

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF BLEEDING ARMENIA

Ararat The Hub of The Coun- try Despoiled By The Un- speakable Turk.

(Davenport Democrat.)

If you have been a little vague in your geographical conception of where it is that the Armenians are being massacred, you will recognize the place at once when we say that it is aroused old Mt. Ararat, where Noah landed with the ark.

Ararat is the hub of Armenia, the National Geographical Society tells us. It is the center of what has always been one of the earth's most troubled areas. It is one of the most impressive of the earth's mountains, for it rises sheer to the clouds out of an immense plain, with no neighboring peaks to soften its isolation and to take from it majesty. A mighty Mt. Everest is set well within a massive sky-touching range of mountains; Mt. Blanc is merely one of several imposing fellows, but Ararat stands up, with only a background of sky and plain and a frame of little mountains, a splendid thing without a peer. The dominant mountain is split into two peaks, Great Ararat rises to a height of 17,000 feet above the level of the sea.

A vast wealth of legend surrounds the mountain, which has always deeply impressed the imaginations of the people who have wandered past

the mountain, which has always deeply impressed the imaginations of the people who have wandered past or settle beneath it. The Armenian priests long believed that the wonderful mysteries of its summit might never be surveyed by human eyes and all thought of scaling Ararat was considered almost in the light of sacrilege. The Armenians also have held that they are the first people after the flood, the immediate descendants of Noah, so to speak, for the first village that Noah founded after abandoning the ark was Nakhichevan. So the Armenian thinks that his people were the first race of men to grow up in the world after the flood.

The name Ararat means "high." The Persian name for the mountain, Koh-i-Nuh, means "Noah's Mountain." It has been determined by the natives that the Garden of Eden was placed in the valley of the Araxes, a valley which at the present time enjoys blessings that go far toward strengthening its wonderful claim. Noah's wife was buried in this valley near the mountain, and grapes are still grown there, whose vines are said to be the direct descendants of vines planted by Noah.

The war, which is no respecter of traditions, or religions, or nations, is laying its bloody hand on Armenia, around Mount Ararat, just as it has laid it upon a dozen countries, some others of which are involuntary participants in the struggle.