

**THE RED RUGS OF TARSUS;  
A WOMEN'S RECORD OF  
THE ARMENIAN  
MASSACRE OF 1909**

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The red rugs of Tarsus; a women's record of the Armenian massacre of 1909 by Helen  
Davenport Gibbons

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**HELEN DAVENPORT GIBBONS**

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# THE RED RUGS OF TARSUS

A WOMAN'S RECORD OF THE  
ARMENIAN MASSACRE OF 1909

BY  
HELEN DAVENPORT GIBBONS



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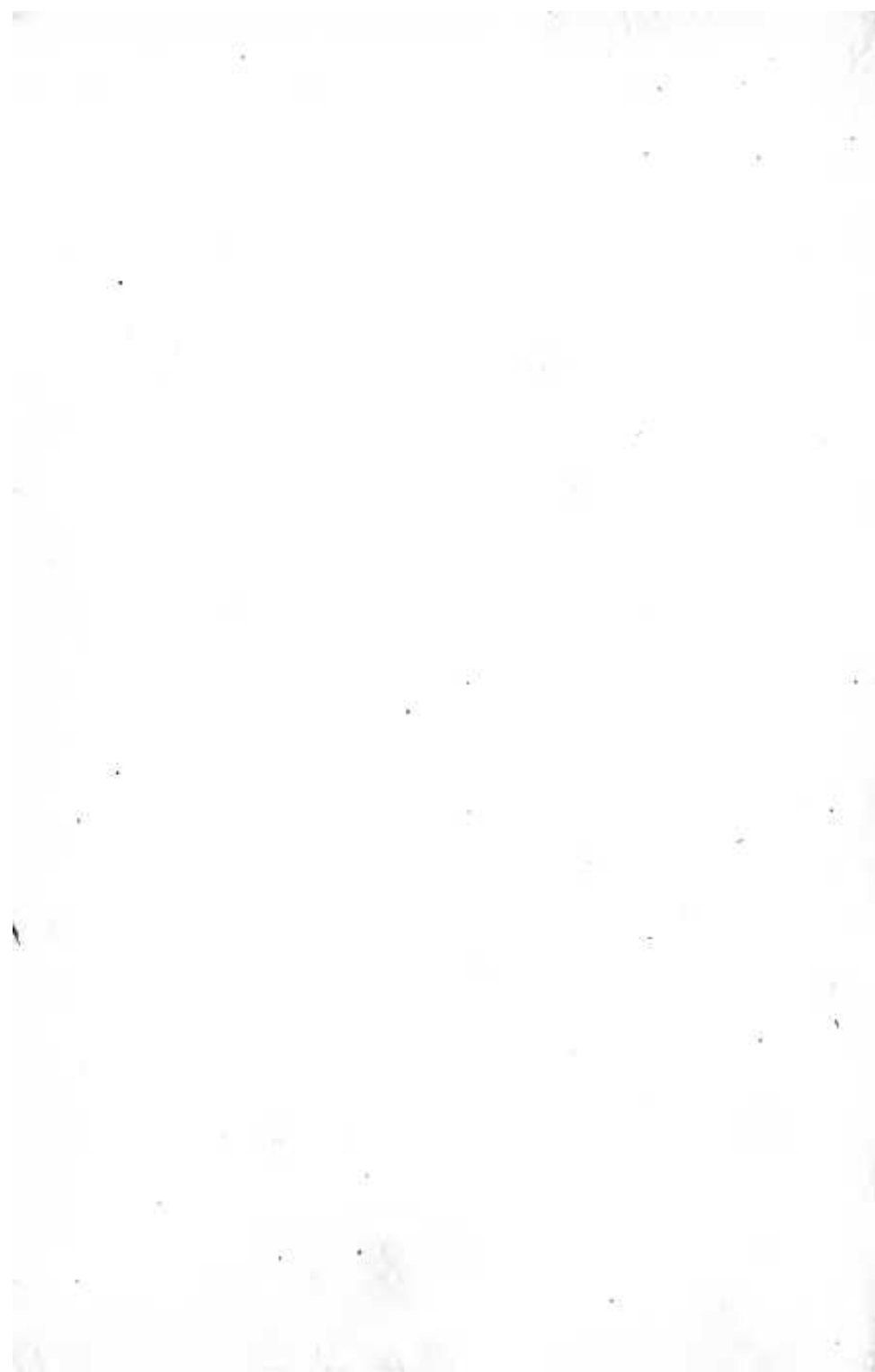
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*Published, April, 1917*

TO  
The Memory of  
C. H. M. DOUGHTY-WYLIE, V.C.  
"THE MAJOR" OF THIS BOOK  
Who was killed in action leading a  
charge on Gallipoli Peninsula,  
April 29, 1915

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## PREFACE

When I was a Freshman at Bryn Mawr I decided I should "write something." My girlhood was uneventful and joyous—the girlhood of the lucky American who has a wholesome good time. I knew I must wait for experience. I was too sensitive about my youth to expose what I was thinking, for fear "they" would know I was not grown up.

The experiences I was looking for came. They were so painful that seven years passed before I put pen to paper. To-day, after the lapse of years, I am not sure that my perspective is good. In looking back upon those six weeks in Adana Province between April thirteenth and the end of May, nineteen-nine, they seem longer than all the rest of my life.

The thought of publishing I rejected and rejected again. I avoided dwelling on that time

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the way one puts off going back to a house one has not entered since a loved one died. To this day we have lived up to an agreement made back in those days, and my husband and I have never told each other the worst we know about the atrocities committed by the Turks.

But recent events in Armenia brought it all back again. My indignation, and a sense of duty and of pity, transcended all personal feelings. I lived again that night in Tarsus, when we—seven defenseless women, our one foreign man a brave young Swiss teacher of French, and 4,800 Armenians waited our turn at the hands of the Kurds.

Massacres had begun again, a thousand times worse than before. Other American women were in the same untold peril that I had been. The whole Armenian people were marked for extermination. Now, as then, help had to come. But from where? What could I do? I could not go out there. I had my four babies. I had four hundred and fifty French