

A SHORT HISTORY OF RUSSIA

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A Short History of Russia by Mary Platt Parmele

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MARY PLATT PARMELE

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A SHORT HISTORY
OF
RUSSIA

BY

MARY PLATT PARMELE

AUTHOR OF "FRANCE," "ENGLAND," "UNITED STATES,"
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PREFACE.

IF this book seems to have departed from the proper ideal of historic narrative—if it is the history of a *Power*, and not of a *People*—it is because the Russian people have had no history yet. There has been no evolution of a Russian nation, but only of a vast governing system; and the words "Russian Empire" stand for a majestic world-power in which the mass of its people have no part. A splendidly embroidered robe of Europeanism is worn over a chaotic, undeveloped mass of semi-barbarism. The reasons for this incongruity—the natural obstacles with which Russia has had to contend; the strange ethnic problems with which it has had to deal; its triumphant entry into the family of great nations in which it stands second to none—such is the story this book has tried to tell.

M. P. P.

NEW YORK, *June*, 1899.

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