

## TARIEL PUTKARADZE

### DIMITRI KIPIANI AND THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE

Dimitri Kipiani greatly contributed to the establishment of the Georgian journal *Tsiskari*. It had a leading role in the survival of the Georgian language as a defining factor of the national identity and culture of the Georgians.

Throughout his life Dimitri Kipiani led an active struggle in order for the Georgians of all regions to study the native historical language. He urged everyone not to forget the national language, the language of the ancestors, so that not to be abandoned by God.

Despite the fact that for a long period of time D. Kipiani was a high official of the occupant administration, he was devoted to the national endeavours. He struggled for the protection of the Georgian language at the cost of his own life – was ultimately murdered by imperial administration spies.

D. Kipiani calls the Georgian language as the language of our “mother country”, “domestic language”, “mother language”, native language, while naming Russian as an administrative language. He considers the Georgian language as two variants: literary and colloquial ones. He demands keeping the literary language from the use of such dialectal forms as *danebi* (sisters), *šmanebi* (brothers), etc. According to him, in order to preserve the variety of language it is essential not to forget the words of the old literary language. Besides, the language may be enriched by the borrowings.