

examined the dreary room, where the bare walls were adorned only with some common, uninteresting photographs of groups of Russian officers, and I looked round till my eyes were suddenly arrested by a large book which lay open in the middle of the writing-table ; it was a Bible, and in Swedish !

When the colonel returned a little later I asked him in Swedish whether he was accustomed to read the old book, and he answered with a Finnish accent that it was his only company, and that he had never needed it so much as now, amidst all the unrest and uncertainty that surrounded him on all sides.

Colonel Enckel, who has spent six years in Nakichevan, is a bachelor, a quiet and very amiable gentleman, and he asked me at once to move over to his house. He sent some troopers to the station to fetch my heavy luggage, and after we had dined together he entertained me till one o'clock in the morning with accounts of the bloody days that had lately convulsed his district. This time is now long past, and probably peace is restored in Nakichevan ; and though the events are in themselves of merely ephemeral interest, yet they may serve to throw a faint light on the conditions under which men of different races live together in Caucasia.

In the whole province of Nakichevan, in this year 1905, more than 200 murders were committed. The disturbances commenced in the Tatar village, Ikran, where Armenians fell upon and slew forty Tatars—men, women, and children. Two days later, May 6, the infection spread to Nakichevan ; some Armenians shot down a Tatar as he was reciting his evening prayer in the open air, and the Tatars, exasperated at this treacherous deed, killed an Armenian in requital. It was hoped that the so-called Christians and Mohammedans would consider that they were quits ; but the blood-feud spread in other directions, and three days later Armenians shot down some Tatars who were on their way to the town from an outlying village. To restore peace, it was said, and to stem the upheaval before it had taken too firm a hold, the Vice-Governor of Erivan betook himself to Nakichevan, and on the morning