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HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

RUSSIA, POLAND, AND FINLAND;

INCLUDING

THE CRIMEA, CAUCASUS, SIBERIA,
AND CENTRAL ASIA.

THIRD EDITION, REVISED.

WITH MAPS AND PLANS.

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P R E F A C E.



THE seven years that have elapsed since the last Edition of the present Handbook was published have brought with them changes and improvements in the mode of travelling in Russia, which have rendered much of the information conveyed in the Edition of 1868 either obsolete or incomplete. It has, therefore, been to a great extent rewritten and altered in arrangement; and although still imperfect as regards provinces and towns inaccessible by railway, yet the new Edition may perhaps be allowed to claim the credit of describing with sufficient care and accuracy all the principal highways of an Empire which cannot fail to excite more and more the interest and arrest the attention of the traveller and the tourist.

The sections relating to the Caucasus and Finland, which have been much enlarged, may have the effect of attracting travellers, and particularly sportsmen, to those picturesque and unfrequented countries. The construction of railways has brought them within comparatively easy reach from Western Europe, while further railway extensions contemplated in the Lieutenancy of the Caucasus, must before long render Tiflis a favourite halting-place on the way to and from Persia and even India.

To some tourists the historical information conveyed in this Handbook may appear to occupy too much space, but the fact is, that notwithstanding the great antiquity of most towns in Russia Proper, they offer but little to interest the traveller beyond their history. The few monuments of antiquity that have survived the calamities to which they have almost generally been subjected will be found described in their proper places, and it is intended that the scraps of history by which that description is accompanied should assist the traveller in understanding and appreciating the Russia of the present day. The gauge of past history gives the measure and the import of the great reforms introduced by the philanthropic Sovereign who has liberated the serfs, and whose wise legislation is improving the institutions and the material condition of the country

with a rapidity, and on a scale of magnitude and comprehensiveness, unexampled in any other State, ancient or modern.

In drawing attention to the most interesting features of an empire which is passing through a transition so remarkable, no small object will have been gained if, with such assistance as the present Handbook affords, the traveller returns to his home with a juster knowledge of Russia and her people than that with which he left it.

The results of personal observation and study during a long residence in Russia, as well as those of much travel over a great part of the Russian Empire, are embodied in the Edition now offered by the Compiler to the travelling public, in addition to much valuable and curious information derived from numerous historical works of modern date in the Russian language.

At the same time, it is almost needless to say that a Handbook for a country so vast, and for which no general Handbook even in the Russian language has yet been written, could not have been made sufficiently accurate without the aid of notes made by the most recent travellers; and as such notes have been largely used in the present Edition, it is impossible to record within the limits of a Preface, or without partiality, the names of all those who have kindly contributed their observations and their advice.

A general, heartfelt acknowledgment must suffice, and it may be hoped that such an unavoidable act of seeming ingratitude will not deter future travellers in Russia from giving the advantage of their experience to those by whom they will be succeeded.

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and Consul, at St. Petersburg.

Odessa, October, 1875.