



**MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF THE WORK AND THOUGHT
OF ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE**

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Film-making and the Genocide

Armenian Massacres Visualised. Notable Gathering Witness Auction of Souls. Lord Gladstone and Lord Bryce at a Private View, in «The Bioscope» (London), November 6, 1919, p. 18. Arnold Toynbee is listed by the «Bioscope» among the «large and distinguished audience composed of those who are particularly interested in the sufferings of Armenia under Turkish mis-rule» (see note below).

Parts of the film can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3oZiTTubjw&t=4s>

NOTE

«On Wednesday, 20th October, the General Film Renting Company, Limited, gave a private view of Colonel W.N. Selig's great production *Auction of Souls* founded on the book *Ravished Armenia*, by H.G.Gates, which was attended by the Viscount Gladstone, the Viscount Bryce, and a large and distinguished audience composed of those who are particularly interested in the sufferings of Armenia under Turkish mis-rule. At a luncheon given at Pagani's Restaurant immediately before the screening of the film, with Lord Gladstone in the Chair, Viscount Bryce made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the greatly distressed population of Armenia, whose sufferings under Turkish tyranny, which roused the passionate denunciation of Mr. W.E. Gladstone, have been greatly increased by the connivance and encouragement of the German Government. Terrible as is the indictment of this remarkable film, Lord Bryce assures us that it falls far short of the truth. The details verified by the Bryce Commission, and contained in its report are such as could not possibly be shown on the screen, but in Colonel Selig's masterly production sufficient is conveyed by suggestion to arouse the pity and sympathy of all Christian people, and to make it clear that it should never again be possible for any Christian nation to be placed under the domination of the Turk.

Auction of Souls is a film rendering of the actual experiences of an Armenian girl, Aurora Mardiganian, who escaped from the Turks, and reached America. She has been induced to re-enact some of her terrible experiences in order to bring the sufferings of her nation home to the world at large.

The film was subsequently shown at the Queen's Hall where, under the auspices of George H. Mortimer, Lionel Grant, and G. Damer Vaughan, the picture was admirably projected, its general effect receiving enormous assistance from the magnificent Queen's Hall orchestra».