A SHORT HISTORY OF RUSSIA

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A Short History of Russia by Mary Platt Parmele

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OF

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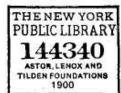
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PREFACE.

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 Rus-·sia 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 nonesuch is the story this book has tried to tell.

M. P. P.

New York, June, 1899.

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