



M.V. Muratov

L.N. TOLSTOY
&
V.G. CHERTKOV:
Through Their Correspondence

Translated By
Scott D. Moss



In 1879 Lev Tolstoy, being at the height of his literary recognition and personal prosperity, experienced an emotional crisis which turned his life inside out. He described this crisis in the book *Confession*. All his previous life appeared to him as erroneous, bringing any person and all mankind to an impasse. From that time on he tried to look for new paths and devoted the last 30 years of his life to this search.

His main companion in this search was Vladimir Grigorievich Chertkov, acquaintance with whom had begun in 1883. Their emotional bond and mutual understanding developed into a close long-term friendship. They not only wrote each other the most detailed letters, but also gave their diaries to one another to read and enthusiastically commented on them.

The second half of Tolstoy's life ended, like the first, in deep emotional crisis. But he had no time to write a second "confession." It seems the value and importance of Muratov's book, being offered now to the reader in English translation, is that it, to a great extent, compensates for this gap. Since the relationship between Tolstoy and Chertkov as shown in their letters is presented with such total sincerity and confidence, this book acquires a confessional character.

The translator, Scott D. Moss, painstakingly recreated in English the peculiarities of style of two important Russian thinkers of the 19th century, provided the book with a name index which was not included in the Russian edition (1934).

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