

We walked through the length of the main market to the Armenian Gregorian Church at the southern end of the city known as the "Karasoun Mangantz." The church was burnt to the ground and we saw here and there charred bodies. We then proceeded westward towards another Gregorian Church known as "Sourp Asdvatzatzin" (St. Mary's) which was also burned. Two of the outer walls of this church were contiguous with adobe and frame houses with flat roofs. Many homes in this district constituted a conglomerate of homes in that houses were stuck together. These homes were inhabited entirely by Armenians. All those homes were burned by Turks who had thrown in flaming rags soaked in kerosene. The inhabitants of these homes must have flocked into the adjoining church to better protect themselves. The conflagration must have reached the church and set it aflame.

We entered St. Mary's Church and felt sick. The stench of partly charred naked bodies was a nauseating and despicable sight. Naked corpses were everywhere but hundreds were piled at the altar where evidently many had fallen on top of another. As none of the men or women had rings on their fingers or jewelry of any kind, it was more likely that marauding Turks had come in, robbed the corpses of jewelry and money and piled them one on top of another at the altar.

From St. Mary's we went to the Second Armenian Protestant Church which was also burned. We then walked towards the "Seray," the government building which was intact and we did not enter in. From thence we came to the Third Armenian Protestant Church which was also burnt and returned to the American Mission Compound having concluded a circular tour of the city.