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THREE RUSSIAN PROPHETS

KHOMIAKOV

DOSTOEVSKY

SOLOVIEV

NICOLAS ZERNOV

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its centre was simply transferred to the north, to distant and hitherto undistinguished Moscow.

The Russians attached supreme importance to the preservation of a link of succession from Constantinople to Moscow, for it brought their new capital under the Biblical promises and blessings.

Thus the sacred centre of Christendom could be removed from Rome to Constantinople, when the former city succumbed to pride, and thence it was now transferred once more, this time to the north, to Moscow.

It made the Tsar of Moscow no mere local ruler, but an œcumical sovereign, the protector of all true Christians. These prophecies seemed to summon the Russian nation to the building of a great empire, and the liberation of the oppressed Orthodox of the East.

Thou art the one universal Sovereign of all Christian folk;

Russia stood now alone in a hostile world,

and revealed to her her new and awe-inspiring mission to be the guardian of Orthodox faith and worship till His Second Coming.