

PREFACE

THE material in this book is drawn mainly from three sources. Madame Breshkovsky, while in New York, gave Doctor Abraham Cahan an account of her childhood and youth. He wrote out her reminiscences, and published them in his paper, the *Jewish Daily Forward*, in instalments, running from October 23, 1904, to January 18, 1905.

This account, translated from the Yiddish, and somewhat condensed, is here printed in English for the first time. It brings the narrative down to her first arrest. Through an interpreter, she gave a description of her early prison experiences and an outline of her later life to Ernest Poole, who published it in the *Outlook*. To the *Outlook* I am indebted also for her letters written in prison to her son. Her experiences after she was sent to Siberia for the second time are told in her own correspondence.

Her full name, in Russian, is Ekaterina Constantinovna Breshko-Breshkovskaya. I have used the shortened form of it which she herself used in this country.

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