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# **Among horses in Russia**

M. Horace Hayes



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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1900 Excerpt: ...tips takes a more offensive form in Russia than anywhere else. No ordinary Englishman objects to give ten shillings to the groom or a sovereign (to say nothing of paper) to the gamekeeper after a day. shunting or shooting at a friend.s place; but the obligation in Russia to deliver up that tuppence-ha.penny (10 kopecks) to the man who opens the door, and the same fee to the Johnnie who takes one sovercoat, every time one goes into a restaurant, is an intolerable infliction. To one accustomed to the "remittance man" of the Colonies, and the European loafer of India, St. Petersburg appears to be singularly free from the English waster element. It is true that on rare occasions a fellow-countryman will tell the tale and try to borrow a bit to go on with; or, in the old familiar way, will on seeing a bottle of whisky in the middle of a party of strange brother Britons, come smiling up to the table, seat himself down and make a thirsty remark about the weather. But such men do not stay long in the great city by the Neva; for the Russian authorities have an effective method, admirable to those who like to pay their way, of removing out of their capital all human waifs and strays whether native or foreign. There are very few beggars, and even they solicit alms in a furtive and abashed manner that shows a struggle between want and fear of detection. In the interior, mendicity is as much a trade, as it is in Spain, Italy, Ireland or India, and is so much respected that the pious expression, Bokh swami (God be with you = may God help you) is the recognised form of refusing to part. Russia must be a happy hunting-ground for Englishmen of commerce; for I have rarely seen one of them at the Hotel d.Angleterre, which is a great resort of the British trader, wi...

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