

Pam-Turk Emp.

1859

# THE CRY OF MILLIONS

EXILED  
DESTITUTE  
DYING



Revised Edition  
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# THE CRY OF A MILLION



A CRUSHING blow has fallen upon the Armenians and Syrians in Turkey, Persia, Syria and Palestine. Amid all the terrible accompaniments of the European War there is none more heartrending than this. According to the most reliable reports about 850,000 have perished by massacre, disease, and hardship. Two million survivors, each with a story tragic enough to break the hardest heart, are in dire distress. Many are remote from their homes, without shelter, clothing or food, their hearts filled with despair. America is the only nation that can meet their need. Extraordinary financial prosperity, impossible but for the war, abounds here. Shall this nation fatten because of Europe's demand for our goods and forget the sorrows in the war zones? The suffering cry out in their anguish. Will we hear and heed their appeal?

## A TRAGIC HISTORY

FOR TWENTY-FIVE centuries, between the Black and Caspian Seas, in Western Asia, the Armenians have had a home. Suffering has been their lot, perhaps beyond any other race that has ever lived. One after another—Assyrian, Persian, Parthian, Roman, Turk—has come to oppress or exploit or persecute. Today their land is divided between Turkey, Persia and Russia. Only yesterday they were the best educated, most skillful, most industrious, and most valuable people in the Turkish Empire.

## THE BLOW THAT FELL

“ONLY YESTERDAY!” Those are fateful words! Modern history began August 1, 1914, when Europe and Asia caught fire. The flower of Armenian manhood was called to the colors, leaving only a few men with the aged and infirm or tender youth with women and children to carry on the daily business as best they could.

In April, 1915, continuing through November, the indescribably terrible blow fell—the most tragic hour in all their tragic history came. Then began the systematic and relentlessly cruel process of crushing the Armenian race by massacre and deportation. Men were led away in groups outside their villages and killed with clubs and axes.

The consul of one of the European nations in Turkey reported that on one occasion 10,000 Armenians were taken out in boats, batteries of artillery trained on the boats as targets, and the entire company killed.

Schools and churches—the fruition of many years of toil and tears—were broken up, the students killed or scattered.

Girls and women were reserved for an indescribable fate in terrible marches, in harems, or in the houses of officials, or in the huts or tents of the wild tribes.



Armenian Shepherd Boy. One of the thousands driven from home.



Typical School scene before exile

Villages and towns by the hundred were wrecked. The whole Armenian population of large sections was deported. Of one caravan of 600 people the Arabs killed 500. Many thousands died of disease, torture, terror, exhaustion, hunger.

Of 450 from one village only one woman lives. She saw her husband and three sons tied together and shot with one bullet, to save ammunition. She saw her daughters outraged and then killed. She was carried away by a Kurd but escaped at night, naked, and after terrible suffering fell in with some refugees.

The blow fell heaviest upon those least able to bear it—the aged, the women, especially mothers or those about to become mothers, little children. Hundreds, thousands, perished in the first few days. The figures mount to sickening proportions, until they reach a total of more than half a million that have perished.

### PRESENT CONDITIONS

IN THE early months of 1916, America was shocked by the widely published statement that the Armenians were living upon grass. Later reports say that the grass is now dried up. "The people kill and eat the street dogs. They fight for the clotted blood of killed animals; they gnaw the bones which they find on the dung hills; they look for grains of oats in horse-dung, to eat them. They eat the flesh of fallen animals and men."

The suffering of the Syrians in the Lebanon region and in portions of Palestine, where many have taken refuge, has been, and still is, unimaginably great. It is the story of Armenia over again, but the population affected is larger.

The Syrians in America are responding nobly to the cry of their brothers. These American Syrians have sent nearly one million dollars for relief out of their comparative poverty. They are entering into the suffering of their Asiatic relatives by observing fast days, and are sending to Syria the resulting savings.



Bodies of victims

## THE AWFUL FACTS

[Based upon best available information]

Armenian population of Turkey, Persia and Syria before the European war .....	2,000,000
Massacred or died of wounds, disease, or exhaustion, about .....	850,000
Total Syrian population in Syria, Palestine, Persia and in "The Levant" generally, many of them in a destitute and starving condition, over .....	3,000,000
Syrians who have perished, over .....	100,000
Amount of money needed to rehabilitate the destitute and starving .....	\$5,000,000

One Syrian, a writer and a man of rare culture, recently fasted two days, and during the fast period collected \$300 relief money from his own people.

Former Ambassador

Henry Morgenthau and others competent to judge say that \$5,000,000 is needed at once to furnish food, clothing and shelter.

One dollar will keep one person alive one month or longer.

Twenty-five dollars will enable an Armenian family to be established in comparative comfort.

Until the war ends thousands must be fed. After the war multitudes must be given assistance in re-establishing their homes, stocking their farms and



Left by the roadside



Group of Armenian Refugees

securing implements and seed for their fields.

## DO WE HEAR THE CRY?

These are times that try men's souls. A pall of horror hangs over the world. The sympathies and emotions of men are in danger of exhaustion through over-strain. The safety for heart and conscience and will is to yield to the benevolent impulses and pour out relief for the suffering and needy. America is comfortable and rich. In contrast with the peace and quiet which are ours let us think of the terror and the strife in Armenia. We have safe homes and the sweet comforts of the undisturbed comradeship of those we love. Their homes are in ruins; they are in lonely exile, and in place of family comfort there are only ruined or confiscated houses, starving bodies, stunned minds, shattered nerves, bruised hearts. With loneliness and pain and terror and uncertainty and hunger and cruelty

and hate they keep constant vigil. The moan of a race moves out across the heart of a stricken world.

## WHAT SHALL BE OUR RESPONSE?

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE for Armenian and Syrian Relief was organized to meet this appalling need. Members of the Committee pay the expense of the Committee's work, thus making it possible to cable every dollar given for relief.

A recent cablegram from Constantinople to the State Department at Washington gives assurance of the consent of the Turkish government for the distribution of money, food and other supplies in Syria.

Strong commissions, headed by American consuls and missionaries, are administering the funds from forty-four centers.

Some are giving generously out of their abundance. Others are giving with sacrifice out of their meager income. A laboring man enclosing a savings bank check wrote, "I am out of work and have no income, but I at least have my health and relatives and loved ones." The following is an extract from a typical letter

received by the Committee from a minister and his wife:

"Though financially limited ourselves, receiving a salary of but \$80 per month as pastor of churches, we have decided to give one half of this amount monthly for six months to relieve Armenian suffering and destitution, desiring the consolation only of Him who centuries ago in those lands said: 'I was hungry and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison and ye came unto me.'"

We hold in our hands that which can give safety, satisfy hunger, drive away despair, provide shelter and cause the forsaken and battle-trampled fields to blossom into harvests.

### Can we, dare we, withhold the help we can give?

All contributions should be forwarded to Charles R. Crane, Treasurer, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

### CABLEGRAMS JUST RECEIVED

From Tabriz, November 20, 1916, the day previous to our remittance: "RELIEF FUNDS FINISHED MONTHS AGO. DISTRESS GREAT."

—VANNEMAN.

November 21, 1916, from another distribution center, as follows: "EXISTING RELIEF WORK IN CHARGE AMERICANS NOW REACHES OVER FIFTY LOCALITIES. ALLOTMENTS MUST BE INCREASED AT THIS SEASON. REQUESTS FROM AMERICANS TOTAL \$100,000 PER MONTH. MORE FUNDS NEEDED NOW."

A third, reaching New York November 21st, through the State Department, dated November 17th, from the American Consulate in Tiflis, contains the following message from the Committee for Relief at Erivan.

"After year of hiding in caves, hunted like wild animals, thousands of new refugees coming from Turkey. They are fed by Russian Government, but destitute of bedding and clothing. Great suffering from severe climate. After personal investigation by our committee urge appropriation hundred thousand dollars for bedding for fifteen thousand new refugees. Thousands of women with children to support in distress and hopeless. Our committee now employing one thousand women in Erivan in industrial work. As many more turned away in despair. Opening new center in Alexandropol. Strongly urge appropriation two hundred thousand dollars to employ seven thousand women six months at one dollar per week. Moral as well as physical results already very apparent."—RAYNOLDS, YARROW, MAYNARD.

From Beirut, the Syrian port to which we are sending the U. S. S. Navy collier, as American Christmas ship, the following recent cable expresses the gratitude of the beneficiaries on the field:

"Remittance is most opportune. Please advise all those who are responsible of the great value of their contributions which will preserve for future usefulness many who otherwise could not have been kept."



Orphaned Children at Breakfast

## American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief 70 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Including Work of the Armenian Relief, the Persian War Relief, and the Syrian-Palestine Relief Committees

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The Committee urges immediate attention to this pressing need, and asks that contributions be sent to

CHAS. R. CRANE, Treasurer,  
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