

**‘[A] great friend of mine and of
Tolstoy – Mrs Fyvie Mayo’: a Scottish
writer’s encounter with Tolstoy and
Tolstoyans**

Lindy Moore

Truths and Fictions: Two Centuries of Scottish-
Russian Encounters. Dundee, 20 June 2016

Isabella Fyvie Mayo (1843-1914) c.1909



ISABELLA FYVIE MAYO.

William Diack, 'Isabella Fyvie Mayo', *The Millgate Monthly*, IV (45), June 1909, pp.551-4 (p.553)



from a photo by]

[Robert Brown, Inverurie

Isabella Fyvie Mayo.

'Isabella Fyvie Mayo,
Recollections, (John Murray,
1910)

Isabella Fyvie Mayo, 1890s



MRS. ISABELLA FYVIE MAYO (EDWARD GARRETT).
[From a Photo by MacMAHON, Union Street, Aberdeen.]

The Young Woman, March 1895,
p.195



Portrait Gallery of Contributors to the *Girl's Own Paper*, February 1899

Isabella Fyvie Mayo's conversion narrative

'...The first piece of his work I was thus destined to read was the exquisite fragment, "Lucerne". When I laid down the book, I felt I had encountered a mind under whose sway I realised and understood my own thoughts and feelings as never before. I was conscious of a new light upon all life – a light rising within myself, though kindled by Tolstoy's words.'

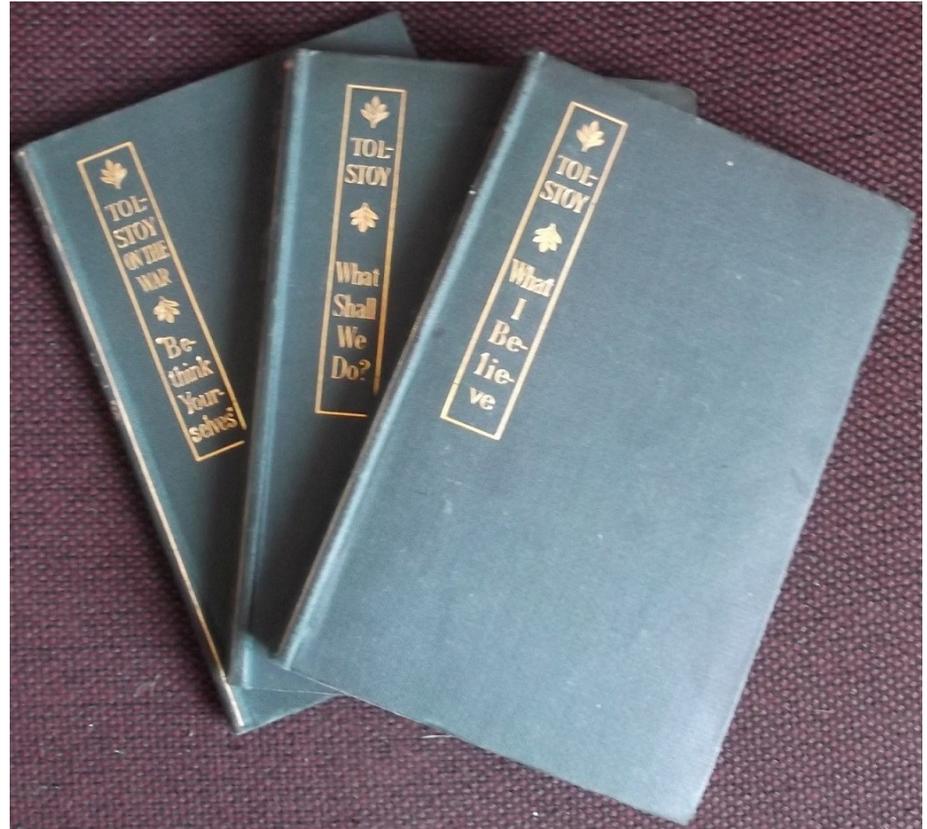
'Modern Influences. III.- Lyof Tolstoy', *The Millgate Monthly*, Vol.1 (3), December 1905, p.153.

Tolstoy's influence

“Tolstoy has given me my true self - has shown me that where I surrendered my own consciousness of right to conventionality and to the opinions of others, I have done wrong and have suffered loss for so doing. He has given me a new and better world. He has freed me from all my intangible fetters, only to bind me the more firmly to the law of my own conscience, and to the Ideal that ever moves before me. I alone can know how much less of suffering, how much more of joy, my life would have had, had his teaching reached me earlier!”

‘An afterword on a controversy’, *The Open Road*, vol. 9 (September 1911)

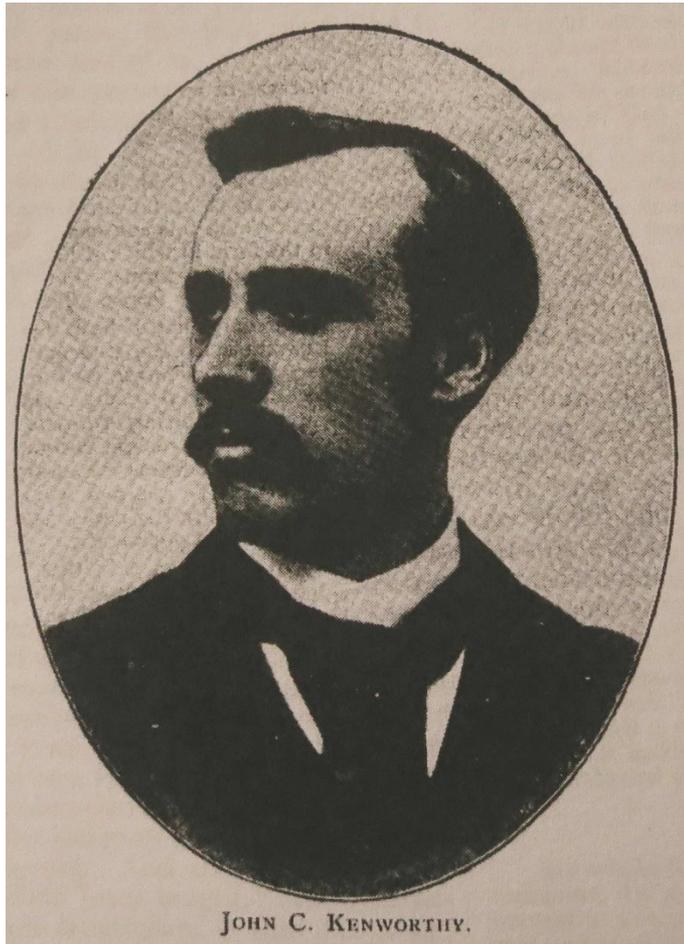
Leo Tolstoy & Vladimir Chertkov



The Free Age Press English
Tolstoy editions

<http://humweb.ucsc.edu/bnickell/tolstoy/tolstoy/chertkov.html>

John C. Kenworthy



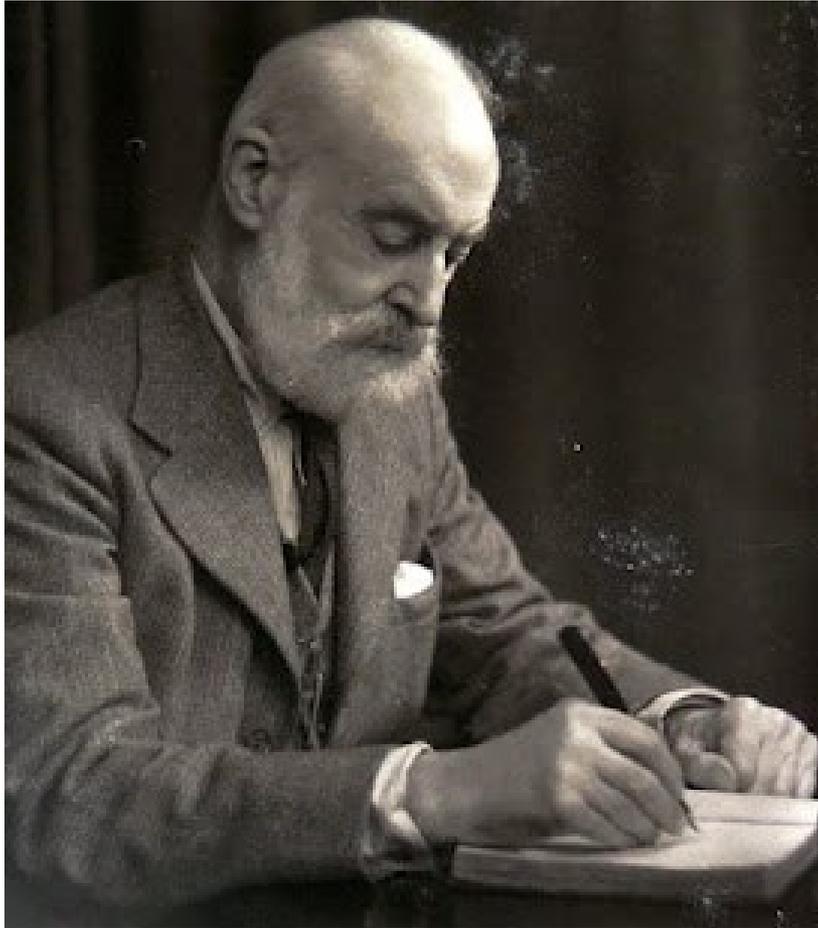
Leading Tolstoyan
activist in the 1890s.

Founder of *The New
Order* Tolstoyan paper.

Criticised by Fyvie
Mayo for racist
comments.

The Labour Prophet, 5, September 1896, p. 137

Aylmer Maude, (1858 – 1938) c 1930

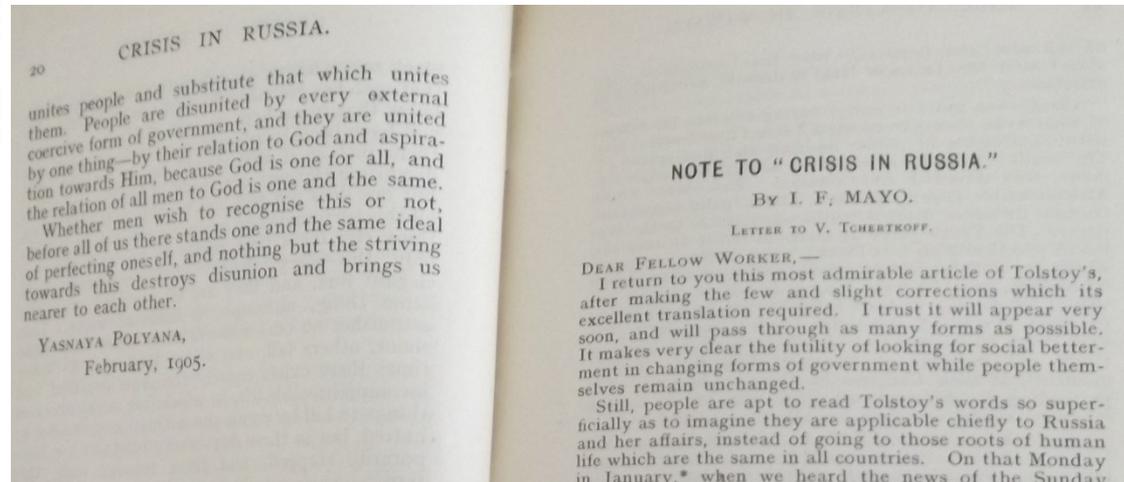
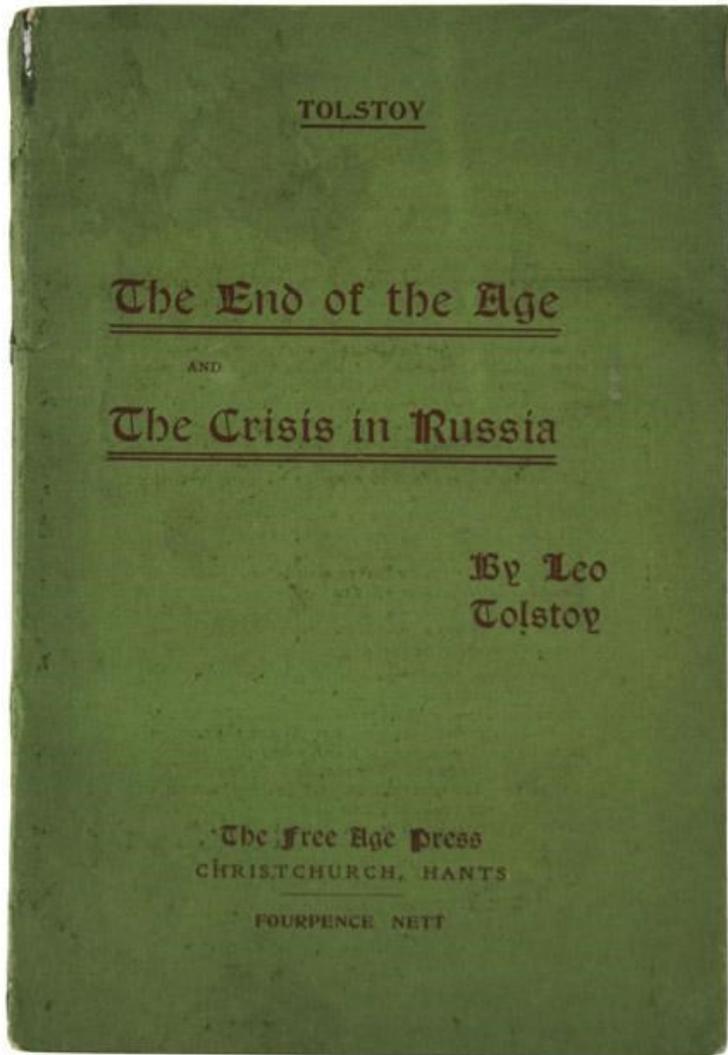


Maude was the chief editor and translator of Tolstoy's English publications.

He had lived in Russia and knew Tolstoy personally. Initially supported Tolstoyan settlements, but not Tolstoy's theme of 'non-resistance'

Fyvie Mayo was critical.

Tolstoy Free Age Press pamphlet with a 'Note' by Isabella Fyvie Mayo



'...people are apt to read Tolstoy's words so superficially as to imagine they are applicable chiefly to Russia...'

Opposing militarism and imperialism in a Free Age Tolstoy pamphlet

‘The first duty of the British workers is to refrain from entering the Army or Navy, these being the tools whereby their landowning class defend their own possessions at home, and exploit and seize on the land of others abroad.’

‘Note by Isabella Fyvie Mayo’, in Leo Tolstoy, *A Great Iniquity*, translated by Vladimir Chertkov and Isabella Fyvie Mayo (London: Free Age Press, [n.d. c. 1905/6])

Chertkov to Gandhi (1910)

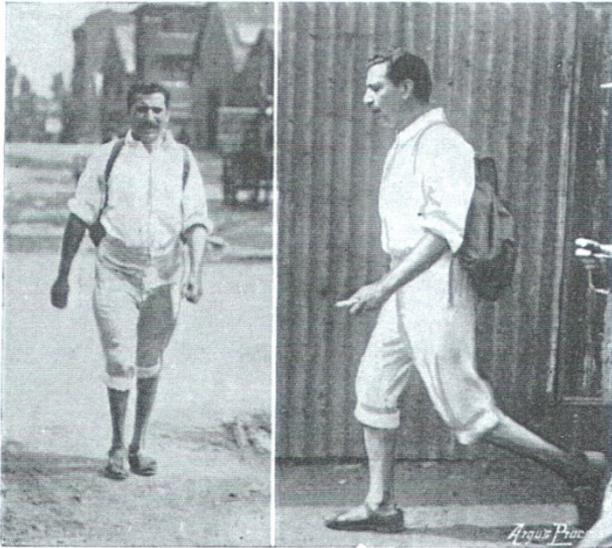
‘...I am writing to a great friend of mine and of Tolstoy—Mrs Fyvie Mayo...proposing that she should enter into communication with you. She possesses considerable literary talent and is well known in England as an author. It should be worth your while furnishing her with all your publications which might serve her as material for an article upon your movement...’

‘V. Chertkov’s letter to Gandhiji’, *Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*, vol. 10.

Hermann Kallenbach

Supplement to INDIAN OPINION,
11th May, 1912.

A Staunch Tolstoyan



Mr. Kallenbach as seen walking from the Tolstoy Farm to Johannesburg

મી. કેલનબેકનું ટોલસ્ટોય ફાર્મથી જોહાન્સબર્ગ સુધી ચાલીને
જતી વખતનું ચિત્ર.

‘A Staunch Tolstoyan’

Kallenbach depicted
in Gandhi’s
magazine, *Indian
Opinion*, May 1912

Walking from
“Tolstoy Farm” to
Johannesburg

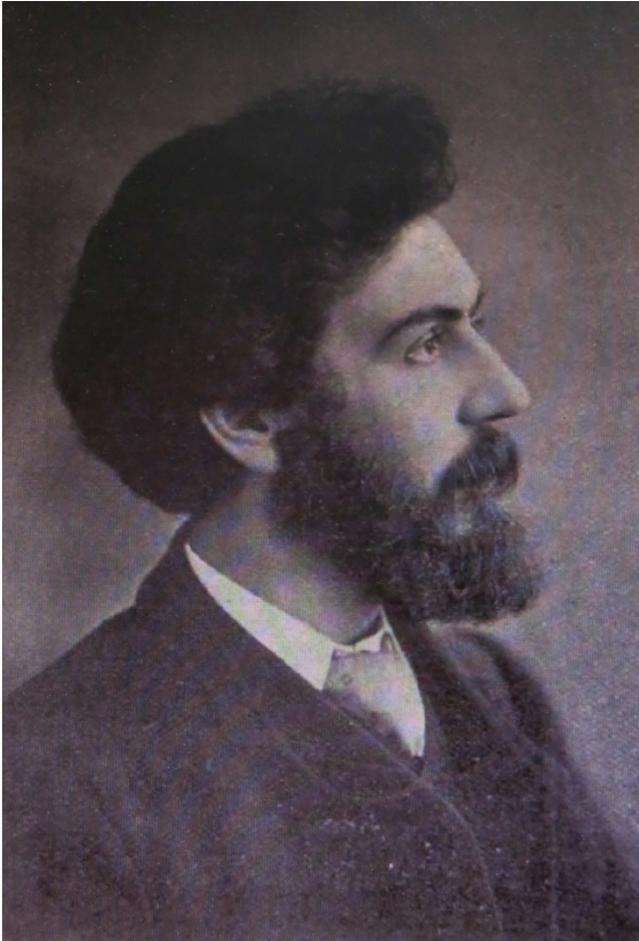
Gandhi's obituary for Isabella Fyvie Mayo

The late Mrs. Mayo

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Mayo, which took place last week. The news was cabled to Mr. Kallenbach, and it soon became common property amongst the many who had come to look upon Mrs. Mayo with regard and veneration. Hers was a truly noble soul. It was a most strenuous life that she led up to the very end. She was one of the few true interpreters of Tolstoy's teachings, and she will be best known to the world as such. To the Indians of South Africa her memory will be a cherished treasure for her very warm and loving sympathy during their troubles.

'The late Mrs Mayo', *Indian Opinion*, 20 April 1914

Rev. Walter Walsh(13 April 1857 – 20 May 1931)



Rev. Walter Walsh *The Piper O' Dundee* 10-11-1897, p.317.

'Founder of the Free Religious Movement towards World-Religion and World-Brotherhood. Pioneer of Peace: on platform & by his writings he eloquently pleaded the cause of social & international justice, the reconciliation of races & religions & the rights of animals.'

Gilfillan Church, Dundee, 1897-1912

Walsh, Walter, *The greater parables of Tolstoy : with interpretations* as told to his congregation by Walter Walsh.

.Published London : C.W. Daniel, 1906.

Fyvie Mayo spoke at Gilfillan Church several times.

Isabella Fyvie Mayo (1843-1914) c. 1909

*Recollections of
what I saw, what I
lived through, and
what I learned, by
Isabella Fyvie Mayo
(Edward Garrett)
(John Murray:
London, 1910)*



From a photo by

[Robert Brown, Inverurie.]

Isabella Fyvie Mayo.