FROM A TURKISH MANUSCRIPT, consisting of Travels to the Sacred Cities of Islam, by Adib ibn Muhammad Darvish. Undated, but probably late 18th Century. An excellent example of the work of the Turkish scribe, always neat, painstaking, but seldom brilliant. As a matter of fact, the Turks could not successfully compete with the Persians in the art of calligraphy, writing to them being largely a means to an end. The paper used in this manuscript appears to be European, but is sized and partially polished to meet the requirements of the scribe. The writing in red in the margins are annotations, and the red marks in the text denote places or proper names. The Turkish language belongs to the Ural-Altaic family, and has a close affinity to the numerous Tartar dialects spoken throughout Central Asia. It is also related, though more remotely, to Mongolian. Like Persian, however, it has adopted the Arabic alphabet, and if the recent decree of the Turkish government becomes effective, and the Roman alphabet supersedes the Arabic, the new written language will, in a sense, become doubly transliterated. Furthermore, owing to the sparsity of its original vocabulary, Turkish has absorbed innumerable words, particularly Arabic and Persian, but also Greek and Armenian. No better illustration of this could be given than in the printed leaf from a dictionary that we have added, in which Arabic and other words than Turkish far outnumber the Turkish words themselves. This printed dictionary bears the date 1841, and is presumably from a Constantinople or Smyrna press. It is printed on Italian paper from movable type, and shows such excellent presswork that one doubts if Turkish workmen had anything to do with it.