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**DIMITRI KIPIANI AND SADADIANO
/DADIANI ESTATE/
(ACCORDING TO HIS MEMOIRS)**

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ABSTRACT

Dimitri Kipiani deserves special attention among Georgian figures of the 19th century. Among contemporaries and descendants, his versatile work arouses wonder and admiration at the same time. He would handle every task in good faith and responsibly, carrying them out successfully.

D. Kipiani was the guardian of “Sadadiano” (the Dadiani Estate) in 1859-1867. In his memoirs, he gives a brief but interesting description of this period. In 1856-1857, a peasant revolt took place in Samegrelo, which was used as an excuse by the Russian Emperor Alexander II, who asked the widowed Queen of Samegrelo, Ekaterine Chavchavadze-Dadiani to move to Saint Petersburg with her children. He specified the reason for the foregoing as his desire to raise the underage Prince Niko Dadiani under his supervision, to later become a worthy ruler of Samegrelo. The affairs of the principality were taken over by the viceroy of the Caucasus and, as desired by the Mingrelian Queen, her brother - Davit Chavchavadze and her son-in-law (her younger sister, Sophia’s husband) - Alexander Nikolai were appointed guardians of the Dadiani estate, followed by the appointment of Dimitri Kipiani from 1859. He was a member of the State Council of at that time, which was a very honorable and high position. Of course, it was not easy to reconcile these two responsibilities. Therefore, D. Kipiani initially refused to accept guardianship of the Dadiani Estate, and later agreed at the request of Al. Baryatinsky, viceroy of the Caucasus. He, as usual, wholeheartedly took full responsibility for his duties, which was met with great resistance from local Russian officials. After years, D. Kipiani analyzes the already distant case in his memoirs and considers the demonstrated resistance as the “unbelievable insolence and utter insult.”

The memoirs illustrate the personal qualities of D. Kipiani such as decency, responsibility, dedication, loyalty, fighting ability, and obedience to the law. Interesting are the portraits of the invaders - Russian officials (Al. Baryatinsky, viceroy of the Caucasus, N. Kolyubakin, the head of the Senaki uyezd, and K. Borozdin, the head of the Senaki uyezd), who made every effort to reinforce and strengthen Russian rule in Georgia.

The memoirist is sincere and impartial. He does not lie, nor does he exaggerate the facts. D. Kipiani’s memoirs are in complete agreement with other sources and, in themselves, represent a valuable historical source.

Keywords: Russian rule in Georgia (XIX century), History of Samegrelo principality, Dimitri Kipiani -Guardian of the Dadiani estate.