

## THE BUTCHERY OF CHRISTIANS IN ASIA MINOR

**A**TTACKING AND BUTCHERING CHRISTIAN WOMEN in the open fields and standing children in rows to see how many little heads a bullet will go through before its force is spent is said to be the Turks' chief by-play in their victorious sweep toward Smyrna. And it has been left to a Jew—Henry Morgenthau—we are told, to voice the most urgent appeal to Christian nations to protect the Christian minorities in Asia Minor. In successive battles the Turkish Nationalists, under Mustapha Kemal, have beaten the Greeks back toward Smyrna and the sea, annihilating one army, it is reported, and seriously jeopardizing another. Torture and massacre are reported from several sources to be the lot of the Christians left in the wake of the retreating Greek armies. "Slowly, to an accompaniment of the most ghastly torture of red massacre and white massacre," says *The Christian Century* (Undenominational), "all the Christian minorities in the land where St. Paul planted his little churches are being exterminated; and we have failed to produce a public opinion to rebuke and stay it. A delegation of Greeks now in America in behalf of their tormented and slaughtered people—doomed by the august Council to go once more under Turkish rule—tell of scenes that sicken the body with their filth and beastliness, and terrify the soul with their shame. How can we wear the name of humanity, to say nothing of the name of Christ, and remain unmoved by such things!"

None appears more deeply affected by the tragic plight and peril of the Christian minorities in Asia Minor than Henry Morgenthau, a Jew, former American Ambassador to Constantinople, who, in an impassioned interview with a correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph* on the Near East crisis, declares that the Turks' "devilish scheme" for the annihilation of other races must be checked. "I wonder," the interviewer quotes him, "if 40,000,000 Christians in full control of the governments of Europe and America are again going to condone these offenses by the Turkish Government. Will they, like Germany, take the bloody hand of the Turk, forgive him and decorate him, as Kaiser Wilhelm has done, with the highest orders?"

"Will outrageous terrorizing, cruel torturing, driving of women into harems, debauchery of innocent girls, the sale of many of them at eighty cents each, the murdering of hundreds of thousands and the deportation to and starvation in the desert of other hundreds of thousands, the destruction of hundreds of villages and many cities, the wilful execution of this whole devilish scheme to annihilate the Armenian, Greek and Syrian Christians in Turkey—will all this go unpunished?"

"Will the Turks be permitted, aye, even encouraged, by our cowardice in not striking back, to continue to treat all Christians in their power as unbelieving dogs, or will definite steps be promptly taken to rescue permanently the remnants of these old civilized Christian peoples from the fangs of the Turk?"

The Turks should be pushed back into Asia, where they belong, says Mr. Morgenthau, and Constantinople, where the majority of the population is non-Turkish, "should be taken under the protection of the League of Nations and under the Allies who have defeated Turkey." The opportunity now presented should be accepted at once, he declares, for "if the European countries have control of Constantinople they can eventually influence the Turks and keep them in check, because the possession or non-possession of Constantinople determines the status of Turkey. If she obtains Constantinople, she becomes a world Power again. What sensible person wants Turkey to be a world Power again, with increased powers for the making of international mischief?"

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Americans are familiar with the methods of the Turks from reports of their own "devoted Red Cross workers" in Asia Minor, says the *Telegraph* in commenting editorially on the interview, "and no one speaks with greater authority on this head than Mr. Morgenthau. He emphasizes with earnestness and even with passion the plain duty of the civilized world toward the Turk."

Appalled by the spectacle of the Turks' inhumanity, several Americans are reported to have gone mad and committed suicide—one, a member of the American Consulate, after he had watched the drowning of hundreds of children on the Black Sea Coast. Such is the information brought by the Rev. S. Ralph Harlow, Professor of History and Sociology in the American College at Smyrna. In an interview printed in the *New York Times* he reports the Turks as declaring that they will abolish all Christian and American institutions in Asia Minor, and, he says, "they are rapidly doing it." He proceeds:

"The cruelties and tortures that are practised on the Greeks and Armenians are beyond words. The only man in the world whose voice stands out against them is a Jew, Henry Morgenthau. He offered to find the means to transport all the Armenians from the country, but the Turks would not let him—they wanted to kill them.

"The Turks are so pleased with their slaughter that they even have official pictures taken of the tortures and massacres. I had a lot of these official pictures which I gave to an American Consul to send to Washington. They show the Turkish Governor of a province, a Turkish General and the high priests and other officials, dressed in their best, smiling and looking on at the executioner performing his tortures below them. Think of a people who not only would look at such things, but would have official photographs taken of themselves watching. These are the people who are put in power over the remaining Christians of the Near East!"

This terrible state of affairs is due, declares Mr. Harlow, "to international jealousy and intrigue. Economic expediency and moral deficiency—that is the trouble in the Near East." America, he says, has put "several million dollars and several thousand lives" into the Near East, but mostly for schools and colleges; but had she put a like sum of money and a like number of human lives there for purely commercial and economic interests he believes that "our attitude as a nation would be far different toward that wretched country." Yet, he goes on:

"Even to-day, late as it is, and with thousands lying dead of torture, starvation and murder at the hands of the Turks, I am absolutely sure that could popular opinion in the United States be aroused, as it would if it knew the real facts, our Government would be forced to take some action—action which would be welcomed by Great Britain, which would assure the people of the Near East security and safety at least from the burning of their homes, the outraging of their women and girls, the ruthless stealing of their children and the continuance of terror in their lives. But the morning paper says in headlines, 'American destroyers on way to Smyrna. Public assured they are for protection of Americans only.'

"Where is the humanity for which the men died whose crosses are still fresh over the graves in France?"

As always, Turkish forces are conducting a campaign of unparalleled atrocity, says *The Christian Science Monitor*, declaring that "what was done in time of peace in Armenia is being done with even more savagery in Anatolia. Before the Turkish lines the Christian population is flying, like herds of frightened sheep, and the fate of those who lag behind is death." This situation, believes the *Monitor*, presents a "sorry commentary upon the disappearance from the consciousness of mankind of the purpose to protect Christian minorities proclaimed at Versailles." The unequal contest now being waged by the Greeks was undertaken by them, we are told, at British initiative and with at least the approval of France. "Yet in the prosecution of their task they have had no help from Great Britain, while France has been at

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least covertly sympathetic with their Turkish foes." And whatever their doubts and fears as to the strength of their respective positions in Asia Minor, "the fact appears that Great Britain and France have failed in their obvious duty as Christian nations." And surely, adds this Boston paper, the events in Asia Minor as recently reported in all the newspapers of the world "can not be ignored longer by the authorities at Washington any more than by those at St. James's."