

the English and French diplomatists the question of the Holy Places was satisfactorily settled by the admission of Menschikoff himself. But meanwhile, this worthy representative of his rapacious master, endeavoured to alarm the Sultan into a secret treaty which, under penalty of Russian vengeance, was to be kept from the knowledge of the other European Powers. There were dignity and courage enough left in the bosom of the descendant of Solyman and Othman to reject the insulting proposal. Then it was that Menschikoff, with unheard-of insolence of speech, of manner, and of purpose, openly demanded a Convention to be entered into with Russia by the Sultan which should have the binding force of a solemn treaty. The object sought through such Convention was, to all intents and purposes, to make the Czar the virtual ruler of those Christian subjects of the Porte that belonged to the Greek communion—these in the European provinces of Turkey, are at least three-fourths of the population. Had this demand been complied with Turkey was lost. Consequent upon the Turkish refusal to commit national suicide, a powerful Russian army crossed the Pruth, and took military occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia, tributary dependencies of the Ottoman Porte. From these transactions arose the Eastern War.

Can charity itself believe that Russia was influenced in her demands, and in her subsequent proceedings by a pious regard for the sacred scenes of the Saviour's birth and burial; and by a generous sympathy towards her fellow religionists of the orthodox Greek rite? We have seen that for more than half a century, amid all the vicissitudes of rising and falling dynasties around her, Russia had pursued an unwavering course of aggrandizement, ---that Turkey, both in Asia and in Europe, had been bereft of some of her most valuable provinces.