

## They Popemoff—Nap and Adolf

*The Emperor Nap he would set off  
On a summer excursion to Moscow;  
The fields were green and the sky was blue,  
Morbleu! Parbleu!  
What a splendid excursion to Moscow!  
The Russians they stuck close to him  
All on the road to Moscow—  
And Showvaloff he shovell'd them off,  
And Markoff he mark'd them off,  
And Krosnoff he cross'd them off,  
And Touchkoff he touch'd them off,  
And Boroskoff he bored them off,  
And Kutousoff he cut them off,  
And Parenzoff he pared them off,  
And Worronzoff he worried them off,  
And Doctoroff he doctor'd them off,  
And Rodinoff he flogg'd them off,  
And, last of all, an Admiral came,  
A terrible man with a terrible name,  
A name which you all know by sight very well,  
But which no one can speak, and no one can spell.*

—Robert Southey: from *the March to Moscow*.

## Common Sense—Or Is It?

The principles of the art of war are in themselves extremely simple and quite within the reach of sound common sense. Even though they require more special knowledge in tactics than in strategy, this knowledge is of such small scope that it does not compare with any other subject in extent and variety. Extensive knowledge and deep learning are by no means necessary, nor are extraordinary intellectual faculties. If, in addition to experienced judgment, a special mental quality is required, it would be cunning or shrewdness. For a long time the contrary has been maintained, either because of false veneration for the subject or because of the vanity of the authors who have written about it . . . The conduct of war itself is without doubt very difficult. But the difficulty is not that erudition and great genius are necessary to understand the basic principles of warfare. These principles are within the reach of any well-organised mind . . . Even the application of these principles on maps or on paper presents no difficulty, and to have devised a good plan of operations is no great masterpiece. The great difficulty is this: to remain faithful throughout to the principles we have laid down for ourselves.

—General Carl von Clausewitz.