

neutralize their means of resistance. Leaving three thousand soldiers in garrison at Alexandria, he set out on the 6th of July for

XXXVIII.
BATTLE OF
THE
PYRAMIDS.

Cairo¹ at the head of thirty thousand men. After some skirmishing on the route with the Mamelukes, on the 21st of the month he arrived opposite Cairo, on the west side of the Nile, where Mourad Bey had formed an in-

trenched camp, defended by twenty thousand men, while on the plain, between the camp and the pyramids, were drawn up nearly ten thousand Mameluke horsemen. Napoleon arranged his army in five divisions, each in the form of a square, with the artillery at the angles, and the baggage in the centre; but scarcely had he made his dispositions, when eight thousand of the Mameluke horsemen, in one body, admirably mounted and magnificently dressed, and rending the air with their cries, advanced at full gallop upon the squares of infantry. Falling upon the foremost division, they were met by a terrible fire of grape and musketry, which drove them from the front round the sides of the column. Furious at the unexpected resistance, they dashed their horses against the rampart of bayonets, and threw their pistols at the heads of the grenadiers, but all in vain,—the tide was rolled back in confusion, and the survivors fled towards the camp, which was quickly stormed, its artillery, stores, and baggage were taken, and the "Battle of the Pyramids" was soon at an end. The victors lost scarcely a hundred^a men in the action, while a great portion of the defenders of the camp perished in the Nile; and, of the splendid array of Mameluke horsemen that had so gallantly borne down upon the French columns, not more than two thousand five hundred escaped with Mourad Bey into Upper Egypt.

57. A few days after the battle of the Pyramids, Napoleon experienced a severe reverse by the destruction of his fleet which he had left moored in the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria. On the morning of the 1st of August the British fleet, under the command of Admiral Nelson, appeared off

1. *Cairo* (ki'-ro) the modern capital of Egypt, and the second city of the Mohammedan world, is near the eastern bank of the Nile, about twelve miles above the apex of its delta, and one hundred and twelve miles south-east from Alexandria. Population variously estimated at from two hundred and fifty to three hundred thousand. Cairo is supposed to have been founded about the year 970, by an Arab general of the first Fatimate caliph. The neighborhood of Cairo abounds with places and objects possessing great interest, among which are the pyramids, and the remains of the city of Heliopolis, the On of the scriptures. (*Map* No. XII.)

a. "Scarcely a hundred killed and wounded."—Thiers. "The victors hardly lost two hundred men in the action."—Allison.

the harbor, and on the afternoon of the same day the attack was commenced, several of the British ships penetrating between the French fleet and the shore, so as to place their enemies between two fires. The action that followed was terrific. The darkness of night was illumined by the incessant discharge of more than two thousand cannon; and during the height of the contest the French ship *L'Orient*, of one hundred and twenty guns, having been for some time on fire, blew up with a tremendous explosion, by which every ship in both fleets was shaken to its centre. The result of this famous "Battle of the Nile" was the destruction of the French naval power in the Mediterranean, the shutting up of the French army in Egypt, cut off from its resources, with scarcely the hope of return, the dispelling of Napoleon's dreams of Oriental conquest, and the revival of the coalition in Europe against the French republic. Turkey declared war; Russia sent a fleet into the Mediterranean; the king of Naples took up arms; and the emperor of Austria, yielding to the solicitations of England, recommenced hostilities.

58. Notwithstanding the loss of his fleet, and the storm that was arising in Europe, Napoleon showed no design of abandoning his conquests. With remarkable energy he established mills, foundries, and manufactories of gunpowder throughout Egypt, and soon put the country in an admirable state of defence. Upper Egypt was conquered by a division under Desaix, who penetrated beyond the ruins of Thebes; and finally, in the early part of February, [1799] 1799, Napoleon, leaving sixteen thousand men as a re-serve in Egypt, set out at the head of only fourteen thousand men for the conquest of Syria, where the principal army of the Sultan was assembling. On the 6th of March, Jaffa, the Joppa of antiquity, the first considerable town of Palestine, was carried by storm, and four thousand of the garrison who had capitulated were mercilessly put to death—an eternal and ineffaceable blot on the memory of Napoleon.

59. On the 16th of March the French army made its appearance before Acre, where the Pacha of Syria had shut himself up with all his treasures, determined to make the most desperate resistance. He was aided in the defence of the place by an English officer, Sir Sidney Smith, who commanded a small squadron on the coast. Foiled in every attempt to take the place by storm, Napoleon was finally compelled to order a retreat, after a siege of more than two months, having in the meantime, with

XXI. SIEGE
OF ACRE.

only six thousand of his veterans, defeated an army of thirty thousand Oriental militia in the battle of Mount Tabor.¹ On the morning of that battle Kleber had left Nazareth² to make an attack on the Turkish camp near the Jordan, but he met the advancing hosts in the plain in the vicinity of Mount Tabor. Throwing his little army into squares, with the artillery at the angles, he bravely maintained the unequal combat for six hours, when Napoleon, arriving on the heights which overlooked the field of battle, and distinguishing his men by the steady flaming spots amid the moving throng by which they were surrounded, announced, by the discharge of a twelve pounder, that succor was at hand. The arrival of fresh troops soon converted the battle into a complete rout; the Turkish camp, with all its baggage and ammunition, fell into the hands of the conquerors, and the army which the country people called "innumerable as the sands of the sea or the stars of heaven" was driven beyond the Jordan and dispersed, never again to return.

60. Napoleon reached Egypt on the 1st of June, having lost more than three thousand men in his Syrian expedition; but scarcely had he restored quiet to that country, when, on the 11th of July, a body of nine thousand Turks, admirably equipped, and having a numerous pack of artillery, landed at Aboukir Bay, having been transported thither by the squadron of Sir Sidney Smith. Napoleon immediately left Cairo with all the forces which he could command, and although he found the Turks at Aboukir strongly intrenched, he did not hesitate to attack them with inferior forces. The result was the total annihilation of the Turkish army,—five thousand being drowned in the Bay of Aboukir, two thousand killed in battle, and two thousand taken prisoners.

61. By some papers which fell into his hands, Napoleon was now, for the first time, informed of the state of affairs in Europe. Early in the season the allies had collected a force of two hundred and fifty thousand men between the German ocean and the Adriatic, as a barrier against French ambition; and fifty thousand Russians, under the veteran Suwarrow, were on the march to swell their numbers. To this vast force the French could oppose, along their eastern frontiers,

1. *Mount Tabor* is twenty-five miles south-east from Acre, and fifty-three north-east from Jerusalem. It is the mountain on which occurred the transfiguration of Christ.—Matthew, xvii. 2, and Mark, ix. 2. (*Map No. VI.*)

2. *Nazareth*, a small town of Palestine, celebrated as having been the early residence of the founder of Christianity, is seventy miles north-east from Jerusalem. (*Map No. VI.*)

and scattered over Italy, an army of only one hundred and seventy thousand. In Italy the united Russians and Austrians gradually gained ground until the French lost all their posts in that country except Genoa: many desperate battles were fought in Switzerland, but victory generally followed the allied powers, while, in Germany, the French were forced back upon the Rhine: Corfu had been conquered by the Russians and English, and Malta was closely blockaded.

62. When Napoleon was informed of these reverses of the French arms, his decision was immediately made, and leaving Kleber in command of the army of Egypt, he secretly embarked for France. After a protracted voyage, in which he was in constant fear of being captured by British cruisers, he landed at Frejus¹ on the 9th of October, and on the 18th found himself once more in Paris. The most enthusiastic joy pervaded the whole country on account of his return. The eyes, the wishes, and the hopes of the people, who were dissatisfied with the existing state of things, were all turned on him: men of all professions paid their court to him, as one in whose hands were, already, the destinies of their country: the Directory alone distrusted and feared him.

63. Napoleon, perceiving that the French people had grown weary of the Directory, and relying on the support of the army, concerted, with a few leading spirits, the overthrow of the government. As preliminary measures, the Council of the Ancients was induced to appoint him commander of the National Guard and of all the military in Paris, and to decree the removal of the entire Legislative body to St. Cloud,² under his protection; but the Council of Five Hundred, alarmed by rumors of the approaching dictatorship, raised so furious an opposition against him, that Napoleon was in imminent danger. As the only resource left him, he appealed to his comrades in arms, and on the 9th of November, 1799, a body of grenadiers entering the Legislative hall by his orders, cleared it of its members; and thus military

1. *Frejus* is a town of south-eastern France, in a spacious plain, one mile from the Mediterranean, and forty-five miles north-east from Toulon. Napoleon landed at St. Raphael, a small fishing village about a mile and a-half from Frejus. Frejus was a place of importance in the time of Julius Caesar, who gave it his own name. (*Map No. XIII.*)

2. *St. Cloud* is a delightful village six miles west from Paris, containing a novel castle and magnificent garden, which were much embellished by Napoleon. Napoleon chose St. Cloud for his residence; hence the expression *cabinet of St. Cloud*. Under the former government the phrase was, *cabinet of Versailles*, or *cabinet of the Tuileries*.

XLII. BATTLE
OF MOUNT
TABOR.

XLIII.
BATTLE OF
ABOUKIR.

XLIV.
OVERTHROW
OF THE
DIRECTORY.

force was left triumphant in the place of the constitution and the laws. A new constitution was soon formed, by which the executive power was intrusted to three consuls, of whom Napoleon was the chief. The "First consul," as Napoleon was styled, was in everything but in name a monarch. Not only in Paris, but throughout all France, the feeling was in favor of the new government; for the people, weary of anarchy, rejoiced at the prospect of repose under the strong arm of power, and were as unanimous to terminate the Revolution as, in 1789, they had been to commence it. The Revolution had passed through all its changes:—monarchical, republican, and democratic; it closed with the military character; while the liberty which it strove to establish was immolated by one of its own favorite heroes. on the altar of personal ambition

XLV. NAPO-
LEON FIRST
CONSUL.

CHAPTER VI.

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

SECTION I.

THE WARS OF NAPOLEON.

ANALYSIS. [EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1800.] 1. Napoleon's proposals for peace. Rejected by the British government.—2. Military force of Great Britain and Austria. Situation of France, Effect of Napoleon's government.—3. Disposition of the French forces.—4. Successes of Moreau. [Engen. Moeskirch.] Massena is shut up in Genoa. Napoleon passes over the Great St. Bernard. [Great St. Bernard.]—5. Surprise of the Austrians. Napoleon's progress. Victory of Marengo. [Marengo.]—6. Efforts at negotiation. Malta surrenders to the British.—7. Operations of the French and Austrians in Bavaria. [Hohenlinden.] Passage of the Splügen by Macdonald. [Splügen.] Armistice. Peace of Luneville. [Luneville.]—8. Maritime confederacy against England. Its effect. Previous orders of the Danish and Russian governments.

9. [EVENTS OF 1801.] England sends a powerful fleet to the Baltic. Battle of Copenhagen.—10. The Russian emperor Paul is strangled, and succeeded by Alexander. Dissolution of the League of the North.—11. The French army in Egypt. Capitulation. General peace. [Amiens.]

12. [EVENTS OF 1802, THE YEAR OF PEACE.] Internal Affairs of France. Napoleon made consul for life.—13. Conduct of Napoleon in his relations with foreign States. Holland—the Italian republics—the Swiss cantons. Attempt to recover St. Domingo. [Historical account of St. Domingo.]—14. Circumstances leading to a RENEWAL OF THE WAR IN 1803. Hostile acts of England and France.

15. First military operations of the French, in the year 1803. [Hanover.] Preparations for the invasion of England.—16. Rebellion in Ireland. Conspiracy against Napoleon early in 1804. The affair of the Duke D'Enghien. [Baden.]—17. Hostile acts of England against Spain. The latter joins France.—18. Napoleon, emperor, May, 1804—crowned by the pope—appointed sovereign of Italy, May, 1805.

19. New coalition against France. Prussia remains neutral. Beginning of the war by Austria.—20. The French forces. Napoleon victorious at Ulm. [Ulm.] English naval victory of Trafalgar. [Trafalgar.] Additional victories of Napoleon, and treaty of Presburg, Dec. 1805 [Austerlitz.]

[1806.] 21. Conquests of the English. [Mahrattas. Buenos Ayres.] Napoleon rapidly extends his supremacy over the continent. The affairs of Naples, Holland, and Germany.—22. Circumstances which led Prussia to join the coalition against Napoleon.—23. Napoleon's victories over the Prussians. He enters Berlin. [Jena. Auerstadt.]—24. The Berlin decrees. Napoleon in Poland. Battle of Pultusk. Battle of Eylau, Feb. 1807. Fall of Dantzic. [Eylau Dantzic.]—25. Battle of Friedland. [Friedland. Niemen.] The treaty of Tilsit. Losses suffered by Prussia. [Tilsit. Westphalia.]—26. Circumstances that led to the bombardment of Copenhagen, by the English fleet. Denmark joins France. Portuguese affairs. The French in Lisbon. [Rio Janeiro. Brazil.]—27. The designs of Napoleon against the Peninsular monarchs. Affairs of Spain, 1808. Godoy—abdication of the Spanish monarch, and his son Ferdinand. Joseph Bonaparte becomes king of Spain, and Murat king of Naples.—28. Resistance of the Spaniards and beginning of the Peninsular war.—29. Successes of the Spaniards at Cadiz, Valencia, Saragossa, and Baylen. [Baylen. Ebro.]—30. War in Portugal, and evacuation of that country by the French forces. [Oporto. Vimiera. Cintra.]—31. Napoleon takes the field in person, and the British are rapidly driven from Spain. [Reynosa. Burgos. Tudela. Corunna.]