

to realise it has made friendship with Russia not quite popular in England, and subject to an uneasy suspicion. It may help to dispel this uncomfortable feeling when we understand that the Russians are not only a united nation, not only a race of strong, simple, and profoundly religious people, but that they seek after and have produced for themselves and for us large treasures of truth and beauty.

There is a stimulus to friendship in differences as well as in likenesses, where each friend supplies the defect of the other ; and thus the outstanding differences no less than the essential affinities of Russia and England are worth thinking over. Russia is really one of the younger nations. She is more of a child than England or France or Germany. Like a child, she is overflowing with understanding and sympathy, but she is not what grown-up people call practical. The Russian character is very sensitive, and with its sensitiveness there is a certain lack of hard fibre. According to universal testimony the Russian nature is humane and kindly beyond that of most Western nations. It has cultivated, by native instinct, and under the pressure of historical circumstances, the virtues of patience and resignation to a degree which amounts to a weakness, if a beautiful weakness. Like a child, it bears no grudge, but it is easily discouraged, because it has not yet "found itself." There is in Russian character a lack of initiative and of the virtue (if it be a virtue) known as "hustle."

Yet Russians are capable of doing, as well as of suffering, anything when their heart is in it. It should be borne in mind, too, that among the educated class of Russia, who have been open to foreign influence, the intellectual and moral diseases of Western Europe have taken with extreme violence. This has been the weakness of their educated class. Much of what makes Russia unsympathetic to us is due to this exceedingly academic or book-ridden