

**RUSSIA UNDER NICOLAS  
THE FIRST. TRANSLATED  
FROM THE GERMAN**

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Russia Under Nicolas the First. Translated from the German by Anthony C. Sterling

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**ANTHONY C. STERLING**

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Translated from the German.

BY

CAPTAIN ANTHONY C. STERLING,  
73rd REGIMENT.



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## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.



Most Englishmen are inclined to interest themselves in foreign politics, and to regard surrounding states with more or less of national suspicion. The popular bugbear of this country for some years past has been Russia; although the distrust and alarm which that vast empire has excited, might, perhaps, with full as much reason, have been directed to quarters not so far from home.



The following papers are by anonymous writers; and are to be found in a Supplement to the well-known Conversations-Lexicon, intitled "Conversations-Lexicon der Gegenwart."

The Translator is not aware of any work which presents so distinct, intelligible, and comprehensive a review of the internal affairs of Russia; and it seems to him advisable, that his countrymen should acquire some more accurate acquaintance than they are now possessed of, with this great mass of organized, or mechanized, humanity—that if the dangers with which it is supposed to threaten England be real, we may be the

better prepared to obviate them; and, if otherwise, we may feel authorized to dismiss, or moderate, our apprehensions. The concentrated power of a military government, which can bring to bear, through the impulse of a single will, not impeded or deterred by the slightest domestic opposition, all the resources of an immense territory, and an almost innumerable population, against one or more of its neighbours, for the accomplishment of any aggressive purpose—which can conceal its projects, and watch its opportunities of action—must be considered, in the common course of things, a fair object of jealousy to other states, and of dislike to most free nations.

The wealth, intelligence, individual enterprise, and collective force of England, when once brought into activity, and aimed with cordial and united vigour at any definite end, are immeasurably superior to those of the Muscovite Leviathan. But, on the other hand, the manifold practical obstructions, inseparable from that one paramount blessing of representative government which has for ages been naturalized amongst us, may afford to any absolute prince engaged in warfare with Great Britain, advantages of secrecy, steadiness, and tenacity, in the prosecution of his schemes of political aggrandizement, which a free and sturdy race of men, (every individual of whom enjoys for