

## MISSIONARIES ABANDON VAN

Forced to Leave Results of  
Seventy Years' Work  
in Armenia.

Party of Sixteen Pass  
Through Petrograd on  
Way to Norway.

Petrograd, Sept. 18, via London.—Dr. Clarence D. Ussher, Mr. and Mrs. Yarrow and thirteen other persons, comprising the missionary staff at Van, Turkish Armenia, passed through Petrograd yesterday on their way to Bergen, Norway, having had to abandon to pillage and flame the result of seventy years' work at Van.

Aged, but dauntless, Mrs. Reynolds, broke her leg in the hurried flight from Van and died at Tiflis two days before her husband reached there from America. Mrs. Ussher died of typhus fever shortly before the flight. Dr. Ussher was attacked the same day his wife was stricken. He is still scarcely able to walk although he has recovered from the disease.

### Scourged by Disease.

The entire party suffered great hardships on the road. Already weakened through the long nursing of thousands of refugees, virtually all the members of the party were scourged by disease and were forced to halt at Tiflis. There, fortunately, the board of missions had a fund deposited with the American consul. Dr. William A. Shedd, head of the Urumiah mission, and Mrs. Laboré, the wife of one of the missionaries at Urumiah, and several other missionaries, are here, homeward bound.

Dr. Shedd lost his wife and two oth-

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er women of the Urumiah station died of disease, due to overwork in caring for 20,000 refugees.

As an indication of the spirit of American missionaries, another body of them left here last night for Persia after having bidden farewell to Dr. Shedd's party.

### Spared Massacre.

The Urumiah missionaries report that the city was spared a massacre on the occasion of the second flight of people from it. The Kurdish tribes are said now to be disposed to submit to Russia.

Van is again in the hands of the Russians, who are declared to have found the canals and trenches choked with untold thousands of bodies of Armenians who had been unable to escape and were killed.

It is stated that in addition to the mission compound, all the better buildings in the city were destroyed, including the home of the governor and the headquarters of the Armenian government. The massacre was directed by Jevdet Bey, who had burned the compound before retiring from the first siege of Van in the early summer. When Jevdet returned he took terrible vengeance for the raising of the siege by the Armenian volunteers.

Dr. Ussher in a cable dispatch to the American board of commissioners for foreign missions, received in Boston June 11 said the Americans of the Van mission were safe, but that they were in need of assistance. He reported that the Mohammedans were starving but said that there were about 1,000 persons in the American buildings to whom assistance could be given.