

**THE CZAR AND THE SULTAN;  
OR, NICHOLAS AND ABDUL  
MEDJID: THEIR PRIVATE  
LIVES AND PUBLIC ACTIONS**

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The czar and the sultan; or, Nicholas and Abdul Medjid: their private lives and public actions by  
Adrian Gilson & Francois Bouvet

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**ADRIAN GILSON & FRANCOIS BOUVET**

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# THE CZAR

AND

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OR,

NICHOLAS AND ABDUL MEDJID:

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BY ADRIAN GILSON.

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE.

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To satisfy the curiosity so vividly excited by the present aspect of affairs in the eastern extremities of Europe, I have been requested to write a double biographical notice on Nicholas the First and Abdul Medjid—the fact of my having resided for some period in the Danubian Principalities being considered to offer guarantees of novelty and truthfulness on the subject. The Moldo-Wallachian boyars—in the midst of whom I lived—are, in fact, admirably situated for ascertaining the truth between the two autocrats who dispute the privilege of protecting them. Their unfortunate country, invariably the victim of all the quarrels between the Turks and Russians, has as much to fear from their friends of the Pruth as from those of the Balkans. Consequently, all that takes place at St. Petersburg is discussed by them with no less interest than that which passes at Constantinople. If among them I have not learned any more than is already known by the public writ-

ers of France and England, I have at least been enabled to control the statements put into circulation by the press, and to strip them of the exaggerations of partisanship and calumny.

In this short work there will be found no trace of political bias. I have selected from the materials furnished by my memory and books all that has appeared to me characteristic, interesting, and true. When, on the same question, evidences have presented themselves for and against, I have impartially struck the balance. What will be found most to abound in these pages is anecdote.

With an historical contrast, instructive enough—or, at least, curious—I will conclude.

In 1850, I saw at Constantinople the new palace of the Russian embassy at Péra. I was greatly struck by the colossal proportions of this edifice—rebuilt after its destruction by fire in 1844. It seemed that I was looking on the material image of the absorbing power which the Czar\* has acquired in Turkey. It is in

\* Tzar, Tsar, or Czar (pronounced Tchar), is derived, according to some, from Cæsar; according to others, it is the same word as the termination of the names of the Assyrian emperors—*Nabopolas-sar*, *Phalas-sar*, &c. However it may be, the word formerly was used to designate the Emperor of Constantinople, the Grand Khan of the Golden Tribe—the sovereign Tartars of Keutcheck, of Kusan, &c. Peter