

a school, a factory, a railway line, would not be complete without a religious ceremony. Even a common dwelling-place would not be occupied before it has been sanctified by the blessing, the cross and the holy water. And it is not a mere form. Here is the judgment of an English writer who has well studied Russian life:

“Granting all their superstition, conceding their ignorance, giving full credit to every unfortunate phase which the Christian religion takes among these peculiar people, he who travels the Empire from end to end, with eyes to see and ears to hear, cannot but admit that here is a power in human affairs, blind it may be, cruel oftentimes no doubt, but still reverent, devotional, and fairly saturated with a faith so deep that it is instinctive, and the likeness of which may not be met in all the earth.”

THE CHURCH IN RUSSIA.

The Russians belong to the Russian Orthodox Church, which is a branch of the Greek Church. Until the thirteenth century all the priests in Russia were Greeks. Then followed the rule of Russian patriarchs, whose authority was equal, in some respects superior, to that of the Tsars. But Peter the Great, jealous of the sway of the patriarchs, abolished that office and substituted the Holy Synod.

The Synod is constituted of the three