

The Russian Aristocracy and the Country Estate: A. Olenin and 《Prijutino》 (3)

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Alexis Olenin was an aristocrat and a high official, belonging to the specially privileged class of all the aristocracy in the Russian Empire. It was a large class, having a population of a million and containing strictly vertical categories within it.

The uppermost group, of which Olenin was a member, established the image of the luxurious Russian aristocracy. Why did they seem so rich and completely willful?

First I would like to look at the lifestyle of the highest aristocratic group in Saint Petersburg and Moscow, because these two cities have very different characters.

I would like then to return to Olenin's life, especially in his country estate 《Prijutino》 in the summer, in order to know how he and his family and his many guests spent their summer days, and how he got along with his neighboring estate owner.