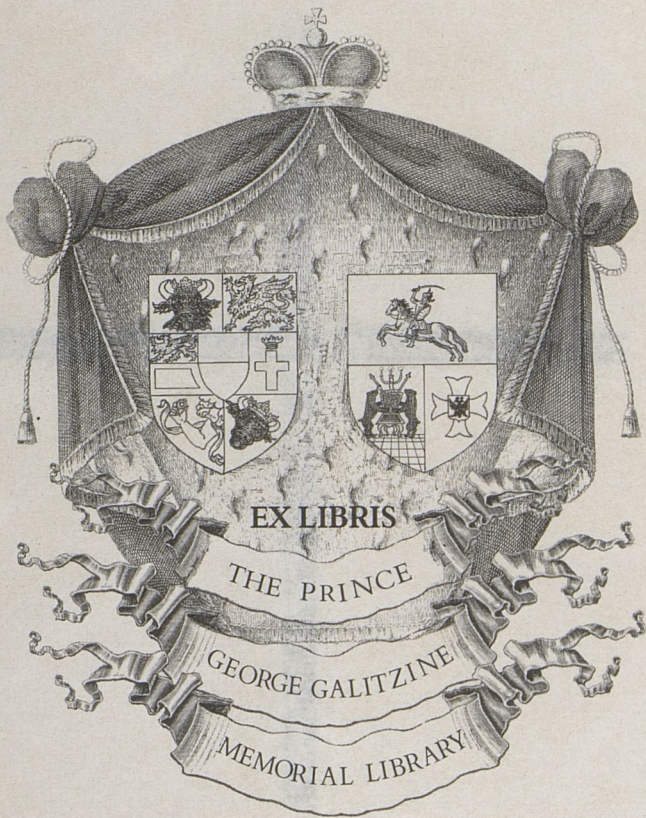


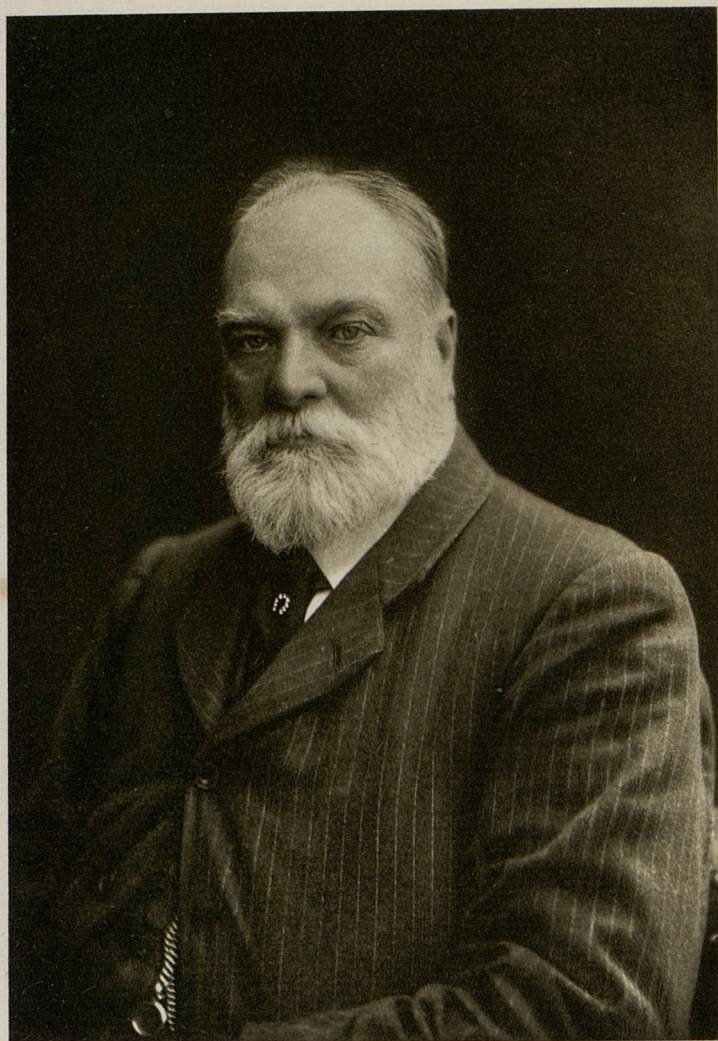
THIRTY-FIVE YEARS
IN RUSSIA

BY GEORGE HUME



17/660

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN RUSSIA



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN RUSSIA

BY
GEORGE HUME

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAP

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL,
HAMILTON, KENT & CO., LTD.

Copyright. First published 1914

LONDON: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO., LTD.

1076821

№ 21 304DB75F196000210001F2316

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION pp. xv-xxiii

CHAPTER I

EARLY LIFE

Parentage—Birth—Christening—St. Giles—Stage-coach travelling—Spartan discipline in childhood—A mother's influence—Cousin Anne—Removal to Feltham—Greenwich Fair and Hospital—Infant-school life—Miss Phillips—Hunting incident—Methods of education—School at Egham House—Incidents of school life—Drilling—A girl's trick—Mr. Tom—Frequent punishments—The German master and gift of snuff—Cricket accident—Close of schooldays—Dates of principal historical events during boyhood—Observations on Education pp. 1-20

CHAPTER II

APPRENTICE DAYS

Apprenticed at Ipswich—Unhappy experiences—Evening studies—Charles Freeman—Typhus fever—Colchester Brewery incident—Effects of lack of ambition in workmen—Close of apprenticeship—Enter Penn's—Examination for Naval Engineers—Narrow escape from death—Work on men-of-war—*Warrior*, the first ironclad—Narrow escape on *Duke of Wellington*—The *Mithridates*—Severe tempest in Bay of Biscay—Failure of superheating apparatus—Arrival at Odessa—Transferred to Russian Steam Navigation Company—Formation of Steam Navigation Company—Object of same—Repudiation of clause of Treaty of Paris *re* Black Sea pp. 21-33

CHAPTER III

ODESSA AND SEBASTOPOL

Refit of vessel—Odessa and its history—Mr. Melville—Purchase of socks—Learning Russian—Introduction to Mr. Wagner—State of Odessa streets—Easter Sunday festival—My first visit to Sebastopol—Journey of Grand Duke Constantine—Description of Sebastopol Harbour—Colonel Gowen—Visits to battlefields—Accident on Plains of Inkerman—The cemetery and Balaclava pp. 34-42

CHAPTER IV

FURTHER SEA EXPERIENCES

Transfer to *Gounib*—Meaning of the name—Transport of pilgrims to Jerusalem and Mecca—Exciting incident at sea—Fight between pilgrims—Storm at Jaffa—Imminent destruction of ship—Algiers and Lisbon—Discharge cargo at Waterford—Arrival at Odessa—Appointed superintendent of company's repairing shops—Supersession and disagreement with a Colonel—Interview with Admiral—Offer of resignation refused—Unpleasant position and final resignation—Voyage to Constantinople in s.s. *Alexander II*—Storm in Black Sea—Meeting Mr. Graham in Constantinople—Decision to introduce steam thrashers and reaping machines into Russia pp. 43-50

CHAPTER V

INTRODUCTION OF REAPING MACHINE INTO RUSSIA

Arrival at Berdiansk—Desiccation of Sea of Azov—Phenomenon illustrating drying of Red Sea before Moses—Shooting excursions—A narrow escape—Mr. Hahn—Meeting after many years—A wedding trip—Terrific storm and cloud burst—Mennonite worship—First visit to German colonies—Their origin—Settlement by Catherine II—Windmills of mediæval type—Great hospitality—"Bees"—Introduction of reaping machine—Mr. Dick—Opinion of village blacksmith—"The Grasshopper and the Locust"—Stampede of horses—Success of machine—Amazement of peasants—Desire to see demon in reaper—The Mennonites—Their origin—Main tenets—Opposition to military service—Comparison with Quakers and Plymouth Brethren—Emigration to America—Arrangement with General Todleben—Their present number—The Stundists—The unrighteousness of Mammon—Compulsory baptism pp. 51-66

CHAPTER VI

INTRODUCTION OF STEAM THRASHER

First hire of thrashing machine—The police inspector—Nature of contract—Transport of machines—Work begun on old corn—Infringement of agreement—Peasants fascinated by the machines—M. Popoff—His hospitality—Granaries for storing corn—Sleeping under tarpaulins—Watch for robbers of stored wheat—The thieves trapped—M. Popoff's help—Interview with and assault on inspector—Work for M. Popoff—Reconciliation with the inspector—Our subsequent meeting pp. 67-75

CHAPTER VII

LIFE ON THE OPEN STEPPE

Successful year closed—New machines ordered—Disastrous harvest in 1862—Drought—Absence of means of irrigation—M. Popoff—Proclamation of freedom of serfs—Their disappointment—Emperor's tea—Charles Pope—Life on Steppe near Wassilefka—Deportation of Crimean Tartars—Shooting on Steppe—Bustard hunting—Opinion of Russian peasant—Migration of peasantry during harvests—Amusing racial quarrels—Bargaining—Picnics on Steppe—Beautiful nights—Steppe cooking—Tartar servant—Religious instincts of peasants—Superstitions—Financial difficulty—Unexpected settlement—Journey to Ekaterinoslav—Snow-storm—Hospitality of great Russian landowner . pp. 76-92

CHAPTER VIII

THE STEPPE : ITS POPULATION, CHARACTER, AND
FAUNA

Extent of Crimean Steppe—Nomad tribes—Herds of horses—Black earth soil—Underground water supply—Ravines and hills due to water-action—Kurgans, or Scythian burial places—Comparison of climates in South Russia and England—Good effects from rain—Sheep pasturage—Sheep dogs—Abundance of wild flowers—Cloud effects—Enemies of agriculture—Hessian fly and Hungarian beetle—Marmot (Souslik)—Jerboa—Bird life—The mirage—History of Steppe—Locusts—Tarantula—Serpents . pp. 93-108

CHAPTER IX

LIFE IN POLTAVA AND KHARKOV

Marriage—Third failure of harvest—Removal from Berdiansk to Poltava—Visit to German colonies—Incident of river crossing—Establishment at Poltava—Steppe journey to Novo-Moskovsk from Keitchkass—Perilous position in snowstorm—Kharkov—Distillery contract difficulty—Country tracks in winter—Inability to obtain workmen—Friendships formed in Poltava—Establishment of mill at Kharkov—Mill burnt down—Agency for Messrs. Marshall, Sons & Co. arranged—Partnership with Mr. Lister—Improvements in machines—Prosperous times—The Baron incident—The carriage incident pp. 109-135

CHAPTER X

LAW COURTS AND NIHILIST CONSPIRACIES IN KHARKOV

Introduction of trial by jury—First case—Basis of Russian laws—Amusing case in the Courts—Origin of Nihilism—The *Kolokol* or *Bell* newspaper—Results, incendiarism and assassination—The Emperor's speech—Establishment of martial law—Appointment of German Governor—Riots at Kharkov—Wholesale deportations of peasants—Imposition of fines on us by Governor—Incident of English governess—M. Jukovsky—Petition of Zemstvos for national education—Attitude of Tchinovniks—Petition refused—Causes of student discontent—Zemstvos' action paralysed—Triumph of arbitrary government—Contrast in political status of Bulgaria and Russia—Ferment among students in Kiev—Building of sugar factory—Yard man, or Dvornik, in Russia—Dvornik shows unexpected abilities—Visit of police inspector—Arrest of Dvornik—Police placed at gates—Discovery of dynamite—Method adopted to dispose of same without discovery—Artel system at Kiev and Kharkov—Accuracy of Russian carpentry pp. 136-151

CHAPTER XI

RUSSO-TURKISH WAR AND PENJDEH INCIDENT

Origin of Russo-Turkish War—Effects on money exchange—Negotiations with English firm—Final decision—Purchase of wheat and storage—Failure of transport—Severity of winter of 1877-78—Osman Pasha and Turkish prisoners—Precautions taken to preserve wheat at stations—Incident of purchase from Prince L.—Final settlement—Penjdeh incident—Anxious moments—Volunteer fleet—Incident with Chief of Custom House—Reasons of unpopularity of police—Introduction of universal military service—The old system—Length of service based on education—Terms of service—Cossacks—Comic incident connected with Cossack's purchase of machine—Co-operative purchases of machines by Cossack—The Zaporozhski—Russian Army as fighting force—Importance of religious or racial motive pp. 152-170

CHAPTER XII

JOURNEY FROM LONDON TO KIEV

Incidents of stormy passage—Cologne incidents—Sociability of Continental traveller—Arrival in Berlin—Methodical arrangement for vehicles—Hotel Kaiserhof, Berlin—Methods of Berlin advertisement—Beaconsfield's room at Kaiserhof—Ambassador's ball—Predominance of military element—A feature of militarism—Impressions of Berlin—Method of visiting new places—What a

German working man found interesting—The opera—Emperor William I—Tipping in Germany—The start for Breslau—The forgetful clerk and the obsequious conductor—My travelling companions—Breslau—Cracow—Wieliczka salt mines—Conversation on Cologne—Plague and quarantine—Method of isolating epidemics—Apathy of officials in Russia . . . pp. 171-197

CHAPTER XIII

THE TRAGEDY OF KIEV

Failure of important firm—Meeting of creditors—Our firm and Mr. Leiste appointed liquidators—Meeting at Dessau—Return to Kiev—Suicide of Mr. Leiste . . . pp. 198-204

CHAPTER XIV

AN ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY HOME IN 1881

Family temporarily removed to England—Settled in Cheltenham—Education of my two sons—Business delays at Kiev—Intention to reach home at Easter—General inquisitiveness of Russian travellers—My fellow-passengers—Sluggishness of Russian railways—"Dead-heads"—Rise of blizzard—Train stopped by snow in middle of forest—Yelping of wolves at midnight—Difficulty of obtaining provisions—Sixty hours' stoppage—Train service dislocated—Starving third-class passengers—Arrival at Warsaw in early morning—Food obtained under difficulties—Arrival in England by night boat—Failure of connections—Stay night in Gloucester . . . pp. 205-213

CHAPTER XV

EVENTS LEADING TO DEATH OF ALEXANDER II

Autocratic character of Nicholas I—Military insurrection, December, 1825—Effects of Crimean War—Alexander II ascends throne—Transformation of principles of government—Emancipation of serfs—Difficulties with peasants and land distribution—Opposition of proprietors—Appointment of committee by Emperor—Methods adopted—Village communes and their powers—The Zemstvos—Usual limitations of autocracy—Emancipation of serfs directly due to Emperor—Start of Nihilism in 1877—Reign of terror—Attempt on General Trepoff—Acquittal of Vera Zasulitch—Prince Krapotkin's murder—Attempts on life of Emperor—His assassination, March 13th, 1881—His character—No advantage accruing from his death . . . pp. 214-222

CHAPTER XVI

RUSSIAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS. PART I. THE JEWISH QUESTION

Jewish question perplexity for Russian Government—Relations between Jews and dominant power—Characteristics of Jews—Extent of Jewish pale—Sections of Jewish race—The Sephardim—The Karaim—The Ashkenazim—Congestion not the cause of problem—Basis of antagonism between Jew and peasant—Non-intolerance of peasantry—Economic causes—"The cry of Christendom"—Origin of special laws—Smuggling—Universal military service—Remedial laws by Alexander II—Their effect—Evasions of law—Oppression of peasantry by the Jew—Jewish colonies—Their failure—Jewish jargon—Jews in London—East End Ghetto—Summary—Kotlinski incident—Conversion for purposes of gain

pp. 223-237

CHAPTER XVII

RUSSIAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS. PART II. RUSSIA AND THE POLES

Warsaw, the capital of Poland—Moral depression of city—Poland treated as conquered—Permanent martial law—Russian language obligatory in Universities—Oppressive land laws—Prohibition of public meetings—Economic neglect of city—Military disabilities—Racial and religious differences between Poles and Russians—Revolution of 1863—Deportation of Poles—Causes of downfall—Internal dissensions and election of kings—Insincerity of Poles

pp. 238-245

CHAPTER XVIII

A GEOLOGICAL TOUR IN SOUTH-WESTERN RUSSIA

Aim of journey—Berditchev—Jewish metropolis in Poland—Dubious methods by hotel-keepers—Incident on previous visit, and its sequel—Zhitomir—Visit cathedral and city—Labradorite quest accomplished—Hospitable invitation by Bohemian quarry-owner—Russian surprised at our visit—Journey by post-wagon—Character of quarry—Sudden storm on return journey—Interesting conversation with postmaster, and kind entertainment—Journey to Kiev by diligence—Our fellow-passengers—Terrible storm—Attitude of companions—Tree struck by lightning with terrific crash—Coach embedded in mud—Arrival at Kiev—Picturesque city—Mother-church of Russia—Centre of sugar industry—Mazeppa—Dnieperian Cossacks—Pilgrimages to shrines—Pechersk monastery and catacombs—St. Sophia Cathedral—The monasteries—Visit to a monk—Incident of loan to Emperor—Nestor—Russian classical authors pp. 246-261

CHAPTER XIX

GEOLOGICAL JOURNEY FROM KIEV TO DONETZ MINERAL
BASIN

Leave Kiev—Plan of journey—River Dnieper—Methods of landing—Sandbanks—Visit to Belgian ironworks—Hospitable reception—Krivoi Rog, great iron ore quarries—Original discoverer—New Russia Company—Mr. Hughes—Jealousy of mining department—Visit of Grand Duke Constantine to works—Local newspaper comments—Prosperous career—Vast iron ore resources—Folding of strata—Kremenchug—Alexandrovsk—Scene of my first Russian experience—Original reaper still preserved—Meet two sons of early acquaintances—Arrival at Kharkov—Leave for Slaviansk—Borki, scene of disaster to Imperial train, 1888—Monastery of Svyatogorski (Holy Hill)—Great pilgrim centre—Apparition of holy pictures—Kharkov Virgin—Procession—Nicholas I forbids appearance of holy pictures—Order obeyed—Visit friends—Yasinovataya—Coal and iron region—Hughesovka and the works—Visit to Stiela iron ore region—Bakmut rock salt industry—Alabaster Hill—Nikietovka cinnabar (mercury ore) mines—Return to Kharkov—Close of journey pp. 262-275

CHAPTER XX

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL: FROM KHARKOV TO TIFLIS
ACROSS THE CAUCASIAN MOUNTAINS

Programme of journey—Slaviansk salt springs—Borki—Enthusiastic reception of Emperor after accident—Taganrog—Silting up of Sea of Azov—Scene of death of Alexander I—The Don Cossacks—Land held subject to military service—Cossack horses—Feats of horsemanship—Cossacks a frontier guard—Rostov—Circassia entered—Various races at station—Armenian fellow-passenger—Armavir—Change in scenery—Plains replaced by hills—Mineral spring centres—Nizoblania and its horse fair—Picturesque tribesmen—Armed escort at Kavkaz—Train robberies—Vladikavkaz—"Ruler of the Caucasus"—Caucasian tribes—Burnous—Hôtel de France—The Elbruz—German brewery—Beer not forbidden by Koran—Revelry of Circassian Prince—Quaint notice—Scotch colony—Russian dissenters—Special passport—Varieties of dialects—Insecurity in the mountains—Surrender of Schamyl—Principal tribes—The Ossitinski—Descendants from Crusaders—Procession to Table Mountain—Blood feuds. *Through the Caucasian Mountains*: Military road—Russian troika—Station of Lars—Special luxuries—Balta station—Grandeur of Darial defile—River Terek—Devil's Bridge—Post-boy's impressions—Cossack fortification—Castle of Tamara—Lermontov's "Demon"—Table Mountain—Kazbek—Prometheus legend—Young Englishman and Bass's beer—Mountain road from Kazbek—Danger from

snow avalanches—Cossack fort—Kobi—Chalybeate spring—Caucasian chamois—Gudaur—Magnificent view—Avalanche—Boundary between Europe and Asia—Apex of watershed—Zigzag road to Mleti—Passanaur—Orchards, honey, and bears—Ananúr—Fortified church of Kitobel—Mtzkhet, the “Meeting of the Waters”—Cathedral and Georgian regalia—The seamless robe pp. 276–291

CHAPTER XXI

INCIDENTS OF TRAVEL : FROM TIFLIS TO BAKU, BATOUM,
AND SEBASTOPOL

Arrival at Tiflis—Capital of Georgia—Hotel London—Bazaars—Zion Church—Mount Ararat—Depressing railway journey to Baku—Kurdish raids—Capture of bandits—Copper works of Ekhtala—Locusts stop train—Arrival at Baku—Its railway station—Increase in population—Its harbour—Black and White Towns—Balakhani—Artesian oil fountains—Burning of wells—Temple of Zoroaster—Fire-worshippers—Firm of Nobel—Visit to gas geysers in Caspian Sea—Return journey to Batoum—Lower Caucasian Range Mountain Railway—Mud volcanoes—Liquorice factory—Tremendous storm near Elisabetpol—Use of Fairlie engines—Glorious views—Vast forests—Mountain plants—Tunnel being built—Dangerous descent—Rion Station—Circassian women—Variety of headgear—Phasis—Large size of fruit—Gori resembling Athens—Meet a Circassian Prince—Croaking of frogs—Fireflies—Poti—Hotel Colchide—A pleasant surprise—Mr. Wilson Sturge—The “Baboshka”—Progress of Batoum—Wooded hills near Batoum—Ruins of Pitzunda—Voyage on the *Juno*—Fellow-travellers—“The captain cannot understand French”—Lifelessness of Black Sea—Anapa—Shipping of Circassian slave-girls—Kertch—Greek influence—Tumuli—Mithridates—Theodosia—Old fortifications—Russian Riviera—Sebastopol pp. 292–307

CHAPTER XXII

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Sidelights on Russian Life pp. 308–312

APPENDIX pp. 313–314

INDEX pp. 315–319

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

GEORGE HUME	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	FACING PAGE
CRIMEA. GENERAL VIEW	32
RUSSIAN PEASANT	48
SCHAMYL AND THE CIRCASSIAN LEADERS, 1858	64
KHARKOV. MONUMENT TO ALEXANDER I	80
KHARKOV. THE RESIDENCE OF MR. G. HUME	96
KHARKOV. MESSRS. HUME AND LISTER'S MILL	112
KHARKOV. MESSRS. HUME AND LISTER'S OFFICES	128
KHARKOV. MR. HUME'S GARDEN	144
KHARKOV. MAIN ALLEY IN MR. HUME'S GARDEN	160
TARTAR CART, CAUCASUS	176
BLIND BEGGAR, TIFLIS	224
A DESCENDANT OF THE CRUSADERS	240
COSSACK FORT, AND ROCK OF TAMARA	256
CAUCASUS MILITARY ROAD AND DARIAL DEFILE	272
MAIDEN'S TOWER, BAKU	288
BALAKHANI. OIL WELL ON FIRE	304
MAP OF SOUTH-WEST RUSSIA	320

INTRODUCTION

AT the instigation of relatives and many friends, I have been induced in this, the late autumn of my life, to record some of the reminiscences of my work in Russia. During the whole period of my thirty-five years' connection with the so-called Peasant Empire, I was intimately connected in business and in society with all classes of the community, so that I have had every opportunity of forming an unbiased opinion. It will be seen from the events herein narrated that I have been contemporary with the great evolution that took place immediately after the Crimean War.

The events that happened during the reign of Alexander II have left an indelible imprint upon the country. At the time of my arrival in Russia peace had only been proclaimed in the previous year, 1856, and all the great reforms were still in an embryonic state within the brain of their beneficent author. All the abuses connected with serfdom were still in full swing, the proprietors had still the power to inflict corporal punishment upon an unfortunate moujik at their own discretion, which, although restricted by law in theory to a certain number of strokes with birch or stick, was in practice uncontrolled. Nearly all the large estates were ruled by German stewards, the proprietors not even being cognizant of the oppression which was being practised. It was brought to my notice in five instances that the peasantry, having become exasperated beyond endurance, had hurled their tormentors to the thrashing-floor, and beaten them to death with their flails.

The Crimean War is now generally considered to

have been a great mistake on the part of England. To Russia, however, it was a great boon ; it had certainly left her temporarily humiliated, but her unexpectedly gallant defence had gained for her the respect and sympathy, not only of her late enemies, but of all civilized communities. This paved the way for the introduction, step by step, of those great reforms which have raised her in so short a time from a state of semi-barbarism to a co-equal voice with the other Great Powers in the destinies of Europe. It was the boom of the Allies' cannon that aroused her from her long sleep of apathetic indolence and made possible the inception of those great reforms that characterized the reign of Alexander the Liberator.

The time has not yet arrived for a correct judgment to be formed of this monarch, and personally, with many others, I am of opinion that these developments followed too quickly for profitable assimilation, and thus opened the path for the reactionary policy of his successor Alexander III. It is, however, just to observe that the war itself was closely followed by the inauguration of the greatest of all the reforms, the abolition of serfdom ; it is equally true that it marked the epoch for the transition of Russia from a period of many abuses to one dominated by lines of thought which are leading her onwards by slow gradations to an advanced state of civilization.

Since 1857 I have had the opportunity of closely studying the sequence of reforms, which followed one another in quick succession. Thus, the great question of the land remained a constant cause of unrest amongst the peasantry, who maintained that at the time of emancipation under the will of the Emperor they were entitled to, and should have received without payment, all the land held by their proprietors. The publication of the Reform took place in the year 1861, but the Emancipation itself was only to be carried out at a two-years' interval in 1863. This the peasantry did not understand, and it gave rise to many incidents of a most regrettable character, so much so that troops

were quartered on the villages in order to compel them to go to work.

The Russians are a hospitable people, entertaining their foreign guests with the utmost cordiality and courtesy, laying themselves out to make them feel at home from the date of their arrival to their departure. The educated Russian has a perceptible leaning socially to the French, but politically to the English.

Of course, both Russia and England have separate and often opposing interests, but during the whole time of my residence amongst Russians I seldom heard or saw a single derogatory expression or any sign of national enmity against ourselves, and I feel convinced from conversation with some of the highest in the land that there could be no question, however critical, that could not be adjusted by mutual amicable arrangement and to the satisfaction of the two great nations.

At the time of my arrival in Russia law procedure was carried out by Bureaucratic action, and all the old administrative abuses prevailed; the personal liberty was constantly in danger and dependent upon the uncontrolled will of the Tchinovniks (Men of Rank). It was an Augean stable of abuse, illegality, and extortion, and powers that had accumulated over many generations required to be swept away with firm and remorseless hand.

And yet the officials were not entirely to blame, for they received the meanest of salaries from the State and had to divide their exactions with their immediate superiors. A former Governor of our Province, in talking over his own position as well as that of his subordinates with me, said: "How can you expect men in an official position to live on a salary less than that of the foreman or mechanic of a factory? For myself, I am obliged to keep up a large establishment, receive all visitors of distinction, have a large retinue of servants, keep two carriages, and the whole income that I receive is £500 (5,000 roubles) and the upkeep of my horses." He then added: "I have an estate,

b

that since the Emancipation brings me in a very small revenue in good years, and nothing whatever in bad."

LIST AND DATES OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS
DURING MY LIFE IN RUSSIA

- 1861.—Decree for emancipation of twenty-three million serfs on the expiration of two years (March 3rd).
- 1863.—Confirmation of ditto (March 3rd).
- 1863.—Polish insurrection.
- 1864.—Institution of the Zemstvo.
- 1866.—Inauguration of Kharkov trial by jury.
- 1870.—Prince Gortschakoff notifies the Powers of the repudiation of the clauses of the Treaty of March 30th, 1856, respecting the Black Sea Fleet.
- 1870.—Military Reserves established (November 16th).
- 1871.—Reorganization of the Army (January 12th).
- 1871.—The Black Sea clauses abrogated by treaty of the Powers (March 13th).
- 1873.—The inauguration of Universal Military Service.
- 1874.—The Poll Tax abolished.
- 1874.—Marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Czar's daughter (January 23rd).
- 1877.—Russia declares war against Turkey on disputes connected with the Holy Places (April 24th).
- 1878.—San Stefano Treaty signed (March 3rd).
- 1881.—Assassination of Alexander II (March 13th).
- 1884.—Death of General Todleben, the hero of the defence of Sebastopol (July 1st).
- 1885.—General Komaroff attacks the Afghans at Penjdeh, defeating them with great slaughter, and war nearly precipitated with Great Britain. The dispute, however, was settled by arbitration (by Denmark), and the boundaries between the Afghans and Russians finally fixed (September 10th).
- 1885.—Celebration of the ninth century of the introduction of Christianity into Russia (July 27th).

- 1888.—Railway accident at Borki on the Kharkov-Azov Railway, the train jumping the rails on a curve owing to excessive speed. The royal family uninjured, but 21 persons killed (October 29th).
- 1889.—Reactionary policy of Count Tolstoi¹ in forcing Russification on Finland and the German provinces of Russia led to great unrest in those regions.
- 1890.—The revolt of the students of all the Universities, owing to the stringent rules. Severe punishments inflicted on them by Cossacks, who were ordered to attack and lash them with their heavy whips.
- 1891.—The year of the great famine throughout the whole of the eastern sections of the Empire, during which all festivities were suspended, and large remittances in money and corn were sent from America, England, and many parts of the Continent.

Not only are the Russians a hospitable people, but they have many philanthropic institutions, excellently organized and supported by voluntary effort. Amongst these the hospitals may be mentioned, for which a very considerable amount is raised by the means of Municipal stamps (of a small amount) which have to be affixed to every ticket that is sold for the theatres, and all places of amusement and recreation where entry money has to be paid.

Again, the institutes for the daughters of noble families are supported by the State, and a large sum of money left by one of the Grand Duchesses; in addition the revenue arising from the monopoly of playing-cards is allotted to them.

The sale of playing-cards is also a source of considerable revenue, they being sold at a high price, in my time at 4s. the pack. It was then the custom to

¹ Count Dmitri A. Tolsti, Minister of Education (not to be confused with Count Leo N. Tolstoi, novelist and social reformer).

have a new pack for each separate game as an assurance that they had not been tampered with, so that the income from this source must have been very considerable. The old packs were then sold at second hand, and gradually after the first purchase changed hands at a very cheap rate, the cards being scarcely soiled.

During the winter months, when work was scarce and the destitution in consequence very great, cheap dinners were established in the large Public Hall of the City. Throughout the months of frost and storm the poorer classes could obtain substantial meals at prices varying from 5 to 15 kopecks (one penny to three-pence) according to the number of courses required, each course costing one penny. These dinners had in addition a moral value, one of the principal ladies of the City, a member of the Committee for this purpose, presiding each day in rotation during the meal. These ladies included the wives of the Governor and the City Dignitaries, and each voluntarily gave her services for this purpose on an average once a month, sympathy for the poor being thus shown by the more privileged class in a practical form.

Another institution which received large support was that of the Waifs and Strays, who colonized a large freehold estate near the City.

Besides these, there were the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the old men's asylums, the excellent public dispensaries, and the two great orphan asylums, and also many other benefactions which were constantly at work—this surely being great evidence of the charity which exalteth a nation.

The reader must understand that in these records I am writing of a period long since passed away. I do not believe that since that time a new heaven and earth have dawned upon that nation, and I fear lest the new-born activities now prevailing should be drawing hard-earned money from our too-confiding countrymen, which may result in loss and disappointment to many. Russia is not England, and should

not be viewed with English eyes ; it is a country still in the making, and the sterling principles of honesty and honourable dealing that have been ingrained in our own countrymen from our forefathers have yet to take deep root amongst these Eastern people.

For me Russia has a deep pathos, for during my sojourn in that land it became consecrated to my family as the resting-place of four of our beloved children. One lies in the cemetery of the Mennonites at Berdiansk on the Sea of Azov ; a second in Poltava ; a third in the village of Sukarabovka, in the churchyard of the estate belonging to a truly noble family, the Karaishes, where my family was passing the summer ; and the fourth in the cemetery of Kharkov.

It has also been stated that the Russians are a deeply religious people. That the peasants have a very great religious instinct I quite admit, but theirs is not the religion that we have been taught in Holy Writ as being pure and undefiled. During their long state of serfdom and ignorance they have not had the opportunity of having or being able to read the Holy Scriptures. To them the important features are the forms and ceremonies of the Church, the adoration of the Saints and the Icons, the prostrations, the fastings at stated intervals, the genuflexions, crossing themselves, and pilgrimages—then if that be true religion, the peasants are religious according to their knowledge.

A great work is being carried out by both the Russian and English Bible Societies for the spread of the Word of God among the people, and the State railways have given special facilities by granting free passes on their lines to the colporteurs ; but the slightest fringe only has been touched among the millions of the country.

There are two sets of clergy, the black and the white. The black are the monks living in the Monasteries attached to the Cathedrals and Holy Places. These are supposed to be holy men devoted to good works and the due performance of the Church ceremonies. The white clergy are the parish priests, who must be married men, but on the death of a wife are compelled

to enter a monastery, following on the Biblical instruction (as they think) of being the husband of one wife.

The services are held in the old Slavonic tongue, a language that is not understood even by the general body of educated Russians ; the singing of old Gregorian chants is very attractive, and the Little Russians, many of whom have remarkably fine voices, are educated and engaged as choristers throughout the land.

At the time of my arrival the priests were a hereditary caste, every son of a priest's family being bound to enter the priesthood ; eventually, however, the supply grew greater than the demand, and then the compulsion was abrogated. The priests are miserable in their service and in their pay, which averages about £20 a year, together with a piece of glebe land which they plough, sow, and harvest as ordinary peasants. They haggle and bargain over the price to be paid for baptisms, marriages, funerals ; they are only half educated, and many are addicted to intemperance.

The religious observances of the higher class, or so-called *intelligencia* of the country, are practically absent, only consisting of such Church ceremonies as the State ordains. I have seldom seen men in the churches except at Easter time, when Confession and Communion are enforced. The ladies, however, are more consistent in their attendance, and after Confession, Communion, and the receipt of absolution, it is customary for them to receive visits of congratulation.

The scope of this work being that of personal narrative, I do not propose to discuss the social and political questions, which have been dealt with by many abler pens than my 'prentice hand can wield.

When compiling these records of my life, I have been greatly aided by having found in a box after my wife's death a complete collection of all the letters I had written to her during the fifty-one years of our married life, which had been particularly numerous owing to our frequent separations during the course of my many journeys and for the education of my sons.

When bivouacking on the desert, I have often pondered over the mysteries of life and the "divinity that shapes our ends." It seems incontestable that there must be in the case of many of us some plan that fashions our lives. Here in my own case, my birth, training, education, apprenticeship, the study of languages, and subsequent work, all seem to have been chains of evidence leading me onward to be the pioneer of the work destined for me in this country. Thus when hundreds of miles away from any fellow-countryman, and oftentimes a weary traveller, I was led to realize the great mystery of life which comes vividly before us in such solitude, and there are voices in the refrain :

" Lo, on each seed within its slender rind
Life's golden threads in endless circle wind,
Maze within maze the lucid webs are rolled,
And as they burst the living flame unfold.
The pulpy acorn ere it swells contains
The oak's vast branches in its milky veins.
Each ravell'd bud finds film and fibre line
Traced with nice pencil on the small design.
The young narcissus in its bud compressed
Cradles a second, nestling on its breast,
In whose fine arms a younger embryo lies,
Folds in its leaves and shuts its floweret eyes,
Grain within grain successive harvests swell
And boundless forests slumber in its shell."

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN RUSSIA

CHAPTER I

EARLY LIFE

Parentage—Birth—Christening—St. Giles—Stage-coach travelling—Spartan discipline in childhood—A mother's influence—Cousin Anne—Removal to Feltham—Greenwich Fair and Hospital—Infant-school life—Miss Phillips—Hunting incident—Methods of education—School at Egham House—Incidents of school life—Drilling—A girl's trick—Mr. Tom—Frequent punishments—The German master and gift of snuff—Cricket accident—Close of schooldays—Dates of principal historical events during boyhood—Observations on education.

My earliest recollections are connected with my grandfather, who was the first member of the family to emigrate to England, he having lived up to that time on the borderland, the north side of the Tweed.

The Hume family had formerly occupied a very great position in the districts comprised within Marchmont, Greenlaw, Duns, and Kelso, and it is still represented there by the Humes of Wormielaw, who are direct descendants of the old family. Their farm comprises part of the rich pasture-land of the border, and is a very short distance from the bluff upon which stands the grim old ruins of Hume Castle.

My grandfather, by profession a brewer, had been invited to enter the service of one of the most important London breweries in order to superintend the making of Scotch ale, which at that time was in much demand.

I was born in the year 1836 in the neighbourhood of the brewery, and was christened in the Church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, a church which is of such historical interest that in my opinion it compares favourably with any other church in London. Within its crypt lie the remains of John Milton, who, as author of *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*, is enshrined in the memory of the whole of the English-speaking world. Here also are buried John Fox, the martyrologist, and Sir Martin Frobisher, who in 1588 took a leading part in the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The latter was also one of the first explorers of the Arctic Seas, and died of wounds received in a naval action in 1594. This church is also noted as being the scene of the marriage of Oliver Cromwell on August 29th, 1620.

Long before my grandfather's death, my father had removed from London and started for himself in a brewery in the village of Feltham in Middlesex, but as it was not a success, it passed after some years into other hands. Previous to our removal to Feltham, my father resided at Greenwich in one of my grandfather's houses in Circus Street, going up daily to London to his business. My grandfather on my mother's side was a Scot named Purvis, a man of some substance, having freehold land in the centre of the then rising suburb, which comprised within its bounds Royal Hill, Circus Street, and Prior Street, the latter street bearing my grandmother's maiden name. Greenwich at that time was a fashionable resort, and the Trafalgar, Yacht, and Ship Hotels used to be filled daily in the season with visitors coming for whitebait dinners. Members of the Cabinet also came for the same purpose before the opening of Parliament.

As these hotels were built close to the river and their walls were washed at the flow of the tide, it was a favourite amusement with the visitors to throw coppers from the hotel windows at the ebb tide for the pleasure of seeing the boys, the so-called "mud-larks," scramble for them in the deep mud. Among

other great attractions at that time at Greenwich was the fair, which brought thousands once a year to visit the Park, Blackheath, and the Hospital, where the old sailor pensioners, always ready to show visitors over their pretty decorated cubicles, were present in their picturesque garb. The evening generally ended in a visit to Tea-pot Row, which was quite an institution at that time.

One of my childhood's memories is of a long visit by my father and mother to Scotland; and I well remember the day when the stage coach drove up to our home to take them away. At that time, there being no railways, the journey north was a veritable undertaking. On the opening of the railway lines, the picturesqueness of travel ceased, and the horn of the red-coated guard resounded no more through the streets. The stateliness of the coachman seated on his box in all his glory passed away, together with the crowd of small boys, who looked upon him with reverence, and in their place are the shrill notes of the steam whistle, the hoarse puff of the engine, and the whirr of the skidding wheels. During the absence of my parents, my brother and I were placed under the care of my mother's brother, Dr. Purvis, who inaugurated his guardianship by threatening, should we not be good boys, to make us into pills. I am sorely afraid, however, we did not turn out the angelic creatures his threat would achieve, for in after years my aunt used to relate how a stray sofa pillow cleared some valuable ornaments from her drawing-room mantelpiece. Having, however, no personal recollection of the incident, I have systematically regarded this accusation as a myth, or an erroneous effect of the imagination. On the return of our parents we removed to Feltham, which became the centre of our family life over many years.

Our family at this time consisted of three boys and a girl, and also a Scotch cousin Anne, who lived with us up to her marriage. Both my parents being of Scottish origin, the family, as was then the

custom, was brought up under Spartan rules, and inured to live a life in which no luxuries were allowed.

I can recall how, at a very early age, we were placed under the too draconian discipline prevalent at that period, consisting in the repression of every childish instinct. This, to my mind, had the effect, instead of fostering the love and confidence which every child should have toward its parents, of leading them to avoid as far as possible any contact with them. Under this system the discipline of the simple life was general in most families. Porridge, dry bread, and milk and water formed our breakfast fare. No condiments of any kind were allowed. Even a piece of cake, except at rare intervals, was forbidden, and the general conduct of the children was regulated by admonitions such as, "Children should be seen and not heard," "Children should only speak when spoken to," or "Children should see, hear, and say nothing."

I was most tenderly attached to my brother, and we resented this treatment, which doubtless made us irritable, as far as children could be. The strict discipline under which we were being brought up had this effect, that our father, instead of being an attracting force, became to us a repelling one, and our intercourse was regulated more by fear of consequences than by filial affection. As a natural result, I was thrown into closer companionship with my brother, who was only fourteen months older than myself, and I can well remember how we used every means of avoiding our father, and were entirely dependent on the moderating influences of our mother, whom we adored. But who can fathom the endurance of a mother's love? It has been throughout my life an abiding influence. It was at her knees our daily prayers were offered for father, mother, sister, and brothers, after which, standing with our hands behind us, we recited Doctor Watts' evening hymn:

" And now another day is gone,
I sing my Maker's praise."

This hymn, which I never have forgotten, has been to me throughout all my wanderings in desert lands a solace and prayer—a solace recalling a mother's tender care, and a prayer that my sins, which were many, might be forgiven, and strength granted for days to come. Yes, I recall how seldom we saw her without her children's socks or other work in her hands, and how, when colds were prevalent, the posset cone full of home-made elderberry wine was embedded in the parlour embers for our later regalement in bed. Also I recall how at stated intervals on coming down in the morning, we found to our horror the cup of senna tea, which at that time was considered indispensable for the young, and which, in spite of protest, we had to drink or have poured ignominiously down our throats in spoonfuls, our mouths being opened by my father pinching our noses.

In our home, notwithstanding the love bestowed upon us by our mother and cousin Anne, stern discipline was enjoined, and it seemed to us that we could do nothing well. Regardless of grammar, the words "don't," "won't," "mustn't," etc., were ever irritating elements in our child life. Through this too constant correction in the past generation, the inevitable reaction has followed, with the effect that the present-day children too often despise parental authority and become aggressively self-assertive and arrogant. Although I cannot recall that we were often chastised by our father, I do know, that instead of hastening joyfully to meet him, taking him into our confidence and asking his advice, we constantly avoided him, and this result was not peculiar to us, but in evidence in most families at that period.

The third member of our family was our Scotch cousin Anne, to whom I have already referred, who, with an occasional helper, served the household, and was the object of our great affection. She it was who tried to save us, by timely warning, from many a well-deserved punishment, and on baking days made us many little delicacies from sweetened pieces of dough,

formed to represent rabbits, dogs, or pigs, with currants for eyes. At this distance of time, I can still recall how they were to us the very perfection of art, and also our grief when told she was leaving us to be married, and the intense indignation we felt when her husband carried her away a few months later.

I must not forget to record our love for our dog "Spot." He was a large spotted carriage dog of Danish breed, far from good-looking, with bleary albino eyes, and was to us children the most affectionate of animals. He could be trusted to allow no stranger to approach us. He was faithful, loving, and true, the confidant of our grief, the partaker of our joys. No one would admire him on his points, but he was beautiful to us, and we deeply sorrowed when, owing to a carriage accident, he had to be destroyed, and died licking my father's hand. We buried him in our garden, mourning with many tears the loss of our dear old friend and playmate.

It was at the early age of about five years that my school life began, when my brother and I first entered the village infant school, which was kept by a Miss Phillips, who was quite a character.

This school was typical of those existing in the earlier half of the last century, in which most of the children of the middle class received their elementary education. The school was a mixed one, consisting of the sons and daughters of the farmers who formed the bulk of the important element of the village community. As nearly as I can recollect, there were from twenty to thirty pupils, well known to each other, who occupied the large front room of the house. Miss Phillips instructed the higher class, while the elementary pupils were under the care of one of the seniors. Poor Miss Phillips, upon whose features generations of wayward pupils had left a forbidding impress, grimly presided in a high upholstered, straight-backed chair. Nature had not been very gracious to the poor woman, for one of her legs was so much shorter than the other that it had to be supplemented by an iron patten,

which, having failed to grow with her growth, produced a movement when she walked which earned for her in the village the sobriquet of "Hop and go one." This custom had become so general that I am convinced it was very often used inadvertently in her presence. Owing to the position of her chair, backing the corner, the children could not be supervised when, on opening the school with prayer, she knelt facing the back, thus giving them a splendid opportunity for the interchange of grimaces and other amenities.

Before my cousin Anne left us, we had outgrown the necessity for her leadership through the village, and trudged alone along the road leading to the school. Midway between it and our house was a sheet of water, the overflow of a ditch which crossed the road. This sheet of water was known as the Watersplash, and to cross it a slightly raised wooden footpath had been erected for pedestrians; but what boy could resist the challenge of another's "I'll do your dags," without making an attempt to jump the stream! Often a small boy landed in the middle and the soaking entailed punishment. This punishment generally consisted of his having to stand with naked feet on a stool, with his face to the wall, a conical dunce's cap on his head, and a placard on his back marked "Dunce," and he had to stand thus until his socks and boots were dried.

The village was in a hunting district, and as the meet was held not far from it, during the season gay cavalcades of fair women and red-coated men, together with the hounds, often passed our school windows. Miss Phillips, who had a great dislike to the hunt, on such occasions as these generally gave the order for prayer, quite oblivious of the fact that while she, with her face to the corner, might be calling down fire from heaven on the devoted hunt, the children, with their noses flattened on the windows, were silently revelling in the unholy pageant.

At the New Year it was usually the custom to supplement the fees payable to the teacher by gifts in kind,

which in my father's case invariably took the form of coal. Memory recalls how on one occasion I had to accompany her, laden with a big basket of bits of slate, which she wished my father to exchange for coal, but I believe she was referred to the merchant from whom the coal was bought.

In those days in the majority of elementary schools the system of education was by "rote"—that is to say, the lesson had to be learnt word for word by heart without regard to its signification, simply as an effort of memory, and the least failure in word was usually followed by punishment or by moving down places in the class. The school hours commenced at nine o'clock in the morning, lasting until twelve, and from two to four in the afternoon. For the seniors, the morning lessons comprised reading, writing, grammar, and spelling, and in the afternoon arithmetic, dictation, and needlework for the girls, the last being replaced by geography for the boys. In the junior class, the order in the morning was the alphabet, pot-hooks and hangers, and simple spelling, while the multiplication table and sampler work in cross-stitch occupied the afternoon. Specimens of this so-called art-work are doubtless still to be found in middle-class houses. It consisted in working figures of animals, houses, and trees, regardless of perspective and all being about the same size, with worsted in cross-stitch on a square of canvas, and underneath were the numerals and alphabet. These squares, when finished and lined, were generally used for kettle-holders, and were presented to our parents on their birthdays.

I fear, as I was high-spirited and rebellious of control, I must often have proved a sore trial to the poor woman, and the punishments that ensued were not conducive to my self-respect. For instance, on one occasion I remember when I was adorned with the dunce's cap and with a placard with "Liar" in large letters hanging on my back, she tried her best, but failed, to make me go into the street to fetch her loaf of bread from the baker's cart. On another occasion