

library of Russian works on the economics of agriculture ; another on the economics of credit and finance ; and a third on wages, co-operation, and the labour question. In these studies, indeed, Russia holds one of the foremost places.

These are facts. They are, as has been said, professedly incomplete ; they do not even in rapid summary cover the whole ground ; but they do not go beyond, rather they fall short of, what can be tested and verified. Every reader can draw from them his own conclusions. But the broad facts ought to be known, and they must be taken into account if we are to understand what Russia is and what our relations to Russia, our feelings towards Russia, ought to be. They are not set forth here to prove a theory, or to support a political alliance. Still less are they set forth to place Russia in an artificial light. The object of stating them is to remove an artificial darkness.

This statement therefore does not touch on the political side of the Russian question and its bearing upon our relations with the Russian Government and people. It does not, indeed, desire to conceal or to minimise the faults of the Russian Government towards its own people or towards subject races and nationalities. In these matters, as in many more, Russia is at a stage which other countries have gone through, and which others again possibly have not yet reached, for who knows the ways of the world, how God will bring them about ? When we think of the dark history of England a hundred years ago, with its widespread distress and bitter discontent met by high-handed repression, with its dispersals of peaceful meetings by armed force, with its savage political prosecutions, and its sentences of death or exile on political reformers, or when we look back still further to the darker pages in the history of our rule of Ireland, we may