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THE GREEK CHURCH AND THE GOSPEL.

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How few of us realize what is really embraced by the title "The Greek Church"! In using it we speak of a religious organization submitted to by more millions than Romanism and Protestantism can muster together; we speak of a church named by the name of Christ, and styling itself the only orthodox, by the side of which the Pope of Rome is an arch-Protestant;\* we speak of a despotism unsurpassed under the Inquisition, and of a heathen darkness great as that of the most vaunted stronghold of idolatry.

To most of us the Church of Rome is the embodiment of evil in the Christian fold—the only Babylon. Day by day we have before our very eyes her human teachings and her superstitious practices, while we are also enabled from our own experience to gather some idea of her fruits. But of the workings of the Church of Greece we remain in comparative ignorance, and in consequent indifference. Yet the millions under its sway are unnumbered by man, and to every one of these it is as much our duty to preach the Gospel as to our brethren who sit in darkness by our side. Dean Stanley has aptly written of the Eastern Church: "That figure which seemed so imposing when it was the only one that met our view changes all its proportions when we see that it is overtopped by a vaster, loftier, darker figure behind." † He says that the study of it brings about "a two-edged disappointment," for that it is Catholic and Protestant at once, a strange anomaly, a living death. It was at one time the dream of this divine, as it had been of Melancthon and others before him, that an amalgamation might some day be effected between this Church and Protestantism—that "the Greek race may yet hand back from Europe to Asia the light which in former days it handed on from Asia to Europe;" but the indulgence in such a hope only showed the Dean's acquaintance with

\* He is indeed so styled by one writer of the Greek Church.

† "The Eastern Church," 1854 (p. 43), to which the writer is indebted for most of the comparisons of these opening paragraphs.