

The mere giving of money entails so little sacrifice in comparison to what many have done that these final words of *The Evening Post* bring the matter nearer home:

"It is in the personal service of hundreds of devoted men and women that our country has shown the genuineness of its sympathy and its humanity. The physicians who crossed the ocean to risk their lives in the midst of war and pestilence, the nurses who have ministered to and succored the wounded, and, last but far from least, the men who have devoted their great ability and tireless energy to the vitally important work of organizing and directing works of charity and relief—for these representatives of what is best in America no words of praise can be too high. . . . The devotion of the expert skill of these men gives one a peculiar thrill of pleasure. And when they tell us—as does Mr. Hoover in his recent report on the work of the Commission—that there is imperative need of a continued flow of help, if the women and children and helpless men that have been rescued are to be kept alive through the dark days still to come, shall the rest of us begrudge the trivial sacrifice of a few dollars, to back up the splendid labor which is their contribution to the good work?"

WHO CAN SAVE ARMENIA?

WHAT TO DO about the Armenian atrocities is a question agitating many minds. The Government has made informal representations to Turkey through Ambassador Morgenthau "pointing out the bad effect upon public opinion in the United States of the treatment of the Armenians," but beyond this, so Washington dispatches say, nothing further can be done. A London cable reports Lord Bryce as saying that "there is only one Power that can stop the Armenian atrocities, and that is Germany." The German press, however, give precise warning to the United States that "the Germans will not only not interfere with Turkish massacre of 'infidels,' but that they will not permit the United States to interfere." The *Frankfurter Zeitung* points out, with a logic all its own, that the Armenian affair is no more Germany's business than the lynching of negroes is Germany's business. A writer in the *Vossische Zeitung* adds this assurance:

"The Armenian question is a purely theoretical discussion about humanity. We have battles to fight at present in order to insure our very existence. The political instinct of America's statesmen must tell them as much, especially as the all-around political situation to-day is very different from that of two months ago. The Quadruple Entente will, therefore, have just as little success with the stinkbombs of hypocrisy and slander which it now throws as it has had until now in its fight with honorable arms on the battle-fields of Western Europe."

When the German press decide that what has seemed to Americans a crime against humanity is "purely theoretical discussion," observes the *Syracuse Post Standard*, "we have learned to expect a reflection of their opinions in the minds of these publicists in this country who claim to have exclusive title to the name of neutral":

"Expectation is not kept waiting. H. L. Mencken, an American-born author who has written two excellent books

upon the philosophy of Nietzsche, explains the whole Armenian business in a paragraph:

"The Belgian relief-business having gradually petered out, so that it is now an almost impossible job to wring money from the boobs, the professional uplifters who lately engaged in it so copiously will turn their talents to collecting funds for the massacred Armenians. This Armenian excitement has been set going by the London press bureau, and follows classical lines. The same Armenians who were exterminated in 1896 are now being exterminated again. The only difference is that in the present case the accommodating Secretary Lansing has given the atrocity-mongers a life by addressing a moral note to the Turkish Government. The circulation of such notes now constitutes one of the chief duties of the State Department."

Agencies in this country, aside from the Government, are endeavoring to move the authorities in Germany and Turkey in behalf of the stricken peoples. One private citizen sends an appeal urging that the German Emperor be sent personal letters "protesting against his countenancing the murder of women and children by his allies." It costs but a five-cent stamp. "Five hundred thousand letters at five cents each may save five hundred thousand women and children from the most horrible deaths. Who will write them? The first has gone." A meeting was lately held in the Century Theater, New York, under the auspices of a committee of prominent Americans and well-known Armenians, where the following resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, The civilized world has been shocked by a series of massacres and deportations of Armenians in the Turkish Empire; and,

"Whereas, These crimes and outrages committed upon an



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SCENE OF THE ARMENIAN PERSECUTIONS.

industrious, thrifty, and peace-loving people find no justification, viewed either in the light of law or humanity; and

"Whereas, Those Armenians who survive are in great need of succor and relief; be it hereby

"Resolved, That as American citizens, we make our most solemn protest against these cruel and inhuman practices and implore all officials and others having influence in the Turkish Empire to put an end to these wrongs and to render every aid to the American Ambassador and others who would rescue and repatriate a people, who, by their history and achievements, have been a credit to the Empire.

"Resolved further, That war, wherever and by whatsoever nation waged, affords no warrant for inhumanity toward innocent persons. The slaughter of non-combatant men, the tortures, mutilations, and outrages committed upon women and children wherever committed, have given to the fairest places upon the earth the semblance of hell. In the name of the God of nations and our common humanity, we call upon the nations at war to cease these crimes against civilization and morality."

A PORTENTOUS YEAR FOR MISSIONS

THE FIRST YEAR of the World-War was a year of unprecedented anxiety for members of the great missionary boards. "That we have come through at all is cause for thanksgiving; that we have come through so well is cause for many doxologies," writes Secretary Cornelius H. Patton, of the American Board, in *The Congregationalist*. His brief review of the American Board's year may be taken as representative of the experience of other great missionary societies, particularly since the Congregationalist body has laid such emphasis on the work in the Near East, where the effects of the war have been most evident. For one thing the American Board, says its secretary, has achieved a notable financial success in what was expected to be an off-year, having exceeded the receipts of the previous year by \$20,000 and beating all records, and having a balance over expenditures for the year of \$362.48. "But what of the missions?" Mr. Patton continues:

"Albania was the first to receive the war-blow, and she received it full in the face; not by great armies marching, cities shot to pieces, or populations driven out; but by social confusion worse confounded and bitter internal strife, as the surrounding nations intrigued and struggled for her fair valleys and towns. Impossible conditions arose, and the plans for the development of a new mission there had to be postponed, and the missionaries were compelled to retire. Mr. Erickson is now back on the field engaged in relief-work, and the Kennedys will seek to establish themselves temporarily at Monastir, in Servia. If, after the great settlement, independent Albania disappears, if this ancient country should be carved up among the Powers, the people will remain and the work should be pushed under more stable conditions."

In the Balkans up to the time of the German and Bulgarian invasion of Servia, "it has been possible to have the missionaries come, and new workers have been sent out," and effective work has been done. But Mr. Patton had doubts about the future as he wrote, and his misgivings have been justified, tho as yet we have no definite information regarding the effect of this extension of the war-zone upon missionary enterprises. And then:

"Turkey! An Armenian bishop remarked to me, as he looked out upon the ruins of Adana and recounted the awful events of 1909 in the Cilician Plain: 'We are a martyr nation. It may be that the world needs the testimony of our sufferings and faith.' How often in recent days I have recalled those words and his bent, sorrowful figure as he strode away. All that has previously happened to the Armenian people, the massacres in eastern Turkey in 1895 and in central Turkey in 1909, are as a drop in the bucket to what has recently transpired in connection with the deportation of the entire population in large sections of Asia Minor. We need not go into details here, but the friends of the Board should know that the disaster is unprecedented, and that the work of years in important centers has been practically wiped out. Here is a test to our faith and loyalty. One year hence we shall know better how our churches stand up under the strain. We pass the word along now that after this war we must rehabilitate our three Turkish missions or confess ourselves unworthy and unequal to the glorious task which was assumed by our fathers and which God now places squarely upon us. God grant us grace for this time of testing."

"Certain bright spots are to be found even in this dark picture. The missionaries are safe. Not a hand has been lifted against them. Several have been sent out of the country, but the Turkish authorities, under the persuasion of our excellent ambassador, Morgenthau, have taken pains that every American life should be held inviolate. Let us not forget to be grateful for that."

A possible implication of the Van mission-station in the war seemed indicated in a photograph purporting to show a trench full of Armenians in the American mission-compound at that place, but we are happily assured by Dr. G. C. Reynolds, of the Van station, that the description accompanying the photograph was mistaken on this point. He writes:

"The American missionaries in Turkey were under every obligation to maintain a strictly neutral attitude in any conflicts which might be going on, and they have been conscientiously doing so in Van, as elsewhere. It is true that thousands of Armenians took refuge within the American mission-compound, but no armed men were permitted to come in. Armenians did not fortify those premises, nor direct their fight against the Turks from that place. The American compound was just about the middle of the section of the city, which the Armenians fortified and held, and some of their fortifications were not far away. The Turkish Governor made the statement that armed Armenians had access to the premises, and made it the pretext for the two-days' bombardment of the premises which preceded the withdrawal of the Turks, but the charge was absolutely false."

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CONSOLATIONS FOR A GERMAN SOLDIER

ON THE BODY of a dead German officer was found a *Festbuch* whose subtitle indicates its purpose—"a religious-patriotic gift for Catholic soldiers." Its compiler, Rector Theodor Temming, states that it is published "by permission of the authorities of the Church." The cover bears the decoration of the flags of Germany and Austria with the Imperial Crown and the Iron Cross. Inside there are portraits of William II. and Francis Joseph, below whom is the face of Pope Benedict. The *London Morning Post* thus describes the volume, adding a few comments of its own here and there:

"An 'introduction' begins: 'These pages are dedicated to the soldiers of Germany and Austria. They ought to make a Festival-Book which shall uplift the heart and fill the soul with a festival feeling.' The reverend Rector proceeds to explain what he means by this 'festival feeling,' which may well seem out of place when suggested to the man who for months has been risking his life and enduring all sorts of privations in the trenches. He tells of the pride with which the Fatherland is watching him and exhorts him to continue brave and steadfast in the glorious, if painful, labor which has fallen to his lot. Then come a number of 'precepts' headed 'For King and Country.' The first is: 'War-Service—hard service,' explaining briefly and forcibly what and whom they are fighting for. 'War-Service—glorious service,' contains the following sentence: 'On the side of the foe are hirelings fighting for money, not for hearth and home, and they are fighting bravely. How much braver and more spirited must be the German soldier, whose heart beats full of love for the dear Fatherland!' Next the ingenious Rector sets out to prove that in certain circumstances—as when the Fatherland, after long and careful preparation, sets half the world ablaze—"War-Service is God's Service."

Then follows a series of "reflections," "appropriate" for hospital, for "captivity," and for the trenches—"where men learn to pray." Then is a section on "Our Emperor and the War," beginning:

"What a joy, what a consolation it is for us to see at the head of our people an Emperor like William II.! Now we can see clearly for the first time how rightly the Emperor acted in spreading the military power of Germany farther and farther afield. Great were the sacrifices involved, but they have not been in vain. For many years past we have had peace, and now that this peace has been wantonly broken by our enemies we must strive—as all of us hope, successfully—to win for ourselves peace with honor once again."

There is a summary of the Pope's encyclical on peace, also bits of sermons from one or two German bishops. Then a *Kriegschronik*, or "Diary of the War":

"Starting on June 29, 1914—the date of the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife at Serajevo—it is continued day by day till January 11 of this year. No one will be surprised to learn that the Diary is just a long list of German successes. If the victories here recorded had been all that the war has brought forth the Central Powers should have won comfortably months ago. Apart from the loss of the *Emden* and one or two *U*-boats, one can not find that the Allies have done anything at all from first to last, which must make the record rather monotonous even for German reading. Under August 13 (1914) is the entry: 'Atrocities by Belgian Populace,' but no mention is made of the sacking and destruction of Louvain. Admiral Cradock's defeat off the Chilean coast is recorded, but there is no word of Admiral Sturdee's revenge near the Falkland Islands."