

**ALETHEA: AT THE
PARTING OF THE
WAVES. VOL. I**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649224524

Alethea: at the parting of the waves. Vol. I by Cyril

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CYRIL

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Alethea:

AT THE PARTING OF THE WAYS.

BY

CYRIL.

VOL. I.

LONDON: BURNS & OATES, LIMITED.

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO: BENZIGER BROTHERS.

BURNS & OATES, LIMITED, PRINTERS, LONDON, W.

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ALETHEA.

CHAPTER I.

ST. SOPHIA—A SCENE ON EPIPHANY DAY,
A.D. 858.

EPIPHANY of the year 858 was a day of mixed emotions in the Christian city of Constantinople. The people of that ancient capital admired and loved the outward pomp of their religion, and they were in joyous mood on that morning, in view of a gorgeous function in St. Sophia; where the Patriarch Ignatius would celebrate the Liturgy, and the ruler of the Empire would attend in state.

The Eastern Celebration is different, in many particulars, from that of the West. Apart from its language, which is Greek, the prayers, outside the consecration form, are not the same as those in the Latin Liturgy; nor are the movements of the Greek priest the same as those of the Latin, while the doors of the Sanctuary remain closed during the greater part of the service.

The vestments used in the Eastern Celebration were, at that time, richer and more ornate than those of the West, and hence the appearance of the vested Oriental presbyter was singularly attractive. The churches of the East were warmer in colouring than those of the West, outside Italy, and of superior architecture; and if, from these