

**AMONG THE
HERETICS
IN EUROPE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649051458

Among the Heretics in Eurpoe by J. A. Packer

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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J. A. PACKER

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TO VISIT
CALIFORNIA



FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF RUSSIAN BAPTISTS

Among the Heretics in Europe

By
J. A. Packer

With an Introduction by
THE REV. JOHN CLIFFORD, M.A., D.D.

Eight Full-page Illustrations



Cassell and Company, Ltd
London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne
1912

Prefatory Note

BY REV. JOHN CLIFFORD, M.A., D.D.

My friend Mr. Packer offers me the opportunity of saying a few words to my Baptist friends concerning this account of the visit he made to the Baptists of the Continent of Europe, and especially of Russia, in the year 1911.

I gladly avail myself of it. For the story is one of manifold interest. It is full of thrill in itself, and it is told in an easy and pleasant style, alluring the reader from page to page, and holding his attention from beginning to end.

There is the added charm of much that is fresh. St. Petersburg and Moscow, Buda Pesth and Madrid, are not familiar spots, and do not offer familiar scenes for the pen of the journalist. Life in these cities is to a large degree strange to the Anglo-Saxon, and its details appeal to our curiosity.

But the book is mainly concerned with the two great struggles of the human race: (1) the struggle for the perfect and ultimate Religion, and (2) the struggle for individual freedom—two struggles which are so interlocked that wherever you find one you

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are sure to discover that you are in the presence of the other.

Russia within the last fifty years has experienced a wonderful spiritual awakening. Tolstoy is one sign; Turgenieff, Maxim Gorky, Dmitri Marejkowski are others; but it is amongst the people—and notably the peasantry—that there has been the most remarkable “stirring of the dry bones.” Thousands have been led to the acceptance of the primitive Christianity of the New Testament, have seen in Jesus their Saviour and Leader and Lord, and have formed societies, under His authority and inspiration, of a self-governing type. They are advancing by leaps and bounds. Mr. Packer has visited some of these communities, and he gives a succession of glimpses of the rise and advance of this Revival of Religion. It is a record of progress, and of progress in the deepest things of life; and it is a prophecy of the future.

All readers will find a full reward in this volume; but Baptists in Britain, in the United States of America, and all over the world will be specially delighted to accompany Mr. Packer on his pilgrimage “Among the Heretics in Europe.”

JOHN CLIFFORD.

Foreword

To a journalist who has spent twenty-five years of his working life in Australia, a country which has practically no history, and where all things are new, there can be no greater luxury than a holiday in Europe. For years it had been my desire to study at close quarters the struggle that is going on all over Europe in the cause of religious liberty, and to make the acquaintance of some of the men and women who are re-writing history and changing the face of a Continent. That was my special mission. I have written only of what I saw, of what I heard at first hand, and of what was told me of their own knowledge by men and women in the vanguard of this movement.

It was a case of "through Europe without a language." Many people have asked how I managed with only a knowledge of English. It was just a matter of dribbling through. I was advised to learn Esperanto, and fagged at it on the voyage; but never met a soul who could speak it. That was not the fault of Esperanto. The journey did not lie that way. Imperial letters of commendation, and

introductions from public men and secret brotherhoods, were carried. None of these served. Long before the 40,000 mile journey was over the discovery had been made that for the purpose of that journey the best passport was comradeship in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it enabled one to triumph over all languages, and most of the difficulties pertaining to travel in strange countries. Moreover, it gave one the *entrée* to the hearts and confidences of men who have been taught by long years of oppression that silence is golden, and that discretion is the better part of valour.

If there is anything of interest or inspiration in this plain recital of a newspaper man's experiences, it is modestly dedicated to my friend W. B., in Sydney, to the friends who showed a barbarian much kindness, and to the brave men and women in Europe who are contending for the Evangelical faith, many of whom are "bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus."

SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES,
May, 1912.