



The Greek and Latin Churches, and the Holy Places.

The Greek Church is the established church of Russia. The Latin Church is the church of the Pope. The Emperor of Russia has lately been quarrelling with Turkey, and marching his soldiers towards the territory of the Turks, under the pretence of defending the faith of his national church. This proceeding of this great northern emperor has for some time been making not a few tremble for the peace of Europe. What cause do the Russians assign for thus threatening war? The answer to this question brings up many sad thoughts as to the condition of the world, towards Him who is "King of kings, and Lord of lords." In the first place, the *holy places*, as they are called, are in the Turkish empire. Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and every spot of ground on which the foot of Jesus trod when he was upon earth, is in the possession of infidels. The holy sepulchre at Jerusalem, for example, is as much

in the empire of Turkey, as Glasgow or Edinburgh is in the kingdom of Britain. We might give long narrations of the way in which, centuries ago, Christian soldiers (so called) from all parts of Europe, marched to Syria to take by arms from the Saracens the holy sepulchre—that is, the spot where it is alleged Christ's body lay between the crucifixion and the resurrection. Rivers of blood were shed in this foolish and most unchristian project. The fact remains, that a Mohammedan mosque stands at this moment on the very site of Solomon's temple, and the places of the Messiah's birth and burial are still in the hands of infidels.

Yet, under certain regulations, Christians are permitted to visit the holy places. The Greek church, though it is less corrupt in its creed, and permits the reading of the Scriptures, is nearly as much sunk in superstition as the church of Rome; and many of the ignorant adherents of both these churches repair to Jerusalem from different parts