

value and even more of real inspiration to true and worthy living. The issue of such an edition as this makes such a reading possible as it has not been for many in the past.

Tolstoi in Full

Messrs. T. Y. Crowell & Co. have just issued the *Works of Count Lyof N. Tolstoi** in twelve handsome volumes in a box. They have been edited by Mr. N. H. Dole. They embody practically the whole of their distinguished author's literary product thus far; War and Peace, Anna Karenina. A Russian Proprietor, My Religion, etc.—we need not enumerate the list of titles. These names are enough to recall the character and opinions of the writer, the many discussions which his works have caused, and the sharp differences of opinion about him which are likely to continue long after he shall have passed away.

To read a man's writings, a volume at a time, with intervals of a year or two, supplies impressions and even opinions of what he is and teaches. But to know him and his views truly it is necessary to read him thoroughly and carefully. One must follow the progress of his thought through his consecutive expressions of it in literature. Thus one develops with him, as it were, and, whether agreeing with him fully or not, one reaches his conclusions with him, or witnesses his attainment of them, intelligently.

It is not so much, therefore, as mere stories, powerful although they are, or social or religious essays, suggestive although they are, that we value these volumes thus offered together. It is rather as statements, arguments and pleas, whatever their individual forms, that they possess chief significance. Tolstoi is a great moral force. He is unsound and misleading upon some points. He is far too ill-balanced to be a safe guide. He is illogical and visionary. He offends good sense and at times good morals in his writings. He is very far from being an ideal teacher in social, civil or religious matters.

None the less, he has won the ear of the world for the time and fairly. He has commanded general attention and respect by his intense sincerity and loyalty to his theory of life and his purpose to uplift humanity. A man may be sincerely in error, and upon some points Tolstoi seems to be. But when his aim is noble and his life unselfish, his sincerity in this age of pretense and superficiality wins him attention and influence. In spite of their weaknesses and errors, such men as Tolstoi set their fellow men and women to thinking, hoping and striving for diviner ends. They break up the hard-trodden surface of the field of life and make it fertile, and, even though they unwittingly sow tares with their good seed, the Lord of the harvest does not frown upon the crop.

If we comprehend Tolstoi correctly, we are by no means ready to approve of many of his teachings about economics, government, society or religion. But we recognize the generally high and holy purpose of his writings and believe that they who read his works without prejudice will find in them much of practical

* \$12.00, \$15.00 or \$30.00 according to binding.