

Herzen fulfilled the Russian dream of going abroad, where he started the tradition of exile literature. According to the conventions of this kind of writing, a Russian living safely and prosperously in a foreign country calls upon the people living at home to revolt and be sent to Siberia. Living in England, Herzen and his wife published *The Bell* and got *The Clap*. To weaken the bourgeois family, they founded spouse swapping with Nicholas Ogarev and his wife. Ogarev, a friend of the Herzens since childhood, wrote a great deal of bad verse, which Herzen included in his autobiography, *The Past and Recollections*. An epileptic, Ogarev wrote verse in fits. Herzen cited with enthusiasm his elegy, “Old Home”:

Old house! Old friend! I have found you!<sup>3</sup>  
 And oh, your cold ruin I rue;  
 Resurrecting the past times before me,<sup>4</sup>  
 Sadly I contemplate you.

The courtyard lies ruined before me,  
 Untended, collapsed is the well,  
 The green leaf lies noiseless and still;  
 It has died on wet ground where it fell.<sup>5</sup>

The house stands there sadly decaying,  
 On greenery plaster is spread;  
 The cloud up above moves so sadly  
 And weeps for the life that’s been led.<sup>6</sup>  
 I went in . . .  
 . . . . .

Here’s the small room that in old days  
 We shared with one mind and one soul,  
 Remember the thoughts that once soared there,  
 The dreams, the forgotten lost goal!!

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3. Evidently, the house had moved.

4. The word used for past times—*byloe*—is the same Herzen uses in the title of his memoir, which is perhaps taken from this poem, where the word appears twice.

5. There was no wind in Russia.

6. Vadim Klichevov notes how this rhyme subtly anticipates the end of the poem, with its unspoken “dead.” See “The Rhymes of Ogarev,” *Slavonic Quarterly* 21, no. 2: 221–47.