

## LUKA DVALISHVILI

### RUSSO-TURKISH WAR OF 1877-78 AND THE ISSUE OF GEORGIA'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION IN ILIA CHKONIA'S *PUBLICISTIC MATERIALS*

Ilia Chkonia expressed excitement due to Adjara's reintegration in Georgia. He dedicated extensive articles to the above fact in regard to which of special interest is the article "The Voice of Datumi" published in Iveria's issue 14 of 1879 that says: "battles occur everywhere in mountains and valleys; insuppressible battles for independence of our country against myriads of enemies", by means of such realistic description, the writer provides a true history of Georgia for this specific period of the country's entire journey. According to the *publicist*, Georgia managed to *achieve the finest levels of the development of science and arts during the short period of peace and therefore, "pieces of finest architecture" are preserved all over the country. He contemplates about hardships of his contemporary Georgia and makes remarkable conclusions. As a provident and forward-looking patriot, the writer evaluates the reality and is not surprised that the Georgians of Adjara disapprove of the burden of the Russian empire and insist on the protectorate of England and France after gaining independence from Turkey. The article clearly reflects the author's extensive knowledge of the history of Georgia and advance countries of his contemporary world.*