

10 LITTLE GRANDMOTHER OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

the other children, she was seized with an irresistible wish to visit her calf. Half unconsciously, she led them towards it. As soon as they caught sight of it they all exclaimed, "Ah, Katya's calf! It is Katya's calf!" Katya felt abashed. Her illusion was shattered, and her wooden calf gave her no further pleasure.

She was always dreaming of helping some one. After the loss of her calf, this dream absorbed her whole being.

She was more interested in people than in anything else. When the family made journeys in their coach, she often caught sight of Jews, and she was moved to great curiosity by their singularities. She looked with awe upon these people who spoke a strange language, wore outlandish clothes, and ate food prepared according to peculiar rules.

Once she saw a group of men with shaven heads and bare feet, laden with heavy chains, driven along the street, under guard. She was much impressed by the sorrowful sight, and asked her mother who they were.

"They are unfortunate people — lost people, who have taken the wrong path in life," her mother answered. But the response did not dispel the mystery. She was constantly asking questions to which she got no answer.

Her chief concern, however, was for the great class of peasants. Her dream was to help them and make them happy. She imagined herself the mistress of a vast estate, where all the unfortunate serfs in the world might live, wearing beautiful clothes, having plenty to eat, and passing their days free from care.