

The Romanian Orthodox Church, the Unionist Acts and the Great Powers (1856-1857)

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Abstract

The Romanian Orthodox Church had an essential role during the events of the years 1856-1857, especially through the Romanian hierarchs, priests and Christians from the two states. The two Metropolitans, the archimandrite Melchisedec Ștefănescu, the Scriban brothers or many priests and deacons were real sustainers of the Union. Best of the times, the sustaining of the national cause was reinforced by religious arguments. They said that the Union of all the Romanians „is a very dear will of God” and this „gives unity and direction to the national spirit”. The activity of the representatives of the Church was remarkable and because of this they tried to do all their best to avoid the pressures or even the blows of the opponents from the Principalities or from the rest of Europe.