

Two Russians of Note.

Maxim Gorky — Leo Tolstoy.



RECENT American magazine writer has stated regarding "Young Russia" that it is a conglomerate of personalities. Its leaders, taken all together resemble nothing so much as a stone-formation of volcanic origin, in which the various strata pierce the soil, each one at a different point, and each showing the traces of the fire which has scathed it."

Among these personalities there stands out prominently, the name of Alexi Maximovitch Pieschkoff, known to general readers as Maxim Gorky, who has been described as "the poet of tramps and thieves." Gorky is a writer of great power, but his works are scarcely of the type which would be welcomed and openly discussed by the majority of readers in Western Europe and America. Like Tolstoy, he paints man as he is made, or rather as he has made himself, by continuous years of debauchery, dishonesty, vice and uncleanness. His models are not selected from the higher walks in life, but from among the off-scouring of humanity. The characters whom he holds up before us in his writings have been fitly described as social pariahs, and those who people his romances and tales as "a strange world composed of Tartars, gypsies and degenerates, of beings abnormal and declassed." a recent publication remarks regarding him:

"That it is somewhat surprising to learn that he is himself far from being a poor man. Not only has he a great popular following as an author, but he has shown remarkable business shrewdness in organizing