The armistice of June 4th.

back in good order on Silesia, while Napoleon had to confess that his victories had been paid for by such heavy losses that to win, at this rate, was equivalent to ruin. On June 4th he agreed to an armistice in order to reorganize his troops.

The attitude of Austria.

Both parties now became aware that the issue of the campaign depended upon Austria, for so delicately adjusted were the scales between the contestants, that the side upon which she would throw her influence would have to win. In these circumstances Metternich, Austria's unscrupulous and juggling minister, undertook, at first, the rôle of mediator; but when Napoleon indignantly rejected the conditions for a general peace which Metternich proposed, Austria threw in her lot with the European coalition. In August, 1813, at the expiration of the truce, there followed a concerted forward movement on the part of the allies. Prussians, Russians, and Austrians crowded in upon Napoleon, who sat ensconced in the heart of Germany, in Saxony. Having the smaller force, his outposts were gradually driven in, himself outmanœuvred, and his concentrated host crushed utterly in a savage three days' battle at Leipsic (October 16th–18th). With such remnants as he could hold together he hurried across the Rhine. Germany was lost beyond recovery. The question now was: Would he be able to retain France?

The campaign of 1813: second part.

The winter campaign of 1814.

If the great conqueror could have befriended himself with the idea of ruling over France alone, he might have ended the war by the acceptance of the Rhine boundary, which the allies now offered. But he refused to acknowledge that he was beaten, and by rejecting the proffered peace obliged his enemies to continue the war. In the winter they invaded France, resolved to annihilate him before he had recovered his strength. His defensive campaign, conducted in the cold of winter with slender forces, is regarded by military men as among his most brilliant achievements; but he was



now hopelessly outnumbered, and when, on March 31st, the allies forced the gates of Paris, even Napoleon's confidence received a shock. As he looked about him he saw the whole east of France in the hands of his enemies, while the south was as rapidly falling into the power of Wellington, who in the two splendid campaigns of 1812 and 1813 had pushed the French out of Spain and was now pursuing them across the Pyrenees. On April 6, 1814, at his castle of Fontainebleau, Napoleon acknowledged that all was over, and offered his abdication. The allies conceded him the island of Elba (off the coast of Tuscany) as a residence, and then gave their attention to the problem of the future of France. Not from any enthusiasm for the House of Bourbon, but merely because there was no other way out of the difficulties, they finally gave their sanction to the accession to the throne of Louis XVIII., brother of the last king. As regards the extent of the restored kingdom, it was agreed in the Peace of Paris that France was to receive the boundaries of 1792.

Napoleon abdicates, April 6, 1814.

The allies restore the Bourbons.

This important preliminary matter arranged, a general congress of the powers assembled at Vienna to discuss the reconstruction of Europe. The modern age has not seen a more brilliant gathering of notabilities. All the sovereigns and statesmen who had stood in the centre of public attention during the last momentous years were, with few exceptions, present, and a single drawing-room sometimes held Czar Alexander, the great Wellington, the German patriot Stein, the courtly but treacherous Talleyrand, and that master of all diplomatic wiles, the Austrian chancellor Metternich. But before the Congress of Vienna had ended its labors, the anti-Napoleonic coalition, which the congress represented, was once more called upon to take the field. For in March, 1815, the news reached the allied sovereigns that Napoleon had made his escape from Elba, and had once more landed in France.

The Congress of Vienna.

Napoleon returns from Elba.

The resolution formed by Napoleon, after only a few months of exile, to try conclusions once more with united Europe, was the resolution of despair. It was folly on the part of the allies to expect that a man like him, with a burning need of activity, would ever content himself with the little island-realm of Elba, especially as France, his willing prize, lay just across the water. It was equal folly on the part of Napoleon to fancy that he could thwart the will of united Europe; but being the man he was, there was a moral certainty that, sooner or later, he would make the attempt. On March 1st he landed unexpectedly near Cannes, accompanied by a guard of eight hundred of his old veterans, who had been permitted to attend him in exile; and no sooner had he displayed his banners than his former soldiers streamed to the standards to which they were attached with heart and soul by innumerable glorious memories. Marshal Ney, who was sent out by the restored Bourbon king to take Napoleon captive, broke into tears at sight of his old leader, and folded him in his arms. There was no resisting the magnetic power of the name Napoleon. The familiar "*Vive l'empereur!*" rang through France till the lukewarm partisans of the Bourbon dynasty fell away from it with feverish alacrity. Discouraged by the diminishing ranks of his supporters, Louis presently fled across the border, while the hero of the soldiers and peasants entered Paris amid wild acclamations.

The Hundred Days.

The Hundred Days, as Napoleon's restoration is called, form a mere after-play to the great drama which lies between the Russian campaign and the abdication of Fontainebleau, and which ended with the collapse of his empire of conquest. To revive that corpse against the will of united Europe was hopelessly out of the question. Hardly had the sovereigns at Vienna heard of Napoleon's return, when they launched their excommunication against him, and converged their



columns from all sides upon his capital. The issue was decided in Belgium. There Wellington had gathered a composite Anglo-Dutch-German army, and thither marched to his assistance Marshal Blücher with his Prussians. These enemies, gathered against his northern frontier, Napoleon resolved to meet first. With his usual swiftness he fell upon Blücher on June 16th at Ligny, before this general could unite with Wellington, and beat him roundly. Leaving Marshal Grouchy with 30,000 men to pursue the Prussians, he next turned, on June 18th, against Wellington.

Opening of the Belgian campaign.

Waterloo, June 18, 1815.

Wellington, who had taken a strong defensive position near Waterloo, resolutely awaited the French attack. All the afternoon Napoleon hurled his infantry and cavalry against the "iron duke's" positions without dislodging his tough opponent, and when toward evening the Prussians unexpectedly made their appearance on his right he was caught between two fires, and totally ruined. Precipitately he fled to Paris and there abdicated a second time. Deserted by all in his misfortunes, he now planned to escape to America, but finding the coast guarded by English cruisers, was obliged to take passage on the ship Bellerophon to be carried first to England, and thence, in accordance with the verdict of his victorious enemies, to the rocky, mid-Atlantic island of St. Helena. There, six years later (1821), he died, a lonely and embittered exile.

Napoleon is exiled to St. Helena.

Second restoration of Louis XVIII.

At Paris, meanwhile, the allies once more restored Louis XVIII. to his ancestral throne, and by the Second Treaty of Paris, not quite so generous as that of the preceding year, handed over to him a France shorn of all its revolutionary acquisitions.

Looking backward

The great drama called the French Revolution was over. Beginning with a protest against the corruption and iniquity of government and society, it had celebrated its first success when it overthrew the court and the privileged

orders. Unhappily, the leaders forgot that patient and solid reconstruction should always go hand in hand with wreckage, and had permitted the movement to degenerate into anarchy. The uncertain domestic situation unfortunately became complicated with a war against monarchical Europe, which led to the creation of vast and victorious hosts, and ended by giving birth to a popular military hero. Thus the democratic forces created by the Revolution served to build a throne for Napoleon Bonaparte. Another might have been content with founding a new dynasty in France, but Napoleon lifted his eyes to something greater, and dreamed of the Empire of Charlemagne. That project was at the bottom of all his later wars, wars of pure conquest, which he conducted with unique success—except against England, secure in her moated island—until his yoke caused his victims to lay aside every other question in order to crush him with their united strength.

Distinction between Napoleon and the Revolution.

Clearly, in the light of this exposition, it is necessary to distinguish between the work of the Revolution and the ambition of Napoleon. The storm, which swept away the emperor, not only obliterated every vestige of his imperial creation, but threatened also to scatter all the mental and moral conquests of the preceding period. In the end these were spared, and happily spared, for if the world had a right to repel Napoleonic tyranny, it would have made a grievous mistake to reject with the tyrant all the blessings which the French Revolution had poured out in its first inspiring years. Naturally, owing to the animosities created by the long struggle, everything hailing from France was for the present under the ban. But much of the good that had been done could not again be undone. Certain principles and ideas which had been given a wide currency were too precious to be given up. They have become the foundations of nineteenth-century society. Among them let us

The enduring principles of the Revolution.



select the following for brief consideration. (1) *Social equality*.—Feudalism, with its system of privileges for some and burdens for others, was replaced by the principle that all men are equal before the law and have the same duties and opportunities. (2) *Religious toleration*.—Instead of persecution, on the ground of religion, the state shall henceforth give protection to all peaceful religious associations. (3) *Sovereignty of the people*.—The state is not the personal property of the monarch, but belongs to the nation, which has the right to direct its own destiny. (4) *Nationality*.—The people of the same blood and speech are justified in coming together and forming a national state.

Such were the principles wrought out for humanity by that vast conflagration, the French Revolution. Although they were rejected by official Europe in the period of reaction which followed the fall of Napoleon, they found shelter in the minds of a few fearless men, and, communicated gradually to others, became the leading forces in the development of the nineteenth century.