

Российская революция глазами английского журналиста

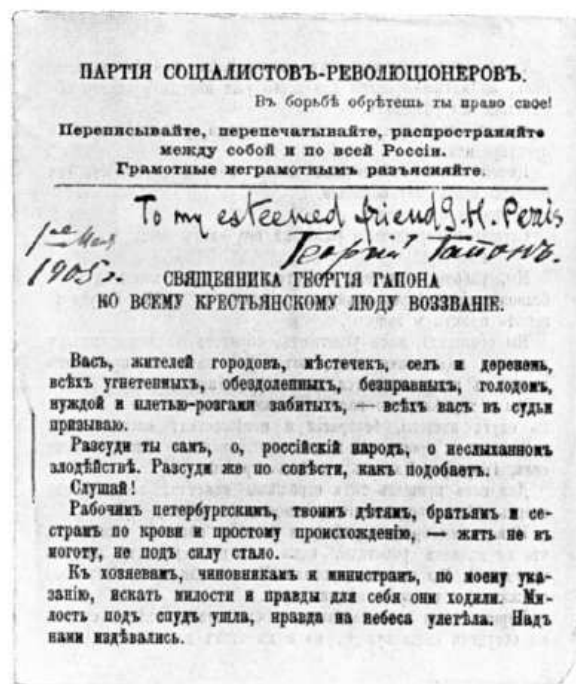
Джордж Перрис (George Herbert Perris) (1866–1920) родился в Ливерпуле. С 17 лет работал журналистом, снабжая статьями столичные и местные газеты. Конец XIX и начало XX века – время его увлечения Россией. Он подолгу жил в России и в подробностях знал историю последних двух царей династии Романовых; был лично знаком со знаменитыми революционерами Сергеем Степняком-Кравчинским и Петром Лавровым; три его книги посвящены Льву Толстому и толстовству. Свои наблюдения за бурно развивающимися событиями он суммировал в книге "Russia in Revolution", которая уже в 1905 г. выдержала два издания.

Прочитав выдержки из этой книги, дайте письменный ответ на вопросы:

1. Под каким именем вошло в историю описываемое событие?
2. Какие выражения выдают отношение автора к происходящему прежде, чем он его прямо высказывает? Приведите три примера.
3. Автор даёт прогноз развития событий на тот случай, если бы власти хотели избежать кровопролития. В чём этот прогноз противоречит его собственным утверждениям о мирном характере демонстрации?
4. Автор жалеет, что Николай II не оказался "более мужественным монархом". На месте Николая II как бы Вы действовали в этом случае?



FATHER GEORGE GAPON.
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FACSIMILE OF FIRST PAGE OF FATHER GAPON'S
MANIFESTO TO THE RUSSIAN PEASANTS.

From Chapter XXI

On the 22nd of January, the clear frosty morning dawned upon the "Little Father" of all the Russias fifteen miles away from St. Petersburg, hidden in his palace at Tsarskoe Selo. But, in the capital, all thoughts were of his presence at the Winter Palace, where his children had craved that

he would meet them. The bridges connecting the industrial quarters with the centre of the city were early occupied by troops, and the avenues which led to them were shut off. Small camps of grey-coated soldiers and even of sailors were stationed short distances apart throughout the snow-covered streets, with bonfires, stacks of rifles, and ambulance vans in readiness. By midday the church bells called in vain; roofs and windows were crowded with spectators; slowly but steadily, the populace was moving from the suburbs towards the Palace Square. But already trouble had begun: the crowds who were trying to pass from Basil Island across the bridges to the meeting-place on the other side of the Neva came into collision with the soldiers. The Cossacks attacked them with their whips and the Uhlans charged to drive them back. Still they pressed on. "We are peaceful men," they said. "Let us pass. We have only come to seek for help." The answer was a volley from the guns; and in that moment many a brave fellow had uttered his last word.

From beyond the Narva Gate, on the south-west, came a long bare-headed procession led by Father Gapon, in full vestments, bearing the cross. Some of the strikers carried banners, ikons, and portraits of the Tsar, Tsaritzza, and the Dowager-Empress. No fear, no thought, of opposition or danger troubled the workmen as they moved along, for they knew that a notice calling upon the men to march quietly to meet the Tsar had been read by the police and allowed to remain posted on the factory walls, side by side with an address of thanks which had been presented to the Emperor six months before; moreover, a police-officer, in consultation with the chairman of the Working-men's Club, had said that the conduct of the procession would be best left to the men themselves. As they passed, the soldiers, bowing and uncovering their heads, made the sign of the cross. Suddenly, a squadron of cavalry intercepted the procession; and, with no warning, the infantry from the opposite bank of the canal fired upon the crowd, first, a volley of blank cartridges, and then with ball. On all sides men fell wounded and dead; the ikons and banners were riddled with shot; the snow was stained with blood. The holy portrait of the Tsar was shattered and torn to shreds, while Father Gapon rose, almost alone but uninjured, and disappeared, not to be seen again till he can stand at the head of a more effective army of protestants.

On all sides the dead and dying were carried away or cast carelessly aside. At the Putilov Works the men, fearing that they would be fired upon, flung themselves upon the ground, and so the soldiers shot them down; the awful scene was described as a "human shambles." Outside the Palace the troops fired directly into the crowd. Men, women, and children fell at each volley. The soldiers had become uncontrollable and were firing with reckless aim, so that many children watching in the Alexander Gardens were struck. Several officers were attacked and injured by the crowd; but it was unarmed, and had no means of resisting the terrible onslaught. In the Vassili Ostrov district and on the Nevsky Prospect the strikers tried to erect barricades with the telegraph-wires and poles and stones which they tore up from the roadway, but the soldiers fired upon them mercilessly and cleared them away. As the day wore to a close, the city was again plunged in darkness. Firing was heard all through the evening, and throughout the night there was a great funeral, the police secretly carrying away and burying the dead. The number of these will never be known, but a conservative writer, anxious to prove that "complete tranquillity" had been restored, estimated that five hundred persons were killed and fifteen hundred wounded. In the evening the following proclamation was issued: –

"Comrades, Russian Working Men. – There is no Tsar. Between him and the Russian nation torrents of blood have flowed to-day. It is high time for the Russian workman to begin without him to carry on the struggle for national freedom. You have my blessing for that fight. Tomorrow I will be among you. Today I am busy working for the cause.

(Signed) GEORGE GAPON, Priest."

Comment upon these events is needless. If Nicholas II. preferred to stay at Tsarskoe Selo, rather than meet a test which a courageous monarch would have welcomed, we can only reflect

that this was quite in accordance with the spirit of his reign. But the Tsar being absent, why should the workmen have been prevented from going to the Winter Palace Square to discover the fact? There were troops enough to protect the State buildings, and, at least, the onus of the first violence would then have rested with the strikers, had any disturbances occurred. Instead, cavalry and infantry occupied every approach to the centre of the city, and, without any warning or formality, proceeded to carry out what looked like a carefully pre-arranged programme of massacre of unarmed men, women, and children. As though Russia had not a sufficiently redoubtable enemy to face in the Far East, her rulers must needs turn their weapons upon the people of her metropolis. The future keeps her secrets, but we may be sure that in one way or another there will be a price to pay for every one of these wasted lives.

Perris G. H. *Russia in Revolution*. London, 1905. P. 312–315.