its absolute authenticity.

Shortsighted stupidity, finally, is how I characterized the inactive toleration on the part of our imperial representation of this policy of extermination of the Armenian race. Our Government could not have been blind to the breaking flood of Turkish jingoism and no one with any glimmer of foresight could have doubted for a moment since the Summer of 1915 that Turkey would only go with us so long as she needed our military and financial aid and that we should have no place, not even a purely commercial one, in a fully turkified Turkey.

Stupidity Is Monstrous.
In spite of the lamentations one heard often enough from the mouths of officials over this well-recognized and unpalatable fact, we tolerated the extermination of a race of over 1,500,000 people of progressive culture, with the European point of view, intellectually adaptable, absolutely free from jingoism and fanaticism, and eminently cosmopolitan in feeling; we permitted the disappearance of the only conceivable counterbalance to the hopelessly nationalistic, anti-foreign Young Turkish element and through our cowardice and lack of conscience have made deadly enemies of the few that will rise from the ruins of a race that used to be in thorough sympathy with Germany.

An intelligent German government would, in face of the increasingly evident Young Turkish spirit, have used every means in their power to retain the sympathies of the Armenians and indeed to win them in greater numbers. The Armenians waited for us, trembling with impatience for us to give a definite ruling. Their disappointment, their hatred of us are unbounded now—and rightly so—and if a German ever again wants to take up business in the East he will have to reckon with this afflicted people so long as one of them exists.

To answer the Armenian question in the way I have done here one does not necessarily need to have the slightest liking or the least sympathy for them as a race. If I have, however, intimated that they deserve at least that much from their high intellectual and social abilities! One only requires to have a feeling for humanity to abhor the way in which hundreds of thousands of these unfortunate people were disposed of; one only requires to understand the social need of the Armenian people in a country like Turkey, so undeveloped and yet so capable of development, to place the highest value on the preservation of this race; one only requires to be a realist, one only requires to open one's eyes and look at the facts dispassionately to deny utterly and absolutely that the Turks have tried to make the world believe about the Armenians, in order that they might go on with their work of extermination in peace and quiet; one only requires to have a slight feeling of one's dignity as a German to refuse to condone the pitiful cowardice of our government over the Armenian question.

Germans' Guilt Clear.
The mixture of cowardice, lack of conscience and lack of foresight, which our government has been guilty in Armenian affairs is quite enough to undermine completely the political loyalty

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THE new Studebaker cars, in three models, are now on exhibition at the Auditorium. They embody our long experience, together with the latest and greatest achievements of some of the ablest and most experienced engineers and production experts in the automobile industry. These cars are new throughout, with improved motors, intermediate transmission, new axles, bodies, tops, windshields, radiators, hoods, fenders, etc. They are beautiful in design, thoroughly modern and mechanically right.

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Manufactured products made up the bulk of America's record-breaking exports, amounting to \$4,018,800,000, a gain of \$118,000,000 over the preceding year.

Montesano Editor Now Balloonist.
ABERDEEN, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—A. R. HANLIN, editor and publisher of the Montesano Vidette, has gained admission to the balloon observation corps at Omaha, Neb. The paper is in charge of Dan Cloud during his absence.

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