

**RUSSIAN SONGS AND LYRICS:
BEING FAITHFUL TRANSLATIONS
OF SELECTIONS FROM SOME OF
THE BEST RUSSIAN POETS**

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Russian songs and lyrics: being faithful translations of selections from some of the best Russian poets by John Pollen

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JOHN POLLEN

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RUSSIAN SONGS AND LYRICS

BEING FAITHFUL TRANSLATIONS OF SELEC-
TIONS FROM SOME OF THE BEST RUSSIAN
POETS—PUSHKIN, LERMONTOF, NADSON,
NEKRASOV, TOLSTOJ, TYOUTCHEV, MAIKOV,
LEBEDEV, FET, K. R., KLUSHNIKOV, ANATOLE
KREMLEV, MYATLEV, ETC.

THE Translator is devoting any profits that
may arise from the sale of this little Book to
Funds for the benefit of the Russian Soldiers.

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PREFACE

At the suggestion of friends (especially my old friend Mr. Edward Cazalet, President of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society), I am publishing these Translations from the Russian in book form; and I hope that the sale of this little volume may bring in something for the Russian soldiers who are, once more, so gallantly helping to rescue Europe from a great calamity.

Most of these Songs and Lyrics are favourites with the Russian soldiers of all ranks, and are popular amongst the Russian peasantry, who are devoted to song, and amongst whom education has spread, and is spreading more rapidly than is imagined in the West.

Realizing that in Russian Poetry there is "a charm in words" that no words in any other language can ever convey, all I can

claim for these Translations is that I have striven to translate faithfully, and to avoid adding anything of my own.

In so doing, I have followed the general principles for the translation of poetry into a foreign language so ably set forth by Earl Curzon, who says :

“ The Translator should, I think, remember that the work is not primarily his own, but that of another man of whose ideas he is merely the vehicle and interpreter ; and while endeavouring to convert them into the idiom and metrical form of another language, often with some loss—rarely with any gain—in the process, he should, as far as possible, subordinate himself to the conception and thought, and even defer, where possible, to the technique, of the original writer.”

It is hoped that this little volume will prove of interest to English readers generally, and may also be found of some service to Britons studying Russian and to Russians studying English.

From Appendix A it may be gathered how perfectly the International Language—evolved

by the genius of a great Russian linguist— lends itself to the translation of Russian prose and verse; and in Appendix B will be found lines setting forth views I formed about Russia, her people, her policy, and her future, more than a quarter of a century ago.

J. POLLEN.

October 17, 1916.

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