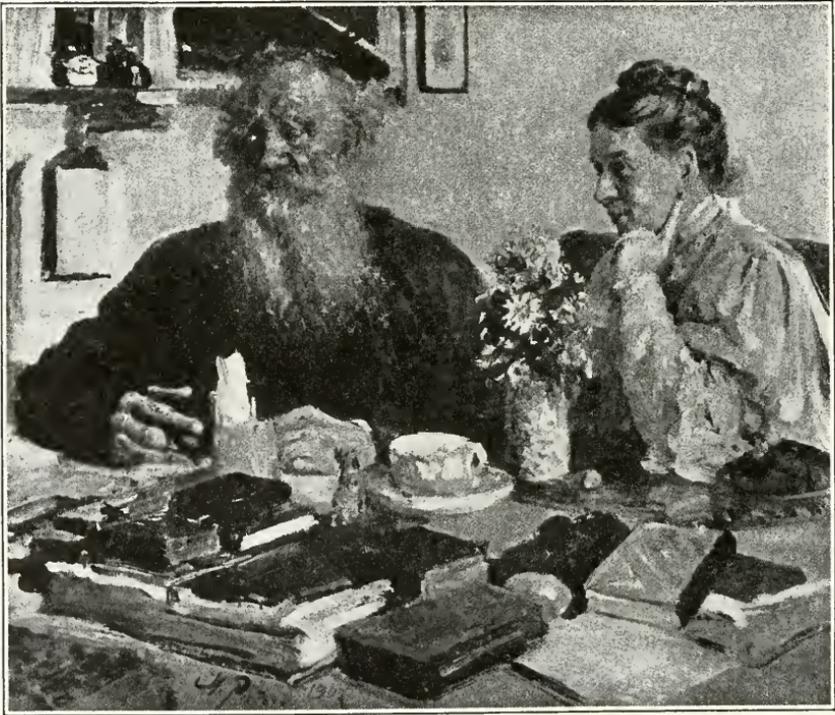


## REPIN, THE RUSSIAN ARTIST.

BY THE EDITOR.

ILJA REPIN, the great master of Russian painters, last year celebrated his seventieth birthday, and looks back upon an eventful and highly successful career. He is typically Russian,



THE COUNT AND COUNTESS TOLSTOY.

and has gathered about him a number of younger painters. Having been a great personal friend of Tolstoy he has painted his fellow countryman many times and in many different attitudes,

just as he happened to observe him, lying down, or rising, or walking the street barefoot, or driving behind the plough, whip in hand, or seated in his study with his wife. The last-named picture is so very expressive that we reproduce it here; it shows the old Russian philosopher in a very happy and characteristic position.



ILJA REPIN.

Another of his pictures, a very famous one, portrays a group of Saporog Cossacks scornfully dictating an answer to the ultimatum of Sultan Mohammed the Fourth. Repin has distinguished himself by a great psychological insight into the characters of his subjects, and here, in the picture of the Saporog Cossacks, we find a group



COSSACKS DICTATING AN ULTIMATUM.

of most interesting types taken from actual life, all of them animated by the one spirit of exultant scorn for their arch-enemy, the Turkish Sultan. Every one of the faces before us is that of a distinguished Cossack, and well shows the vigorous warlike qualities of these people. The distinguished officer to the right, with the white fur cap is General Dragomirow. His loud and boisterous laugh dominates the whole situation. He is a man of great importance, and has allowed himself to become immortalized in this famous painting. The scribe, the only one among this horde of Cossacks who knows the art of writing, as he wields his pen cannot suppress a smile of satisfaction at the jeers of defiance hurled at the arch enemy of Russia, and the men who by their combined wisdom indite the letter are evidently enjoying the thought of its later delivery in Constantinople.

Russian art has not reached the heights which have been attained among the more western peoples. The majority of Russian artists have studied under French influence. They have accomplished remarkable things, but we still feel in their productions a strange note of Barbarism—the cruder elements of the East with a veneer of European civilization. One thing is certain, that if Russia is allowed to have a peaceful development she will accomplish wonderful things in painting as well as in music, and we may safely say that in the world of art Ilja Repin is one of the most remarkable phenomena of the present age.