



KOTELNITSKY

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**«LETTERS FROM THE VILLAGE» BY N.N. VOLK-KARACHEVSKYI AS
A SOURCE OF THE HISTORY OF THE ZEMSKY LIBERAL MOVEMENT
IN THE NORTH OF LEFT-BANK UKRAINE (60-80's of the 19th century)**

Summary

The article is devoted to the introduction into the international scientific circle of the little-known and poorly investigated corps of historical primary sources on the history of the of the Zemsky Liberal Movement in the North of Left-Bank Ukraine (60–80's of the 19th century) – «Letters from the village» from Nikodim Nikodimovich Volk-Karachevsky (1829–1913). The author, having conducted a detailed content analysis of the epistol of a famous publicist, a member of the oppositional Liberal Party of the North Left Bank, came to the conclusion that «Letters from the village» N.N. Volk-Karachevsky is a unique and extremely valuable epistolary that clearly and thoroughly covers the intellectual segment of the history of Zemsky liberalism in the Ukrainian Polissya, and at the same time illustrates the excellent journalistic talent of the «pen» of the members of the liberal faction in the person of Nikodim Nikodimovich. The letters de facto represent the historiosophical presentation of the social and economic program of the opposition aristocratic front of northern Ukraine, indicating the ideological imperatives of the liberation movement. «Letters from the village» clearly represent the political and

philosophical ideals of the Zemsky liberal movement of Sivershchyna on the systemic transformation of all spheres of existence of the Russian empire of the second half of the nineteenth century. The social essence of these transformations consisted in fundamentally changing the foundation of the construction of a new country: the refusal of the patronage and the broad support of the small-scale dominant state of the state – the big latifundial aristocracy and bureaucracy (no more than 5%) and the formation of a new, modern society from the absolute majority of the population, the prospect of a «middle class», a progressive economy and a large-scale capitalist reform of all areas of the life of the empire for the benefit of every citizen. By political orientation, these ideals, beyond all doubt, were liberal, and consisted in the gradual evolution of the neo-feudal Russian Empire into a democratic, rule-of-law state, with all civil rights and freedoms of people.

Key words: *N.N. Volk-Karachevsky, «Letters from the village», Zemsky liberal movement, social and economic program of zemsky liberalism.*