

RUSSIA IN REVOLUTION

BY
G. H. PERRIS

AUTHOR OF
"LEO TOLSTOY, THE GRAND MUJIK," "THE FURTHER MEMOIRS OF MARIE
BASHKIRTSEFF," "THE EASTERN CRISIS AND BRITISH POLICY,"
ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

"What is passing at present is not a simple riot, but a revolution."—Prince
TROUBETSKOY, President of the Moscow Zemstvo, to Prince SVIATOPOLK-
MIRSKY, December, 1904.

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TO
FELIX
CONVICT, POET, AND STATESMAN

PREFACE

WE have watched the early stages, and are about to witness the culmination, of a national movement that will probably loom as large in after history as do those which resulted in the establishment of the French Republic and the United States of America. Writing in mid-crisis (for the mind will not wait while events reach a complete development), of a subject so large and in some aspects so strange, one cannot hope to have attained perfect accuracy of detail or perspective. If rapidly written, however, this sketch of the causes, character, and course of the Russian Revolution represents a good many years of observation and study. Moreover, while much space has been given to a recital of personal experiences illustrating the quality of Russian manhood, the heroism of the revolutionary leaders, and the tragic nature of the struggle for freedom, it is hoped that these narratives will not obscure the fundamental argument that the Revolution is no mere clash of personalities, but is essentially the fulfilment of an irresistible economic process. Thus I have sought to show, in the first place, that the historic autocracy has degenerated during the last two reigns into a lawless and incapable oligarchy; and, then, that the oligarchy is being undermined by the very economic

forces which it brought into existence for its own enrichment. In this part of the book I have been chiefly indebted to Russian and British official publications.

For information as to the history and psychology of the revolutionary movement, and for other details, I am indebted to my exile friends—especially the late Sergius Stepniak and the late Col. Lavrov, Mr. Volkovsky, Mr. Tchaykovsky, and Dr. Soskice; to the files of *Free Russia*, *La Tribune Russe*, and the publications of the Russian secret press; and to friends in Russia whom it would be inconvenient to name. A few passages, including a letter written in Moscow on the eve of the recent crisis, have appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* and other journals.

LONDON,
April 15, 1905.

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* Not referred to in the text. He was arrested and exiled to Siberia as one of the leaders of the "Party of Popular Right," which sprang up in 1894-95 and was almost immediately extinguished, nearly all its active members being caught and arrested.

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