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Sketches in



RUSSIA

BY

A Rambling Victorian

(A.F. MORRISON)



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From the Melbourne "Argus" Leading Article, Nov. 21st, 1885.

"We publish to-day the last of the 'Russian Sketches' by 'A Rambling Victorian.' Notwithstanding their modest title, Mr. A. F. Morrison's papers must have been found a valuable help to a real knowledge of the wonderful country which he has 'sketched.' There are special reasons, too, why an Australian, if he be a close observer is likely to have something to say about Russian institutions and Russian phenomena, which is worth listening to, and Mr. Morrison certainly kept his eyes and ears open when he was on his travels.

"Russia has been 'done' by a great many English-speaking tourists and travellers of late years; . . . but the majority of them went there loaded with prejudices, on the look-out for evidence in favour of some preconceived notion, or to help some political party. . . . We are more likely to get a faithful and trustworthy picture of modern Russia from men who have not been directly mixed up in recent Anglo-Russian difficulties. Eugene Schuyler, one of the best authorities on modern Russia, has the advantage of being an American, and, therefore, easily impartial. Mr. Morrison, as an Australian, can also reflect with equanimity that Australia is a long way from Russia, and probably outside the track of Muscovite evolution. . . .

"Mr. Morrison's style is precise, minute, and yet not tedious. As far as 'word painting' is concerned, nothing could be more vivid than the description of the panoramic view of Moscow in winter. The detailed description of the Moscow churches also enables a reader to realise the Arabian Nights style of riches concentrated there. . . .

"Mr. Morrison contrasts the unscrupulous skill, activity, and lavish expenditure of money, which distinguishes Russian administration in Central Asia, with the English methods of procedure in those regions. . . . He has certainly contributed not a little to the general knowledge on a subject of ever increasing curiosity and interest."

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BY

A. F. MORRISON, M.A., LL.B.

OF THE INNER TEMPLE BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

(A RAMBLING VICTORIAN.)

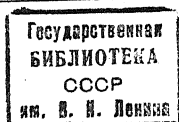
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P R E F A C E.



THESE sketches are the result of notes taken during a tour in Russia in the Winter of 1883. They are offered to the public in their present form by the very kind permission of Messrs. Wilson and Mackinnon. The writer has endeavoured to set down what he heard and saw on the spot for himself. It is hoped that this little book may do something to increase pleasantly the stock of information about one of the most interesting countries in the world, a country which is comparatively little known and hence imperfectly understood.

MELBOURNE, *December, 1885.*