The truth about the tsar and the present state of Russia

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THE TRUTH ABOUT
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BY

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"RUSSIA AS IT REALLY IS"

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PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION

In "Russia As It Really Is" I pointed out the red smoke issuing from the Tsar's chimney. In "The Truth About the Tsar" I pointed out that the edifice was on fire, and that if it was to be saved Nicholas must abandon his inheritance of autocracy, side with the people, and give to them the reality, not the shadow of freedom. To-day my message of friendship from the Russian to the English-speaking peoples is of a different character.

The late Sir Robert Morier, one of the ablest of English Ambassadors, was accustomed to say that no man should be more than 5 per cent. ahead of the people he sought to influence; if he was 10 per cent. in advance of current opinion he was considered a crank; if 20 per cent. a fanatic or even a madman. My two books on Russia contained nothing but sober fact, but they were ahead of public opinion. My predictions have been fulfilled. The Autocrat's massacre of unarmed, peaceful Christians
by hired Moslems on January 23 ended the armistice between the people and the Romanoffs. Nicholas Alexandrovitch, who in January was already in the quicksands to his shoulders, is now lost. No constitutional monarch will succeed the autocracy. The United States of Russia hold out the right hand of friendship to the people of Europe and America. It is already time for the latter to decide whether Russian autocracy or freedom is the more congenial to British or American interests. The civil war now raging can only have one end. Violence will be met with violence. Where one head has fallen for freedom ten will be required of autocracy. The sentence pronounced and executed against Sergius has been pronounced against the family of Romanoff. For the anguish and suffering in store for the ladies and little children of that family I feel but cannot speak. Let them seek an asylum outside Russia and they will be unharmed, but the flag of the United States of Russia will fly over the Kremlin whether the Romanoffs elect to perish or to fly.

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