

Which is which?

"An Old Traveller" in the East writes, in regard to the rival claims of the Greek and Roman Churches, as to the actual sites of the sacred scenes in the history of our Lord:—

"The contests between the Greeks and Latins in the Holy Land, as to the sacred places, are a source of regret and humiliation to the simple Christian. The influence and gain sought to be obtained by these religionists upon the pious superstition of their followers, are most prominent throughout Palestine, and dishonoring to Christianity. At Jerusalem, upon descending from the St. Stephen's gate and crossing the Kedron, the traveller finds, near the foot of the Mount of Olives, two enclosures close to each other, belonging to the Franciscan monks and Greek priests. In each is a garden and a chapel, on the very spot, as you are told, where the Saviour endured the bitter agony of Gethsemane. In each chapel is an altar, and if the pious pilgrim recites certain prayers in it, he will receive the remission due to his religious service on the very spot where our Lord knelt and prayed. But which of the two is the very spot? Again, at Nazareth there is a fine Greek Church, near the out-skirt of the village, belonging to the Greek community. On the right hand side of the altar, a flight of steps leads from the side aisle down to an underground chapel, where, the priests say, the Annunciation occurred! There is the altar and a marble slab covering the spot, with a cross in the centre to indicate the precise place, and there are lights and pictures hanging all about, like a baby show; and here many pilgrims come to kneel and pray and present their offerings, with the assurance that, for this, they insure the remission of their sins. About a quarter of a mile off is the handsome church of the Roman Catholics, resembling, in its arrangements and decorations, that of the Greeks, particularly in the subterranean chapel, approached by a flight of steps, and like it in the altar and marble slab with the cross, but with numerous statues, not allowed in the Greek ritual; and this the Romanists profess to be the very scene of the Annunciation, and

prayers at which entitle the worshipper to so many years' remission of purgatorial suffering! Both cannot be true, probably neither. But apparently the Greek can claim for their church and chapel the greater antiquity, the likelier possibility."

ROME, May 24th, 1873.—His Holiness the Pope contemplates anathematizing the members of the Italian Cabinet, and all other parties engaged in secularizing monasteries.

The poor Pope's anathemas amount to nothing now. Like the toothless old giant, he may mutter his curses, but his bite is gone. Who cares for his curses, since he has lost his power to strike?

NORTH WEST INDIA.—A Mohamadan University is in progress of establishment in this region. £150,000 is now being raised for it by subscriptions all over India.

JAPAN.—A wondrous revolution is taking place in this land, and progress seems to be the order of the day. Among forward movements that have been inaugurated, the latest is the proposal to establish a daily paper in Yeddo, the capital.

CHINA.—It is a rare thing for Chinese women to be able to read, and hence female schools are much needed. They spend their time in smoking, gambling, embroidering, visiting, and gossiping. Much depends upon their education and evangelization, for, through their influence mainly, idolatry is perpetuated. Were they converted, it would soon cease.

THE SANTHALS.—A good work has, for some time, been making progress among this people. Upwards of 220 were baptized last year, and seven villages have wholly or partly received the Gospel. Every convert is reported as self-supporting, a deeply significant fact.

KIUKIANGFU.—A Mission Chapel has lately been opened in Kiukiangfu, China. The daily services are crowded, and the gospel is proclaimed to large numbers amidst much opposition and difficulty. Two men have professed their faith by baptism.