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Daily Capital Journal

BY HOPER BROTHERS.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1896.

TURKISH ATROCITIES.

[Continued from first page.]

mercilessly torn open; amid their yells of fiendish laughter; to settle the question, when the wayer was paid, while babe and mother suffered so and died, because she bore the name of Christ.

SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENTS.
Another scene at Sasoon which gives us a glimpse of that awful carnival of hellish cruelty shows the soldiers drunken with their bloody debauch, besting in how many helpless Christian children they could kill at one stroke of the sword.

"I bet you ten fakreks I can cut clean through the necks of four Christian puppies at one stroke of my scimitar," cried one.

"Done" shouted a crowd of Turkish regulars as they snatched four tender children from the arms of their frantic mothers and bound them amid heart-rendering screams, one neck above another.

The brave Turk, who had made the bet, touched the neck of the nearest babe with his steel, to measure his stroke. His bright scimitar flashed for an instant above them and four little lifeless forms quivered in the blood-stained dust, before their mother's eyes, to whom such a death itself would have been most unspeakably merciful than such an agonizing sight.

Turkish soldiers took delight in placing long lines of Christian children in files to be fired at as targets to see how many little helpless, homeless, hungry innocents they could kill or wound or cripple for life with one cruel shot, while others were torn apart by their limbs, and others had their jaws wrenched asunder, and still others were held up by their hair to be decapitated or deformed for life, before their broken-hearted mothers.

Many women, with babes unborn were ripped open and their babes carried about upon spear points in sport.

UNUTTERABLE SHAME.
In one village about sixty young brides with the most beautiful girls were crowded into their Christian church and kept there for days to satiate the lust of their tormentors, till they were done to death, and their blood streamed from the doorway into the street.

In another the most attractive women of the place were promised to be spared if they would deny their faith, but pointing to the dead bodies of their fathers, husbands and brothers before them, they replied: "Why should we deny Christ? We are no better than they! Kill us, too."

So they shared the same shameful fate of thousands of Christian women and girls of Armenia.

Their natural defenders having been treacherously disbanded by the Imperial Government in preparation for this wholesale robbery, outrage and slaughter, Christian women and children were hunted like wild beasts, after the loss of their fathers, husbands and brothers, to be turned over by thousands in obedience to Imperial orders, to serve the brutal lust of their Mohammedan persecutors till these were tired of them, when those who had survived were hacked to death by swords and bayonets, or left to linger and die.

Bands of hundreds of starving, nearly naked, terrorized women, whose husbands, fathers and brothers had been imprisoned or slaughtered, and homes destroyed, sought mercy of commanding officers of troops of the Sultan in vain. In answer to their tears and entreaties, they were ordered to be outraged and then butchered in droves, by the demons who had defiled them, when wearied of their devilish debauch.

THEIR ONLY DELIVERANCE.

But this was better than Mohammedan captivity for Christian women which is and has been the common lot of beautiful Armenian girls and women for ages passed, when a Kurd or Turk could take them alive.

One band of brave women, worthy of the admiration of the whole world, had defended their little ones, their lives, and their honor, day and night (11) overwhelmed by numbers, when, with their babes upon their backs, and their children by their sides in the fight, finding themselves surrounded, cut off from all possible chance of escape, they followed their heroic leader, as she plunged over a precipice, with her babe in her arms, to be dashed to death.

Silently the children followed their mothers like lambs to the slaughter, till the deep ravine was so filled with the dying and the dead, that the last to leap fell unhurt upon the living and lifeless forms beneath them.

About 150 women and children were taken alive, but they bore their torture bravely, and no amount of agony could compel them to deny their faith or betray their friends, faithful through untold torture and agony, even unto death.

WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER.

Thousands of Christian villages were surrounded, without warning, by soldiers and Kurds, and literally wiped off the face of the earth by the most infernal fiendishness imaginable. After all the resources of robbery, rapine, outrage and torture had been exhausted, prisoners, pleading for mercy, having been killed or crippled, were bound and piled between layers of brushwood, saturated with kerosene, the whole being fired, and living and dead cremated together.

An Armenian Muleteer, who was pressed into service for transportation of troops, testified to facts which Turkish soldiers boasted of openly as to their awful butcheries. Whole villages were laid waste with no living being left, and the stench from the unburied or unburned bodies was almost unendurable, though thousands had been burned or buried.

Hundreds of perishing people would come to commanding officers and throw themselves upon their mercy, but each day after sundown they were driven off together to be slaughtered, their cries filling the air. One long line of prisoners bound together, was led to a trench, and there cut down, one after the other in cold blood, to tumble into the ditch and be buried dead or alive.

The larger Armenian cities were the scenes of indescribable diabolism, in one instance the soldiers requested as many as 3,000 Christians to crowd into a church, pretending that they would be protected there.

The doors and windows were then barricaded, to prevent escape, the building flooded with kerosene from the roof, and fired; only about sixty persons escaping from this fearful holocaust.

TURKISH TORTURES.
Christians were crowded into their despoiled homes, and their houses fired, while the fiends without flung back upon their bayonets, those who tried to fly from the flames.

While the cruel Kurds prefer to kill people with bullets and daggers, the Turks delight in torturing them to death, cutting their veins open, gouging out their eyes, and pulling out their tongues, tearing off their ears, severing their hands and their feet, flaying them alive, branding and burning them with red hot irons, tearing out their teeth, cutting off their fingers and toes one at a time, slicing off portions of flesh, then leaving to linger till relieved by death.

One witness testified to seeing a Turkish officer bind an aged Armenian head downwards, then slowly cut him through with an axe, while from the same hiding place he saw soldiers torturing two priests, one of whom was his own father. After falling to force them to deny their faith, they gouged out their eyes, then compelled

them to dance while they beat and gashed them brutally, and after death the body of one was found with neither eyes, nose, ears, lips nor skin left upon his head.

Long trenches were dug, and hundreds of wounded dying and dead were flung in together, to get them out of the way, but dreadful as such burial alive must be, it was a mercy compared to a Turkish prison.

The most horrible death imaginable would be a delight and the most terrible massacre conceivable would be a mercy in comparison to a Mohammedan trial or captivity for a Christian prisoner.

TURKISH PRISON HELL.
The Christian conception of perdition becomes a paradise when compared to the combination pest holes, torture pens and dungeons of death called prisons, into which refined captives are crowded.

Piteous moans of mangled beings, with shattered arms, and broken legs, and bruised and bleeding bodies, agonizing groans and shrieks of the tortured who refuse to renounce their faith or betray their friends to the same infernal fury, the demoniacal laughter of the dull-eyed bestial Turks tormenting some Christian boy or girl pleading in vain for mercy, till these fiends actually outraged him or her to death, the dying delirium of some fever racked sufferer, and the expiring gasp of some poisoned prisoner convulsed in death.

Sentry boxes lined with sharpened spikes into which helpless victims are thrust to stand for days, motionless without food or drink, to be revived by brutal blows when falling faint upon the bloody floor, till carried out unconscious or dead.

Women are dishonored before their husbands, and daughters violated before their fathers, and children outraged before their parents, who are often bastinadoed till their agonizing cries cause more awful anguish to the tender-loving hearts of dear ones than physical agony could inflict, as in the following instance of official record.

FROM OFFICIAL REPORT.
The body was bound in the shape of a living cross and so cruelly tortured that the victim tried to beat his brains out against the pillar to which he was tied, but was prevented.

Being commanded repeatedly to betray his fellows and renounce his faith, he replied:

"I cannot defile my soul with the blood of innocent people. I am a Christian!" Then piners were brought to tear out his teeth. Amid roars of merriment, his moustache was plucked out one hair at a time. A red hot iron was then held against the palms of his hands and applied to his breast, back, face, feet and other parts.

Then they forced his mouth open and burned his tongue with red hot piners. When he fainted he was revived, but remained firm, and refused to recant or incriminate the innocent. When the women and children tried to fly for help, they were crushed back and compelled to hear his heart-rending cries till they fainted, terrified, but this was only a case on record before the massacres began, in the village of Semal during the regular condition of affairs, under full official control.

This case is contained in an official report of the British vice consul of Erzeroum, copies of which are kept by the diplomatic representatives of the powers at Constantinople, and occurred in ordinary times before the great massacres began, because this man would neither renounce his faith nor falsely accuse other Christians of conspiracy.

If demons from the infernal regions could outdo the diabolical torments of Mohammedan imprisonment, then human ingenuity and imagination must be impotent.

TOO TERRIBLE TO TELL.
The co-minglings of cries of exquisite anguish, and roars of devilish laughter, the singing of the vilest songs of debauchery, drowning out the death groans and prayers of the victims of these awful orgies; the pestilential stench, the putrid filth of reeking offal and living vermin, the polluted water and poisonous air, the fery fever and foul infection, the loathsome diseases of lustful outrages, more dreadful than leprosy, the degrading ravings of living and dying

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