VINDICATION OF RUSSIA AND THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS

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Vindication of Russia and the Emperor Nicholas by David K. Hitchcock

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DAVID K. HITCHCOCK

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OF

RUSSIA

AND

THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS.

By DAVID K. HITCHCOCK,

AUTHOR OF PAMILIAR OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE TEXTH.

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TO

HER IMPERIAL HIGHNESS,

MARIA NICOLAJEVNA,

THE GRAND DUCHESS OF LEICHTENBERG,

WHOSE

PROUD DISTINCTION IT IS TO BE ALIKE ENNOBLED BY THE QUALITIES OF HER HEART AND MIND, AND BY HER HIGH BIRTH,

THIS VOLUME,

IN ADMIRATION OF HER CHARACTER,

IS MOST RESPECTIVLLY

DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

WE would ask the unbiased attention of the reader to the examination of the following pages. We say unbiased, because we think it necessary, in order to judge fairly of their merits, that the mind should be divested of the strong and bitter prejudices which have been created against Russia. We do not blame any one for forming such opinions; indeed, we do not see how it could have been otherwise. Our country has been flooded with books, pamphlets, and tracts, containing false statements respecting the policy and acts of the Russian government; and what has been still more effectual, we have had hosts of lecturers, who, for years, have been canvassing almost every town and village, calumniating Russia and vilifying the Emperor Nicholas. These lecturers, with hardly an exception, have been, and are, natives of Poland, who well know, when speaking to an audience, that, however absurd their statements, and enormous their falsehoods, may be, it has not been in the power of any one to contradict or refute them.

It is strange, indeed, that there has never appeared a single line, or lecturer, in behalf of Russia and its abused but excellent monarch; and this work (in the preparation of which we have been assisted by a literary friend) is designed to throw some light upon the subject, — well convinced that our countrymen will never consent to have any one "condemned unheard;" therefore, it is believed that it will be efficacious in enlightening the minds of the people, and in dissipating those prejudices which have for years existed.

COURT STREET, Sept. 25, 1844.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I,
Introduction
CHAPTER II.
Absolute Power not necessarily a Curse, - Alexiowitsch . 36
CHAPTER IIL
Early Condition of Poland. — Facts from History 58
CHAPTER IV.
The Grand Duchy of Warsaw. — The Emperor Alexander. — The Kingdom and Constitution of Poland. — Conspiracy against Russia. — Abdication of the Grand Duke Constantine
CHAPTER V.
Death of the Emperor Alexander.—Retrospect.—The Military Colonies
CHAPTER VI.
Causes of the Polish Insurrection. — Major Tochman's
Tract