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The Odessa Historian Nikolai Nikiforovich Murzakevich and the Bulgarian Renaissance. Part I

(Summary)

This material is dedicated to the Odessa historian Nikolai Nikiforovich Murzakevich (1806-1883) and to his merits to the Bulgarian Renaissance. From 1830 till his death he lives in Odessa. In the Richelieu Lyceum (later transformed into University of Novorosiysk) he teaches general history and geography. He is author of books on Russian history, numismatics and archeology. He is in relation with many Russian scholars, social and political activists, which also facilitates his activities in favour of the Bulgarian people. Murzakevich knows well the Bulgarians who have studied in the Lyceum and in the University, he relates with all prominent Odessa Bulgarians- Vassil Aprilov and the families Toshkovi, Palauzovi, Mutevi. From the letters of Murzakevich to Y. I. Venelin, O. M. Bodyanski, A. D. Chertkov, M. P. Pogodin and V. I. Grigorovich we present here extracts, connected with the Bulgarian renaissance. They contain some new facts about Ivan Denkoglu, Dimiter Mutev, Spiridon Palauzov, Ivan Shopov, Zahari Knyajeski, Stefan Kovachevich, Sava Filaretov. In Odessa Murzakevich easily gets Bulgarian books. His greatest merit to the Bulgarian renaissance is that he for decades provides with Bulgarian books a number of Russian scholars as well as the patriarch of the Czech Slavonic studies Pavel Josef Shafarik. Thus he facilitates much their Bulgarian research. Furthermore, Murzakevich distributes books of Russian Slavonic scholars on issues from Bulgarian history among the Bulgarians. Such are the studies of A. D. Chertkov. Special attention deserves the article of N. N. Murzakevich .Contemporary Condition of the Education of

Bulgarians., published in 1837 . it is one of the earliest publications that acquaints the Russian society with the spiritual enlightening of the Bulgarian people.