



TABLE OF CONTENTS

No.	Date	Subject
1	Aug. 26, 1896	Mr. Herbert's report on the situation of the Ottoman Bank in regard to the Turkish Republic.
2	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
3	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
4	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
5	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
6	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
7	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
8	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
9	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
10	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
11	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
12	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
13	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
14	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
15	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
16	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
17	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
18	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
19	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.
20	27	Telegraphic communication from Constantinople regarding the Turkish Republic.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

DISTURBANCES AT CONSTANTINOPLE IN  
AUGUST 1896.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
January 1897.*

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[40]





045B 240

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
1	Mr. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	Aug. 26, 1896	Seizure of Ottoman Bank by armed Armenians. Threatening attitude of Turkish mob. Armenians being clubbed in the streets. Situation very serious .. .. .	1
2	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Armenians have left Bank under safe-conduct. Murders and pillage by mob previous to interference of Turkish troops. Her Majesty's ships "Dryad" and "Imogene" gone to Constantinople .. .. .	1
3	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Departure of Armenian revolutionists by French steamer. Arrangements for getting them away .. .. .	1
4	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Protest by Representatives of Great Powers against inaction of troops. Visit to scene of disorders. Sailors and marines landed to guard Embassy, Consulate, and Post Office. Message to Sultan, and reply .. .. .	2
5	Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulo Pasha	Telegraphic	26,	Report of Riots. Tranquillity restored .. .. .	2
6	" ..	Telegraphic	27,	Account of seizure of Bank, throwing of bombs, and various incidents of the riots .. .. .	3
7	" ..	Telegraphic	28,	Appointment of Special Commission to try rioters .. .. .	5
8	Mr. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	28,	Spread of disturbances to villages on Bosphorus. Has seen two Armenians killed at Therapia. Things quieter in Constantinople .. .. .	5
9	" ..	Telegraphic	28,	Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" requested to remain at Constantinople .. .. .	5
10	" ..	Telegraphic	28,	Telegram from Representatives of Great Powers to Sultan, requesting immediate orders for repressive measures .. .. .	6
11	" ..	Telegraphic	28,	Steamer "Hungaria" chartered for English colony at Bebek. Improvement in Constantinople, but affairs on Bosphorus threatening. Armenians threaten further attempts. Telegram sent to Consuls in provinces .. .. .	6
12	" ..	Telegraphic	29,	Reply of Sultan to telegram of Representatives (see No. 10). Answer returned by Baron Calice .. .. .	7
13	" ..	Telegraphic	29,	Landing of Russian sailors to attend funeral of two Armenians. Demand for an inquiry into their death .. .. .	7
14	" ..	Telegraphic	30,	Further bomb-throwing in Galata, and disturbances in Stamboul and on Bosphorus. Troops repressing mob.. .. .	7
15	" ..	Telegraphic	30,	Bomb-throwing from house next Bank. Arrest of culprits. Good behaviour of troops, but danger for the future .. .. .	8
16	" ..	Telegraphic	30,	Improvement of situation at Bebek. British refugees landed from "Hungaria." Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" sent there .. .. .	8
17	" ..	Telegraphic	30,	Request of authorities for leave to search house next Bank from which bombs were thrown. Granted under certain conditions.. .. .	8



No.	Name.		Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
18	Mr. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	Aug. 31, 1896	Sultan's accession day. Usual congratulations, coupled with regret at recent incidents ..	8
19	Sublime Porte to Anthopoulos Pasha	Telegraphic	29,	Bomb thrown at troops opposite Galata Serai. Discovery of bombs at a school ..	9
20	Mr. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	Sept. 1,	Sultan's accession day passed quietly, but state of panic still prevails ..	9
21	" "	Telegraphic	2,	Evidence of mob having been organized by authorities. Note addressed to Porte on the subject. Message from Sultan, admitting that orders had not been given soon enough to troops. Number of Armenians killed between 5,000 and 6,000 ..	9
22	Anthopoulos Pasha ..	..	3,	Communicates telegram from Porte. Names of persons arrested and to be tried. Further bomb throwing ..	10
23	Mr. Herbert ..	Telegraphic	3,	Sailors and marines all re-embarked except five men guarding Consulate ..	11
24	" "	Telegraphic	3,	Fresh Armenian plots frustrated by police. More bomb throwing, but all quiet again ..	11
25	" "	..	Aug. 27,	Story of capture of Bank. Its subsequent evacuation and departure of the revolutionists. Letters from Revolutionary Committees ..	11
26	" "	..	31,	Narrative of events up to date. Communications with the Turkish Government ..	18
27	" "	..	31,	Account of disturbances in villages on Bosphorus ..	27
28	" "	..	Sept. 3,	Collective note of Representatives to Porte, calling attention to organization of armed mob by authorities (see No. 21) ..	28
29	" "	..	3,	Special Commission for trial of rioters. Iradé issued. Names of members ..	30
30	" "	..	3,	Telegram addressed to Foreign Minister holding him responsible for damages to British subjects. His reply ..	30
31	" "	..	3,	Damage to British premises in Galata. Report by Mr. Max Müller ..	31
32	" "	..	3,	Measures taken by authorities to restore order. Memorandum by M. Marinitch ..	33
33	" "	..	3,	Estimate of number of lives lost during disturbances ..	33
34	" "	..	3,	Disturbances on Bosphorus (see No. 8). Steps taken with regard to two Armenians killed at Therapia ..	34
35	Anthopoulos Pasha ..	..	4,	Communicates two telegrams from the Porte respecting trial of rioters by Extraordinary Tribunal ..	36
35	" "	..	7,	Communicates telegram from Porte respecting proceedings of Extraordinary Tribunal ..	37
37	Mr. Herbert ..	..	5,	Denies truth of reported conflict between British sailors and Turkish mob, as reported in "Daily News." ..	38
38	Sir P. Currie ..	..	10,	Special Commission for trial of rioters. Sends note from Porte announcing its constitution..	33

No.	Name.	Date.	SUBJECT.	Page
39	Anthopoulos Pasha .. ..	Sept. 14, 1896	Steps taken for banishment from the capital of suspicious characters and their supervision .. .. .	39
40	" .. ..	16,	Number of Turkish officers, soldiers, and Muslims killed in riots .. .. .	40
41	" .. ..	18,	Communicates telegram from Porte announcing seizure of bombs at Scutari .. .. .	40
42	Sir P. Currie .. ..	16,	Interview with the Sultan at Selamlık .. .. .	41
43	" .. ..	16,	Threatening letter sent to Embassies by Hintchagist Committee. Consequent excitement in Constantinople .. .. .	41
44	" .. ..	16,	Continued alarm owing to threats of Hintchagists. Order maintained by troops. Meeting of Ambassadors .. .. .	44
45	" .. ..	16,	Proposed Special Commission of Pacification. Restrictions as to functions of Dragomans renders the Commission useless as an international instrument. Difficulties of situation .. .. .	44
46	" .. ..	16,	Visit of Surgeon of "Imogene" to hospitals at Sultan's invitation. His Report .. .. .	46
47	" .. ..	17,	Extraordinary Tribunal. <i>Procès-verbaux</i> of proceedings .. .. .	46
48	" .. ..	17,	Armenian coal porters on British ships. Steps taken for their safety .. .. .	47
49	" .. ..	17,	Organization of mob by authorities. Reply of Porte to note enclosed in No. 21, and answer sent by Ambassadors .. .. .	48

Correspondence respecting the Disturbances at Constantinople in  
August 1896.

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No. 1.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 26.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 26, 1896, 7:35 P.M.*

AN attack was made this afternoon on the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Galata by a band of some forty armed Armenians, who took possession of the building, and are now firing from the windows at the police who surround the place.

The Embassies received an anonymous communication yesterday warning them that something was going to happen, and the attack was evidently the result of an organized plan.

The situation is very serious, as the Turkish mob have assumed a threatening attitude, and are clubbing Armenians in the streets.

There are rumours that other parts of Constantinople are the scenes of similar disorders.

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No. 2.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 27, 1896, 9:55 A.M.*

MY telegram of yesterday.

The Armenians were induced to leave the Ottoman Bank early this morning under promise of safe-conduct from the Sultan. Sir Edgar Vincent has had them placed on his yacht, and they will be shipped out of the country this afternoon.

There was considerable loss of life, I am afraid, last evening, owing to the action of the mob, and several shops were pillaged.

To-day there seems to be some improvement in the situation. The troops, who at first took no steps to protect Christians, are now disarming the Turkish mob.

There is a meeting of the Representatives of the Great Powers this morning to discuss what steps should be taken.

Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" left here for Constantinople last night, and the "Imogene" followed this morning.

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No. 3.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 27, 1896, 1:5 P.M.*

IN accordance with the decision taken by the Representatives of the Great Powers at their meeting this morning, the English and French stationnaires guarded Sir E. Vincent's yacht on which the revolutionists were placed until the latter were removed by the French launch and put on board the French Messageries boat, which then left (at 5 P.M.) for Marseilles.

Their safe-conduct was granted to the revolutionists by the Sultan owing to their threat to blow up with dynamite the premises of the Bank where 181 employes were shut up, and through the exertions of Sir E. Vincent and the Russian First Dragoman, by whom the evacuation of the Bank was negotiated.

[101]

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After the evacuation, 47 bombs, 27 dynamite cartridges, and 18 kilogrammes of dynamite were discovered in the Bank.

It was evident that the *coup* was well organized. The Turks made no attempt to prevent the departure of the revolutionists on the French steamer. It was solely due to the conviction that it was necessary to respect the promises made to the revolutionists by Sir E. Vincent and the Russian First Dragoman, that the foreign Representatives intervened on behalf of these criminals, who cannot be condemned too strongly and who have been the cause of the murder of hundreds of innocent Armenians both yesterday and to-day.

## No. 4

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 27.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 27, 1896, 10 P.M.*

THIS morning the Representatives of the Powers made a strong protest in a collective note to the Porte against the inaction of the troops, and the total absence of security in Constantinople.

The Russian, French, and English Dragomans also went to the Palace with instructions to insist that the indiscriminate slaughter of Armenians which has been going on since yesterday afternoon should be stopped, and that proper measures should be taken to restrain the mob.

The Dragomans were assured that the troops were in control of the town, and that all necessary orders had been given to them to disarm the mob, and to prevent disorders.

Accompanied by Mr. Eliot and Mr. Max Müller, I subsequently went to Constantinople, and was a personal witness to the total inaction of the troops. I saw that the mob were still in possession of clubs, and the attempt to disarm them was a mere farce. The Armenians were being hunted down like rabbits. Desultory firing went on all the afternoon, and the situation appeared in no way improved. In view of the state of anarchy which prevailed, and of the inaction of the troops, I have considered it my duty to land sailors and marines, and to place them on guard at the Embassy, Consulate, and Post Office, the presence of Armenian employés, and of the refugees rendering the latter place liable to serious attack.

I also sent the First Dragoman back to the Palace to inform the Sultan of the steps taken in consequence of the way in which the troops were behaving, in spite of his alleged orders. His Majesty guaranteed that order would be restored to-morrow, and stated that fresh instructions would be sent to his troops. He requested that I should withdraw the sailors and the marines.

I replied that I would not withdraw them until I was satisfied that there was no danger to British subjects. I also held the same language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw at 9 o'clock this evening. Unless orders are given to the troops to fire on the Mussulman mob, one cannot tell what may happen. A few men have, I believe, been also placed on guard at their respective Embassies by other Representatives.

## No. 5.

*Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulos Pasha.—(Communicated August 28.)*

(Télégraphique.)

*Sublime Porte, le 26 Août, 1896.*

DES agitateurs Arméniens ont tiré aujourd'hui des coups de feu sur les passants à Galata et ont lancé des bombes en vue de troubler la sécurité de la capitale.

Grâce aux mesures énergiques prises par le Gouvernement Impérial, les fauteurs ne tarderont pas à être arrêtés et livrés à la justice.

La tranquillité règne tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces de l'Empire.



(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Sublime Porte, August 26, 1896.*

SOME Armenian agitators fired to-day upon the passers-by in the streets of Galata, and threw some bombs with the object of disturbing the security of the capital.

Thanks to the energetic steps taken by the Imperial Government, the promoters of these acts will be immediately arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities.

Tranquillity prevails at Constantinople and in the provinces of the Empire.

No. 6.

*Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulos Pasha.—(Communicated August 28.)*

(Télégraphique.)

*Sublime Porte, le 27 Août, 1896.*

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme Circulaire d'hier relatif aux désordres qui ont été commis par les Anarchistes Arméniens dans la capitale, je viens vous informer que le Comité Central des révolutionnaires Arméniens de Constantinople avait organisé sur une très vaste échelle un programme de désordres et d'actes criminels pour poursuivre la réalisation d'un but chimérique. A cet effet un nombre considérable de ceux-ci, divisés en groupes séparés, commencèrent à la même heure leurs méfaits séditieux sur divers points de la ville. Outre les revolvers et poignards dont tous les révolutionnaires étaient munis, les engins dont ils se servirent le plus sont des bombes en fer remplies de dynamite. Hier, vers midi, une cinquantaine d'entre eux entrèrent par petits groupes et à intervalles séparées dans le grand "hall" de la Banque Impériale Ottomane; l'officier de garde leur ayant demandé ce qu'ils faisaient là et pourquoi ils y stationnaient, ils lui brûlèrent la cervelle pour toute réponse et tuèrent en même temps les gendarmes qui s'y trouvaient et jetèrent leurs têtes tranchées dans la rue du tramway. Profitant du désordre et de l'affolement que ces crimes provoquèrent, ils s'empressèrent de fermer les portes de l'établissement financier et commencèrent leur œuvre de destruction en lançant sans cesse des bombes dans les rues sur les passants et en tirant des coups de feu sur un grand nombre d'innocents et paisibles habitants vaquant à leurs affaires; entre autres quatre dames Turques traversant la rue en voiture ont été mises en pièce par les éclats des engins destructeurs. Deux employés de la Banque, les sujets Français MM. Georges Grablesky et Alfred Pix, qui se sauvaient par une fenêtre à l'aide d'une corde, ont été blessés par les Arméniens et ne durent leur salut qu'à l'intervention des soldats de ligne qui firent un rempart de leurs corps. Leurs déclarations écrites et signées se trouvent au Ministère de la Police.

Pendant que ces faits sanglants se déroulaient à Galata, le khan de Djelal Bey, sis à Stamboul, était envahi par d'autres révolutionnaires et une pluie de bombes tombaient dans les rues avoisinantes tuant et blessant les passants. A Haskeuy, c'était le corps de garde qui a été surpris par une autre bande. L'officier de service a été tué, ainsi que plusieurs soldats et c'est après bien des efforts qu'on a pu arrêter les envahisseurs à Soulou Monastir, quartier de Samatia (Stamboul). Beaucoup d'Anarchistes Arméniens se barricadèrent aussi à l'école et pendant longtemps lancèrent des bombes et tirèrent des coups de feu sur les Musulmans et les agents de police, qui les exhortaient à se rendre, et tuèrent ainsi un grand nombre de personnes.

Le nombre des bombes découvert soit à la Banque soit dans les maisons barricadées, les monastères et écoles, est considérable; l'église Arménienne de Balouk Bazar sise à Péra ayant été inspectée ce matin, un grand nombre de ces bombes à dynamite y ont été aussi découvert. Le Comité Révolutionnaire n'avait donc, comme on le voit, rien négligé pour surprendre les esprits et jeter le désordre dans toute la ville.

Sous l'égide de Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste Maître, leur plan criminel a été déjoué; son Excellence le Ministre de l'Intérieur parcourt en personne les rues pour exhorter les populations au calme et à la tranquillité; des patrouilles militaires parcourent les rues et toute agglomération de personnes indistinctement de race et de religion est dispersée par la simple persuasion. La Banque Impériale a été débloquée cette nuit même; la population Musulmane, objet des attaques des révolutionnaires,

[101]

B 2

en se défendant, fit aussi des victimes parmi les assemblants, et un certain nombre de tués et de blessés se trouve parmi ces derniers. La masse des Arméniens fidèle au Gouvernement Impérial est tellement outrée des forfaits accomplis par leurs criminels compatriotes que Sa Béatitudo le *locum tenens* du Patriarchat Arménien vient de lancer une Bulle d'excommunication au nom de Jésus-Christ contre tous les meneurs et fauteurs des désordres d'hier en faisant part à la Sublime Porte de cette mesure communiquée. Mgr. Bartholoméos prie le Gouvernement Impérial de faire publier officiellement par la voie de la presse cette mesure de l'Église. Cette attitude du Chef de la communauté religieuse Arménienne suffirait à elle seule pour stigmatiser à jamais les criminels qui se font les instruments d'une cause que l'Europe civilisée réproouve et désigne sous le nom d'Anarchisme et de Nihilisme.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sublime Porte, August 27, 1896.

IN continuation of my Circular telegram of yesterday relative to the disturbances caused by the Armenian anarchists in the capital, I have to inform you that the Central Committee of Armenian revolutionists in Constantinople had organized a most extensive programme of riot and criminal action in pursuit of a chimerical end. To effect this purpose, a considerable number of these men, divided into separate bands, began their seditious acts at the same hour in different portions of the town. Besides the revolvers and daggers carried by all the revolutionists, the weapons most generally employed by them were iron bombs charged with dynamite. Towards midday, yesterday, some fifty of them entered the great hall of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in small groups, at intervals. Upon the officer on guard asking what their business was and why they were standing there, their only answer was to blow out his brains, to kill the gendarmes there, and to cut off their heads and throw them on to the tramway line. Taking advantage of the tumult and panic caused by these crimes, they immediately closed the doors of the Bank, and began their work of destruction by continually throwing bombs into the streets on the passers-by, and by firing upon a large number of innocent and peaceable citizens who were employed upon their ordinary business; amongst other victims, four Turkish ladies driving along the street were blown to pieces by the explosion of the destructive missiles. Two French subjects, employed in the Bank, MM. Georges Grablesky and Alfred Pix, were wounded by the Armenians whilst escaping through a window by a rope, and owed their safety only to the intervention of some soldiers of the line, who formed up around them. Their written and signed depositions are now at the Ministry of Police.

Whilst these bloody scenes were being enacted at Galata, some other revolutionists rushed into the khan of Djelal Bey at Stamboul, and a shower of bombs fell into the neighbouring streets, killing and wounding the passers-by. At Haskeui the guard-house was surprised by another band. The officer on duty and several soldiers were killed, and it was only by dint of great exertions that the invaders were arrested at Soulou Monastir, in the Samatia quarter (Stamboul). A large number of Armenian anarchists also barricaded themselves in the school, and continued for a long time to throw bombs and discharge fire-arms upon the Mussulmans and the police, who called upon them to surrender, thereby causing a great number of deaths.

The number of bombs found either in the Bank or in the barricaded houses, in the monasteries, and schools, is considerable. The Armenian church of Balouk Bazar at Pera was searched this morning, and a great quantity of these dynamite bombs was also discovered there. It is evident, therefore, that the Revolutionary Committee had omitted no precaution in order to surprise and disturb the whole town.

Under the ægis of His Imperial Majesty our august Master, their criminal design has been baffled. His Excellency the Minister of the Interior is going in person through the streets and exhorting the inhabitants to remain calm and peaceful. Troops are patrolling the town, and every assemblage of persons, irrespective of religion or of nationality, is being dispersed by the use of persuasion alone. The Imperial Bank was cleared last night; the Mussulman population, against which the attacks of the revolutionists were directed, whilst defending itself, also caused some casualties among the crowd, of whom a certain number have been killed or wounded. So indignant is the bulk of the Armenian population, which is loyal to the Imperial Government, at the crimes committed by their guilty fellow-countrymen, that his Beatitudo the *locum tenens* of the Armenian Patriarchate has issued a Bull of Excommunication in the name of Jesus Christ against all the leaders and fomenters of yesterday's disturbances,



and has communicated the step he has taken to the Porte. Mgr. Bartoloméos requests that the Imperial Government will cause this action of the Church to be officially published through the press. This attitude of the Head of the Armenian religious community would alone suffice to stigmatize for ever the criminals who make themselves the tools of a cause which civilized Europe condemns under the name of Anarchism and of Nihilism.

## No. 7.

*Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulos Pasha.*—(Communicated August 28.)

(Télégraphique.)

*Sublime Porte, le 28 Août, 1896.*

UNE Commission Spéciale vient d'être instituée au Ministère de la Police avec mission de faire subir un interrogatoire aux révolutionnaires arrêtés hier et aujourd'hui les armes à la main, ainsi qu'aux Musulmans qui ont été arrêtés sous l'inculpation de représailles. Les coupables seront déferés aux Tribunaux ordinaires pour subir les peines édictées par la loi. Cette Commission se compose de huit membres Chrétiens et Musulmans, sous la présidence de Djelal Bey, Conseiller à la Cour de Cassation.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Sublime Porte, August 28, 1896.*

A SPECIAL Commission has just been instituted at the Ministry of Police for the purpose of examining the revolutionists arrested under arms yesterday and to-day, as well as those Mussulmans who were arrested on the charge of reprisals. The guilty persons will be brought before the ordinary Tribunals to suffer the penalties prescribed by the law. This Commission consists of eight Christian and Mussulman members, under Djelal Bey, Councillor of the Court of Cassation, as President.

## No. 8.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received August 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 28, 1896, 3:10 P.M.*

LAST night the disturbances spread to the Bosphorus, and Armenians were massacred at Candilli, Roumeli Hissar, and Bebek. About midnight I sent Her Majesty's ship "Imogene" to Candilli to take off English refugees, and I have directed the naval Commander at Tophane to requisition British merchant vessels in the harbour, on board of which all English refugees desiring asylum are to be placed.

No British subject has, as far as I know, yet been killed, but the mob have entered the houses of many Englishmen for the purpose of putting their Armenian servants to death. It seems to be the intention of the Turkish authorities to exterminate the Armenians whenever found. Two Armenians who were passing have just been killed under my own eyes by the soldiers at the Block-house adjoining this Embassy. I hear that for the moment things in town are quieter, but on the Bosphorus the situation wears a very serious aspect.

## No. 9.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received August 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 28, 1896, 3:45 P.M.*

HER Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," which was on her way to the Danube, remains here at my request.

No. 10.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 28, 1896, 3:45 P.M.*

EARLY this morning the six Representatives telegraphed as follows to the Sultan:—

“ Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances réunis pour conférer sur la situation se croient en devoir de signaler à l'attention la plus sérieuse de Sa Majesté Impériale les nouvelles graves qui leur parviennent au sujet de la continuation des désordres dans la capitale et dans ses environs. Des bandes de gens armés ne cessent de poursuivre et de tuer impunément les Arméniens et, non contents de les exterminer dans les rues, entrent dans les maisons, même dans celles occupées par des étrangers, pour se saisir de leurs victimes et les massacrer. Des faits pareils se sont passés sous les yeux de quelques-uns des Représentants eux-mêmes et de plusieurs des membres de leurs Ambassades. Outre la ville de telles horreurs ont eu lieu encore cette nuit dans plusieurs villages du Bosphore tels que Bebec, Roumeli Hissar, Candilli, et autres. En présence de faits semblables les Représentants des Grandes Puissances s'adressent aux noms de leurs Gouvernements directement à la personne de votre Majesté, comme Chef de l'État, pour lui demander instamment de donner sans délai des ordres précis et catégoriques propres à mettre fin immédiatement à cet état de choses inouï, qui est de nature à amener pour son Empire des conséquences les plus désastreuses.”

(Translation.)

“ The Representatives of the Great Powers, who have met to consider the situation, believe it their duty to call the most serious attention of His Imperial Majesty to the grave news which reaches them respecting the continued disturbances in the capital and its neighbourhood. Armed bands are continuing to pursue and kill the Armenians with impunity, and not satisfied with murdering them in the streets, are entering houses, even those occupied by foreigners, in order to seize and massacre their victims. Such deeds as these have taken place before the eyes of some of the Representatives themselves and of several of the members of their Embassies. Only last night similar terrible scenes were enacted outside the town in several villages on the Bosphorus, such as Bebek, Roumeli Hissar, Candilli, and others. In view of these occurrences the Representatives of the Great Powers, in the name of their Governments, address themselves directly to your Majesty, as Head of the State, and urgently request that you will forthwith issue such precise and categorical orders as will put an immediate end to this unheard of state of things, which is calculated to bring about the most disastrous consequences for your Majesty's Empire.”

No. 11.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 28.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 28, 1896, 11:35 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day.

As there was no British steamer in the harbour I have chartered for the next five days the Austrian Lloyd steamer “Hungaria” at the rate of 20*l.* a-day, and about fifty of the English colony at Bebek have been placed on board. There is a decided improvement in the situation at Galata and Pera, and the troops appear to be doing their duty.

The revolutionists, however, threw another bomb this afternoon on troops who were returning from the Selamlik, and the Embassies have received a further letter from the Revolutionary Committee stating that the Armenians, being disgusted at the inaction of the Powers, and being absolutely desperate, are about to recommence operations.

On the Bosphorus the situation is also threatening.

During the last three days the loss of life among Armenians has been very great, and although it is impossible to form an accurate estimate, the deaths may be calculated in thousands. About 200 Turkish soldiers are said to have been killed and

wounded. Two British-protected subjects at Post Office in Stamboul have disappeared, and a large number of English shops and stores have been pillaged.

As I fear there is every probability of massacres being repeated in the provinces, I have sent a Circular to the Consuls to inform them of disturbances here, and to warn them to be on their guard.

No. 12.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 29, 1896, midnight*

MY telegram of yesterday.

Last night the Minister for Foreign Affairs was sent by the Sultan to Baron Calice to state, in reply to our collective telegram, that every measure was being taken to restore order. Such a message had never been received by His Majesty before, and he wanted to know what was the signification of the menace with which the telegram concluded. Baron Calice replied, that hitherto half Europe had been incredulous about the massacres which had taken place in the provinces, but that now they had occurred in the capital everybody would realize the truth and the fact that the Turkish Government was no longer in a position to maintain order, even in Constantinople, or to protect Christians. This being the state of the case, the nature of the remedy to be applied would have to be considered.

No. 13.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 29, 1896, 12:30 A.M.*

I AM informed that a detachment of Russian sailors was landed this morning in order to attend the funeral of one of the two Armenians whom the soldiers killed yesterday, a few paces from the British Embassy, the body having been transported to the Armenian church at Buyukdere. The sailors had orders, I understand, to bury him with military honours. Considerable effect has been created on the Turkish Government by this energetic action.

As the murder of the two Armenians above mentioned was witnessed by the Italian Ambassador and myself, we have asked that an inquiry should be instituted, and that the soldiers who killed the men should be punished.

No. 14.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 30, 1896, 12:20 A.M.*

TRANQUILLITY in Constantinople and on the Bosphorus seemed perfectly established last night and to-day, until about 6 o'clock this evening, when in the neighbourhood of the Ottoman Bank in Galata some Armenians threw a bomb, which was followed by heavy firing on the part of the soldiers.

There was also a commencement of disturbances at Arnautkeui, on the Bosphorus, and in Stamboul.

No further details are yet to hand, but it would appear that the disorders are being repressed by the troops, and that the mob has no longer possession of the town, as it had two days ago.

It cannot be denied that this repeated bomb throwing on the part of the Armenians is a cause of great provocation to the Turks.

## No. 15.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 30, 1896, 12:30 P.M.*

MY preceding telegram of to-day.

The Armenians threw several bombs last night from a house next door to the Bank. Soldiers entered, and eight of the culprits were arrested. It is stated by officials of the British Consulate, which is only a few yards from the spot, that the behaviour of the troops both there and in other parts of Galata was good, and that no part was taken in the disturbance by the mob.

For the moment the situation is quieter, but there is every reason to believe that bombs will continue to be thrown by the Armenians, who are in a state of desperation.

It follows naturally that the Turkish population are becoming more and more exasperated, and there is great danger for the future, as, although at present the massacre has been confined to Armenians, the feeling of the populace may turn against the general body of Christians.

## No. 16.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 30, 1896, 3:55 P.M.*

THE situation at Bebek seeming perfectly calm, I have thought that the continued retention of the "Hungaria" as a refuge for British subjects would not be justified; the refugees have accordingly been landed this morning, and Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" has taken up her position in the Bay of Bebek, where for the present she will remain.

## No. 17.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 30.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 30, 1896, midnight.*

THE houses in the vicinity of the Bank from which bombs continue to be thrown by Armenians, being the property of foreign subjects, the six Representatives have been asked by the Turkish Government to permit a search with the usual Consular formalities to be made in these buildings.

We have consented on following conditions:—

Every search must be made after previous agreement between the Consul or his Delegate and the Ottoman authorities in the presence of the latter.

No arrest is to be made without the consent of the Consul or his Delegate.

Explosive machines and substances, as well as arms, are to be handed over to the Ottoman authorities.

Finally, that this measure is of a provisional and exceptional character.

This concession has been made by us as the only method of terminating the bomb throwing, the continuance of which might lead to an attack on the European colonies in Constantinople and complete anarchy.

## No. 18.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 31, 1896, 1:50 P.M.*

AN hour having been appointed as usual by Master of Ceremonies to receive the congratulations of the Dragomans of the six Embassies on the Sultan's accession day, we have instructed the Dragomans to offer the customary compliments, but, at the same time, to express our regrets at the painful events by which the twentieth year of His Majesty's reign has been characterized.

## No. 19.

*The Sublime Porte to Anthopoulos Pasha.—(Communicated by Anthopoulos Pasha  
September 1.)*

(Télégraphique.)

*Sublime Porte, le 29 Août, 1896.*

POUR faire suite à mes télégrammes en date du 27 et du 28 de ce mois, je viens vous informer qu'hier, au moment où les troupes revenant du Selamlik passaient devant Galata Sérail, une bombe a été jetée du haut d'une maison sise sur le parcours, mais bien que l'engin ait fait explosion, il n'y a eu heureusement aucune victime. Deux Arméniens réfugiés de la dite maison ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice; en outre une perquisition opérée à l'école des filles de Psamatia a amené la découverte dans l'armoire de la maîtresse de l'école, Aghavni, de trente-six bombes de sept capsules des boîtes de cartouches de revolver et d'un paquet de capsules de dynamite. Le nombre des soldats et agents de l'autorité tués ou blessés par les révolutionnaires pendant les désordres de ces derniers jours est considérable; plus d'une trentaine ont été transportés à l'hôpital militaire de Gumushouyou et beaucoup d'autres distribués dans les différents établissements hospitaliers de la capitale pour y être soignés.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Sublime Porte, August 29, 1896.*

IN continuation of my telegrams of the 27th and 28th instant, I have to inform you that, as the troops were passing Galata Serai yesterday on their return from the Selamik, a bomb was thrown from the roof of a house situated upon their route. The machine exploded, but fortunately no one was injured. Two Armenians who ran out of this house were arrested and handed over to justice. Besides this, a search made in the girls' school at Psamatia led to the discovery of thirty-six bombs, seven capsules, some boxes of revolver cartridges, and a parcel of dynamite capsules in the cupboard of the school-mistress Aghavni. The number of soldiers and policemen killed or wounded by the revolutionaries during the recent disturbances is considerable. Over thirty have been conveyed to the military hospital of Gumushsuyu, and many others have been sent to the various hospitals in the capital, where they will be attended to.

## No. 20.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, September 1, 1896, 10:15 A.M.*

SULTAN'S accession day passed off without the occurrence of any further incidents of importance, but a state of panic still prevails in Constantinople, and business will, I fear, remain for some time at a standstill. Further bomb throwing on the part of the Armenians may still be a source of danger.

## No. 21.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 2.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, September 2, 1896, 1:40 P.M.*

THERE is evidence that the authorities organized and armed the mob which committed all the massacres on Wednesday and Thursday. It was only on Thursday evening that the Sultan sent orders to stop the mob, when they were instantly obeyed.

A collective note on the subject was addressed yesterday to the Porte by the six Representatives, mentioning proofs in our possession.

The Sultan sent me a message on Sunday, in which His Majesty stated that he had failed, in the first instance, to realize how grave the situation was, and that this is why the troops had not received orders sooner. Great importance attaches to this admission, as the other Representatives and myself had been informed by the Palace and Porte

officials that, directly the attack on the Bank took place, all the necessary orders were given for the preservation of order.

From 5,000 to 6,000 is a moderate estimate of number of Armenians who were killed.

## No. 22.

*Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux désordres Arméniens, a l'honneur de lui communiquer le télégramme suivant, qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement :—

“Les autorités Impériales ont remis aux Procureurs-Généraux près les Tribunaux compétents, les dossiers d'Ardach, fils d'Artin, qui avait été arrêté pour avoir tiré des coups de feu et jeté des bombes sur les troupes Impériales et les Agents de Police, et dans la maison duquel on a découvert six revolvers et sept bombes; d'Artin, fils d'Agop, employé chez le dit Ardach; de Nichan, fils de Mikael, gardien du magasin d'un certain Cléanthi, qui avait fait feu sur les officiers de l'armée Impériale; d'Agop, fils d'Artin, arrêté par suite de ses allures suspectes; de Mehemmed-bin-Mehemmed, de Chiro, prévenu d'avoir tué Alexan et Agop et blessé Boghos, marchand de tabac; de Kurde Ali, dénoncé comme ayant blessé Manouk, fils de Mardirus, marchand de tabac; d'Ibrahim et de seize individus originaires de Rizé, qui s'étaient attroupés pour commettre des méfaits; de l'ouvrier Halid et de ses neuf compagnons; de Hamid; de Mo, de Mouch, prévenu d'avoir tué Artin, marchand de clous; ainsi que de prévenus du meurtre du prêtre Vartanez et des femmes Sophie et Biridjik; onze individus, arrêtés sous la prévention d'avoir pris part aux désordres, ont été déjà soumis à un interrogatoire et quatorze témoins entendus hier.

“Les Anarchistes Arméniens ont jeté encore Samedi des bombes sur les troupes Impériales qui passaient par Galata; un officier et quelques soldats furent tués.”

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,  
le 3 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and in continuation of his previous communications relative to the Armenian disturbances, has the honour to communicate to his Lordship the following telegram which he has just received from his Government :—

“The Imperial authorities have handed over to the Procurators-General attached to the competent Tribunals, the cases against the following persons: Ardach, son of Artin, who was arrested for discharging fire-arms and throwing bombs at the Imperial troops and the police, and in whose house six revolvers and seven bombs were found; Artin, son of Agop, who is in the employ of the Ardach above mentioned; Nichan, son of Mikael, the caretaker of the shop of a man named Cleanthi, who fired upon the officers of the Imperial army; Agop, son of Artin, who was arrested for his suspicious proceedings; Mehemmed-bin-Mehemmed; Chiro accused of having murdered Alexan and Agop, and of wounding a tobacconist named Boghos; Kurde Ali, accused of having wounded Manouk, the son of Mardirus, a tobacconist; Ibrahim, and sixteen natives of Rizé, who had united for purposes of crime; a workman, Halid, with nine companions; Hamid; Mo of Mush, who is accused of the murder of a nail merchant named Artin; and some other men charged with the murder of Vartanez, a priest, and of two women named Sophia and Biridjik. Eleven men who were arrested on the charge of taking part in the disorders have already been examined, and fourteen witnesses were heard yesterday.

“On Saturday, the Armenian Anarchists again threw bombs upon the Imperial troops which were passing through Galata; one officer and several soldiers were killed.”

*Turkish Embassy, London, September 3, 1896.*

## No. 23.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, September 3, 1896, 2.50 P.M.*

WITH the exception of five men who are guarding the Consulate, where there are a good many Armenian refugees, all the sailors and marines who were landed have now re-embarked.

## No. 24.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, September 3, 1896, 9.40 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the Armenians contemplated two fresh plots this week, one involving a demonstration at Yildiz, but they were frustrated by the police.

Some more bombs were thrown in the Armenian quarter in Stamboul to-day; a panic also took place in Galata.

All is now quiet again.

## No. 25.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, August 27, 1896.*

YESTERDAY the Ottoman Bank in Galata was captured, and held for more than twelve hours by a band of armed Armenians.

In order that your Lordship may be better able to follow this extraordinary story, I should explain that the Ottoman Bank is somewhat similar in construction to Her Majesty's Embassy here, that is to say, it consists of a central covered court, lighted from the roof, and surrounded by a two-storied building. The central court is the common office of the inferior employés, who cash cheques and perform the other current business of the Bank, while the superior officials have private rooms on the higher floors, those of Sir E. Vincent being on the top storey. The building is isolated on three sides, but is joined to the Tobacco Régie on the fourth.

The capture was effected at about 1.15 p.m., which was probably selected as the luncheon hour. Two of the leaders entered first, and presented themselves, one at the gold and the other at the silver cash counter, ostensibly in order to change money. Having assured themselves that the moment was propitious, they returned to the entrance and gave a signal, on which four more of the band entered dressed as porters, and carrying on their backs sacks resembling those used here for transporting silver, but really containing bombs, dynamite, and ammunition. The instant these were safely in, a whistle was blown, and a rush made from the neighbouring streets.

Two of the Bank porters were killed and two wounded, but the head porter, who grasped the situation in an instant, pretended to be dead, and after allowing the conspirators to rush over his prostrate form, rose and shot two of them in the back. The total number of those who entered the Bank was twenty-five, but there were perhaps others outside who were too late to get in. Then began a regular fusillade, the Armenians throwing bombs and firing both through the windows and inside the Bank.

Sir Edgar Vincent, whose room is situated on the top storey of the building, was just in time to mount on to the roof through a skylight, followed by Mr. Reeves, the Vice-Director, and thence descended into the adjoining buildings of the Tobacco Régie, but the other employés had no other alternative but to submit to the Armenians, who closed all the exits of the Bank, and barricaded the main doors with sacks of silver coin. Firing and bomb-throwing, chiefly at the police through the windows, continued for about an hour until the Bank employés, as well as the police and troops, realized the position, namely, that it was useless to try and recapture the Bank by force, because it was held by a band of desperadoes armed with dynamite, and prepared to blow up the building rather than retire. The police and troops withdrew about 3 p.m., and the streets around were left absolutely deserted.

[101]

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This was a great relief to the Bank clerks, as their Turkish defenders had in an excess of zeal shot at every one who showed his face at the window. After two employés had been killed in this way, the clerks in the central court fell down flat and remained prostrate or crouching on all fours for about two hours. The first paroxysm of fear over, the Bank employés began to communicate with the invaders. The latter explained that their object was to attract the attention of the Powers; they intended to hold the Bank for forty-eight hours. If in that time the Ambassadors did not guarantee their demands for certain political reforms, they would blow up the Bank with themselves and everybody in it.

The exact nature of these demands will best be seen by reading the inclosed letters sent by the Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies, the first the day before the occurrence, the second dated nominally, though doubtless not really, from the Bank after its capture. A third letter addressed only to the French Chargé d'Affaires was sent after the surrender of the Bank, so that it is to be feared that the writer is still at large.

It was agreed between the Bank employés and their captors that M. Auboyneau, the adjoint of Sir E. Vincent, should be sent to explain the situation to him after giving his word of honour to return, which he did. Sir E. Vincent went first to the Council of Ministers which was sitting at the Palace, but concurred in the opinion which they expressed that if he wanted to save his Bank from destruction, his only course was to treat with the invaders, in conjunction with some Representative of a foreign Mission. He found M. Maximoff, the First Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, who happened to be at the Palace, and who took upon himself the responsibility for the whole negotiation without asking for instructions from M. de Nélidoff. After a prolonged discussion with the Ministers and the Sultan's Secretary, His Majesty's consent was obtained to offer to the Armenians in the Bank a free pardon and permission to leave the country unmolested, these terms being guaranteed by M. Maximoff on behalf of the Russian Embassy, who at the same time expressed his conviction that the other Embassies would follow suit.

They then returned to the Bank and addressed from the street the Armenians who listened from the windows. M. Maximoff spoke with remarkable eloquence, and after about three hours parleying, the insurgent leaders reluctantly accepted the conditions proposed, stipulating also that they should be conducted on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, that they should retain their arms, but not the other explosives, and that they should next day be visited by the Dragomans of the Embassies to discuss their demands. It would appear that the chief leader was killed in taking possession of the Bank, and that a difference of opinion arose among the two next in command, one of whom only yielded under protest, and concealed a bomb on his person when he left the building.

About 2.15 A.M. they evacuated the Bank, which was occupied by the troops, who found in it forty-five gunpowder bombs, twenty-five dynamite cartridges, and 11 kilog. of dynamite. These explosives had apparently been manufactured in the country.

Of the twenty-five men, fifteen went on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, four were killed and six wounded, and the casualties of the Bank employés were exactly the same. Three of the Armenians were killed by the explosion of their own bombs, and lingered for some time in horrible agony. No attempt was made to take any money.

Thus ended somewhat tamely a most daring outrage, and perhaps the strangest problem which it presents is, why did the conspirators abandon their scheme and yield. No rational explanation of their conduct has been offered, and I can only suppose that hunger, fatigue, and suspense had unnerved men who had made a great effort, but were not naturally endowed with great physical courage.

It is said that when they entered the Bank they had empty stomachs, having been in hiding for some time, which perhaps accounts for their rapid collapse. Possibly they were also disheartened by the escape of Sir E. Vincent, and it is obvious that things might have taken a very different turn had he been in their hands.

They spent the night on board Sir E. Vincent's yacht, in the company of Mr. Barker, one of his Secretaries, who has made an interesting report of the account they gave him of their schemes and aspirations.

By the kindness of Sir E. Vincent, I am able to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of this document.

The English, Russian, and French Dragomans visited the insurgents on the yacht next day and endeavoured to persuade them of the criminal folly of their methods of action, but they merely replied that they were determined to come back to Turkey and begin again, and that others would carry on the work in their absence.



They were then disarmed and placed on the Messageries steamer "Gironde," which left for Smyrna, the Piræus, and Marseilles, but had orders not to let them disembark at the two former ports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

*The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies.*

Excellences,

Constantinople, le Août, 1896.

IL ne suffit plus au Gouvernement Turc de faire massacrer nos frères en Arménie. Il vient encore en pleine capitale de porter brutalement atteinte à nos droits politiques.

L'élection de nos Patriarches en vertu de la Constitution Arménienne reconnue par la Porte se fait par un Conseil composé de laïques et de religieux lequel est élu par l'Assemblée Nationale Arménienne. Par le plus arbitraire des actes le Gouvernement Turc, après avoir par ses intrigues obligé le Patriarche Matteos Ismirlian à donner sa démission, a cassé le Conseil Mixte élu par notre dernière Assemblée et remplacé ce Conseil par quelques civils et prêtres vendus au Palais, auxquels il a enjoint d'élire comme *locum tenens* le Prélat le plus indigne de notre Église, Bartoloméos, de qui les Turcs eux-mêmes ne parlent qu'avec mépris.

La nation Arménienne proteste hautement contre cette violation de ses droits constitutionnels, anciens et jusqu'ici respectés. Elle ne reconnaît ni Bartoloméos ni les hommes indignes—par exemple Nourian et Abraham Pacha—qui lui sont imposés comme membres du Conseil. Cette fois le Gouvernement Turc joint l'insulte à la longue série de ses crimes impunis. Les Puissances par leur attitude se font les complices de la Porte. En Crète comme en Arménie elles accueillent les revendications des Chrétiens avec le même mépris que nos bourreaux. Mais la patience des nations écrasées a des limites.

Pour nous, nous ne souffrirons pas qu'un Prélat auquel on fermait naguère les portes des églises et chapelles Arméniennes donne aux peuples le spectacle d'aller au nom de la nation Arménienne baiser la main de celui qui a signé la mort de 100,000 de nos morts.

Encore une fois la colère Arménienne va se déchaîner et des actes par lesquels elle se traduira l'entière responsabilité retombera également sur le Sultan et sur les Représentants des Puissances.

(Le peuple Arménien.)

(Translation.)

Your Excellencies,

Constantinople, August, 1896.

IT is no longer enough for the Turkish Government to have our brothers massacred in Armenia. They have now made a brutal attack upon our political rights in the capital itself.

The election of our Patriarchs under the Armenian constitution recognized by the Porte is made by a Council composed of lay and clerical members, which is elected by the Armenian National Assembly. By a most arbitrary act, the Turkish Government, after having by its intrigues obliged Patriarch Matteos Ismirlian to resign, has suppressed the Mixed Council elected by our last Assembly, and replaced it by certain civilians and priests in the pay of the Palace, who have been ordered to elect as *locum tenens*, Bartolomeos, the most unworthy Prelate of our Church, of whom the Turks themselves only speak with disdain.

The Armenian nation loudly protests against this violation of its constitutional and ancient rights which, up to the present, have been respected. It recognizes neither Bartolomeos nor the unworthy men—Nurian and Abraham Pasha for example—who have been forced upon it as members of the Council. On this occasion the Turkish Government adds insult to the long series of its unpunished crimes. The Powers, by their attitude, make themselves the accomplices of the Porte. In Crete, as in Armenia, they receive the demands of the Christians with the same disdain as our executioners. But the patience of down-trodden nations has its limits.

For our part we shall not permit a Prelate against whom lately the doors of the

Armenian churches and chapels were closed, to present to the world the spectacle of going in the name of the Armenian nation to kiss the hand of him who has signed the death-warrant of 100,000 of our dead.

Once more the wrath of the Armenians is about to be let loose, and the entire responsibility for the acts by which it will be displayed will fall equally on the Sultan and on the Representatives of the Powers.

(The Armenian people.)

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Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

*The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the Embassies.*

NOUS avons sans cesse protesté à l'Europe contre la tyrannie Turque, mais nos protestations légitimes ont été systématiquement refusées.

Sultan Hamid nous a répondu avec une vengeance sanglante : L'Europe a vu cet effroyable crime et a gardé le silence. Non seulement l'Europe n'a pas arrêté la main du bourreau, mais encore elle nous a impudemment imposé la résignation.

On nous a insulté en nous refusant nos droits humains et l'on a ulcéré mortellement notre dignité nationale en s'efforçant d'étouffer dans notre propre sang nos cris de protestations.

A nos exigences consacrées par notre sang vient se joindre à l'heure qu'il est l'idée fixe de vengeance sacrée, dressée devant nous comme un fantôme noir.

"La force prime le droit," nous a dit l'Europe par son indifférence homicide et nous, les faibles, les privés des droits humains, nous nous voyons obligés de nous adresser à la science, en cherchant tous les moyens pour briser le joug abominable du Sultan ; nous ne pouvons plus le supporter.

Le temps des jeux diplomatiques est passé.

Le sang versé par nos 100,000 martyrs nous donne le droit de demander la liberté. Malgré toutes les insinuations de nos ennemis, nous n'avons demandé et nous ne demanderons pas que le strict nécessaire.

A savoir :

1. Nomination pour l'Arménie d'un Haut Commissaire, d'origine et de nationalité Européenne élu par les Six Grandes Puissances.
2. Les Valis, Mutessarifs, et Caïmacams seront nommés par le Haut Commissaire et sanctionnés par le Sultan.
3. Organisations de milice, de gendarmerie, et de police des populations indigènes, sous le commandement des officiers Européens.
4. Réformes judiciaires d'après le système Européen.
5. Liberté absolue des cultes, d'instruction, et de la presse.
6. Destination des trois quarts du revenu du pays aux besoins locaux.
7. Extinction de tous les impôts arriérés.
8. Exemption d'impôts pendant cinq ans et destination, pendant les cinq ans suivants, de l'impôt payable au Gouvernement du Sultan au dédommagement de la perte causée par les derniers troubles.
9. Rétrocession immédiate des possessions immeubles usurpées.
10. Retour libre des émigrés Arméniens.
11. Amnistie générale pour les condamnés politiques Arméniens.
12. Nomination d'une Commission temporaire, formée par les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, laquelle s'établira dans une des villes principales de l'Arménie et surveillera à l'exécution des Articles susdits.

Voici nos demandes. Nous ne reculerons devant aucun sacrifice pour arriver à notre but. Nous nous reconnaissons désormais exempts de toute responsabilité. Nous pleurons d'avance la perte de tous ceux qui, étrangers ou indigènes, seront les victimes fatales à l'alarme générale. Nous les regrettons, mais devant le malheur général le deuil partiel n'a pas de sens.

Nous mourons, nous le savons, mais la révolution qui a pénétré jusque dans les os de la nation Arménienne, continuera à menacer le trône des Sultans, tant que nous n'aurons pas conquis nos droits humains, tant qu'il restera un seul Arménien.

(Le Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération des Révolutionnaires Arméniens dite "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

(Translation.)

WE have incessantly protested to Europe against Turkish tyranny, but our legitimate protests have been systematically refused.

Sultan Hamid's reply has been a murderous vengeance; Europe has beheld this fearful crime and has kept silence. Not only has Europe not stayed the hand of the executioner, but she has insolently imposed upon us resignation.

They have insulted us by refusing us our rights as men, and they have mortally wounded our national dignity by striving to smother in our own blood our cries of protest.

To our demands, consecrated by our blood, there is now added the fixed idea of sacred vengeance, raised up before us like a dark phantom.

"Might gets the better of right," Europe has said to us in her murderous indifference, and we, the weak, deprived of our rights as men, find ourselves compelled to have recourse to science in seeking every means to break the abominable yoke of the Sultan; we can no longer bear it.

The time of diplomatic play is passed.

The blood shed by our 100,000 martyrs gives us the right to demand liberty. In spite of all the insinuations of our enemies, we have not demanded and will not demand but what is strictly necessary.

Namely:

1. The nomination for Armenia of a High Commissioner, of European origin and nationality, elected by the Six Great Powers.
2. The Valis, Mutessarifs, and Kaïmakams shall be appointed by the High Commissioner, and sanctioned by the Sultan.
3. The organization of the militia, gendarmerie, and police drawn from the native population, under the command of European officers.
4. Judicial reforms according to the European system.
5. Absolute freedom of worship, education, and the press.
6. The application of three-quarters of the revenue of the country to local needs.
7. The cancelling of all arrears of taxes.
8. Exemption from taxes for five years, and the application for the five years following of the tax payable to the Sultan's Government to the compensation of losses caused by the recent troubles.
9. The immediate restoration of usurped real property.
10. The free return of Armenian emigrants.
11. A general amnesty for Armenians condemned on political charges.
12. The appointment of a temporary Commission, to be formed by the Representatives of the Great Powers, which shall be established in one of the principal towns of Armenia, and shall watch over the execution of the Articles above mentioned.

These are our demands. We shall shrink from no sacrifice to gain our end. Henceforth we consider ourselves exempt from all responsibility. We mourn in advance the loss of all those, whether foreigners or natives, who may be the victims of fate in the general alarm. We are sorry for them, but in the presence of universal misery there is no place for partial mourning.

We shall die, we know, but the revolution which has penetrated to the marrow of the Armenian nation will continue to threaten the throne of the Sultans so long as we have not obtained our rights as men, so long as a single Armenian remains.

(The Central Committee of Constantinople of the Society of Armenian Revolutionists called "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

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Inclosure 3 in No. 25.

*The Armenian Revolutionary Committee to the French Chargé d'Affaires.*

NOUS ne sortirons pas d'ici avant deux jours.

Nos exigences sont:—

1. Assurer la paix partout dans le pays par l'intervention internationale.
2. Accepter les demandes représentées par le Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération Révolutionnaire Arménienne dite "Dachnaktzoutioun."
3. Ne pas se servir de force contre nous.



4. Garantie complète de la vie de tous ceux qui se trouvent ici dans la Banque, et de ceux qui ont pris part aux troubles de la ville.

Le mobilier et le numéraire de la Banque seront intacts jusqu'à l'exécution de nos demandes; dans le cas contraire, le numéraire et tous les papiers d'affaires seront détruits, et nous autres, avec le personnel, trouverons la mort sous les ruines de la Banque.

Nous sommes obligés de prendre ces mesures extrêmes.

C'est l'indifférence criminelle de l'humanité qui nous a poussé jusqu'à ce point.

(Les représentants du Comité Central de Constantinople de la Fédération Révolutionnaire Arménienne dite "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

(5 signatures Arméniennes.)

(Translation.)

WE shall not leave this for two days.

Our demands are:—

1. The securing of peace throughout the entire country by international intervention.

2. Acceptance of the demands put forward by the Central Committee at Constantinople of the Revolutionary Armenian Society called "Dachnaktzoutioun."

3. Force not to be used against us.

4. Complete guarantee of the lives of all who are here in the Bank, and of those who have taken part in the disturbances in the town.

The furniture and money of the Bank shall remain untouched until the fulfilment of our demands; in the contrary case, the money and all the business papers will be destroyed, and we, with the employés, will meet our death beneath the ruins of the Bank.

We are compelled to take these extreme measures.

It is the criminal indifference of humanity which has pushed us to this extreme.

(The Representatives of the Central Committee at Constantinople of the Revolutionary Armenian Society called "Dachnaktzoutioun.")

(5 Armenian signatures.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 25.

Report by Mr. Barker.

FROM what I could gather from my conversation with the seventeen men sent on board the "Gulnare," the events of the 20th were schemed and planned out some three months ago by the Foreign Committees, and the chiefs of the various bands only came to Constantinople some three weeks back. The attack on the Bank was one part of their programme, as they told me that the following points and places had been singled out for their demonstrations:—

The Sublime Porte (in Stamboul).

The Armenian Patriarchate.

That part of Stamboul sloping down towards Macri-keui.

In Galata their attacks were to be directed against—

The Imperial Ottoman Bank (occupation).

The Crédit Lyonnais (occupation).

The Voivoda police-station (bomb attacks).

In Pera:

The Galata Serai police-station (bomb attack).

The Aia Triada Greek church (bomb attack).

These were to be accompanied by bomb-throwing amongst the police, where necessary, to confuse them, and draw attention from the places which they wished to occupy.

I gathered that great care had been taken in the organization; that the Turks had rightly suspected, three days before, that something was on the point of happening, but that they thought that the Patriarchate alone would have been attacked—this, apparently, is the reason that the attempt on the latter place was unsuccessful; that their bombs were made by them here, and that the explosives used were not so

violent as they might be; that they had obtained their dynamite here, and that there was no more difficulty about this than for the men themselves to get into the country.

The Bank was attacked at 1, and at the same time a raid was made on the Voivoda police-station in order to prevent assistance being sent to the Bank by the latter.

They gave me the following reasons for having singled out the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Crédit Lyonnais for occupation:—

(a.) As these establishments contain people of so many nationalities, all the Powers would be ready to assist in obtaining their demands from the Turks, in order to save the lives of their subjects.

(b.) That the Bank was the easiest building to resist a siege and to defend.

(c.) That apart from the interest of the European Powers, the various financial markets would also have suffered heavy loss through the destruction of property and of all the money in the Bank had they used their dynamite.

(d.) That being the most prominent building in the town, more attention would be attracted to their attempts to bring the Armenian cause before the lower classes, and thus instil more ardour in their weaker brethren, who were, for the moment, holding aloof from fear of the Turks.

Their reason for making more use of bombs for their defence, and also for their attacks on the military, were that, besides being more destructive, they caused more consternation, owing to the novelty of the thing.

The men told me that they did not belong to any one particular Secret Society; that they were simply striving to save their fellow-countrymen from oppression and wrong, and that, like them, there were hundreds who would be willing to lose their lives in this attempt; that it had been agreed that not one of them should fall into the hands of the Turks alive, and that, if necessary, they should die by their own hands.

I asked them if they had any particular reason for singling out Wednesday, to which they replied that it was the day of the Council of Ministers, and that the Galata part of the town being freer from crowds their action would be less likely to be opposed.

The assailants were all Turkish subjects, and, with the exception of the three chiefs, of the "hamal" or porter class.

These men seemed to depreciate the working system of the Hornitchak (? Hinchag), which was only a sort of ransom-earning Company, and had not the political cause of the Armenians at heart, nor were they ready to die for their country.

One of the chiefs was killed, and all the other three corroborated what each told me as above.

Two of the chiefs were not Armenians from Constantinople, but from Van, and of superior education, knowing Russian, French, Turkish, and Greek.

The third had evidently lived a long time here, and knew the place well. They were all most determined men, and repeatedly told me that they would not give themselves up, but were most anxious as to how far their ultimatum to the Turks would be successful. For free pardon they did not care, except inasmuch as if not obtaining the reforms they asked for they would be alive for a new attempt, which they declared would be more terrible than anything known yet.

What they wanted was the English project of reforms, and to this they had added:—

"Freedom of the press in the new Armenian province." Autonomy they would have, and if they did not get it now they would get it at some future date.

When I remarked that I thought that the initiative they had taken would alienate the sympathy of the Powers and cause a fearful massacre of Armenians, they replied, "Those who die will do so as true patriots and martyrs, and as to the sympathy of the Powers, if we had thought we would lose it, we would have forced their hands by remaining in the Bank."

Their hatred of the Turks was beyond all description, and the gloating of the rank and file over the Turks they had killed was truly horrible and savage. They declared that they would return here through Macedonia, and were confident of success in their next demonstration. They were very anxious to know whether their fellow men had done much damage with their bombs, whether many soldiers had been killed, and whether the soldiers had been firing on the Armenians. They also told me that it had been their intention to kill all the Turks in the employ of the Bank before

blowing the latter up, but that they had not had time to do so, as things finished sooner than they expected.

From their repeated questions about the Piræus, and whether they would be allowed to go there, &c., I presume that the most important seat of the Committee is somewhere in Greece, and probably on the Macedonian frontier.

(Signed) F. A. BARKER.

August 26, 1896.

No. 26.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, August 31, 1896.*

THE seizure of the Ottoman Bank, reported in my despatch of the 27th August, appears to have been only part of a far wider conspiracy.

There is now little doubt that this attack was only one of a projected series of sensational demonstrations arranged with the object of forcing the attention of Europe to the Armenian question, most of which have fallen comparatively flat on account of the want of resolution of those intrusted with their execution. It is at any rate certain that a large number of Armenians were, and probably still are, concealed in Galata and Pera armed with bombs and other weapons.

The little at present known of this conspiracy is eminently characteristic of the state of Constantinople at the present time. The authorities certainly knew that some disturbance was likely to occur, and there is little doubt that they proposed to quell it by ordering the troops to take no action, and by handing over the Armenian population to the fury of the Turkish mob. A large number of Softas and other fanatics were encouraged to come over from the Asiatic side, and there is nothing improbable in the stories current that the clubs and iron bars with which they were armed were furnished by the municipal authorities. In some cases Turks in the service of foreigners disappeared for two days, and on returning told their masters they had been enrolled by the police as special constables, provided with knives, and told to kill Armenians during thirty-six hours.

On Wednesday afternoon, a little after the capture of the Ottoman Bank, a bomb was thrown on the troops from a house next door to Galata Serai, the Pera police-station near Her Majesty's Embassy. The house was at once attacked, and it is said about thirty persons were killed. Less important disturbances are also said to have occurred in Yeni Charshi and in the quarter immediately below the Embassy. A panic ensued, and the European population almost entirely abandoned the streets. Meanwhile bands began to appear composed partly of the low Turkish population of the quarter, but partly of individuals wearing turbans and long linen robes rarely seen in this part of the town. They mostly carried clubs which had evidently been carefully shaped after a uniform pattern; some had, instead of these, iron bars, and many were armed with knives. They killed all the Armenians whom they met in the streets, and looted many shops in Galata. The work of destruction was, however, fiercest in the quarters of Kassim Pasha and Hasskeui, where the Armenian population has been almost annihilated. In the latter district the Jews, who are very numerous, sided with the Turks against the Christians. No trustworthy details of the massacres have yet been received, but even the Palace officials admit that the carnage was terrible. The pillage and slaughter continued in Galata, at any rate, during the next day. Public attention was naturally chiefly directed to those cases where shots were fired, although more lives were probably lost by the comparatively noiseless process of clubbing.

The shooting was mainly due to Armenians in the upper stories of houses firing on the mob, and it is difficult to decide if their object was self-defence or the provocation of disturbances.

Mr. Eliot and Mr. Wrench saw two of these episodes which took place on or near the quay, one quite close to where they were standing. The troops made no attempt to interfere, and merely moved out of the way of the shots, while the mob rushed down the quay and into the side streets with the object of attacking the house in the rear. I myself witnessed a similar scene in the afternoon of the same day at Pershembe Bazaar, near the Bank. I also saw the mob, who were in high spirits and laughing like children on a holiday, rush down to the bridge connecting Galata and Stamboul, and satisfied myself that the ostentatious efforts made by the police to



disarm them were a simple farce. While I was on the quay a cart containing a number of dead and horribly wounded bodies drove by a crowd of Turks who obviously enjoyed the spectacle.

The Representatives of the Six Powers met on Thursday morning to consider the situation, and addressed to the Sublime Porte the collective *note verbale* (of which a copy is inclosed herewith) protesting against the attitude of the authorities and the massacre of innocent persons by the mob, demanding the immediate restoration of order and formulating reserves respecting indemnities.

We called especial attention to the fact that whereas the disturbance began about midday, the troops did not make their appearance till 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

We also sent, about 2 p.m. the French, Russian, and British Dragomans, in the name of the six Embassies, to protest at the Palace against the anarchy which prevailed in the town. On their way to Yildiz they seized clubs from two Turks, one of them an officer, and forced a third, whom they saw preparing to attack Christians, to accompany them to the Palace.

They exhibited their captive and trophies to the Imperial Secretaries and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and insisted on the necessity of immediately taking prompt and effective measures to restore order.

Izzet Bey explained that a series of *Iradsés* had been issued with this object to the Military Commanders of the capital, that all the available troops had been distributed through the different quarters, and that reinforcements had been telegraphed for from Ismid and Adrianople; that an Extraordinary Commission had been formed to summarily judge and punish the culprits, finally that the Council of Ministers was sitting continuously in the Palace and elaborating a series of measures calculated to restore unruffled calm.

I received this account at about 5:30 p.m. in Galata, and subsequently heard prolonged firing at more than one point and saw other signs that the mob were still massacring and looting unchecked by the police or troops.

The Italian and German Ambassadors and the French *Chargé d'Affaires* also visited the town and arrived by personal inspection at the same conclusions as myself. I accordingly sent Mr. Eliot and Mr. Marinitch to the Palace with instructions to report what I had seen. Izzet Bey allowed that regrettable events had occurred, but said that at 10 o'clock Turkish (*i.e.*, two hours before sunset), reports had been received stating that order was restored in every part of the town. He also read several *Iradsés*, which, he said, must be admitted by every one to be sufficient. Mr. Eliot and Mr. Marinitch replied that they had not come to argue as to the sufficiency of the orders issued, but to state that the British *Chargé d'Affaires* and other members of the Embassy had seen with their own eyes that so far from order prevailing at 10 o'clock Turkish, the town was still in the hands of the mob at 11:30; that they were able to testify that the troops and police had made no effort to prevent the slaughter of innocent persons or to protect the property of foreigners, and that if this state of things continued, Her Majesty's Embassy would be in a position to assert that the Sultan, or those who were responsible for his receiving correct information, after being told by eye-witnesses of the carnage and pillage which was taking place in the capital, refused to put a stop to it.

They stated at the same time, by my instructions, that, in view of what was going on, I had landed sailors and marines to protect the Embassy, Consulate, and Post-office. Izzet Bey earnestly begged that these might be withdrawn, and said he was willing to guarantee the safety of the town; but they replied that I was unable to do so until I was satisfied that there was no longer any danger to the British colony.

There is no doubt that immediately after this the massacre stopped. Whatever disturbances occurred subsequently were due, not to the prevalence of mob law, but to conflicts between the police and the revolutionaries, such as are inevitable in any town where the authorities have to contend with conspirators who make use of fire-arms and dynamite. Rumours are current among Turks as well as Christians, that orders were issued that the massacre was to continue for a period whose length is variously estimated at from fifty to thirty hours, and that when this limit was reached the police interfered.

From what I hear, however, I am led to hope that my action in bringing my personal observations to the notice of the Sultan had a beneficial effect. The Palace officials had never contemplated the possibility of the Heads of European Missions being themselves eye-witnesses of the excesses committed by Mussulmans, and had imagined that they would be able to deny and distort what occurred as successfully as they did in the case of the provincial massacres last year. At any rate, at about

9 o'clock on Thursday night the mob dispersed. I am informed that the premises of one of the foreign Religious Societies in Stamboul were in the course of the day several times surrounded by the mob, who were, however, unable to effect an entry. About 9 P.M. persons in the house distinctly heard it said in the street that orders had been issued for the massacre to cease, on which the crowd quietly dispersed.

Alarming news, however, continued to be received during the night, which seemed to show that the disorders were spreading up the Bosphorus. Subsequent investigations proved these stories to be greatly exaggerated, but at the moment a panic prevailed, and the Ambassadors thought it advisable to address a telegram direct to the Sultan, calling His Majesty's attention to the horrors which were being committed, and urging him to put an end to a state of things likely to have the most disastrous consequences for his Empire. I have the honour to inclose a copy of this message, which appears to have much disturbed and impressed the Sultan, who said he had never heard such language in the twenty years he had been on the throne. The Minister for Foreign Affairs visited the Austrian Ambassador (the doyen) at midnight, and asked in His Majesty's name what the telegram meant. I inclose Baron Calice's own account of his answer, from which it appears that he let Tewfik Pasha clearly understand that if such excesses continued to be committed under the eyes of Europe, public opinion would become convinced that the Turkish Government was incapable of maintaining order, and would seek for some more satisfactory substitute. Tewfik Pasha received an even less encouraging reply from the Russian Ambassador.

On Saturday morning another meeting of the Representatives was held, at which was read the reply of the Sublime Porte to the collective note, a copy of which is inclosed.

This specious and ingenious document entirely ignores the main complaint of the Embassies, namely, that the Turkish authorities permitted indiscriminate massacres instead of using the force at their disposal to arrest and punish the guilty.

We replied in a second *note verbale*, copy of which is also inclosed, declining to enter into any discussion of details, and merely taking note of the assurances of the Porte that order was restored.

We then decided that it would be proper to mark our sense of the gravity of the situation by modifying the expressions of joy usual on the occasion of the Sultan's accession (Monday, the 31st August). It was agreed that the "stationnaires" should dress as usual, but that the Embassies should not be illuminated, and that the Dragomans, if summoned (as is the custom) to the Palace to present the congratulations of their Chiefs, should make use of the following formula:—

"Le Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade de \_\_\_\_\_, en se présentant au Palais Impérial pour offrir les compliments d'usage à l'occasion de l'avènement au Trône de Sa Majesté Impériale, est chargé d'exprimer en même temps des regrets au sujet des événements douloureux qui ont signalé la vingtième année de son règne."

This was done to-day, and though the Sultan has made every effort to induce the Embassies to illuminate, they have decided to adhere to their resolution. A notice has been published in the papers permitting the inhabitants of the town and the Bosphorus to illuminate, but forbidding them to let off fireworks. They were also warned not to walk in the streets or go out in boats.

The Turkish population now appear to be perfectly quiet, and confidence is being restored.

A panic, however, was created on Saturday evening by bombs being thrown on the troops from a house next door to the Ottoman Bank, and also from the Crédit Lyonnais. This was followed by a fusillade from the troops, which lasted for some time. Ultimately, six or eight Armenians were taken out of the first-named building alive or dead, and numerous arrests were made in other houses where the inhabitants had fired on the troops. A bomb was also thrown in Pera on Sunday or Monday, but injured no one.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.



## Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

*Collective Note to the Sublime Porte.*

LES événements sanglants dont la ville de Constantinople a été le théâtre dans la journée et la nuit d'hier, à la suite d'une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens, ont mis en lumière avec la dernière évidence l'absence totale de sécurité et de mesures propres à maintenir l'ordre public dans la capitale. Alors que les troubles ont éclaté peu après midi, les premières mesures militaires n'ont été prises que vers 6 heures du soir et encore les troupes sont elles restées impassibles en face des excès auxquels se livraient des bandes de gens sans aveu qui, armés de gourdins et de couteaux, attaquaient et assommaient des passants absolument inoffensifs. La police de son côté, loin d'empêcher la circulation de ces bandes s'est associé dans plusieurs cas à leurs méfaits. Des zaptiés, des soldats armés, et même des officiers ont été vus pénétrant de force dans les maisons et envahissant des établissements étrangers dont plusieurs ont été complètement saccagés.

Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances croient devoir appeler l'attention la plus sérieuse de la Sublime Porte sur les conséquences d'un tel état de choses, qui touchent à l'anarchie. Ils exigent que des mesures immédiates soient prises pour désarmer la populace, punir les coupables, et renforcer les moyens d'action de l'autorité chargée du maintien de l'ordre. En priant la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien leur faire connaître sans délai les dispositions qui auront été adoptées conformément à ces demandes, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances formulent dès à présent toutes leurs réserves au sujet des dommages subis par leurs ressortissants du fait des récents désordres et de l'absence de protection dont la responsabilité incombe aux autorités locales.

Présentée le 27 Août par le Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade d'Autriche au nom des Représentants des Grandes Puissances.

(Translation.)

THE bloody occurrences of which the town of Constantinople was during yesterday and last night the theatre, in consequence of a criminal attempt of the Armenian revolutionaries, have clearly shown the total want of security, and of any effort to maintain order in the capital. Though the disturbances broke out shortly after noon, it was not until about 6 P.M. that the first military measures were taken, and besides this the troops remained passive in face of the excesses which were being committed by bands of vagabonds armed with clubs and knives, who attacked and cut down entirely unoffending passers-by. The police, on their part, far from preventing these bands from going about, participated in several cases in their misdeeds. Zaptiehs, armed soldiers, and even officers were seen forcing their way into the houses and invading premises belonging to foreigners, several of which have been completely sacked.

The Representatives of the Great Powers believe it their duty to call the most serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the consequences of such a state of affairs, which closely borders upon anarchy. They demand that immediate steps be taken to disarm the mob, to punish the guilty, and to strengthen the hands of the authorities upon whom the duty of maintaining public order devolves. Whilst requesting the Sublime Porte to inform them without delay of the steps taken in compliance with these demands, the Representatives of the Great Powers take this opportunity of making every reservation in regard to any losses to their countrymen arising from the recent disturbances and from the absence of protection, the responsibility for which rests with the local authorities.

Presented on the 27th August by the First Dragoman of the Austrian Embassy in the name of the Representatives of the Great Powers.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

*Telegram addressed to the Sultan, August 28, 1896.*

[See No. 10.]

## Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

*Baron Calice to Mr. Herbert.**Ambassade d'Autriche-Hongrie, Buyukdéré,  
le 29 Août, 1896.*

Mon cher collègue,

J'AI consulté les notes que j'ai prises la nuit passée sur la visite de Tewfik Pacha. Voici comment j'ai répondu à sa demande confidentielle.

Je lui ai dit que le télégramme collectif des Ambassadeurs s'expliquait suffisamment par l'extrême gravité et l'urgence des circonstances, que si la situation présentait un danger, celui-ci ne provenait pas d'un changement de la part des Puissances dont les sentiments conservateurs, pacifiques et amicaux vers Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ont été prouvés encore dernièrement par leurs efforts de pacifier la Crète, mais des faits inouïs qui venaient de se passer à Constantinople : que dans cette circonstance la Turquie ne pouvait pas compter sur la même incrédulité de l'Europe comme l'hiver passé à l'égard des faits sanglants de l'Arménie sur lesquels la vérité avait eu quelques difficultés à se faire jour. Mais que depuis il y avait eu des rapports les plus dignes de foi qui avaient éclairé l'opinion publique et que les événements récents de Constantinople, qui se sont passés en partie sous les yeux des Représentants des Puissances eux-mêmes, de leurs employés et d'une nombreuse population étrangère soulevaient un cri d'horreur dans toute l'Europe. Le véritable danger pour les intérêts de Sa Majesté Impériale était donc, de mon avis, qu'il ne s'établisse une opinion générale que la Turquie n'est pas en état de gouverner avec justice, de punir les coupables et de protéger les innocents sans distinction de race et de religion, mais qu'au contraire, elle ne cesse et ne cessera de livrer ses peuples Chrétiens à l'oppression et aux plus cruelles persécutions sans l'espoir même d'obtenir justice.

J'ai conclu que c'était donc là le véritable danger de la situation, et que plus une pareille impression prendrait racine, plus la question se présenterait, quel pouvait être le remède à tant de maux ?

Mille, &amp;c.

(Signé) CALICE.

(Translation.)

*Austro-Hungarian Embassy, Buyukdéré,  
August 29, 1896.*

My dear Colleague,

I HAVE consulted the notes I made last night with reference to Tewfik Pasha's visit. I replied as follows to his confidential request.

I told him that the collective telegram of the Ambassadors was sufficiently explained by the extreme gravity and urgency of the circumstances, and that if the situation presented any danger, such danger did not proceed from a change on the part of the Powers, whose conservative, pacific, and friendly feelings towards His Imperial Majesty the Sultan have only recently been exhibited by their efforts to pacify Crete, but from the unparalleled events which have just taken place at Constantinople; that, under these circumstances, Turkey could not count upon finding Europe as incredulous now as it was last winter in regard to the bloody deeds in Armenia, the truth concerning which had had some difficulty in coming to light. But that since that time, public opinion had been enlightened by reports of the highest credibility, and that the recent occurrences at Constantinople, which have in part taken place before the very eyes of the Representatives of the Powers, of their staff, and of a large foreign population, would raise a cry of horror throughout Europe. The real danger to the interests of His Imperial Majesty was therefore, I considered, that the opinion might be generally formed that Turkey is not in a fit condition to govern justly, to punish the guilty, and to protect the innocent without distinction of race and of religion, but that, on the contrary, it does not, and will not, cease to deliver over its Christian races to oppression and to the cruellest persecution without any hope of their obtaining justice.

I concluded that here, then, was the true danger of the situation, and that the deeper such an impression grew, the more forcibly would the question present itself, what remedy there could be for such great evils.

Ever, &amp;c.

(Signed) CALICE.

*Note Verbale.*

EN ayant l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note collective que MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances lui ont remise à la date d'hier, la Sublime Porte est bien aise de constater en premier lieu que leurs Excellences reconnaissent elles-mêmes officiellement que les événements sanglants dont la ville de Constantinople a été le théâtre dans la journée et la nuit de Mercredi 26 courant, étaient dus à une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens.

Comme cependant il est dit dans cette communication que l'application des mesures militaires a subi des lenteurs, que les troupes étaient restées impassibles en face des excès commis par des bandes de gens sans aveu et que la police, loin d'empêcher la circulation de ces bandes, s'est associée dans plusieurs cas à leurs méfaits, la Sublime Porte croit devoir fournir à leurs Excellences les Représentants des Grandes Puissances des explications propres à leur démontrer que l'attitude des autorités Impériales en cette circonstance a été aussi ferme et aussi correcte que possible.

Sur l'avis parvenu aux autorités de la police que des projets séditieux étaient tramés par les agitateurs Arméniens, les troupes et les agents de police chargés du maintien de l'ordre dans la ville avaient été renforcés et des mesures avaient été prises pour assurer la sécurité sur les principaux points de la capitale.

L'assertion comme quoi aucune mesure propre à maintenir l'ordre public n'avait été adoptée, se trouve infirmée par le fait même que les soldats, les gendarmes, et les agents de police, portés par mesure de précaution aux environs de la Banque Ottomane, où précisément les Anarchistes Arméniens ont commencé à se porter à leurs criminelles agressions, ont été les premières victimes de leurs attentats.

Comme tout le monde a pu le constater, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a cessé, depuis les incidents de l'année dernière, d'user de la plus grande vigilance pour assurer le maintien de la sécurité et de l'ordre publics en faisant circuler sans interruption des détachements de troupes à pied et à cheval, tant à Stamboul qu'à Péra et à Galata.

Les fauteurs de désordres, dont une partie s'étaient enfermée dans le local de la Banque, perpétrèrent aussi toutes sortes de méfaits sur différents points de Galata et de Péra ainsi qu'à Psamatia et dans d'autres quartiers de la ville en se barricadant dans les maisons du haut desquelles ils faisaient pleuvoir des coups de feu et des bombes tuant et blessant non seulement des passants et des soldats, mais aussi des femmes et des enfants.

Le nombre des soldats et agents de l'autorité tués ou blessés ainsi par les agitateurs est considérable. Plus d'une trentaine ont été déjà transportés à l'hôpital militaire de Gumuch-Sou, et beaucoup d'autres distribués dans les différents établissements hospitaliers de la capitale pour y être soignés. Les autorités Impériales sont en train d'en faire dresser une liste qui sera remise à MM. les Représentants des Puissances pour leur édification.

Ces provocations ayant naturellement produit une grande surexcitation parmi la population Musulmane, des dispositions immédiates furent prises pour ramener le calme dans les esprits et mettre un terme aux désordres. Des instructions catégoriques furent données aux Commandants Militaires et aux autorités de la police leur enjoignant, entre autres, de sommer les meneurs barricadés dans les maisons et dans les divers établissements à rentrer dans l'obéissance et dans le cas où ils refuseraient de se rendre et feraient usage de leurs armes, de leur riposter ainsi que cela se pratique partout; de protéger et de mettre à l'abri de toute atteinte la vie et les biens des habitants paisibles et des étrangers; d'empêcher qu'aucun individu, à quelque classe ou religion qu'il appartînt, empiétât sur les devoirs incombant à l'autorité, afin d'arrêter et de livrer à la justice tous ceux qui contreviendraient à cette mesure.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ne s'est pas borné à donner ces ordres, mais il veille scrupuleusement à leur observation.

Le Maréchal Shakir Pacha, chef de la Maison Militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, fut envoyé sur les lieux pour activer les efforts déployés par les troupes afin de réprimer au plus tôt les désordres provoqués par les Anarchistes, qui, retranchés dans les maisons, ne cessaient de faire tomber sur tous ceux qui se trouvaient à leur portée une grêle de balles et de bombes. Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, de son côté, parcourait en personne les rues pour rassurer la population effrayée et

surveiller l'application des mesures adoptées par l'autorité pour déloger les insurgés des bâtiments où ils s'étaient retranchés et pour mettre les vagabonds et les gens sans aveu dans l'impossibilité de nuire en leur enlevant les gourdins et couteaux qu'on trouvait entre leurs mains.

Néanmoins, comme il n'était pas possible à la force armée, quelque fût son chiffre, d'occuper tous les points et passages où les meneurs s'étaient barricadés, les endroits qui étaient restés en dehors de la surveillance des troupes ayant été malheureusement le théâtre de faits regrettables, de nouveaux ordres furent donnés pour l'arrestation et la punition des coupables sans distinction.

Quant au passage de la note précitée se rapportant à l'attitude des zaptiés et soldats armés qui, sous prétexte de rechercher des Arméniens, auraient pénétré de force dans les maisons et établissements étrangers, il y a lieu de faire observer qu'en un pareil moment de troubles, l'inviolabilité du domicile serait provisoirement suspendue dans n'importe quel pays pour permettre la poursuite et l'arrestation des coupables. Du reste, il est établi qu'en rentrant ainsi dans les maisons et établissements le but des soldats et des agents de police n'était point d'y rechercher des Arméniens, mais bien, comme il a été dit plus haut, de mettre la main sur les agitateurs qui, de l'intérieur de ces locaux, fomentaient les désordres en tuant les passants et les soldats au moyen de bombes jetées et de coups de feu tirés par les fenêtres.

Aujourd'hui encore, au moment où la troupe revenant du Sélamlik passait devant Galata-Sérai, une bombe a été jetée du haut d'une maison sise sur le parcours, mais bien que l'engin ait fait explosion il n'y a eu heureusement aucune victime. Deux Arméniens réfugiés au troisième étage de la dite maison ont été arrêtés et livrés à la justice.

En outre, une perquisition opérée à l'école des filles de Psamatia a amené la découverte dans l'armoire de la maîtresse d'école Aghavin de trente-six bombes, de sept capsules, et quatre boîtes de cartouches de revolver, et d'un paquet de capsules de dynamite.

Cependant, grâce aux mesures adoptées, les désordres ont été partout réprimées et l'autorité s'occupe actuellement à assurer l'avenir en mettant les agitateurs dans l'impossibilité de se livrer de nouveau aux actes sanglants qui ont compromis la sécurité de la capitale, porté atteinte aux intérêts des commerçants étrangers et indigènes et contrecarré les vues pacifiques de l'Europe.

Pour ne pas prolonger la détention préventive des Musulmans et des Arméniens arrêtés lors de ces incidents, il a été institué un Tribunal Extraordinaire composé de hauts fonctionnaires judiciaires tant Musulmans que Chrétiens avec mission de procéder avec la plus grande célérité à l'instruction de leurs cas; ceux d'entre eux qui seraient reconnus coupables seront déférés aux Tribunaux et ceux dont l'innocence serait démontrée, remis aussitôt en liberté. Un ordre Impérial enjoint en outre au Département de la Justice de hâter le jugement des procès déférés aux Tribunaux criminels.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte aime à espérer que leurs Excellences voudront bien reconnaître dans leur appréciation éclairée que les dispositions suscitées sont une preuve de la sincérité de ses intentions et de son désir d'appliquer strictement les lois.

La véritable cause de l'extension de la panique doit être recherchée dans les rumeurs alarmantes répandues par ceux qui, effrayés à la vue des rassemblements provoqués par le bruit des détonations et de certains individus à mine suspecte, sont naturellement portés à exagérer les faits.

*Sublime Porte, le 28 Août, 1896.*

(Translation.)

*Verbal Note.*

THE Sublime Porte has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the collective note of yesterday's date, addressed to it by the Representatives of the Great Powers. The Sublime Porte is glad to learn, in the first place, that their Excellencies themselves officially recognize that the bloody occurrences of which the town of Constantinople was the theatre during the day and night of Wednesday, the 26th instant, were due to a criminal attempt on the part of Armenian revolutionists.

As, however, it is stated in this communication that some delay occurred before

military measures were resorted to, that the troops remained passive in the face of the excesses committed by bands of vagabonds, and that the police, so far from preventing such bands from going about, participated in several cases in their misdeeds, the Sublime Porte considers it necessary to furnish their Excellencies with explanations which will demonstrate to them that the attitude of the Imperial authorities upon this occasion has been as firm and as correct as possible.

When news reached the police that seditious plans were being concerted by the Armenian agitators, the troops and the police agents whose duty it is to maintain public order in the town were reinforced, and steps were taken to insure security at the principal points in the capital.

The assertion that no steps had been taken to maintain public order is refuted by the very fact that the soldiers, gendarmes, and police agents who had been stationed by way of precaution in the neighbourhood of the Ottoman Bank—the very spot where the Armenian anarchists began the execution of their criminal attacks—were the first victims of their onslaught.

As all the world is aware, since the events of last year, the Imperial Government has never ceased to exercise the greatest vigilance to insure the maintenance of public order and security by causing detachments of cavalry and infantry to patrol the streets uninterruptedly both in Stamboul and in Pera and Galata.

The rioters, one party of whom had shut themselves up in the Bank, also committed every kind of crime in different parts of Galata and of Pera, in Psamatia, and in other quarters of the town; they barricaded themselves in the houses, whence they kept firing and throwing bombs, killing and wounding, not only passers-by and soldiers, but women and children also.

The number of soldiers and police thus killed or wounded by the agitators is considerable. Over thirty have already been taken to the military hospital of Gumuch-Su, and many others have been distributed among the various hospitals of the capital to have their wounds attended to. The Imperial authorities are causing a list to be prepared, which will be transmitted to the Representatives of the Powers for their information.

As such provocation had naturally thrown the Mussulman population into the greatest excitement, immediate steps were taken to restore calm and to put an end to the disturbances. Categorical instructions were given to the military Commanders and to the police authorities ordering them, amongst other things, to summon the rioters who had barricaded the houses and the other establishments to return to obedience, and, should they refuse to surrender, and make use of their arms, to return their fire, as is done everywhere: to protect and shelter from any attack, the life and property of peaceable inhabitants and of foreigners; to prevent any person, to whatsoever class or religion he might belong, from usurping the duties of the authorities, and finally to arrest and hand over to justice all those who might disobey these regulations.

The Imperial Government has not confined its action to the issue of these orders, but is scrupulously superintending their execution.

Marshal Shakir Pasha, Head of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan's Military Staff, was dispatched to the spot to stimulate the troops in their efforts to repress, as soon as possible, the disturbances caused by the Anarchists, who were entrenched in the houses and discharged a ceaseless hail of bullets and bombs on all who were within range. The Minister of the Interior, too, kept patrolling the streets in person to reassure the frightened populace, and to superintend the execution of the measures taken by the authorities for the purpose of dislodging the rioters from the buildings where they were entrenched, and of depriving the vagabonds and ruffians of the power of injury by confiscating the clubs and knives which they carried.

Nevertheless, as it was not possible for the soldiers, whatever their numbers might be, to occupy every point or alley where the rioters were barricaded, and as the places outside the area guarded by the troops unfortunately became the scene of deplorable events, fresh orders were issued for the arrest and punishment, without distinction, of the guilty.

As regards the passage in the note relating to the attitude of the zaptiehs and the armed soldiers who, under the pretext of searching for Armenians, are said to have forced their way into houses and premises belonging to foreigners, it must be pointed out that at a time of such disturbances inviolability of domicile would in any country be provisionally suspended to facilitate pursuit and arrest of the guilty. Besides, it has been established that in thus entering houses and other premises the object of the soldiers and the police agents was not to search for Armenians there, but, as has been

stated above, to lay hands on the agitators, who, from the shelter afforded by these places, were fomenting disturbance by killing passers-by and soldiers by throwing bombs and discharging fire-arms from the windows.

Again to-day, as the detachment returning from the Selamlik was passing Galata Serai, a bomb was thrown from the upper storey of a house upon the way, but although the machine exploded it fortunately injured no one.

Besides this, a search made at the girls' school at Psamatia led to the discovery of thirty-six bombs, seven capsules, four boxes of revolver cartridges, and a packet of dynamite capsules in the cupboard of a school-mistress, Aghavin.

Nevertheless, thanks to the steps taken, the disturbances have everywhere been checked, and the authorities are at the present moment occupied in securing tranquillity for the future by depriving the agitators of the power of engaging anew in the bloody proceedings which have endangered the peace of the capital, have injured the interests of foreign and native merchants, and have run counter to the pacific views of Europe.

To avoid prolonging the imprisonment on suspicion of the Mussulmans and Armenians arrested during these occurrences, an Extraordinary Tribunal composed of high judicial functionaries, Mussulman and Christian, has been appointed. Their duty is to conduct the preliminary investigation of their cases with the greatest dispatch. Such as are proved guilty will be brought before the Tribunals, while those whose innocence is established will be immediately released. By an Imperial order the Department of Justice has further been directed to hasten on the trial of the cases referred to the Criminal Tribunals.

In communicating the foregoing to the Representatives of the Great Powers, the Sublime Porte hopes that their Excellencies will, with their enlightened judgment, recognize that the above-mentioned arrangements are a proof of the sincerity of its intentions and of its desire to enforce the laws strictly.

The true cause of the spread of the panic must be sought for in the disquieting rumours disseminated by persons who, being terrified at the sight of the crowds attracted by the noise of explosions and at the appearance of certain suspicious looking individuals are naturally inclined to exaggerate the facts.

*Sublime Porte, August 28, 1896.*

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Inclosure 5 in No. 26.

*Note Verbale.*

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que son Excellence Tewfik Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, a voulu leur adresser en date du 16 (28) Août en réponse à leur note collective du 15 (27).

Sans s'arrêter aux détails des faits qui y sont exposés et qui sur plusieurs points diffèrent essentiellement des informations authentiques reçues par les Ambassades, ni vouloir entrer en discussion sur le principe émis dans la dite note quant au droit de perquisition au sujet duquel les Représentants croient devoir faire les réserves les plus formelles, ils se bornent à prendre acte des assurances qui leur sont données que toutes les mesures nécessaires ont été prises pour le rétablissement de l'ordre et la répression des excès commis par les perturbateurs, mesures dont l'efficacité ne pourra être jugée que par leurs résultats.

(Translation.)

*Verbal Note.*

THE Representatives of the Great Powers have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which his Excellency Tewfik Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, was good enough to address to them on the 16th (28th) August, in reply to their collective note of the 15th (27th).

Without dwelling upon the details of the facts as there stated, which differ essentially in several particulars from authentic information received by the Embassies, and whilst refusing to enter into any discussion of the principle laid down in the note with regard to the right of search, a subject on which the Representatives feel bound to make the most formal reservations, they confine themselves



to noting the assurances given that all necessary steps have been taken to re-establish order and to repress the excesses committed by the authors of disturbance, the efficacy of which steps can only be judged by their results.

## No. 27.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, August 31, 1896.*

ON the night of Thursday the 27th disturbances occurred at Bebek, Roumeli-Hissar, and Candilli, villages on the Bosphorus, where there is a considerable British population. Six or seven Armenians in foreign employ were killed, and a number of warehouses and other premises broken into and pillaged by the mob. Some of these premises were next door to the residence of British subjects; but I cannot ascertain that any British domicile was actually violated. The troops took no steps to put a stop to the disturbances, and several Englishmen asserted that they overheard conversations between their own Mahomedan servants and soldiers, which left no doubt that these latter incited the mob to deeds of violence.

Though the disorders on this part of the Bosphorus were trifling compared to those which occurred in Constantinople, a panic spread rapidly among the English colony, and a messenger was dispatched to the Embassy with an appeal for assistance. I accordingly sent Her Majesty's ship "Imogene" down to the disturbed part of the Bosphorus with orders to bring up to Therapia any British residents who might consider themselves in danger. About six families availed themselves of the invitation.

The next morning at 11 o'clock a crowd of about thirty English people, who had come up from Bebek in boats, entered Her Majesty's Embassy with demands for assistance. It was explained to them that there was no reason to believe their lives were in danger, as not a single foreign subject had been touched; that, though Her Majesty's Embassy were ready to do all in their power for the protection of British property, there were many claims on the small forces at their disposal; the "Dryad" and "Cockatrice" were occupied at Constantinople, and it was impossible to send the "Inogene" away from Therapia. They were therefore advised to remain quietly in a hotel here, and return to Bebek next day if no further disturbance occurred.

These arguments seemed to produce a certain effect at the time; but about 1 o'clock the male part of the fugitives returned, saying they could find no satisfactory accommodation, and repeating their request for protection "under the British flag." I think, however, it would have been possible to restore confidence had not a most unfortunate incident occurred. While the deputation was in the Embassy the Turkish guard shot two Armenians hardly 100 yards distant. This naturally produced a profound impression, and I myself felt no certainty that this assault would not be followed by other hostile demonstrations. I therefore thought it best to endeavour to requisition an English steamer, and I immediately dispatched twenty-four of the fugitives, mostly women and children, in the Embassy launch to Constantinople. On their arrival it proved impossible to find any British steamer, as all had left on account of the disordered state of the port. I therefore caused to be chartered the "Hungaria," a vessel belonging to the Austrian Lloyd Company, who consented to give the Embassy the use of her for the very moderate sum of 20*l.* a-day. The twenty-four refugees were placed on board of her at once, and the "Cockatrice" proceeded to Bebek to pick up those for whom there was no room on the launch which went down from Therapia, and any others who wished to leave the village. The total number of refugees on board the "Hungaria" was about fifty-five.

On Saturday I was of opinion, for reasons given in another despatch, that the character of the situation had changed, that the Ottoman authorities had determined to put a stop to mob law, and that whatever conflicts might occur were the result of the resistance of Armenian revolutionaries to the legitimate exercise of authority by the troops and the police. I accordingly visited the "Hungaria," and informed the refugees that I saw no further reason for retaining the vessel at the public expense; that they were at liberty to do so themselves if they chose to subscribe 20*l.*, which would not have come to much per head, as they were all well-to-do people; and that if they chose to return to Bebek they would be conveyed there on board the



"Cockatrice," which would remain to guard them until Tuesday. They returned to Bebek on Sunday morning.

The inhabitants of Cadikeui and Moda, where no disturbances had occurred, on the Asiatic side, also sent a deputation to the Consulate to ask for protection, and were advised to go on board the "Hungaria." They objected to this, because she was anchored too far from their home; and they chartered, as I understand, a large English steamer, called the "Rameses," to lie off Cadikeui in readiness to embark them in case of an outbreak. At their request I also sent the "Cockatrice" to pay a short visit to their district.

I learn that in the last few days most of the Embassies have received similar applications from their respective colonies, and that the French and Russian Representatives have requisitioned steamers to serve as refuges for their compatriots.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

No. 28.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose copy of a collective note which has been addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Representatives of the Great Powers calling attention to the organization by the Turkish authorities of an armed mob for the purpose of massacring Armenians in Constantinople, and demanding an inquiry in regard to their organization and the punishment of its authors and of those who formed part of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 28.

*Collective Note to the Sublime Porte.*

*Le 31 Août, 1896.*

EN se référant à leur note collective du 15 (27) Août, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances croient devoir attirer l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur un côté exceptionnellement grave des désordres qui ont ensanglanté dernièrement la capitale et ses environs.

C'est la constatation par des données positives du fait que les bandes sauvages qui ont assommé les Arméniens, et pillé les maisons et les magasins où elles prétendaient chercher des agitateurs n'étaient point des ramassis accidentels de gens fanatisés, mais présentaient tous les indices d'une organisation spéciale connue de certains agents de l'autorité sinon dirigée par eux.

Les circonstances suivantes le prouvent :—

1. Ces bandes ont surgi simultanément sur différents points de la ville à la première nouvelle de l'occupation de la Banque par les révolutionnaires Arméniens, avant même que la police et la force armée aient paru sur les lieux du désordre. Or, la Sublime Porte reconnaît que des avis étaient parvenus d'avance à la police sur les projets criminels des agitateurs.

2. Une grande partie des gens qui composaient ces bandes étaient habillés et armés de la même manière.

3. Ils étaient conduits ou accompagnés par des Softas, des soldats, et même des officiers de la police, qui non seulement assistaient impassibles à leurs excès, mais y prenaient même parfois part.

4. On a vu quelques-uns de ces chefs de la sûreté publique distribuer à ces Bashi-Bazouks des gourdins et des couteaux, et leur indiquer aussi la direction à prendre pour trouver des victimes.

5. Ils ont pu circuler librement, et accomplir impunément leurs crimes sous les yeux des troupes et de leurs officiers, aux environs même du Palais Impérial.

6. Un des assassins arrêté par le Drogman d'une des Ambassades a déclaré que les soldats ne pouvaient pas l'arrêter. Conduit au Palais de Yildiz, il y a été accueilli par les gens de service comme une de leurs connaissances.





7. Deux Turcs employés par des Européens, qui avaient disparu pendant les deux jours des massacres, ont déclaré à leur retour qu'ils avaient été réquisitionnés et armés de couteaux et de gourdins pour tuer des Arméniens.

Ces faits se passent de commentaires.

La seule observation à y ajouter seraient qu'ils rappellent ceux qui ont affligé l'Anatolie, et qu'une force pareille qui surgit sous les yeux de l'autorité, et avec le concours de quelques-uns de ses agents devient une arme extrêmement dangereuse dont le tranchant dirigé aujourd'hui contre telle ou telle nationalité du pays peut être employée demain contre les colonies étrangères, ou se retourner contre ceux-là mêmes qui en ont toléré la création.

Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ne se croient pas en droit de dissimuler ces faits à leurs Gouvernements, et estiment qu'il est de leur devoir de réclamer de la Sublime Porte que l'origine de cette organisation soit recherchée, et que ses inspirateurs et principaux acteurs soient découverts et punis avec la dernière rigueur.

Ils sont prêts, de leur côté, à faciliter l'enquête qui devra être ouverte en faisant connaître tous les faits qui leur ont été rapportés par des témoins oculaires, et qu'ils prennent soin de soumettre à une investigation spéciale.

(Translation.)

August 31, 1896.

REFERRING to their collective note of the 15th (27th) August, the Representatives of the Great Powers think it right to call the attention of the Sublime Porte to a particularly grave feature of the sanguinary riots which have lately taken place in the capital and its neighbourhood.

It is the positively-established fact that the savage gangs who massacred the Armenians, and plundered houses and shops where they pretended to be searching for agitators were no accidental collections of fanatics, but showed every sign of being a special organization known to certain agents of the authorities, if not directed by them.

The following circumstances prove this statement :—

1. These bands appeared simultaneously in different parts of the city on the first news of the occupation of the Bank by the Armenian revolutionaries, even before the police and military had arrived on the scene of the disorder. Now the Sublime Porte admits that news had reached the police beforehand of the criminal designs of the agitators.

2. A large proportion of the persons forming these gangs were dressed and armed alike.

3. They were led or accompanied by Softas, soldiers, and even police officers, who not only looked on with indifference at their excesses, but even sometimes took part in them.

4. Some of these chiefs of police were seen to distribute to these Bashi-Bazouks bludgeons and knives, and to show them which direction to take in order to find victims.

5. They were allowed to circulate freely, and execute their crimes with impunity, before the eyes of the troops and their officers, even in the neighbourhood of the Imperial Palace.

6. One of the murderers arrested by the Dragoman of one of the Embassies declared that the soldiers could not arrest him. When taken to the Palace of Yildiz he was welcomed by the soldiers on duty as an acquaintance.

7. Two Turks in European employ, who had disappeared during the two days of the massacres, declared on their return that they had been requisitioned and armed with knives and clubs to kill Armenians.

These facts need no comment.

The only observation to be added is that they resemble the occurrences from which Anatolia has suffered, and that a force of this kind arising under the eyes of the authorities, with the support of some of their agents, becomes an extremely dangerous weapon, whose edge, though directed to-day against one or other of the native races, may to-morrow be employed against the foreign colonies, or be turned against the very persons who have allowed it to come into existence.

The Representatives of the Great Powers feel that they cannot conceal these facts from their Governments, and consider it their duty to demand from the Sublime Porte an investigation into the origin of this organization, and the discovery and most severe punishment of its authors and principal agents,

They, on their part, are ready to facilitate the inquiry which should be opened, by making known all the facts which have been reported to them by eye-witnesses, and which they are taking care to submit to a special investigation.

## No. 29.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday's Turkish papers published an official communiqué stating that an Imperial Iradé had been issued constituting a special Commission to try and judge summarily without appeal, and in open Court, the persons guilty of taking part in the recent disturbances.

The Commission is composed of:—

President: His Excellency Lebib Effendi, Procureur Impérial.

Members: His Excellency Hikmet Bey, Mazhar Effendi, Hilmi Effendi, and Yorghiadis Effendi, members of the Court of Cassation; his Excellency Khalid Bey and Toros Effendi, members of the Court of Appeal; his Excellency Arif Bey, President of the Second Correctional Court of Pera; Keupelian Effendi, member of the Pera Court of First Instance; and Cagliari Effendi, member of the Second Commercial Court.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

## No. 30.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 26th instant, directly after I had heard of the disturbances in Constantinople, in which I stated that I held the Ottoman Government responsible for any damages to British subjects which might result therefrom.

I have also the honour to inclose copy of the telegram which I received from Tewfik Pasha in reply.

As I understand that there will be a great number of claims from British subjects against the Turkish Government for losses sustained during the last few days, it is perhaps fortunate that we shall be able in presenting them to appeal to so distinct and early a warning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

*Mr. Herbert to Tewfik Pasha.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Le 26 Août, 1896.*

JE prie votre Excellence de faire prendre les mesures les plus énergiques et immédiates pour la protection des Chrétiens à Constantinople contre la populace Musulmane. La troupe et la police restent absolument impassibles devant les meurtres et les pillages et ne font rien pour les empêcher.

Je fais les réserves les plus formelles à l'égard des dommages que les désordres pourraient entraîner pour mes nationaux et j'en rends dès à présent le Gouvernement Impérial responsable.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*August 26, 1896.*

I REQUEST your Excellency to cause immediate and most energetic measures to be taken to protect the Christians at Constantinople against the Mussulman populace. The military and police remain absolutely passive spectators of murders and pillaging, which they do nothing to prevent.

I make the most express reservations with regard to the losses which my fellow-countrymen may suffer through the disorders, and henceforth consider the Imperial Government responsible for them.

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Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

*Teufik Pasha to Mr. Herbert.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Yildiz, le 27 Août, 1896.*

REÇU télégramme. Le Gouvernement Impérial a pris toutes les mesures nécessaires pour la protection de tous contre les méfaits dont les agitateurs Arméniens sont les auteurs.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Yildiz, August 27, 1896.*

TELEGRAM received. The Imperial Government has taken all measures necessary for the protection of everybody from the misdeeds of which the Armenian agitators are the authors.

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No. 31.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a very interesting report by Mr. Max Müller on the damage done to British premises in Galata.

Mr. Max Müller, who personally inspected these premises, rendered most valuable services by removing the surviving Armenian employés of British subjects and handing them over, under a guarantee, to the Military Commandant of Galata.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

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Inclosure in No. 31.

*Report by Mr. Max Müller.*

ON arriving at the Consulate on Friday morning I found numerous English subjects, all waiting with complaints and requests. Some wished us to make an inspection of their pillaged premises, others wished to know what they were to do with the Armenians who were still hidden in their houses or shops; whether they ought to deliver them up, or whether, if they kept them, we would be answerable for their safety.

I accordingly requested Mr. Thompson to accompany me to see the Pasha or Military Commander of Galata. I told the Pasha that the object of my visit was twofold, firstly, to assure the lives of any Armenians who might still be hidden on English premises, and, secondly, to secure the safety of any valuables left in English houses that had been pillaged.

In order to carry out my object successfully I must be accompanied by a Turkish officer authorized to place sentinels wherever I might consider it necessary. The Pasha, who was most courteous and obliging, at once acceded to my request, and said that he would be personally responsible for the lives of any Armenians I might either deliver over to his keeping or leave in English houses confided to the care of a Turkish sentinel.

The first house we visited was a large new house on the quay in the very centre of the scene of the greatest disorders.

The house, which had not been touched, is occupied by Messrs. Gilchrist and Walker, Coal Merchants, and the Glamorgan Coal Company. Inside we found six Armenians in the employ of these two firms; we took their names so as to be able to

identify them, and left them in the house, placing two Turkish sentinels at the door.

We next visited the Kiuchuk Oghlou khan, in which there are numerous apartments, among others four English offices, belonging respectively to Messrs. Ridley, Shipping Agents, Messrs. Swan, Shipping Agents, Messrs. Macnamara, Commission Agents, and Cumming, Ship Chandler. This khan seemed to have been the object of the special fury of the mob the previous day. An official of the British Consulate had seen the attack. He told me that a Mollah came out of the neighbourin mosque and encouraged the mob by chanting a prayer, which was taken up by the fanatical crowd.

As in most cases, the mob attacked the iron doors with a battering ram, and the unfortunate Armenians, seeing their last hour approaching, began firing out of window in sheer desperation. The soldiers thereupon joined in, returning the fire. In this case a soldier climbed up into a minaret overlooking the roof of the house and fired at the poor wretches below him.

The pillage and slaughter in this house seemed at first sight to have been most thorough. There was not a door, chair, table, or drawer left intact; papers, broken glass, samples of goods strewed the floors, soaked in blood. The whole way down the staircase one could see the marks where the battered bodies had been dragged down, and a small room just under the roof, where, apparently, the final stand had been made, was a gruesome sight. On the roof also were pools of blood. Fortunately, the four English safes had all resisted the attempts of the pillagers to break into them. They were dented all over, and the locks broken, but apparently their contents must have been safe. We pointed this out to the Turkish officer, and told him he must put sentinels to guard these safes.

It is a curious fact that in spite of all the search we made, we overlooked four Armenians who were still in the house, and who had escaped from the mob by hiding under the roof. They betrayed their presence on Saturday by banging a door, and were then taken out and handed over to the protection of the police. I visited them at the police-station with their employers, and took their names. Their appearance after their terrible fright and a seventy-two hours' fast was piteous in the extreme, and they hardly could answer the simple questions we put to them. Their employers gave them money to obtain food.

We next went to a Maltese ship chandler, whose shop had been pillaged. Passing through an evil-smelling, blood-stained yard, we climbed up into a loft, and there hidden behind boxes we found three Armenians. In view of the threatening attitude of the mob outside, and the impossibility of defending the already pillaged premises, I thought it best, after taking their names, to accompany the three men to the police-station for safe custody.

We took Armenians out of two other English houses in the neighbourhood, where the proprietors were anxious to open their shops, and visited some small shops that had been broken into in the hunt for Armenians, and a certain amount of damage done and goods stolen, though nowhere was the destruction as complete as in the Kiuchuk Oghlou khan. In all cases where necessary we placed sentinels. The engineering works of Bond and Co. had stood a regular siege on Thursday. Mr. Herbert saw the firing from the windows. I was told there had been a considerable massacre here. There was a certain amount of blood about, and one saw traces of blood on the window sill where the mob had thrown out the bodies. The damage, except in the accountant's office, where everything was wrecked, was small, owing to the difficulty of doing any damage to the large engines and iron tools. The safe had also successfully resisted the efforts of the mob.

I had intended to continue the search in the afternoon, but I had hardly sat down to lunch at the Club (Cercle d'Orient in Pera) when I was startled by a tremendous explosion close by, followed by a rush of carriages along the street and the clatter of the iron shutters coming down. I ran round by the back streets to the Embassy, and found that a bomb had been thrown from an empty house just opposite our gates at the troops passing back from the Selamlık. The bomb exploded in the air, and no one was hurt. I stayed for some time in the hope of seeing the authors of the outrage captured, but it appears they were not caught till about 5.

The next day we continued our search of English houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the Bank, visiting the offices of Mr. Pears (a prominent lawyer), Mr. Vere (the representative of Armstrong), and offices of certain stockbrokers and bankers. In each case we took the names of those in the employment of the English firms, and left a sentinel at the door, except where, in my opinion, there was danger in leaving

Armenians in the house, and then I handed them over to the Pasha of Galata under guarantee. In the case of strange Armenians who had fled into the houses for refuge, we tried as far as possible to restore them to their employers.

There can be no doubt that a large amount of damage has been done to the property of English subjects, and the claims for indemnities will be very numerous. They will, however, have to be carefully examined into.

I propose when I visit the prisons to ascertain whether any of the Armenians I handed over to the Turkish authorities are still in custody, and, provided they are not detained on any charge, shall induce them to return to their employers.

*Therapia, August 31, 1896.*

No. 32.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch, giving some account of the measures taken by the Turkish authorities to put a stop to the disturbances which have taken place in Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 32.

*Memorandum by Mr. Marinitch.*

MY information tends to show that more than 300 Mussulmans have been arrested for complicity in the massacres, and will be judged by the Extraordinary Commission which the Sultan has instituted for that purpose. Wholesale arrests of Armenians have continued since the outbreak. Among the measures adopted by the Government was the bringing of two battalions each from Ismid and Adrianople; of these, three were at once sent up to Yildiz, where they remain. Marshal Shakir Pasha has been appointed Military Commandant of Galata, and Vehbi Pasha, General of Brigade, in the same capacity at Pera. The civil authorities continue unchanged.

According to the Grand Vizier 120 Turkish soldiers have been killed and 250 wounded. In certain places the mob was led by Imams, and in one or two places by Softas. Up to the present moment no Turkish soldiers or officials have been arrested for complicity in the massacres. The measures taken by the Government are good, but do not answer the exigencies of the situation. The continual arrests of the Armenians by the police already alluded to are carried out in the hope that the dangerous men will then be arrested and further disturbances stopped. The Turks are now conscious of the gravity of the situation and fear that if fresh disorders take place the authorities will be unable to restrain the Mussulman mob. The Christian population is in a state of panic, and the Turks and even the troops are so irritated that no one can vouch for the preservation of security.

No. 33.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

IT is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the loss of life during the recent disturbances, but it is the general opinion of sober-minded and well-informed persons that between 5,000 and 6,000 Armenians lost their lives.

On the Pera side the mob pillaged the greater part of the quarter of Galata, chiefly composed of the business premises of European merchants, and killed the porters and other servants. Further up the Golden Horn is the Jewish village of Hasskeuy, with an Armenian quarter called Halij Oghlou. This was visited by Mr. Max Müller, who reports that all the Armenian houses were pillaged, and that the Turkish officers estimated the loss of life at 600 out of a population of 5,000.

[101]

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He found about 700 refugees in the church, whose solid construction had enabled it to resist all assaults. The attack was made by bands of Lazes and other wild Asiatics, who came from Kassim-Pasha, and were directed by the Jews to the Armenian houses. In Kassim-Pasha itself, even the Palace officials admit that the slaughter was terrible, and it is said that women and children were not spared. The dead were partly buried in a cemetery on the outskirts of Pera, where the French Chargé d'Affaires counted upwards of 450 corpses in one day, and partly carried to Stamboul in carts, of which it is said that more than 150 passed across the bridge. The captain of a Russian steamer saw a large barge in the Marmora loaded with dead bodies, which were thrown into the sea.

The details of what occurred in Stamboul are still very incomplete, but it is agreed that Koum-Kapou, the residence of the Patriarchal *locum tenens*, was carefully guarded and the greatest massacre took place in the adjoining quarter called Psamatia, which has been visited by Mr. Young, Third Secretary in this Embassy.

It would appear that here, as in Galata, the Armenians were the original aggressors. Four men established themselves at about 11 on Wednesday morning in the school-house of a monastery called Salu Monastir, from which they proceeded to throw bombs, and maintained an obstinate defence until midnight, when one committed suicide, and the remaining three fled, and were shot by the troops. Bombs were also thrown from ten houses close by, which were almost destroyed by the explosives. The whole quarter was deserted and occupied by Turkish troops. Mr. Young was unable to speak to Armenians except in the presence of Turks, and hence heard only the official version; but as one of the Turkish officers told him that 640 Armenians had been killed, it may be safely assumed that this number was not above the truth. It would appear that a large number of the inhabitants got wind of what was going to happen early on Wednesday morning, and those who had the means left for the islands and Cadikeui. It is also stated that a terrible massacre took place in a little-known Armenian district near the Phanar, or Greek quarter of Stamboul.

The better known parts of Stamboul were scoured by a mob similar to that which attacked Galata. All Armenians found in the streets were killed, warehouses and shops were broken into and looted, the Armenian porters of the railway terminus were seized by the police and handed over to the mob, who promptly murdered them; the residence of the American missionaries was besieged though not entered, but the houses of many rich Armenians scattered through the Turkish quarter were ransacked and their occupants disposed of.

As far as is known, the dead are almost exclusively Armenians of the lower classes, who came to Constantinople in great numbers, particularly from the Province of Sivas, to gain a living as porters, dock labourers, caretakers in offices, &c. As in the provincial massacres, the mob were most methodical in their proceedings, and evidently wished to spare all but Gregorian Armenians. A few Greeks were killed, doubtless by mistake, and it is said that one Italian subject also met his death. Another French subject was attacked and half killed before he could explain his nationality; but as soon as he made himself understood, he was released with many apologies for the misunderstanding. As far as I know at present no British subject has been killed excepting a naturalized Armenian employé of the British Post Office in Stamboul.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

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No. 34.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 3, 1896.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report that at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, while returning from a meeting of the six Representatives at Buyukdéré in the Embassy launch, the Italian Ambassador and I witnessed the murder of two innocent Armenians by the Turkish soldiers posted in the block-house almost adjoining the grounds of the British Embassy at Therapia.

I at once dispatched a telegram, copy inclosed, to the Sultan's Secretary, requesting him to inform the Sultan of what I had seen, and landed six armed men from the "Imogene" to protect the Embassy, as I saw no reason why the Turkish

soldiers should not shortly turn their attention to the Armenian servants in the employ of members of the Embassy.

In the course of the evening I received a telegram from Tewfik Pasha, copy of which is also inclosed, stating that the two Armenians in question had first attacked the soldiers.

As I knew this to be incorrect, I addressed a further telegram to his Excellency (copy inclosed), demanding the change of the military post, an inquiry into the murder, and the punishment of the guilty soldiers.

The Italian Ambassador and the French Chargé d'Affaires, whose Embassies are also near the block-house, supported these demands at the Porte through their Dragomans.

The following day the post was changed, and Mr. Marinitch was informed on Sunday at the Palace that the soldiers would be punished, Izzet Bey admitting that they were guilty.

I am informed on good authority that the poor men who were killed were honourable, well-to-do Armenians, who had nothing whatever to do with the revolutionists. They had gone up with their wives and families to Therapia for safety, but having been told to leave by the police, they went on to Buyukdéré, and having engaged rooms there they drove back to Therapia to bring up their families. As they passed the guard-house they were shot by the sentries without warning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

*Mr. Herbert to Izzet Bey.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Therapia, le 28 Août, 1896.*

EN continuation du télégramme adressé ce matin au Sultan, je vous prie d'informer Sa Majesté que je viens de voir, de mes propres yeux, les soldats Turcs stationnés au block-house à côté de mon Ambassade à Therapia massacrer deux Arméniens qui passaient.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 28, 1896.*

IN continuation of the telegram addressed to the Sultan this morning I beg that you will inform His Majesty that I have just witnessed with my own eyes the murder of two Armenians, who were passing, by the Turkish soldiers posted in the block-house close to my Embassy at Therapia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

*Tewfik Pasha to Mr. Herbert.*

(Télégraphique.)

EN réponse au télégramme que vous avez adressé ce matin à son Excellence Izzet Bey, je viens informer que les deux Arméniens y mentionnés avaient commencé par menacer de leurs armes sans aucun motif un voiturier de Kiretch Bournou, sur lequel ils avaient même fait feu. Ayant tourné leurs armes et tiré aussi sur les soldats et une patrouille accourue sur les lieux aux bruits des détonations, ceux-ci furent obligés de riposter, tuant ainsi les deux Arméniens dont il s'agit.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your telegram of this morning to his Excellency Izzet Bey I beg to inform you that the two Armenians mentioned in it had first threatened with their weapons without any reason a driver of Kiretch Bournou, and had actually fired at him. They then turned their weapons and fired on the soldiers as well, and on a picket attracted to the spot by the sound of the firing, so that the soldiers were forced to reply, and thus killed the two Armenians in question.



## Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

*Mr. Herbert to Tewfik Pasha.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Therapia, le 29 Août, 1896.*

J'AI reçu le télégramme que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser au sujet du meurtre des deux Arméniens par les soldats du poste à côté de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Therapia.

Les explications données par les soldats sont absolument fausses, l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, l'Attaché Militaire de Russie, et moi-même, ayant été témoins oculaires de ce qui s'est passé.

Je demande une enquête, le changement du personnel de ce poste militaire, et la punition des coupables.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Therapia, August 29, 1896.*

I HAVE received the telegram which your Excellency was good enough to send me about the murder of the two Armenians by the soldiers of the post near the British Embassy at Therapia.

The account given by the soldiers is absolutely false, as the Italian Ambassador, the Russian Military Attaché and myself, were eye-witnesses of the incident.

I demand an inquiry, the removal of the soldiers at this post, and the punishment of the guilty parties.

## No. 35.

*Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 7.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de lui communiquer ci-joint copies de deux télégrammes qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement relativement aux désordres Arméniens de Constantinople.

*L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,  
le 4 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and has the honour to transmit herewith copies of two telegrams just received from his Government about the Armenian disorders at Constantinople.

*Turkish Embassy, London, September 4, 1896.*

## Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

*Sublime Porte to Anthopoulo Pasha.*

(Télégraphique.)

*Constantinople, le 3 Septembre, 1896.*

LE Gouvernement Impérial a décidé de procéder sans retard au jugement des révolutionnaires qui, impliqués dans les derniers désordres de Constantinople, ont été arrêtés, ainsi que de ceux des individus qui, s'étant permis de tuer, sans motif, des gens paisibles et de se livrer à des actes de pillage, ont été arrêtés par la police; il leur sera infligée, suivant le cas, la peine la plus sévère édictée par la loi; ceux des agents de police qui, ayant vu les malfaiteurs commettre des crimes, ne les en ont pas empêchés, ou qui ont toléré ces méfaits, seront déférés également à la justice et punis d'une manière exemplaire; comme, cependant, le jugement de ces personnes par les Tribunaux ordinaires pourrait entraîner des retards, attendu qu'il passerait par les voies légales, telles que appel et cassation, un Tribunal extraordinaire a été institué uniquement pour examen de ces procès dont le jugement aura lieu en public; il rendra ses sentences en dernier ressort. La plupart des méfaits commis dans les derniers jours ayant été perpétrés par des individus appartenant à diverses classes qui, venus du dehors, sont portés à des actes séditieux et au pillage, la police a reçu l'ordre de les renvoyer dans leur pays natal.

[101]



(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 3, 1896.

THE Imperial Government has decided to proceed without delay to the trial of the revolutionaries who were implicated in the latest disorders at Constantinople, and were arrested, as well as of those persons who, having dared to murder peaceable people without cause, and to commit acts of pillage, have been apprehended by the police. They will be subjected, according to the circumstances of each case, to the severest penalty prescribed by the law. Those policemen who, having seen crimes committed did not prevent or tolerated such misdeeds, will also be brought to justice and punished in an exemplary manner. At the same time, as the trial of these persons by the ordinary Tribunals might cause delay by going through the ordinary legal procedure, such as appeal and cassation, an extraordinary Tribunal has been established exclusively for these trials, whose proceedings will be public and its sentences without appeal. As the greater part of the crimes committed lately have been the work of persons of different classes who have arrived from elsewhere, and are given to acts of sedition and pillage, the police have orders to send them back to their native districts.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

*Sublime Porte to Anthopoulos Pasha.*

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 3 Septembre, 1896.

LE Tribunal extraordinaire dont je vous ai annoncé l'institution, a tenu aujourd'hui sa première séance. Les dossiers de 143 individus, tant Musulmans qu'Arméniens, impliqués dans les derniers désordres, ont été remis au parquet; seize des personnes arrêtées comme ayant pris part aux troubles ont été interrogées et douze témoins entendus. Les autorités Impériales ont arrêté des révolutionnaires Arméniens déguisés en Mollahs et en soldats.

Grâce aux mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement Impérial, l'ordre et la tranquillité continuent à régner tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, September 3, 1896.

THE extraordinary Tribunal, of whose establishment I informed you, held its first sitting to-day. The "dossiers" of 143 persons, Mussulmans as well as Armenians, implicated in the late disorders, have been handed to the "parquet." Sixteen of the persons arrested as having taken part in the disturbances were questioned, and twelve witnesses were heard. The Imperial authorities have arrested Armenian revolutionaries disguised as Mollahs and soldiers.

Thanks to the measures taken by the Imperial Government order and quiet still reign at Constantinople as well as in the provinces.

No. 36.

*Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury:—(Received September 8.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications, relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui communiquer le télégramme suivant qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement:—

"Le Tribunal extraordinaire a jugé hier les cinq Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tiré de la pharmacie du Dr. Meziki des coups de feu sur les troupes Impériales. La culpabilité de l'un d'eux nommé Melkon ayant été établie par les dépositions des témoins, il a été condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité. Les quatre autres ont été acquittés."

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,  
le 7 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and has the honour to communicate to him, in continuation of his former communications, the following telegram which he has just received from his Government:—

“The extraordinary Tribunal yesterday tried the five Armenians charged with having fired on the Imperial troops from Dr. Meziki's chemist's shop. The guilt of one of them named Melkon having been proved by the depositions of the witnesses, he was condemned to penal servitude for life. The other four were acquitted.”

*Turkish Embassy, London, September 7, 1896.*

No. 37.

*Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 5, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the text of a Central News telegram which was published in the “Daily News” and many other English newspapers on the 31st ultimo, relating to an alleged conflict between British sailors and the Turkish mob during the recent disturbances in Constantinople. As I have already had the honour to report by telegraph to-day, there is not a word of truth in this story, and it is perhaps unnecessary for me to point out, that the sailors and marines from Her Majesty's ships in the Bosphorus were only landed for the protection of British subjects and Government premises.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

MICHAEL H. HERBERT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

*Extract from the “Daily News” of August 31, 1896.*

IT has transpired that when the British blue-jackets were marching from guard-ships to the Embassy, they came across a mob of Turkish fanatics brutally maltreating some Armenians. On seeing the sailors the Armenians rushed to them for protection, which was readily given. The blue-jackets placed the poor wretches behind them and kept the murderous mob back, striking blows with great heartiness with the but ends of their carbines. As soon as this news reached the Yildiz-Kiosk great excitement prevailed, and the Porte complained to the British Embassy, remarking *inter-alia* that the English sailors should remember they were in a foreign country. Mr. Herbert, British Chargé d'Affaires, replied that, given the same condition of things, English sailors would do exactly the same thing. They would not see the Armenians maltreated, and would protect them if the Turkish troops did not do so.

No. 38.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, September 10, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a note addressed by the Sublime Porte to the Embassies, reporting the constitution of a Special Commission for the summary trial of all persons, Armenians and Moslems alike, arrested in connection with the recent disturbances.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 38.

*Note Verbale, dated September 6, 1896.*

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 35.]

No. 39.

*Anthopoulos Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury et, pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui communiquer ce qui suit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, en vue d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre public à Constantinople, a décidé de renvoyer dans leur pays natal tous les individus sans aveu venus du dehors. Ceux-ci pouvant cependant tenter de retourner dans la capitale, la Sublime-Porte a transmis aux autorités provinciales des ordres formels leur prescrivant d'avoir à redoubler de vigilance pour les en empêcher. Du reste, des Commissions *ad hoc* composées de Délégués des Ministères de la Guerre et de l'Intérieur et de la Prefecture de Police seront envoyées dans les ports où les dits individus seront débarqués. Elles auront pour mandat de surveiller l'exercice de la police dans ces ports, d'établir l'identité de toutes les personnes qui y arriveraient et d'examiner leurs feuilles de route. Toute négligence à ce sujet entraînera une grave responsabilité.

Comme il est fort possible que parmi les individus renvoyés dans leurs pays il se trouve des Anarchistes et que ceux-ci cherchent à y commettre également des crimes en employant des bombes et de la dynamite, les autorités Impériales ont reçu l'ordre de soumettre à une visite minutieuse toutes sortes de marchandises arrivant dans les ports, ainsi que les produits se trouvant dans les pharmacies; de surveiller constamment les faits et gestes des gens de cette catégorie et d'aviser enfin à toutes les mesures efficaces propres à contrecarrer les menées séditeuses des perturbateurs et à prévenir tout fait de nature à compromettre la sécurité publique.

Les dispositions nécessaires ont été également prises pour empêcher l'entrée dans l'Empire des emissaires des Comités Révolutionnaires Arméniens fonctionnant en Bulgarie et à l'étranger.

*Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,  
le Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and in continuation of his previous communications relative to Armenian affairs, has the honour to communicate to him the following:—

The Imperial Government, in order to secure the maintenance of public order at Constantinople, has decided to send back to their native districts all persons without any calling who have come in from other parts. As, however, they might try to return to the capital, the Sublime Porte has sent express orders to the provincial authorities to exercise special care to prevent their doing so. Besides this, Commissions *ad hoc* composed of Delegates of the Ministries of War and of the Interior and of the Prefecture of Police are to be sent to the ports where the said persons are to disembark. They will be directed to superintend the action of the police at those ports, to prove the identity of all persons arriving there, and to examine their passports. Any negligence in this respect will entail serious responsibility.

As it is quite possible that among the persons sent back to their native places there may be Anarchists who may seek to commit crimes there also by the use of bombs and dynamite, the Imperial authorities have been ordered to closely inspect all goods arriving at the ports as well as the substances found on chemists' premises; to constantly watch the actions and proceedings of persons of this class, and in fact to take all measures calculated to thwart the seditious plots of disturbers of the peace, and forestall all acts likely to endanger the public safety.

The necessary arrangements have also been made to prevent the entry into the Empire of the emissaries of the Armenian Revolutionary Committees, which are at work in Bulgaria and abroad.

*Turkish Embassy, London, September , 1896.*

*Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et a l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance ce qui suit.

Pendant les derniers désordres des révolutionnaires Arméniens à Constantinople, le nombre des blessés parmi les soldats et officiers de l'armée Impériale préposés au maintien de l'ordre, ainsi que d'autres Musulmans innocents, a été évalué à 236 personnes et à autant de morts.

L'état lamentable de ces blessés soignés dans différents hôpitaux de Constantinople a été constaté par plusieurs membres des Ambassades Européennes à Constantinople.

Le nombre des engins destructifs saisis sur les révolutionnaires Arméniens se compose de 118 bombes, cartouches en dynamite, et autres substances explosives.

*L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,*

*le 16 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury and has the honour to communicate to him the following :—

During the late disturbances caused by the Armenian revolutionaries at Constantinople, the number of casualties among the officers and soldiers of the Imperial army charged with the maintenance of order and other unoffending Mussulmans has been estimated at 236 wounded and as many killed.

Several members of the European Embassies have witnessed the deplorable condition of the wounded, who are now being cared for in the different hospitals of Constantinople.

The number of engines of destruction found on the Armenian revolutionaries includes 118 bombs, dynamite cartridges, and other explosives.

*Turkish Embassy, London, September 16, 1896.*

*Anthopoulo Pasha to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 18.)*

L'AMBASSADEUR de Turquie présente ses compliments à sa Seigneurie le Marquis de Salisbury, et pour faire suite à ses précédentes communications relatives aux affaires Arméniennes, a l'honneur de lui signaler le télégramme suivant qu'il vient de recevoir de son Gouvernement :—

“Hier la police a découvert une fabrique de bombes à Scutari et a saisi deux chefs du Sous-Comité Révolutionnaire Arménien, ainsi que quelques membres, qui ont avoué leur crime. Le nombre des bombes saisis est considérable.”

*L'Ambassade Impériale de Turquie, Londres,*

*le 18 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Turkish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Marquess of Salisbury, and, in continuation of his previous communications on the subject of Armenian affairs, has the honour to bring to his notice the following telegram which he has just received from his Government :—

“The police discovered a bomb factory at Scutari yesterday, and arrested two chiefs of the Armenian Revolutionary Sub-Committee, as well as several members, who admitted their guilt. The number of bombs seized is considerable.”

*Turkish Embassy, London, September 18, 1896.*

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, September 16, 1896.*

I ATTENDED the Selamlik on the Friday following my return from leave of absence in accordance with the usual custom.

The Sultan received me afterwards in private audience. After inquiry as to the health of the Queen, His Majesty referred to the events which have recently taken place in this capital. The tendency of his remarks was to throw the whole blame on the Armenians, and to ignore the massacre committed by the Mussulman population with the connivance and assistance of the police and soldiers. As the question is being dealt with by the Representatives of the Great Powers, I thought it better to abstain from making representations which I knew from experience would only lead to fruitless discussion; but I received His Majesty's observations with reserve.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)*

My Lord,

*Constantinople, September 16, 1896.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a threatening letter sent to the Embassies last Thursday. Though the Committee who sign this letter—the Hinchag—are not the same persons as those who seized the Ottoman Bank, and are believed, rightly or wrongly, to be less dangerous, the Ambassadors felt that after recent experiences it was impossible to neglect this communication. We accordingly at once sent it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and requested that the Government would take measures to provide for the public safety.

As the news of the receipt of this letter gradually spread, a marked feeling of uneasiness was observable among both European and native Christians. Numbers of Armenians left Stamboul for the islands, and thereby produced an impression that they knew that some incident (as massacres are euphemistically termed in Turkey) was likely to occur. For reasons not very clearly defined it was agreed that something would happen yesterday, the 15th. According to one story, the attack was to come from the Hintchagists, according to another from the Softas, while a third combined both these versions by declaring that the Hintchagists would disguise themselves as Softas and invite the Turks to massacre Europeans.

On Tuesday the Prefecture of Police requested the Embassies, in view of the prevailing rumours, to appoint an officer to accompany the troops or gendarmes should it be necessary to search foreign domiciles for Armenian revolutionaries. I instructed Mr. Thompson, of Her Majesty's Consulate, to put himself at the disposition of the police should occasion arise.

No attempt, however, was made, which was hardly astonishing. If the Hintchagists had really selected this day, of which there is no proof, it was only natural that they should defer their attempt to a time when the police would be less on the alert.

At about 11 A.M. a panic occurred both in Galata and Pera. Various accounts were current as to its origin: a soldier's revolver had accidentally gone off, a pick-pocket had been arrested, a balcony had given way, and a man and a flower-pot had fallen into the street. In an instant all the shops shut their shutters (which are kept specially prepared for sudden closure), a general stampede took place, and the British Consulate and the Bank were filled with refugees. It is agreed on all hands that the troops and police behaved with great promptitude and efficiency. The bridge and all the principal thoroughfares were at once blocked in order to prevent any rush of the mob, and order was restored in a very short time.

Many of the Embassies were and still are very apprehensive of an attack.

Her Majesty's ship "Dryad" remains in the Lower Bosphorus, and in case of disturbances Captain Pelham will do what is possible for the protection of the premises belonging to Her Majesty's Government, and of the lives and property of British subjects. I have not at present thought it advisable to station sailors or marines on shore.

I inclose a translation of an official communiqué which appeared to-day in the Turkish papers and is obviously intended to restore confidence.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 43.

*The Hintchagist Committee to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.*

Excellence,

*Constantinople, le 10 Septembre, 1896.*

A LA suite d'une manifestation qui avait pour but de rappeler aux Puissances et de leur faire exécuter des réformes en Arménie, des milliers d'Arméniens ont été pendant quarante-huit heures égorgés et pillés. Non content de ces représailles sanglantes, le Palais, sous le forme d'emprisonnements et d'exils, continue jusqu'à cette heure-ci son système d'extermination. Dans la capitale et les faubourgs chaque maison perquisitionnée, chaque rue surveillée par des agents civils. Dans la seule inculpation de n'être pas père de famille, des Arméniens de tout âge, même des femmes, sont mis en état d'arrestation, conduits en prison, dépouillés de leur bourse et embarqués pour des destinations inconnues. Encore une fois les Représentants des Puissances prêtent la main au Palais, sous le prétexte de soustraire les Arméniens à la mort, ils l'aident à les chasser de Constantinople. Ils nous disent ouvertement ou nous font entendre que leurs Gouvernements sont décidés à sacrifier nos revendications à la cause de la paix Européenne.

Cependant, il est clair que les Puissances agissant en commun et avec énergie obtiennent tout au Palais. Divisées par des querelles d'intérêts, auxquelles rien ne leur donne le droit de subordonner la question de notre mort, elles deviennent les jouets d'une coterie de bandits et d'assassins qui, de Yildiz, se proposent d'exterminer les populations Arméniennes.

Agriculteur, commerçant, industriel, médecin, avocat, homme de pensée, et d'action, nation enfin, nous élevons la voix (craignez que notre voix ne trouve un écho dans les classes laborieuses de vos propres pays) et dans la lutte inégale que nous livrons à nos oppresseurs nous vous invitons à vous ranger du côté des facteurs de la civilisation contre ceux que vous avez vu dans les vilayets et jusque dans la capitale.

Soldats, agents du Palais, prêtres, vagabonds unis ensemble pour offrir à leur Dieu du sang Chrétien et détruire en une nuit l'œuvre des capitaux amassés au prix de labeur séculaire.

Au succès de la cause Arménienne sont attachés non seulement l'honneur mais aussi la sécurité et le progrès de l'Europe. Par nous seront ouvertes à votre commerce à votre industrie, à vos idées ces routes, ces plaines, ces vallées dont les barbares ont fait de mornes solitudes.

Ce n'est pas ici une prière; en mettant sous vos yeux la persécution Arménienne nous venons une dernière fois vous rappeler à vos devoirs de protecteur des Chrétiens.

Les Représentants des Puissances doivent faire cesser, dans le plus bref délai, l'emprisonnement et l'exil en masse des Arméniens et mettre en prompt exécution les réformes formulées et réclamées par nos frères "Tachnagtzagan."

Une nouvelle action est prête par laquelle va se manifester la vitalité de notre nation. Si le présent avis n'est de votre part suivi d'aucune démarche efficace vous nous verrez encore une fois faire intervenir la mort dans le débat.

Convaincus de la justesse de notre cause, de la modération de nos demandes et des résultats positifs que donne le mal, nous entraînerons dans une commune catastrophe nous-mêmes et tout ceux qui nous entourent en vous citant au Tribunal du siècle pour répondre des horreurs dont sera suivi ce troisième et non dernier attentat que votre faiblesse nous mets dans l'obligation de ne pas épargner à la capitale de l'Orient.

Au nom du peuple Arménien,  
(L.S.) Le Comité Hintchagiste.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

*Constantinople, September 10, 1896.*

AS a sequel to a demonstration intended to remind the Powers of reforms in Armenia, and make them cause such reforms to be carried out, thousands of Armenians



have, in the course of forty-eight hours been slaughtered and plundered. Not content with these bloody reprisals, the Palace is continuing, up to the present moment, its system of extermination under the form of exile and imprisonment. In the capital and suburbs, every house is searched and every street watched by officers of police. On the sole charge of not being fathers of families, Armenians of all ages, even women, are placed under arrest, taken to prison, robbed of their purses, and shipped off to unknown destinations. Once more the Embassies are abetting the Palace, and under pretext of rescuing the Armenians from death, they are helping it to drive them from Constantinople. They tell us openly, or give us to understand, that their Governments are resolved to sacrifice our claims to the cause of European peace.

It is clear, however, that the Powers, when they act together, and with energy, can obtain anything from the Palace. Divided by conflicting interests, to which they have no right to subordinate the question of our life and death, they become the playthings of a clique of brigands and murderers in Yildiz, who are plotting from thence the extermination of the Armenian races.

Agriculturalists, merchants, manufacturers, physicians, lawyers, men of thought, and men of action, in a word, as a whole nation, we lift our voice (and beware, lest our voice find an echo in the toiling classes of your own countries), and in the unequal contest which we are waging with our oppressors, we invite you to take the side of the elements of civilization against those whom you have seen in the vilayets, and even in the capital.

Soldiers, agents of the Palace, priests, vagabonds, banded together to offer to their God an offering of Christian blood, and to destroy in a single night the work of capital amassed at the cost of centuries of labour.

In the success of the Armenian cause is involved not only the honour, but the security and progress of Europe. It is by us that there will be opened to your commerce, your industry, and your enterprise, the roads, plains, and valleys which the barbarians have turned into desolate solitudes.

This is not a prayer to you on our part; in representing to you the persecution of Armenians we wish to remind you, for the last time, of your duties as protectors of the Christians.

The Representatives of the Powers ought, with the utmost promptitude, to stop the wholesale exile and imprisonment of the Armenians, and to put into immediate execution the reforms formulated and demanded by our brothers "Tachnagtzagan."

A fresh movement is in preparation by which our nation will display its vitality. If the present notice is followed by no effective step on your part, you will see that we will once again make death a feature of the struggle.

Convinced of the justice of our cause, the moderation of our demands, and the positive results of the evil, we will overwhelm in a common ruin ourselves and all those about us, and arraign you before the bar of public opinion to answer for the horrors which will follow this third, but not last, deed of violence from which your weakness makes it impossible for us to spare the capital of the East.

In the name of the Armenian people,

(L.S.) The Hintchagist Committee.

Inclosure 2 in No. 43.

*Newspaper Extract.*

THE SITUATION IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—This morning's Turkish papers publish the following official communication:—

"For some time past various and false rumours have been put into circulation by agitators and other malevolent persons for the sole object of disturbing the tranquillity of the population of the Ottoman Empire. The alarm produced by these rumours most acutely affects persons engaged in trade. The Imperial Government has, under the auspices of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, taken every necessary measure of precaution in order to maintain order, as is visible to all observers. Strong forces, consisting of regular troops, gendarmes, and police are held in readiness for all emergencies in various parts of the city and in the suburbs. All the quarters and streets are patrolled night and day; precise and detailed instructions have been given to the Commanders of the troops and the police as to their action in all eventualities. The police continue their search for agitators, and all who are arrested with arms in

[101]

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their hands will incur the severest penalty of the law. Foreign subjects who engage in agitation will be held responsible for their conduct. It has been determined that all foreigners who do not possess the confidence of the Government will be expelled, and sent back to their countries by their respective Embassies. Under these circumstances, and in consideration of the fact that the troops, gendarmes, and policemen are strong enough, in case of disturbances, to accomplish their duty and preserve order and tranquillity, there is no ground whatever for public alarm and the shutting of shops. Every one should, therefore, attend to his business and remain tranquil. The duty of maintaining public order rests entirely with the Imperial Government, and the inhabitants of Constantinople should not, either singly or collectively, interfere with the action of the Government. All meetings, both of native and of foreign inhabitants, are prohibited by law, and consequently all persons, whoever they may be, who mix themselves up in the affairs of the police or attend meetings, will, in so doing, disobey the law, and will be held responsible for the illegality of their conduct. These measures have been decided upon by the Ministers in Council, and are hereby brought to the notice of the public."

No. 44.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)*

My Lord,

Constantinople, September 16, 1896.

THE excitement caused by the recent events in Constantinople has not subsided, but appears rather to increase. The foreign colonies are much alarmed, and apprehension is felt that they may be the next victims. The knowledge that the Armenian Hintchakists have warned the Embassies of their intention to cause further disturbances has contributed to keep up the tension, and yesterday several panics occurred in Constantinople.

The streets are strongly patrolled, and both troops and police showed that they were thoroughly on the alert, and prepared to take prompt measures for the suppression of any attempts at violence.

Under these circumstances I am inclined to think that for the present there will be no further serious outbreak.

Ambassadorial meetings took place yesterday and on the two preceding days. The last communication from the Hintchakists was discussed, a collective note on the Cretan question was drawn up and signed, and an answer was drafted to the Porte's note of the 9th September,\* repudiating the charge of complicity in the massacres.

Although the business transacted at these meetings may not have been of first-rate importance, they are valuable as giving an opportunity for an exchange of views, and of keeping up a habit of acting together, which cannot fail to be of great value if the moment for serious action should arise.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 45.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)*

My Lord,

Therapia, September 16, 1896.

AT the first Ambassadors' meeting which I attended after my return, M. Nélidow informed the Representatives that his Dragoman, M. Maximoff, had made arrangements with the Council of Ministers for the formation of a Special Commission of Pacification of which the Dragomans of the six Embassies were to be members. It was understood that the task of this Commission would be to deal with the many questions raised by the recent disturbances in Constantinople, to visit the prisons, to provide for the adequate protection of Armenians in the employ of foreigners, to arrange for the departure to their homes or to foreign countries of those who wished to leave the capital, and generally to endeavour to restore confidence and order.

On Monday, the 7th, I spoke of this Commission to the Grand Vizier, who stated that the Council of Ministers and himself both approved of the idea, but that the proposal had been referred to the Sultan, who had not yet issued his *Irade*.

\* See Inclosure 1 in No. 49, *infra*.





The matter dragged on until Saturday the 12th, when a Circular was received from the Sublime Porte (copy inclosed), announcing that the Commission had been formed under the presidency of Shakir Pasha; that the Dragomans were to be present at its sittings, but that they were to concern themselves exclusively with the affairs of their own countrymen ("s'occuper exclusivement des affaires touchant leurs ressortissants"). On the 13th, Mr. Marinitch and the Russian and French Dragomans requested Shakir Pasha to communicate to them his instructions, as the contents of the Porte's Circular by no means corresponded with the arrangement made between the Embassies and the Ottoman Government.

Shakir Pasha regretted that he was not able to comply with this request. He was not, he said, the President of a Mixed Commission, and his instructions concerned merely himself and his Turkish colleagues.

The presence of the Dragomans was only necessary in case foreign houses or ships had to be searched, and they had nothing to do with the other business of the Commission. He promised, however, to refer the matter to the Grand Vizier and to communicate the result to the Ambassadors.

For the moment, therefore, the Commission, as an international instrument, has fallen through, and there are no adequate means of dealing with the difficulties created by the present position of Armenians in Constantinople. The chief of these are as follows: Firstly, many Armenians, some of whom are already on board foreign ships, wish to leave Constantinople. I am dealing with this question in a separate despatch.\* Secondly, it is currently reported that large numbers of Armenians are in prison and treated with great hardship and cruelty. Shakir Pasha states positively that the number is less than 200, and Mr. Block, who visited Galata-Serai, saw there only seventy-five prisoners and no signs of ill-treatment. Thirdly, it is eminently desirable to devise some form of protection for the numerous Armenian employés of foreign merchants, as during the late disturbances the mere knowledge that Armenians were employed in shops or warehouses caused the mob to break into and sack the premises. It was part of M. Maximoff's scheme, as accepted by the Council, that "cartes de sécurité" should be issued to all Armenian employés who remained in Constantinople, but when Mr. Marinitch urged that they should be at once supplied to those in foreign employ, Shakir Pasha refused to listen to the suggestion, and said that the most he was prepared to grant was, that British employers of Armenians might appear before the police with their servants, after which the safety of the latter, if nothing was proved against them, would be guaranteed. The matter is, however, not yet settled, and it is doubtful if the proposed procedure will prove satisfactory in practice.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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Inclosure in No. 45.

*Note Verbale.*

A LA suite des derniers incidents un certain nombre d'Arméniens, poussés par la frayeur, se sont réfugiés ou cachés soit à bord de bâtiments, soit dans des maisons ou établissements étrangers. Comme cet état de choses, en se prolongeant, pourrait réduire ces individus ainsi que leurs familles à la misère et offrir aussi des inconvénients au point de vue de l'ordre public, il a été décidé de faire examiner leurs cas et constater leur identité par les soins d'une Commission *ad hoc* placée sous la présidence de son Excellence le Maréchal Shakir Pacha, Chef de la Maison Militaire de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et composée de Hachim Bey, Sous-Secrétaire d'État au Département de la Justice; Réfik Bey, Sous-Secrétaire d'État au Département de l'Intérieur; Elias Effendi, Conseiller d'État; Abraham Effendi, Capou Kiahia du Patriarcat Arménien; et Husséin Pacha, Directeur de la Police de Péra, et à laquelle assisteront également des Drogmans des Ambassades des Six Grandes Puissances.

Cette Commission aura à s'acquitter de son mandat conformément aux instructions dont elle est munie.

Il va sans dire que les Drogmans des Missions étrangères qui viendront à cette Commission n'auront à s'occuper exclusivement que des affaires touchant leurs ressortissants.

Sublime Porte, le 12 Septembre, 1896.

\* See No. 48, *infra*.



(Translation.)

Verbal Note.

AS the result of the late occurrences, a certain number of Armenians have been driven by terror to take refuge and hide themselves either on board vessels or in foreign houses and premises. As a continuance of this state of things would reduce these people and their families to poverty, and so become detrimental to public order, it has been decided to have their cases examined and their identity established by a Commission, *ad hoc*, under the presidency of his Excellency Marshal Shakir Pasha, Chief of the Military Household of His Majesty the Sultan, which will be composed of Hachim Bey, Under-Secretary of State for the Department of Justice; Refik Bey, Under-Secretary of State for the Department of the Interior; Elias Effendi, Councillor of State; Abraham Effendi, Capou Kiahia of the Armenian Patriarchate; and Hussein Pasha, Director of the Pera Police, and which the Dragomans of the Embassies of the Six Great Powers will also attend.

The Commission will discharge its duties in conformity with the instructions furnished to it.

The Dragomans of the foreign Missions who will attend this Commission will of course concern themselves exclusively with matters concerning those whom they represent.

Sublime Porte, September 12, 1896.

No. 46.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 16, 1896.

THE Sultan lately sent to me, in common with my colleagues, an urgent message inviting the six Representatives to visit the military and municipal hospitals in order to see for themselves the number of Turkish soldiers and civilians who had been wounded during the recent disturbances.

I accordingly requested Surgeon Tomlinson, of Her Majesty's ship "Imogene," to make the round of the hospitals in company with Mr. Blech, of Her Majesty's Embassy.

Dr. Tomlinson reports that in the five hospitals which he visited he found altogether about 169 wounded, of whom 64 were Mussulmans, mostly soldiers, and 105 Armenians. The wounds from which the Mussulmans were suffering were mostly bomb wounds in the lower extremities, while the Armenians had gun-shot, sword, bayonet, and club wounds.

Dr. Tomlinson was informed that of those wounded during the disturbances about 20 had died, and about 100 had been discharged.

The hospital authorities made attempts to pass off wounded Christians as Mussulmans. Thus, the 112 in the Stamboul prison were represented as being Turks, and it was only discovered by accident that 109 were Christians.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 47.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)

My Lord,

Therapia, September 17, 1896.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th September, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two *procès-verbaux* of the proceedings of the Extraordinary Tribunal instituted for the trial of the persons arrested in connection with the late massacres.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

*Procès-verbal, dated August 22, 1896 (o. s.).*

LE Tribunal Extraordinaire a tenu le 22 Août (v. s.) sa première séance, et procédé à l'interrogatoire des neuf Arméniens dont les quatre sont prévenus d'avoir lancé du Messir Han des bombes sur les troupes Impériales, et les cinq d'avoir tiré des coups de feu de la pharmacie de Méziki ainsi que du Kurde Moussa, prévenu d'avoir blessé et tué Vartan à Bechiktach. Le Tribunal, après avoir désigné les avocats chargés de la défense des prévenus, a décidé de les juger le Samedi, 24 courant.

(Translation.)

THE Extraordinary Tribunal held its first sitting on the 22nd August (o. s.), and proceeded to examine the nine Armenians, of whom four are accused of having thrown bombs from Messir Han at the Imperial troops, and five of having discharged shots from the premises of the chemist Meziki, and of the Kurd Moussa, accused of having wounded and killed Vartan at Beshiktash. The Tribunal, after appointing the advocates who are to defend the accused, resolved to try them on Saturday, the 24th instant.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

*Procès-verbal, dated September 7, 1896.*

LE Tribunal Extraordinaire a procédé le 7 de ce mois à l'interrogatoire d'Oussepe, prévenu d'avoir tiré de Souli Monastir des coups de revolver sur les troupes Impériales et les passants, ainsi que de Serkis, sur lequel ont été trouvés un revolver et seize cartouches.

Le 8, il a jugé le Kurde Moussa, qui a été acquitté à la majorité des voix.

Le 9, il a interrogé douze Arméniens dont les neuf sont prévenus d'avoir tiré de Haladjian Han des coups de feu sur les agents de police et les trois, d'être affiliés aux Comités Révolutionnaires, et a jugé quatre Arméniens prévenus d'avoir tiré des coups de feu et lancé des bombes du Missir Han. La culpabilité de ces quatre Arméniens ayant été établie, ils ont été condamnés, à la majorité des voix, aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

Le susdit Serkis a été acquitté à la majorité des voix, le but séditieux qu'il aurait pu poursuivre en se procurant un revolver et seize cartouches n'ayant pas été prouvé.

(Translation.)

THE Extraordinary Tribunal proceeded on the 7th of this month to examine Oussepe, accused of having discharged revolver shots from Souli Monastir at the Imperial troops and passers-by, and Serkis, on whom were found a revolver and sixteen cartridges.

On the 8th it tried the Kurd Moussa, who was acquitted by a majority of votes.

On the 9th it examined twelve Armenians, of whom nine are accused of firing on the police from Haladjian Han, and three of being connected with the Revolutionary Committees, and tried four Armenians accused of having fired and thrown bombs from Missir Han. The guilt of these four Armenians was proved, and they were condemned by a majority of votes to penal servitude for life.

The above-mentioned Serkis was acquitted by a majority of votes, the seditious object which he might have had in view in providing himself with a revolver and sixteen cartridges not having been proved.

## No. 48.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received September 21.)*

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 17, 1896. 74*

IN many cases Armenian coal porters who were at work on or near British ships during the late disturbances, and could not land without danger, were allowed to

remain on board the ships with the view of being put on shore at a Black Sea port. The Bulgarian authorities offered no objection to fugitives landing at Varna, but the Roumanian Government refused to allow any to disembark in Roumanian territory. The captains bound for Roumanian ports had therefore no option but to bring the men back to Constantinople. On this being known, the Sultan sent orders that the police should take the Armenians off the British vessels on their return. It is unlikely that anything so bold as a forcible removal was contemplated, and I am inclined to think that the police merely intended to induce them to land by promises of safety. I thought it best, however, to direct Captain Pelham to board the first steamer that arrived, and explain to the Armenians on board that they were under no obligation to disembark, and were at perfect liberty to continue their voyage to any port they might choose. I at the same time informed the Minister of Police that I should not allow the men to be taken into custody. The police launches surrounded the steamer as soon as she arrived, but the boats of the "Dryad" were too quick for them.

In subsequent cases I arranged that British ships returning from the Danube should be boarded by boats from the "Cockatrice" at Cavak, and the Armenians on board informed of the state of affairs before arriving at Constantinople.

I inclose a Memorandum giving the names of steamers, the numbers of Armenians, and the destinations to which they have been dispatched.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

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Inclosure in No. 48.

*Memorandum respecting Armenian Coal Porters.*

*Steam-ship "Lynton."*—Returned from Danube on the 12th September with fifteen Armenians, who were sent on to Syra on the same ship.

*Steam-ship "Grenville."*—Returned from Danube on the 13th September with sixteen Armenians, who were sent on to Syra on the same ship.

[Consul Cottrell has been requested to send these men on to the Piræus if work cannot be found for them at Syra.]

*Steam-ship "Bernard."*—Arrived from Galatz on the 13th September and took on seventeen Armenians to Malta.

*Steam-ship "Douro."*—Will take on to the Piræus forty-three Armenians.

*Steam-ship "James Tucker."*—Took fourteen Armenians to the Piræus at her own expense.

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No. 49.

*Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received September 21.)

My Lord,

*Therapia, September 17, 1896.*

WITH reference to Mr. Herbert's despatch of the 3rd September, transmitting to your Lordship a copy of a collective note addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Embassies on the organization of the mob by the Turkish authorities, I have the honour to inclose copy of the Sublime Porte's reply.

The Ambassadors were of opinion that this communication could not be allowed to pass without comment, and therefore addressed to the Sublime Porte a second collective note, copy of which is likewise inclosed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

*Tewfik Pasha to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.*

LES Ministres des Affaires Étrangères a l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note collective que MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont bien voulu lui faire remettre en date du 3 de ce mois relativement aux incidents provoqués en dernier lieu à Constantinople par les révolutionnaires Arméniens.

La Sublime Porte est la première à déplorer les scènes de désordres qui se sont produites à cette occasion ; mais elle ne peut que repousser de toutes ses forces l'assertion d'après laquelle les individus qui se sont livrés à des actes de pillages ou à d'autres méfaits, constituaient des bandes dont l'organisation était connue sinon dirigée par les agents de l'autorité. Le fait que plus de 200 Musulmans ont été arrêtés de ce chef et se trouvent déferés au Tribunal Extraordinaire pour être punis avec toute la rigueur des lois suffit à démontrer l'injustice d'une pareille imputation.

Quant à l'apparition subite de bandes d'individus sur différents points de la ville à la première nouvelle de l'attaque de la Banque Ottomane par les révolutionnaires elle s'explique par l'état d'effervescence dans lequel se trouvait la population Musulmane depuis les incidents suscités l'année dernière par les agitateurs Arméniens et par l'excitation dans laquelle était tenu depuis quelque temps le bas peuple par les bruits qui couraient au sujet d'un renouvellement prochain des attaques des Arméniens, rumeurs que les événements n'ont malheureusement que trop confirmées. Il est avéré d'ailleurs que les événements sanglants dont la ville a été le théâtre pendant la journée et la nuit de Mercredi, 26 du mois écoulé, sont dus à une tentative criminelle des révolutionnaires Arméniens qui ont non seulement attaqué sans distinction de race et de religion tous les passants mais aussi tué et blessé d'innocentes femmes Musulmanes, dans la rue du tramway auprès de la Banque Ottomane, et lancé sciemment des bombes sur des écoliers Musulmans en bas âge aux alentours de Soulou Monastir.

Du reste, les constatations officielles démontrent d'une façon absolue la disparition et la mort de plus de soixante-dix Musulmans dans le seul quartier de Hasskeui, où l'on supposait au premier abord que l'attaque des Arméniens s'était bornée à la boucherie des officiers et des soldats du corps de garde de ce quartier.

Quant aux Musulmans tant militaires que civils qui ont reçu des blessures graves de la part des révolutionnaires Arméniens, leur nombre est considérable et les hôpitaux civils et militaires où ils sont soignés étant d'accès libre, il y a possibilité de constater *de visu* leur nombre et la gravité de leurs blessures.

MM. les Représentants disent dans leur note précitée qu'une grande partie des gens qui composaient les bandes étaient habillée et armée de la même manière.

Cette assertion ne peut être admise, car il est de fait prouvé que les individus en question appartenaient aux diverses corporations, portant des costumes différents. Quant aux armes dont ils s'étaient pourvus, elles ne consistaient, comme le reconnaît d'ailleurs la note collective elle-même, qu'en gourdins et couteaux que chacun peut se procurer partout et à tout moment à l'insu de l'autorité.

Pour ce qui est de l'attitude observée par certains officiers de police et soldats durant les désordres, une enquête sera effectuée à ce sujet et ceux d'entre eux qui seraient reconnus coupables seront naturellement punis suivant le cas.

Les troupes Impériales et la police ont rempli leur devoir avec la plus grande discipline et ont déployé dans ce but les plus sérieux efforts.

Cela est prouvé par le fait qu'elles ont pu, dans l'intervalle de deux jours, rétablir l'ordre et la sécurité publics dans une grande ville que les meneurs Arméniens avaient mise en état de révolution et calmer l'effervescence d'une population composée de différents éléments. Il est inutile de faire ressortir qu'en d'autres pays la répression de pareils désordres a exigé des mois entiers.

Un des moyens criminels employés par les Arméniens en vue de troubler complètement la tranquillité publique et augmenter la panique de la population a été de s'affubler de costumes Musulmans pour perpétrer leurs méfaits. Leurs Excellences MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances recevront bientôt les photographies de ceux de ces individus qui ont été arrêtés.

Bien que l'on ait supposé qu'un grand nombre d'Arméniens avaient trouvé la mort pendant les troubles, il a été pourtant constaté que parmi les corps qui avaient été indistinctement chargés dans des chariots pour être transportés à la Préfecture de Police, il se trouvait également un nombre considérable de Musulmans qui ont été inhumés avec les Arméniens.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne les deux Turcs employés par des Européens qui ayant disparu pendant les désordres, ont déclaré, à leur retour, qu'ils avaient été réquisitionnés et armés pour tuer des Arméniens, la Sublime Porte serait obligée à MM. les Représentants des Puissances s'ils voulaient bien faire livrer ces individus à l'autorité afin qu'une enquête minutieuse puisse être effectuée sur leur cas et que ceux dont la culpabilité serait établie, reçoivent la punition qu'ils auraient méritée.

En ayant l'honneur de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, la Sublime Porte aime à espérer qu'ils voudront bien convenir de la sincérité de ses intentions et de son ferme désir d'assurer le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité publics.

Tous les renseignements de nature à faciliter le cours de la justice seront accueillis avec empressement.

*Sublime Porte, le 9 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the collective note which the Representatives of the Great Powers were good enough to address to him on the 3rd instant relative to the disturbances in Constantinople which were recently provoked by the Armenian revolutionaries.

The Sublime Porte is the first to deplore the scenes of disorder which took place on this occasion; but it must most emphatically demur to the assertion that the individuals who committed acts of pillage and other misdeeds were composed of bands whose organization was known to, if not directed by, the police. The fact that more than 200 Mussulmans have been arrested under this head, and have been brought before the Extraordinary Tribunal to be punished with all the rigour of the law, is a sufficient proof of the injustice of such an imputation.

The sudden appearance of bands of individuals at various points in the town, on the first news of the attack on the Ottoman Bank by the revolutionaries, is explained by the state of ferment existing among the Mussulman population since the incidents provoked last year by the Armenian agitators, and by the excitement which has prevailed for some time past among the lower classes owing to rumours which were circulated on the subject of the renewal at an early date of the attacks by Armenians, which rumours the recent events have unfortunately confirmed. It is, moreover, asserted that the sanguinary events which took place in the town during the day and night of Wednesday, the 26th ultimo, were due to a criminal attempt on the part of the Armenian revolutionaries, who not only attacked all passers-by without distinction of race or religion, but also killed and wounded innocent Mussulman women in the street near the Ottoman Bank, through which the tramway runs, and purposely threw bombs at Mussulman students of tender age in the neighbourhood of Soulou Monastir.

Besides, the official statements prove conclusively the disappearance and death of more than seventy Mussulmans in the Hasskeui quarter alone, where it was at first supposed that the Armenian attack was limited to the slaughter of the officers and soldiers of a guard-house in that quarter.

The number of Mussulmans, both civil and military, who have been seriously wounded by the Armenian revolutionaries is considerable, and as the civil and military hospitals where they are being attended are open to all, it is possible to establish by inspection their number and the nature of their wounds.

The Representatives of the Great Powers state in their above-mentioned note that a great part of the men composing the bands were clothed and armed alike.

This assertion cannot be admitted, for it is actually proved that the individuals in question belonged to different corporations, and were differently clothed. The arms with which they were provided only consisted, as is indeed admitted in the collective note, of clubs and knives, which could be obtained anywhere and at any moment unknown to the authorities.

As regards the attitude observed by certain officers of police and soldiers during the disorders, an inquiry will be made on this subject, and those of them who may be adjudged guilty will be naturally punished according to the circumstances of each case.

The Imperial troops and police performed their duty with the greatest discipline, and were untiring in their efforts.

This is proved by the fact that they were able in two days to re-establish order and public security in a great city which the Armenian agitators had reduced to a state



of revolution, and to calm the excitement of a population composed of different elements. It is needless to state that in other countries the suppression of similar disorders has occupied whole months.

One of the criminal methods employed by the Armenians with a view to completely disturbing public security and increasing the panic among the population was to assume Mussulman costume in order to commit their misdeeds. Their Excellencies the Representatives of the Great Powers will shortly receive photographs of as many of these individuals as have been arrested.

Although it was supposed that a large number of Armenians perished during the troubles, it has, nevertheless, been proved that among the corpses, which were put into carts, without distinction, to be taken to the Prefecture of Police, were a considerable number of Mussulmans, who were buried with the Armenians.

Finally, as regards the two Turks in the employment of Europeans, who, after disappearing during the disorders, declared on their return that they had been requisitioned and armed to kill Armenians, the Sublime Porte would be obliged if the Representatives of the Powers would be good enough to hand these persons over to the authorities, in order that a minute inquiry may be made into their case, and that those whose guilt may be proved may receive the punishment which they deserve.

The Sublime Porte has the honour to bring the above to the notice of the Representatives of the Great Powers, and trusts that they will believe in the sincerity of their intentions and in their earnest desire to insure the maintenance of public order and tranquillity.

All information of a nature to facilitate the course of justice will be obtained with all possible dispatch.

*Sublime Porte, September 9, 1896.*

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Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

*Collective Note of the Representatives of the Great Powers to Sublime Porte.*

LES Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont l'honneur de faire remarquer à la Sublime Porte que les explications qu'elle a bien voulu leur adresser par sa note du 9 de ce mois n'infirmen en rien la valeur des observations qu'ils ont dû lui soumettre au sujet des incidents sanglants qui ont suivi l'attentat commis le 26 Août dernier par des révolutionnaires Arméniens.

Le fait que des Musulmans ont été arrêtés et déferés à la justice ne suffit pas pour démontrer que les bandes dont ils faisaient partie n'étaient ni organisées ni dirigées par des agents de l'autorité. Si la Sublime Porte conteste l'uniformité du vêtement des individus qui composaient ces bandes, elle reconnaît qu'elles étaient formées de diverses corporations; or ces corporations marchaient en corps au massacre et plusieurs agents étrangers ont pu personnellement constater la méthode avec laquelle elles accomplissaient leur sanglante besogne. Les Représentants des Puissances ont, d'autre part, de sérieux motifs de croire que l'irritation causée par les provocations Arméniennes a moins contribué à guider la populace Musulmane que le sentiment de l'impunité dont elle savait que ses coreligionnaires avaient joui dans des cas analogues en Anatolie; jusqu'à ce jour elle a compté avec raison sur cette impunité puisque le Tribunal Militaire n'a pu encore trouver un seul coupable parmi tant de criminels.

Les Représentants des Puissances ont toujours sévèrement jugé les attentats des révolutionnaires Arméniens et déploré qu'il y ait eu des victimes parmi les Musulmans, mais ils persistent à déclarer que la répression devait se limiter aux actes criminels et que les autorités civiles et militaires avaient le devoir, dès le premier moment, de préserver les rues des excès qui s'y sont commis. Ils ne sauraient admettre que, pour venger la mort ou la disparition de soixante-dix Musulmans d'Asskeui, il fût nécessaire de livrer au meurtre et au pillage toutes les maisons Arméniennes de ce faubourg.

Quant au fait qu'un assez grand nombre de Musulmans a été trouvé parmi les morts, il démontre seulement combien dans cette œuvre sinistre les méprises sont faciles, et combien de pareils procédés sont dangereux pour ceux-là mêmes qui les emploient.

La facilité avec laquelle les massacres ont pu être arrêtés montre le pouvoir dont l'autorité disposait et le mauvais emploi qui en a été fait pendant près de deux jours.

Les Représentants des Puissances reconnaissent la discipline des troupes Impériales et leur attitude correcte dès que le rétablissement de l'ordre leur a été prescrit; ils

regrettent que les instructions nécessaires ne leur aient pas été données quarante-huit heures plus tôt.

En résumé, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances n'entendent pas entrer dans de plus amples détails ni continuer la discussion, mais, s'ils réproouvent sévèrement la conduite des révolutionnaires Arméniens, ils sont forcés de maintenir leurs observations au sujet des bandes, et au sujet de l'attitude des autorités. Ils signalent le danger que constitue pour l'ordre public l'impunité laissée jusqu'à ce jour à tous ceux qui ont pris part aux massacres ou qui les ont encouragés ; ils constatent que la pacification des esprits est loin de se faire, que la sécurité disparaît, que les colonies étrangères sont justement inquiètes ; ils appellent l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur cette situation, qui engage sérieusement sa responsabilité.

*Constantinople, le 15 Septembre, 1896.*

(Translation.)

THE Representatives of the Great Powers have the honour to inform the Sublime Porte that the explanations which it was good enough to address to them in its note of the 9th instant do not in any way invalidate the force of the observations which they were compelled to submit respecting the sanguinary events which followed the outrage committed by Armenian revolutionaries on the 26th ultimo.

The fact that Mussulmans have been arrested and brought to justice is not sufficient to prove that the bands of which they formed part were not organized or directed by agents of the authorities. While the Sublime Porte questions the uniformity of the clothing of these bands, it admits that they were composed of different corporations ; now these corporations went in bodies to the massacre, and several foreign officials were able personally to testify to the manner in which they accomplished their sanguinary task. The Representatives of the Powers have, besides, serious grounds for believing that the feeling of irritation caused by the Armenian provocations contributed less to direct the Mussulman populace than their knowledge of the impunity which their co-religionists had enjoyed in similar cases in Anatolia ; up to the present they have rightly counted on this impunity, for the Military Tribunal has not yet been able to discover a single guilty person among so many criminals.

The Representatives of the Powers have always severely condemned outrages committed by Armenian revolutionaries, and regret that there were victims among the Mussulmans, but they must still declare that measures of repression should have been limited to criminal acts, and that it was, from the commencement of the disturbances, the duty of the civil and military authorities to preserve the streets from the excesses which were committed in them. They cannot admit that, in order to avenge the death or disappearance of seventy Mussulmans at Hasskeui it was necessary that all the Armenian houses of that suburb should be given over to murder and pillage.

The fact that a considerable number of Mussulmans were found among the dead merely proves that in this terrible work mistakes are easy, and how dangerous such proceedings are, even for those who make use of them.

The ease with which the massacres were stopped shows the power at the disposal of the authorities, and the insufficient use made of it for nearly two days.

The Representatives of the Powers recognize the discipline of the Imperial troops, and their correct attitude as soon as they were directed to restore order ; they regret that the necessary instructions were not given them forty-eight hours sooner.

Finally, the Representatives of the Great Powers do not intend to enter into further details or to continue the discussion, but while they severely blame the conduct of the Armenian revolutionaries, they are compelled to adhere to their observations on the subject of the bands and of the attitude of the authorities. They point out the danger to public order arising from the impunity enjoyed up to the present by all those who took part in the massacres or encouraged them ; they are convinced that public excitement is far from being allayed, that security is disappearing, and that the foreign colonies have just reason for apprehension ; they call the attention of the Sublime Porte to this state of things, which entails upon it serious responsibility.

*Constantinople, September 15, 1896.*





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