

GORE OT OUMA.

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G O R E O T O U M A

A COMEDY

FROM THE RUSSIAN OF GRIBOIEDOFF

TRANSLATED BY NICHOLAS BENARDAKY.

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PREFACE.

I HAVE undertaken to present to the English public the *chef-d'œuvre* of the Russian stage, the *GORE OT OUMA* of Griboiedoff. This production of a rising man of talent, whom, unfortunately, death prevented from showing any further development of his powers, is equally remarkable as a brilliant literary achievement, and as the bold step of an author who first dared to raise the veil which covered the faults of his contemporaries. Great was the wrath which he excited, but he never swerved from the road he had opened; and he struck with a firm and resolute hand at the base of the stupendous edifice of prejudices which centuries of ignorance had reared. *Gore ot Ouma* created a strong sensation, not only in the literary circles of Moscow, where it first made its appearance, but in all classes of Russian society. A great number of its verses remain as proverbs to the present