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SCHOOL YEARS OF DIMITRI KIPIANI (ACCORDING TO HIS MEMOIRS)

Dimitri Kipiani's "Memoirs" offer an engaging reflection of his years at the Nobility School. The educational system of the Tsarist Russian Empire, based on falsehood and lies, distorted the soul of adolescents, enabling them to adapt themselves to hypocrisy and flattery. The main goal of Tbilisi educational institutions was, first of all, to educate students while shaping them into silent servants devoted to the Russian Empire, and the very goal was accomplished more or less successfully.

Pedagogic "wisdom" of those times embraced two main aspects: learning of the lessons by heart, i.e. in an unconscious and mechanical way, and being hit across the palms of their hands with a ruler for every minor misdemeanor. During his adolescence, Dimitri Kipiani repeatedly endured unfair treatment. Luckily, even the Nobility School had its positive side—some good teachers once in a while, and their lessons and personal examples remained deeply ingrained in the hearts of the students. Dimitri Kipiani was grateful for the very presence of such teachers who reinforced the spirit of decency in the young.