

the ARMENIAN *Review*

ON THE
ENGLISH
TRANSLATION
OF WERFEL'S
"MUSA DAGH"

POETRY
SHORT STORIES
ARTICLES OF
LASTING INTEREST

VOL. XVI, NO. 3 - 63
AUTUMN, SEPTEMBER, 1963

THE ARMENIAN REVIEW

VOLUME XVI, No. 3-63 (Autumn, 1963)



men and our soldiers are called to the colors, they must find refuge in the new front Georgia and Azerbaijan. We beg you to help us so that the Caucasian boundary disputes are settled as soon as possible. The future and the peace of our country wholly depend upon this. We beg you to settle this problem, perhaps through arbitration."

"You are right," replied Curzon. "We know all that. Arbitration is useless. It appeared as that some one perhaps was ready. We have decided, when the treaty with Turkey is signed, to send several commissioners which shall settle the boundaries of the three states. I am compelled, how-

ever, to observe that your people, especially the Dashnak Party, of which I think you, Mr. Aharonian, are a member—it is they who have given frequent cause for the break of the peace. Your three chiefs, Dro, Hamazasp and Kulkhandanian are the ringleaders of the bands which have destroyed Tartar villages and have staged massacres in Zangezour, Surmalu, Etchmiadzin, and Zangibasar. This is intolerable. Look—and here he pointed to a file of official documents on the table—look at this, here in December are the reports of the last few months concerning ruined Tartar villages which my representative Wardrop has sent me. The official Tartar communique speaks of the destruction of 300 villages. This may do great harm to your cause."

Curzon said all this heatedly and almost with agitation.

"Mr. Secretary—I will never approach a law-suit and the consular. Pardon me, but I offer the necessary explanation. I do not consider it my right to dispute the evidence which has convinced your government since there are the reports of Mr. Wardrop. But I will say this that Mr. Wardrop has been the victim of a deplorable misunderstanding. To be sure, there

are depopulated Tartar villages in the regions you have mentioned but that does not mean that it was the Armenians who destroyed them. You of course are familiar with the story of Zangezour. The Tartars are trying to arrange that permission and our people are trying to reject them. There is constant fighting. It is no wonder, therefore, that many Tartar villages are being depopulated by the fight of the natives, and on the other hand, equally as many and perhaps even more Armenian villages are being destroyed often by mistake. You know the developments in Karabagh, the destruction of Armenian villages by soldiers. Heredia is my headquarters and Etkemadzin is right next to it. I know both very clearly. True, there are depopulated Tartar villages there but that too has its real story which at all events is not to the detriment of the good reputation of the Armenians. When in 1918, after the soldiers and desperate remnants of the Armenians, the Turks succeeded in occupying these provinces, the local Tartars everywhere supported Armenian movements with the Turks. The remnants of the Armenians fled to Erzerum. With the victory of the Allies and their entry into Caucasus, the Turks evacuated our provinces and the Armenian remnants again returned to their homes.

"The Tartars and the Kurds tried to stop this return and finally were forced to flee into Azerbaijan. This was the way the Tartar villages of Heredia were evacuated. The same thing happened in the province of Etkemadzin. On the other hand, the Tartar communities in our country constantly took part in revolts and plotting against the native authorities at the instigation of the Azerbaijan Government. And each time the Azerbaijan troops invaded Zangezour, these villages asked the invaders. In the general confusion, it was natural that many villages were lost or