

# THEY SUFFER.

## A Native Armenian Tells the Trials of His Race.

M. Garolan, No. in St. Louis, Ex'ed By 'J. Suits's Edict.

**SAYS HIS PEOPLE ARE TORTURED TO KEEP THEM IN SUBJUDG.**

**For an Armenian to Carry a Weapon of Any Kind Means Death Here; Found Out—Arrested Because He Attended a Christian Church—Banished Without Trial.**

The recent brutalities to which the Armenians have been subjected by the Turkish soldiery in Asia have sent a thrill of horror through all civilized countries and have awakened popular sentiment in Europe and America to demand some redress at the hands of the Sultan of Turkey and more future liberation toward the unfortunate Christians who for years past have been objects of insult, scorn and torture at the hands of their barbarous conquerors.

Living in St. Louis there is one man who for his religious and political belief has undergone to some extent the treatment described as meted out to his fellow-countrymen in Asia. In broken English he tells a graphic story of the condition of his compatriots at home and which he himself for a time endured.

T. M. Garolan is an Armenian who was several times imprisoned and finally banished from his native country, upon no better grounds than because he sympathized with his countrymen in distress and sought by legitimate means, and not by conspiracy of blood, to annihilate their oppressors. He is proprietor of a tailoring establishment at the North Fourteenth street. His story was told with an intensity and animation which, like no other, is a revelation of his kind.

### BANISHED FROM HOME.

"I am a native of Van, Turkey, Asia," he said, "and am 29 years old. I came to this country six years ago, having been banished from Armenia without trial or examination of any kind. Had I not consented to leave, I should have suffered imprisonment for life—no more and no less in fact. It was only through the intervention of wealthy relatives that the option of banishment was offered me.

"I brought me one son about Van, my native town, and he learned to speak Armenian. It was a population of some 7500 Armenians and about 50000 Turks. The Turks are entirely in control and they are afraid to stir the town, while the Armenians dare not carry a pistol as a protection, and for them to be found with any sort of deadly weapon in the possession would be equivalent to a death sentence. You see, any uprising on the part of the Armenians is impossible for lack of means and also they in such backward regard the brutality of their masters, who would not hesitate to murder them.

"My first political experience began when I was twelve, 12 years old, and was a year then Van had had as head man (an official having, really, something similar to an American Mayor or Alderman) about 25 years old, and very highly respected. The man was opposed by the Governor, the Sultan's representative in that district, and his banishment. This Governor also closed all schools and prohibited the printing of all newspapers. The only newspaper allowed to be sold was one published by the Government, printed and printed away.

"One day as I was going home from school, carrying some notes of grammar exercises, I was arrested and thrown into jail, where I was kept for five days while the Governor's agents searched for some ammunition that my professor had procured revolutionarily. I was arrested by my brother, who was a large dry goods merchant, upon condition that I made no speeches or took part in no meetings, and that I was to be quiet and brother had influence. After my banishment I was arrested at the same time was hung in chains.

"A year afterwards we tried to elect a head man for our town and a petition was also gotten up while the Sultan to change our districts to the Sultan, but as no long signatures to the petition, I again secured my release after a short imprisonment on my brother's intervention.

### IMPRISONED FOR LIFE.

"Again in 88 some eighteen of us were raised while holding an innocent meeting. Some sixty-five persons in all were arrested on the claim that this meeting was a conspiracy. Ten of us, including myself, were sentenced to imprisonment for life. My five to imprisonment for from ten to fifteen years and the rest for from three to five years. If anyone should have been a Christian, yet had I not been fortunate enough to secure a pardon, it was utterly granted on the occasion of the Sultan's birthday. I had then been imprisoned for nearly two years, and, although in jail, in spite of my Christian faith, I was released on condition that I prayed for the long life of the Sultan.

"My next arrest was for no other reason than that I attended a Christian Church. I was taken from my cell to the city hall and thrown into a cell and kept there for days without examination. Still without trial, a sentence of banishment to Turkey proper was received in my case. Again my father came to my rescue and secured my taking an oath of fidelity to the Sultan. I was allowed to emigrate to the United States.

"Mr. Garolan had written a letter to his brother shortly before the reporter called. This he was obliged to follow in an envelope addressed to Rev. J. J. Peterson, St. Louis, an American minister at Van, and who delivered it to his brother. Notwithstanding the fact that the letter contained only references to family matters it would not be allowed to the press addressed unless the letter was signed as follows: 'Mr. Garolan refused to give his brother's name, as he said that should the authorities in St. Louis learn through in any way his immediate relatives would probably be imprisoned, harmed or tortured.'

Clipped By:



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