

SCARRED FACES TELL FATE OF YOUNG GIRLS

Many Armenian Maidens Carried Off by Moslems.

TATTOOING MARKS SHAME

Demoralization of Race Effected by Unique Catastrophe—Homeless, Despair Impoverishes Souls.

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS.
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NEW YORK.—Branded women such as the Armenians now returning from captivity to the Arabs and the Kurds.

Of tragic human interest is the plight of these victims of the Turkish deportation. They may be found in increasing numbers, scattered among the Armenian communities of Asia Minor, to which they have returned after nearly five years of enforced exile. Were it not for the patriotic resolution of their fellow Armenians to regard these girls and women as martyrs of the race their fate would be horrible to contemplate.

All the world knows how the Turks, Kurds, Arabs and other peoples, too, took their pick of the girls and young women from among the deported Armenians who had been sent into "exile" that the race might die a "natural" death rather than be massacred. I am not going to rehearse the horrors of those days. Literally thousands of Armenian girls were forcibly made members of Moslem households; and some were legally married to the men who had secured them.

Tattooing Arab's Idea of Beauty.
Among the Kurds and Arabs it is the custom to tattoo the faces of the women. It is thought that their beauty is thus enhanced. Designs on foreheads, lips, chin and cheeks are sometimes only a few blue spots, and sometimes an elaborate design. The Armenian girls were subjected to the custom of the people among whom they had been taken.

Armenian women do not wear the veil, so their faces are exposed to public gaze. Markings are thus apparent to every observer. Since tattooing is not at all used in western Asia Minor, the girl with features so "ornamented" is proclaimed to friend and stranger as a former inmate of a Moslem home. Her story is written unmistakably. Even although Armenian communities are agreed that these returned refugees should be treated as deserving of special honor because of what they have suffered for being Armenians, the consciousness of being branded is not wholesome. A sensitive woman shrinks from it as from death. Curious and unforgiving questioners keep the fact alive.

Girls Burn Their Faces.
Many of these Armenian girls resort to burning to obliterate the hateful sign-manual of their Moslem captivity. They endure the pain and the ensuing disfigurement, if only they may get rid of the blue brands of the Bedouin and the Kurd. Unfortunately, this drastic treatment not only leaves terrible scars, but it also tells its own tale as plainly as the tattoo marks themselves.

With the party of Americans who traveled with me across Asia Minor were a young Armenian girl and her brother, homeward bound to a sister, the only survivor of the family. The girl was really beautiful. Her features were regular, her skin was clear, her color good. She had not become hardened by her captivity and her face was modest and winsome. Because of her beauty she had been tattooed with unusual elaborateness of design by the women of the Kurdish household where she had been kept.

As our train drew east of the Taurus mountains her appearance excited more and more comment. She was a real advertisement of the deportations. Crowds would sometimes gather when she appeared at the door of the box car. Oriental fashion, there was no difference about asking questions of her. On the part of the Armenians these were really sympathetic. But poor Eliza underwent a severe ordeal between Arana and Afium Kara Hissar.

She promised me to go to the missionary doctor for possible effacement of the facial decorations, though she had planned to burn them off herself. Her features were so completely covered that the resultant scars would hideously disfigure her. Physicians had told me that there is no way known to them for the removal of tattooing without trace, and if this is so the fate of thousands of Armenian girls is pitiable.

Worst Scars Are in Souls.
Face branding is not the worst that has happened to the Armenian deportees. Stories from the near east have dwelt so exclusively upon the horrors of hunger and homelessness that little has been said about the worst fate that has come to the Armenians as a result of the persecution. This is the effect upon their spirits.

Myriads of Armenians have been branded in their souls. Many, or more, of the girls in captivity, for instance, have neither sought nor desired deliverance. They prefer to remain in the indulgence of Moslem harem life; they have become Moslems in reality. This is the deepest wound the Turks have made upon Armenia. True, once free, most of the liberated girls again become Armenians in spirit, but their real life has been crippled. Only a Hawthorne or a Hugo could write this aspect of the Armenian tragedy.

Speaking generally, it is the consensus among relief workers that there has been inevitably a great slump in the character of the Armenians who have been deported and refugees. The men, once the hardest working race in the near east, have lost their spirit of industry. Hopeless despair has impoverished the souls of a host of them. The women are readier to work than their husbands and sons.

Also, I was told by Gregorian priests and Protestant Armenian pastors, there has been a grave decline in the religious faith and interest of the people. The spiritual fervor that marked many Armenians in the earlier stages of the persecutions has now been succeeded by a numbness and indifference. Once a notably chaste people, the animal-like conditions of life into which the deportation has forced them have resulted in a serious moral deterioration.

All of which is laid to the door of the Turks as the crown of their atrocities; they have written and branded a nation in its soul.

Schools at Memphis Closed.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Orders closing theaters and other places of amusement as a means of checking the spread of influenza have been extended today to include both public and private schools and public gatherings generally. There were 54 new cases reported today.



Forty Dollar Suits and Overcoats That Look Like Sixty

Owing to the decline of the dollar, many clothes today look like forty and cost like sixty, but I still am able to sell forty-dollar clothes that look like sixty dollars' worth of fabric, tailoring and style.

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TINTED LONDON WANTED

FUTURISTIC PLAN TO BRIGHTEN UP CITY IS ADVOCATED.

Search for Panacea to Cause England to Be Merry Leads to New Suggestion.

(Copyright by the New York World. Published by Arrangement.)
LONDON, Jan. 24.—(Special Cable.)—There is no diminution in the search for a panacea to make England bright and merry. One of the latest suggestions is by Crossley Davies in the Architects' Journal, showing how London can be brightened. His futuristic scheme is calculated to make the empire's capital glister even in a pea soup fog.

He advocates pavements of red brick and white stone, floral balconies on public buildings, orange trees and evergreens between classical columns on the first floor of apartment houses, glazed tiles, mosaics and frescoes to ornament impressive buildings. Carrying his suggestions further, Mr. Davies prescribes delicate tinted shop fronts and house doors and windows with light swans, gulls and bronze porcelains and railings, gold and green tiles and brightly-hued marbles.

An entirely different panacea to re-establish old-time merry England is found in a statement by Dr. Edward Mellanby before the London Medical society on the effects of alcohol. What he considers would keep a man drunk for the longest time is a mixture of rum and milk; and at the same time would eliminate the worst effects of getting drunk.

Dr. Mellanby says that a man believes when intoxicated that he is a better target shot than when sober, although he really is not. He also said that a man can get sober quicker by walking or running about than by sleeping.

SEATTLE WOMAN TO TALK

Mrs. O. F. Samson to Tour Oregon for Armenian Drive.

Mrs. O. F. Samson of Seattle, who came to Portland last year to speak during the Armenian and near east relief campaign, has been procured by J. J. Handeaker, state director, again this year, and will arrive in this city today. She will make a speaking tour of the state, following a schedule which is now being worked out. The latter part of the week she will spend in southern Oregon, speaking at Roseburg on Friday, January 20; at Grants Pass on Saturday, January 21, and at Ashland and Medford on Sunday, February 1.

Mrs. Samson is the wife of one of Seattle's prominent physicians, and is herself a practicing physician, having graduated from the Johns Hopkins university. She is also a graduate of several other universities, and is an earnest and effective speaker.

BRYAN DOUBTS HOOVER

Candidate "Unacceptable" Until "Position Is Stated."

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Pending a statement of his "position on the questions at issue" by Herbert Hoover, the papermen here today he could not consider the candidacy of the ex-administrator for the presidential nomination.

"When Mr. Hoover takes the people into his confidence and states his position on the questions at issue," Mr. Bryan said, "it will be time enough to consider his candidacy. High officials are not selected on the 'guess what I have in my hand' plan."

LOWER COSTS PREDICTED

U. S. Food Head Advises Against Stocking Up With Clothes.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—A decrease in the cost of living in the next few months was predicted today by Arthur Williams, federal food administrator. He based his belief on the spirit of economy prevailing among the people as a whole, decreased exports and increased production of goods.

Prices of clothes will drop sharply within a year, Mr. Williams believes, and he advised against stocking up apparel now. The wiser course, he says, is to buy only clothes that actually are needed.

Inland Empire Covered With Snow.

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 24.—Snow-fall of from two to four inches was general over eastern Washington and northern Idaho today, according to reports received here. The fall here this evening was estimated at four inches.

S. & H. Green stamps for cash. Holston Fuel Co. Main 252, 560-21. Adv.



An Unusual Hat Event

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MURTAGH'S

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"Liberty Bell"—March.....Sousa
"Caprice Viennois".....Kreisler
"Polonaise" in A Major.....Chopin
"Indiana Moon".....Wallace

"Winter Garden Echoes" (A medley of Al Jolson's Songs), "Hello, Central, Give Me No Man's Land," "Waikiki," "Dixie Lullabye," "Til Say She Does".....Arr. By Murtagh

TODAY AT 12:30

Next Saturday:
CHAS. RAY
and
CHARLIE
CHAPLIN

This Week's Programme De Luxe

1—Liberty Educational Weekly—Odds and Ends of Interest Compiled by the Management.

2—Murtagh at the Giant Organ, Playing "Indian Moon."

3—Sayings of Wit.

4—Mr. Earl Alexander, Tenor, in a Selected Number.

5—Liberty Pictorial Review—Interesting World Events, Compiled by the Management.

6—Selected Comedy.

7—The Liberty Presents, as its Prologue to the Feature, "The Virtuous Vamp":

(a) San Francisco During the Fire and Earthquake of 1906.
(b) San Francisco After the Fire.

8—The Liberty Presents Miss Constance Talmadge in "A Virtuous Vamp."



The Lightning Speed Comedy
Constance Talmadge
IN
"A VIRTUOUS VAMP"