

a tall black-haired brother of interesting appearance. With great eagerness he drew my attention to a photograph of three cash-boxes broken open by force, which evidently was intended to produce a sensation; and he added the following explanation, for the truth of which I will not vouch. In the year 1903 the governor-general of the Caucasus demanded that the treasures of Echmiadzin, amounting to nearly half a million roubles, should be sent to Tiflis to be in future administered by the Russian authorities. There was no intention of robbing the monastery of its ready money, for the revenue of the capital was to be placed at the disposal of the monks as they required it. But the monks and archimandrites refused to consent to such a proceeding and to give up the keys of the money-chests. Then the governor-general caused them to be forcibly broken open and the treasure to be sent to Tiflis, an action which excited the strongest ill-feeling throughout Armenia, and was in great measure the cause of the numerous assaults made by Armenians on Russian officials during the two preceding years. The new governor-general has restored the treasure, and thus pacified the Armenians.

Outside the principal church stands a fine memorial in marble, erected over the grave of a Sir — Macdonald, who died in Tabriz in 1830. Echmiadzin was captured in 1827 by Paskevich, during the war with Persia, and has remained in Russian hands since the peace of Turkman-chai in 1828.

But time had quickly slipped by, and I did not wish to miss the train which runs only three times a week to Nakichevan, so I had to take a hasty farewell of the friendly monks and leave the ancient cloister, with which I was much disappointed; and I drove back the way I had come, reaching the station an hour before the train was timed to depart. That was enough, I supposed, to get ready my baggage and take my ticket, but there was no one in the station-house but the telegraph clerk and the buffet attendant; the stationmaster came sauntering leisurely up at the last moment, and declared with astounding arrogance that it was too late to get ready such a large