

Sivas, December 20, 1916.*

Miss Mary Graffam:

You doubtless know that many families from various places have been in this vilayet since many months and at this day have not even their daily bread to eat. Many thousands of families have been coming from Tireboli (Black Sea Coast) during the last few days. I saw them with my own eyes, as they were coming like flocks of sheep on the high mountains amid the rains and snows. I reckon that with the refugees from Baiboort, Ordoo and other places, counting in those from Tireboli, the number of these unfortunate Christians will amount to 20,000 souls in fifteen days. The poor people have been compelled in the heart of winter to abandon their towns in a miserable condition, poor, hungry, sick, old, girls, small children needing protection to save their lives from starvation, after escaping death on the way from cold and exposure.

I therefore apply to your kindly sentiments, and beg that you should write to Mr. W. W. Peet in Constantinople who has done so much good to this country, and ask him to send you a considerable sum of money for monthly distribution among these destitute and unfortunate people.

Thanking you in advance, and praying that God may return you the goodness a hundred fold, I am

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) Germanes, Bishop of Amasia

* Source: LC/HM(Sr.)/Reel 22/568