… As the composition of “Evgénii Oniégin” extended over a considerable space of time, our readers may not be displeased at our reverting occasionally to the progress of this work and to the character of its merits. This productions must be considered as the fullest and most complete embodiment that exists in Russian literature of the nationality of the country. It will be found to be the expression of those discordant elements the union of which composes that hard riddle⎯the Russian character. A passage of Púshkin’s dedication will not incorrectly exhibit the variety of its tone:⎯

“ Accept this heap of motley traits

Half-gay, half sad, half false, half real,

Half every-day, yet half ideal,

The careless fruit of idle days,

Of sleepless nights, of wasted art⎯

The reason’s frigid observations,

And sad conclusions of the heart.”

“Sketch of Púshkin’s life and works” by Thomas B. Shaw, *Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine* **57** (356) (1845 June), 657-678, at page 666.