

SKOBELEFF



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SKOBELEFF

AND

THE SLAVONIC CAUSE

BY

O. K.

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PREFACE.

SKOBELEFF's biography has not yet been written, and the materials upon which I found this poor tribute to the memory of our Slavonic hero are very incomplete. I cannot pretend to have produced more than a short sketch, and a most imperfect one, of the brief but glorious career of him who has already become a legendary hero of the Slavs.

The cause for which Skobeleff fought in Bulgaria was a very precious one to me as to thousands of Russians. On my present visit to England I was happy to see that the generous sympathy expressed in this country at the moment of Skobeleff's death still existed, and that many of my English friends were still anxious to learn 'something more' of him. That is precisely what I venture to offer.

Even that humble task I have undertaken with much diffidence. Written under the pressure of many troubles, far away from those whose ample

knowledge of Skobelev and his work could guide my pen and my reminiscences, I am painfully impressed with the shortcomings of this book. But, with all its imperfections, I venture to trust that it will enable Englishmen to realise something of the character of my famous countryman, as well as of the cause to the service of which he dedicated his life, and without which he could never have been entirely our own Skobelev.

O. K.

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SKOBELEFF SOON AFTER GEOK TEPE	<i>Frontispiece</i>
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