

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

An Armenian girl writes from Erivan to her elder sister, "Ah dear I long for you exceedingly. I often think of those sweet school days which we spent with you, happy and carefree, without even dreaming that we would come to such bitter days as these when we should all be widely separated and never see each other again. My life is very empty, now that we have lost our dear and idolized brother; it is also dreadful to think of my companions who are in the talons of the cruel Turks, as Sarah, Leah and others."

Arabs and Turks holding Armenians, bargain with relief workers for a fair price for their captives. One dollar or thereabouts, often buys an Armenian. But the transaction is not always easy to start. Mr. Lacy writes from Bagdad: "Although we are making efforts to get into touch with the many Armenians among the Arabs outside, in order to purchase them, up until now we have not managed anything definite and the unsettled country, owing to military operations, makes the task very difficult. We hope the way will eventually open for getting hold of most of these captives. In this case we shall have to make a quick call on all the funds we have."

In a deserted village of Asia Minor one of our missionaries came upon a little girl about ten years of age sitting on a doorstep. Her mind was absolutely blank. She was taken to the Relief station, and it was learned later that this poor child had seen every member of her family killed before her eyes.

Speaking of blanket distribution in Aleppo, a relief worker writes: "I feel very sure that none have gone to people who had adequate covering, but it is quite possible that in some cases a quilt has gone to three people where it might have gone to five, who perhaps have been left quiltless. These quilts, by the way, are pretty substantial things, filled with wool. Most of them have been given out unmade and the women will have to sew them themselves. In a good many cases I have told the people that those who knew how must help those who don't know how, and so have a share in helping work. We have to watch that hungry people don't sell the material for food."

Ernest E. Lavy writes from Bagdad: "The stories of horrors, etc., are similar from all quarters. There is no need for one to say over again what has often been said before. But it is impossible to exaggerate the cruelty and fiendishness of the deeds perpetrated."

Three stories illustrate the conditions in which the Turks left their victims in Jerusalem. Relief workers found a little ten-year-old girl with a blinded father, the sole survivor of a large family. A prominent Jew was brutally shot by a Turkish captain and lay helpless in the street three days before the British entered. A Syrian, compelled by the Turks to handle dynamite, was found with both hands blown off, his wife and four young children in want and wretched.

In January, 1918, twenty-three Armenian exiles reached Port Said after inconceivable sufferings. For two and a half years they had wandered from a village near Caesarea through the Asia Minor mountains and Arabian deserts. Two hundred and twenty-seven of their fellow townsmen had perished on the way.

Every refugee has a story, from the lad who escaped through the Turkish lines—traveling by night and sleeping in caves by day, bribing soldiers and officials until he found his way into an American consulate—a mother left her child on the steps of an American's home with a few words on a bit of paper: "I cannot feed it. I know you'll not let my baby starve."

A 14-year-old girl tells a remarkable story of her 11 months' captivity among the Kurds in Persia. Only through her force of will was she able to save herself from marriage, first to an elderly Kurd, later to the son of a Moslem priest, and again to the son of a Kurdish chief. At one time, upon her absolute refusal to marry and change her religion, she was beaten until she became sick. A Kurdish woman pitied her and bought her for \$30. She was cared for until her final escape with the family that had protected her, to the Russian lines.

The Kurds had looted and pillaged until one man had 28 rooms full of plunder. He soon found he couldn't buy from the distributors and he was hungry. The loot would not serve as bread, and at last he came bringing all that he had stolen to the relief agents. Some of these Kurds instead of being robbers became helpers.

"Mother," sobbed a little child just outside a relief station, "don't God send us bread?" "Yes, my child, God makes the wheat to grow and that means bread. Don't cry; the kind Americans will give us God's bread. We'll have to wait in line."

Persia committees ask American approval for the inclusion of special relief work for another group of 40,000 driven from home by war. Villages destroyed. Extreme destitution. At least children should be saved. No hope except America. Wholesale relief is most strategic measure for pacification and settlement of the local race problem. This the most abject case of suffering we have seen. They come pleading for work until it seems sometimes as though we must go crazy from being constantly compelled to refuse them. It is one constant stream of ragged, forlorn women with drawing faces, begging with tears, and demanding work. It is impossible for the people to return to their old homes; conditions are too uncertain. Local farmers and merchants feel the stress of the times too much to employ help, so the refugees are dependent almost wholly on charity. It is pitiful to see people once well now begging.

It seems inconceivable that in this day and age, human beings could die crucifixion, drown, tear to pieces and burn by wholesale other human beings. I have taken over the wool and cotton carding and spinning industries here in Erivan. We now have 1550 women and about fifty men in the Erivan carding and spinning alone.

In Aleppo the largest single relief measure has been an orphanage caring for 1000 children. It cost about 25 piasters per day per child, and even then the children work from morning to night. The orphanage uses its own flour mill and makes its own bread. There are shoe making and repairing departments. Cows are kept and butter made for sale. Children peddle about town the vegetables they help to garden. Children are learning lace making, weaving and carpentry.

AMBASSADOR ELKUS

"When I left Constantinople, owing to the breaking of diplomatic relations with Turkey, the work of relief carried on by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief was so thoroughly organized that arrangements were easily made for continuing that work in every department, even in the absence of the Embassy and the United States Consuls at different points in the country. The work is now being carried on effectively at all of the centers under increasing friendliness on the part of the Turkish officials, and with a need that is constantly growing greater."

Signed,
ABRAM I. ELKUS.

SELL CHILDREN TO SAVE THEM

Women are selling their children to save them from starvation according to a recent report received from Persia. The report follows:

Typhoid and typhus are terribly prevalent. The camels who bring in our bags of rice kneel down and eat greedily the raw grains that leak out of the sacks.

Women who get rice eat some of it raw. A laborer came in two days ago and said: 'Please give me some rice to chew. I am so weak. I have had nothing since last night. I get thirty cents a day and I have a wife and children. My wages will only buy a pound and a half of bread. I am faint with hunger.' He got a handful of rice and put some into his mouth and commenced to chew while he dug feebly with his shovel.



A GROUP OF REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN FED AND CARED FOR ALL WINTER BY THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST

NEW ORGANIZATION FOR RELIEF WORK

Prominent Men of Country to Help Sufferers.

Following out the work formerly carried on by the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, a new organization covering a wider scope of territory and taking the name American Committee for Relief in the Near East has been formed and a bill has passed the Senate incorporating it to do relief work in European and Asiatic countries.

The campaign committee appointed by the organization to superintend raising a fund of \$30,000,000 for relief work between January 12 and 19 is composed of Alexander J. Hemphill, chairman; Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer; William B. Miller, director general, and the following:

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| Hon. William Howard Taft | Frank W. Jackson |
| Hon. Charles Evans Hughes | Woodbury G. Langdon |
| Charles W. Eliot | Frederick Lynch |
| James Cardinal Gibbons | Charles S. MacFarland |
| Vance C. McCormick | Frank Mason |
| Henry Morgenthau | North |
| John R. Mott | George A. Plimpton |
| Wm. Jay Schiefelbusch | Rt. Rev. P. Rhineland |
| William Sloane | Karl Davis |
| Oscar S. Straus | William W. Rockwell |
| Arthur Capper | George T. Scott |
| Robert W. Bingham | Albert Shaw |
| George Warren Brown | Edward Lincoln Smith |
| R. A. Long | James M. Speers |
| James L. Barton | Harry A. Wheeler |
| Charles R. Crane | Stanley White |
| Arthur Curtiss James | Ray Layman |
| Samuel T. Dutton | Wilbur |
| Edwin M. Bulkley | Talcott Williams |
| Charles V. Vickrey | Stephen S. Wise |
| Frederick H. Allen | Wallace M. Alexander |
| Charles E. Beury | Thomas H. Brewer |
| Arthur J. Brown | George Cosson |
| Edwin M. Bulkeley | E. E. Kauffman |
| John B. Calvert | Frederick W. Lyman |
| Wm. I. Chamberlain | Charles A. Rowland |
| William T. Ellis | John L. Severance |
| Jerome D. Greene | J. W. Spangler |
| Rt. Rev. David H. Greer | Col. R. E. Twitchell |
| Fred P. Hatch | Charles F. Twining |
| Harold A. Hagg | Charles M. Wilhelm |
| William J. Haven | |
| Myron T. Herrick | |
| Hamilton Holt | |

MOHAMMEDANS MOVED BY CHRISTIAN ACTS

By Dr. Frederick G. Coan

Distinguished American, Many Years Resident of Turkey, an Eye-Witness of Deportations and Massacres.

Today, after over three years of terrible war, thousands of Christian congregations are scattered, schools are closed, churches and other property lie in ruin and millions have been massacred, while the wretched remnants of the martyred nations scattered everywhere, homeless, naked and starving, are refugees whose conditions beggar description.

We can never forget that this great martyrdom died for their faith. This awful storm has been a test of their fidelity and loyalty to Christ and millions have proved faithful.

Again, no massacre or human cruelty has been able to crush the spirit of many who have suffered so terribly. They are wonderfully brave and patient in their suffering. I have heard many say: "Never mind what has gone, what we have suffered, if only such things are made impossible for our children in the future."

Many have gone back to their homes, where all is ruin, and are ready to begin again and rebuild, if satisfied that they will be protected.

I have heard Christians with streaming eyes asking God to forgive those who had so cruelly wronged them and outraged their loved ones, and Mohammedans standing by, have walked away awed, and saying, "What kind of religion is this that enables them to ask God to forgive us?"

Dr. J. P. McNaughton, for twenty-five years a resident of Turkey, addressing the annual meeting of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, said: "The ancestors of these people contributed more of the rich content that has entered into the warp and woof of our civilization than all other nations combined. Our prophets and

THE HORRORS OF ALEPPO

German Blames His People for Terrible Conditions.

(Extracts from a report to the German government by Dr. Martin Niepage, higher grade teacher in the German Technical School at Aleppo.)

As teachers in the German Technical School at Aleppo, we feel it our duty to draw attention to the fact that our educational work will forfeit its moral basis and the esteem of the natives if the German government is not in a position to put a stop to the brutality with which the wives and children of slaughtered Armenians are being treated here.

Out of convoys numbering two or three thousand men, women and children when they left their homes on the Armenian plateau, only two or three hundred survivors arrived here in the south. The men are gathered on the way; the women and girls dishonored and killed by Turkish soldiers and officers. The thousands shrink to hundreds and the hundreds to tiny remnants, and even these remnants are driven on till the last is dead.

Indeed, for the exile who came to Aleppo, help was really useless. We could only afford those doomed to death a few slight alleviations of their agony.

What we saw with our own eyes here in Aleppo was really only the last scene in the great tragedy of the extermination of the Armenians. It was only a minute fraction of the horrible drama that was being played out simultaneously in all the other provinces of Turkey. Many more appalling things were reported by the engineers of the Bagdad Railway when they came back from their work on the section under construction, or by German travelers who met the convoys of exiles on their journeys. Many of these gentlemen had seen such appalling sights that they could eat nothing for days.

The Consuls are of opinion that, so far, probably about one million Armenians have perished in the massacres of the last few months. At this number, one must reckon that at least half are women and children who have either been murdered or have succumbed to starvation.

RELIEF WORKERS FOLLOW ARMY

"Considerable difficulty has been experienced by myself and others, who were interested in the fate of the Armenian peoples, with the Ottoman authorities, who prevented the distribution of relief among the sufferers by foreigners," declared Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey, a few days ago.

"The opposition was at first very strong, so that our consuls and missionaries could render only clandestine help to the needy people. The Turks insisted that I should turn over the funds to them and that they would see to their proper distribution. I emphatically refused on the ground that the donors would not authorize me to do that. The attitude of the Turkish government, however, was later modified and our workers are able to reach the victims everywhere. Their ability to save lives is limited only by the amount of relief funds placed at their disposal."

With the war now at an end, the relief workers are following the British and French armies of occupation into the Ottoman empire and are continuing their relief work among the refugees left in the towns. British and French military men are assisting the American relief workers.

British and French military leaders in the occupied territory of Turkey have stated to their governments as well as to the United States government that the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, because of its complete organization and workers, who are familiar with the language and habits of the peoples, is best prepared to conduct relief work among the suffering people.

Conditions reported in previous telegrams now more acute. Strongly urge need of support for fatherless children in their homes. There are 5000 now on our lists; about 15,000 others require immediate help, widows as well as children. Thus aided, families are intact; no funds available at present for this department.

Only just before I left Aleppo last May the crowds of exiles camped at Ras-el-Ain on the Bagdad Railway, estimated at 20,000 women and children, were slaughtered to the last one.

THE PEOPLES OF WESTERN ASIA

The Armenians

Armenia was the first nation to embrace Christianity as a national religion. Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew preached the gospel there. The Armenian Church has had 137 Pontiffs in unbroken succession, whose seat, since 309, with occasional transfers elsewhere has been at Etchmiadzin, the Great Monastery in Russian Armenia.

Of the estimated 4,500,000 Armenians (in 1913) 2,300,000 lived in Turkey, about 1,500,000 in Russian Armenia, and the remainder were scattered over the world.

In Turkey, despite the oppressive and obstructive rule, the Armenians have been one of the principal constructive forces.

The Syria

Syria occupies a strategic position in the map of the old world, being a connecting link, a bridge, as it were, between Europe, Asia and Africa.

Syria is the birthplace of two Monotheistic religions—Judaism and Christianity, and is closely related to the birth and development of a third, Mohammedanism.

The country has five provinces; Aleppo, one of whose cities is Antioch; Damascus, whose capital by the same name is reputed to be the oldest city in the world; the Lebanon, famous for its cedar trees. Beirut, whose capital by the same name is the seaport of Syria, and Jerusalem.

The Greeks

The Greeks in Turkey are confined mostly to the shores of Asia Minor and the adjacent islands. They are direct descendants of the Greeks who held sway in Constantinople until its capture by the Mohammedans in 1453. They number in Turkey about five millions, speak Greek and profess Orthodox Christianity. The Greek element is one of the most progressive elements in Turkey and controls the finances of the empire.

The Assyrians

The Assyrian Christians inhabit a portion of the territory known to ancient history as Assyria, including a part of Mesopotamia, Kurdistan and northwestern Persia. They are also sometimes designated Nestorians. Syriac is their mother tongue. It was number about 140,000 persons. They number about 140,000 persons. They number about 140,000 persons. They number about 140,000 persons.

The Jews

The historical status of the Jews and their contributions to the civilization are well known. A great many of the inhabitants of Palestine and Syria are Jewish.

INCIDENTS TO STIR ONE'S SOUL

It gives some idea of the appalling catastrophe that has overtaken this people when one considers that out of a population of about 100,000 refugees in this province, fully 20,000 are fatherless children. To these must be added also many more in the Baku, Kars and Erzurum regions.

An American doctor coming down the mountain side from the Lebanon noticed in the distance a throng of children and wondered why so many were gathered in one place. Upon coming near he discovered that a camel had died by the roadside and these famished children were in desperation picking the last shreds of flesh from the skeleton of the fallen beast. Children eagerly picking grains from the dung of animals in the street have become a common sight.

Tender-hearted American women have been compelled to steel themselves against the sight of children in the street dying for lack of food—to pass by without helping, having no resources to warrant adding one more to the number already being fed.

A hard task is assigned the missionaries, that of practically signing the death sentence of children. For example, in one case there were 430 children with funds sufficient for only seventy. The missionaries were forced to select the seventy and say no to the equally or possibly more destitute 360.

So far as Syria is concerned Beirut, Palestine and the Lebanon have suffered most. Many villages have become depopulated. An American passing through a village last summer saw only one house open. The people had either emigrated or perished. In one doorway sat a little girl, apparently alone in the world. She kept saying over and over, "I'm hungry! I'm hungry!" The children in all the villages look like old men and women.

In Aleith no grapes are expected because children have eaten the shoots and young leaves. The mulberry orchards were planted with wheat, but in many cases children have plucked the wheat to eat the seeds clinging to the roots.

Great as is the tragedy of massacre, a greater tragedy was the forced deportations, 100,000 women and children from one district alone. It is terrible to contemplate their fate after the war. The nations should provide means for searching out and restoring any survivors to their homes and loved ones.

It is hard for decently fed Americans to conceive of the horrible depths to which helpless Armenian children have had to go for "food" that is not food. American consuls have seen them in crowds quarreling over the diseased flesh left on the carcasses of dead animals in the streets. Discarded peelings and well nigh unspeakable garbage are prized.



ARMENIAN WOMEN WORKERS IN A RELIEF STATION



AN ARMENIAN FAMILY WITH FATHER MISSING

he said, may secure loans... rate of interest, with as... years to pay off, and... ness of the... tines to im... years after... to let it go its course, but people take the result for granted and interest is

E. I. RAIL IN B. O. I. STREET 13