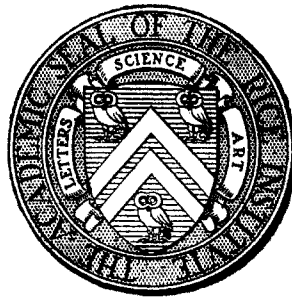


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FOREWORD

THE following five public lectures were delivered during the winter of 1914-15 at The Rice Institute. The writer's immediate purpose was to stimulate further interest in the reading of Russian literature; his further aim, to share with his audience, in a very informal manner, some of the ethical ideas dominating Russian fiction. This small collection aspires neither to bibliographic nor to biographic completeness; it does not begin at the beginning, nor is it finished; it does not deal with the Great War, nor with Russia's recent wonderful transfiguration and more wonderful prospect. What has been attempted here is not a critical analysis either of Russia's novel or of Russian life, but rather a broad survey of the Russian novel as itself a criticism of life. To that end the writer has limited himself to Russia's four greatest masters, and has used their own words wherever possible, hoping in this way to deepen the reader's interest in their works as well as in the problems which they raise.

Among the English translations which have been utilized by the writer, and which he desires to recommend to those interested in further reading, are the following, easily accessible: Constance Garnett's versions of Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, and Tolstoy; Isabel F. Hapgood's translations of Turgenev and Tolstoy; Louise and Aylmer Maude's and N. H. Dole's translations of Tolstoy. Several of the novels have been published in *Everyman's Library*, and Gogol's "Dead Souls" by the F. A. Stokes Company. The reader will also find Aylmer Maude's "Life of Tolstoy" and Count Ilya Tolstoy's "Reminiscences of Tolstoy" of great interest and value, and, for a general discussion of the whole subject, Prince Kropotkin's "Russian Literature."

