

ARMENIAN WOMEN . PUT UP AT AUCTION

Refugee Tells of the Fate of
Those in Turkish
Hands.

VON BERNSTORFF ANSWERED

German Ambassador's "Pure Inven-
tions" Letter in Regard to Atroci-
ties Causes Indignation.

The statement made by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, in a letter to Miran Sevasly of Boston, in which he characterized the reports concerning Turkish atrocities perpetrated against the Armenians as "pure inventions," will be answered in a few days by a number of well-known Americans who are cognizant of the actual situation in Turkey, and who, it is said, will produce absolutely trustworthy evidence and authenticated data to prove, as one of them put it yesterday, that "all Armenia is bloody with atrocities."

The letter of the German Ambassador to Mr. Sevasly was published in THE TIMES of yesterday, and the statements made by Count von Bernstorff created nothing short of indignation in mission-ary and other circles in which the Armenian situation is at the present time one of vital concern.

"So far as the German Ambassador is concerned, all that I care to say just now," said Professor Samuel T. Dutton, Secretary of the Committee on Armenian Atrocities, yesterday, "is that he has evidently been badly misinformed. I am quite sure that he will be much surprised when he sees the concrete material, all of it thoroughly authenticated, concern-

ing what has happened in Armenia, which is in the possession of this committee."

In a preliminary statement issued last Sunday the committee stated that if these atrocities continued the American people could not fail, in view of the great influence which Germany and Austria had in Turkish affairs, to hold the Teutonic allies "morally responsible."

Speaking yesterday, his remarks being based on the authenticated data in his possession, Professor Dutton said he did not believe anything had happened in many centuries "so terrible as is this studied and systematized effort on the part of a political coterie in Turkey—the Young Turks, led by Enver Pasha—to exterminate a whole race of people. The whole plan involves the wiping out of the Armenians."

"Only a day or two ago," added Professor Dutton, "a young girl who left Turkey on Aug. 18 called here to see me. She told of the fate of the 100 girls who were attending a mission school in Turkey. These girls, who were, of course, Armenians, were divided into groups, and those that were the best looking in the opinion of the Turkish officers were taken over by those officers. Those considered not quite so good-looking were given over to the soldiers, while those still less attractive were put up for sale to the highest bidders."

Several Americans who have been in Turkey for many years have arrived here within the last few days. They all testify to the truthfulness of the reports that have come out of Turkey concerning the treatment of the Armenians, but in every instance they beg that their names be not used for fear that what they have said will find its way back to Turkey and friends or relatives they left behind will be punished by the Turks in retaliation.

Copies of two letters, in which the writers tell of the fate that is being meted out to the Armenians, were given to THE TIMES yesterday by a man in close touch with Armenian conditions.

In one of these letters the writer, among other things, says:

"Toward the end of July the military situation on the trans-Caucasian front took an unfortunate turn for the Russo-Armenian forces. Apparently encouraged by the Russian reverses in Poland, the Turks sent large reinforcements, some 40,000 regular troops, to the Armenian front, to commence a strong offensive. Previous to this the outlying

district on the western edge of Lake Van was being gradually cleared of Turks and Kurds. In the last week of July Tadvan and the slopes of the Nimrud and Kerjur Mountains had been captured by the Armenian volunteers, after severe struggles.

"In Urtab, Tukh, and about twenty other Armenian villages on the lake the entire population was found to have been massacred by the Turks—not a single living soul was found in these villages, which were now given over to howling dogs, while large numbers of corpses have been washed ashore from the lake and the rivers.

"These corpses, which were ascertained to be all of males, were terribly mutilated, but nothing was discovered as to the whereabouts of women and children. By sunset of July 20 the Armenians captured the heights of Kerkur. When they reached the summit the town of Billis presented to their disappointed gaze a sheet of flames, and they knew that the worst had happened. Some female refugees, who managed to escape the Turkish cordon, have since related the story of fiendish massacres in the town, and the wholesale deportation of women and children.

To a well-known minister of the Armenian Church there came out of Turkey, by some mysterious underground route, a letter which is described as of "undoubted trustworthiness." Excerpts from this letter follow:

"Armenia without the Armenians"—such is the plan of the Ottoman Government, which has already begun to install Moslem families in the homes and property of the Armenians. Needless to say, the deported are not allowed by the Government to take any of their belongings with them, and as there is, moreover, no means of transport owing to the exigencies of the military, they are forced to cover on foot the two or three months' journey to that corner of the desert region which is destined to be their sepulchre.