

SECTION XIII

A colossus, but with feet of clay. — DURUY.

THE DIRECTORY (1795-1799) — NAPOLEON (1799-1815)

194. **Royalist Insurrection; Napoleon Bonaparte.** — But though the convention had organized the government of the Directory in name, it had yet to fight for its life. The reaction against the excesses of the Revolution, and a measure by which the convention endeavored to continue its own power, encouraged the Royalists to hope that they might restore the monarchy. The poor little dauphin, son of Louis XVI, had died from ill-treatment;¹ but the late king's brother was living in Russia, where he had taken refuge, and the Royalists wished to place him on the throne as Louis XVIII.

The National Guard was persuaded to join the monarchical party. In October, 1795, the combined forces, forty thousand strong, marched on the Tuileries to expel the convention and prevent the establishment of the Directory.

The convention called on General Barras² to defend them. Barras requested a Corsican artillery officer of twenty-six, who had distinguished himself at Toulon, to act as his lieutenant. The young man speedily converted the palace into

¹ The dauphin was recognized as king of France, under the title of Louis XVII, by England and Russia, after the execution of his father. He died in his eleventh year, June 8, 1795. His sister, Maria Theresa, who was six years older, was released from prison, and eventually went to her uncle, Louis XVIII. She later became the Duchess of Angoulême, and returned to France when her uncle became king, in 1814.

² Barras (bā-rā').

an intrenched camp. He had seven thousand troops, or less than one fifth of the assailing party; but he planted his batteries so skillfully and used his grapeshot so effectively, that the advancing host fled in confusion, leaving the convention with their defender, Napoleon Bonaparte,¹ masters of the situation.

For the next twenty years Napoleon will be the commanding figure not only in France, but in Europe. He will establish the reign of law which the Revolution had temporarily set aside; it will be law backed by bayonets, but bayonets held by the French themselves.

195. **The Italian Campaign of 1796-1797; Battle of Lodi.** — The war against France on the part of Austria, Germany, and England was still going on. The Directory now determined to attack the enemy at three different points. Generals Moreau² and Jourdan³ were to fight the battles of the Rhine,

¹ Napoleon Bonaparte: he was of Italian descent, and born at Ajaccio (ā-yāt'chō), Corsica, August 15, 1769. It is said that the first garment in which he was wrapped was a piece of old tapestry on which the battles of the Iliad were represented. His father, Charles Bonaparte, was a brave and distinguished officer, who fought in vain against France when that power annexed the island the year before Napoleon's birth.

In 1779 Napoleon, who was destined for the army, was sent to the military school at Brienne (brē-änn'), France, from which, in 1784, he went to Paris to finish his studies. At the breaking out of the Revolution, the Bonaparte family espoused the cause of the people. In 1792 Napoleon was made captain of artillery under the Republic. The next year he drove the English and Spanish forces from Toulon (which had revolted against the Republic), and restored that city to the rule of the convention. He did not become prominent again until the memorable day (October 4, 1795) when the Royalists rose against the government. Then "the little Corsican officer, who," as Barras declared, "will not stand upon ceremony," made a deep, decisive mark in French history. From that time, for nearly twenty years, his power was constantly advancing.

Napoleon had four brothers, — Jerome, Lucien, Louis, and Joseph, — three of whom he made kings; and three sisters, — Pauline, who became the Princess Borghese; Elise, who became the Duchess of Tuscany; and Caroline, who rose by marriage to become the Queen of Naples.

Napoleon's mother, Letizia Ramolino Bonaparte, was a woman of remarkable beauty, and possessed of great strength of character. She died in 1836, having outlived her famous son fifteen years. Napoleon said of her, "It is to my mother and her good principles that I owe my fortune and all the good that I have ever done."

² Moreau (mo-rō').

³ Jourdan (zhoor-dōn').

while Napoleon was to move against the allied forces of the Austrians and Piedmontese, or Sardinians, in northern Italy. The ultimate objective point sought by all three armies was Vienna, the capital of Austria.

The Directory was so poor that it could give the young Corsican general only the meager sum of four thousand louis, or less than twenty thousand dollars, to meet the expenses of the expedition. His force consisted of thirty-eight thousand destitute and disheartened soldiers, who had been beating about the maritime Alps in the vicinity of Nice¹ for two years, accomplishing nothing. With these troops he was to attack sixty thousand of the allies.

"Soldiers," said Napoleon to his army, "you are poorly fed, and almost naked. The government owes you much, but can do nothing. I am about to lead you into the most fertile plain in the world. There great cities and prosperous provinces await you. There you will find honor, glory, riches. Soldiers of the army of Italy, will you lack courage for the enterprise?"

From that hour the men were animated by a new spirit. They felt that at last they had a leader. With this army, Napoleon, following the Mediterranean shore, passed by the old Roman² road into Italy, on his way to the plains of Piedmont and Lombardy. In a series of victorious battles he beat first the Austrians and then the Piedmontese. In a fortnight's time he was able to make peace with the latter on his own terms.

The Austrians fell back as far as the bridge of Lodi, on the Adda.³ There they made a stand in order to protect Milan,⁴ the capital of Lombardy. Napoleon attacked and defeated them, and entered Milan in triumph. This rapidity of movement was a characteristic of Napoleon. He struck quickly,

¹ Nice (nēs).

² It is now the famous Corniche (cor-nē'chi) road, leading from Nice to Genoa. The modern road was begun by Napoleon.

³ For these and the subsequent Napoleonic campaigns, see Map No. XII, page 262.

⁴ Milan (mil'an or mī-lān').

unexpectedly, and hard. It was one reason why he rarely found an enemy that could stand against him.

196. Battles of Arcola and Rivoli ; Treaty of Campo Formio ; Robbery of Works of Art. — Napoleon next laid siege to the fortress of Mantua. Meanwhile the enemy had gathered a third army of sixty thousand men to attack the French in their headquarters at Verona. Napoleon determined to outflank them and fall upon their rear. He left Verona by the western gate, marched down the river Adige¹ for fourteen miles, crossed it, and met a strong division of the Austrians at Arcola, a village which commanded the road to Verona from the southeast.

The town was in the center of extensive marshes, and could only be reached by causeways and a wooden bridge. On these narrow approaches the battle raged for three days. In the fight Napoleon was pushed over one of these causeways, and was nearly smothered in the morass, which was filled with dead and dying men. The battle ended in the retreat of the Austrians; and Napoleon in triumph entered Verona by the eastern gate, directly opposite that by which he had sallied from the city three days before.

The final struggle came two months afterward on the plains of Rivoli. Again Napoleon conquered; and as a result of the victory, Mantua surrendered. Napoleon, now master of Italy, began his march on Vienna. But the emperor, although he had beaten the veterans, Moreau and Jourdan, in Germany, did not care to risk another battle with this young man of twenty-seven.

Negotiations were therefore opened between Austria and France. While they were in progress, an insurrection against the French broke out in the Venetian territory. Napoleon sent a body of troops to occupy Venice, and that ancient commonwealth now surrendered, after having enjoyed a political independence of nearly fourteen centuries.

¹ Adige (ād'y-jé).

In 1797 the Peace of Campo Formio ended the war. In two months Napoleon had fought and won eighteen battles, destroyed three Austrian armies that had been three times reënforced, taken a hundred and fifty thousand prisoners, levied forty-five millions of francs tribute on the pope and other Italian rulers hostile to the Directory, and established the Cisalpine Republic¹ of northern Italy.

But the great prize gained by France was the entire Austrian Netherlands, or Belgium, which was now ceded to her as the result of the war.

Napoleon had begun the campaign almost without money. By his victories he had not only fed and clothed his army, but had sent ten millions of francs to the aid of the Directory, and another million to the help of the French army in Germany. Thus he upheld the home government with one hand, while he vanquished its enemies abroad with the other. He was the beginner of a new system of war. Instead of drawing on France for means to carry on his campaigns, he made his battles pay their own expenses.

Had he stopped there, it would have been well; but he did not stop. He began a new and disgraceful system of pillage. He stripped the Vatican at Rome and the churches, libraries, and picture galleries of the conquered country, of their choicest treasures, carrying paintings, statuary, books, and manuscripts

¹ This republic included Lombardy, Parma, Modena, and part of the papal dominions. It was under the control of France. The policy of republican France was to surround itself with republics. Thus in 1795 the French armies converted Holland and Belgium into the Batavian Republic; in 1798 the cantons of the Swiss Confederation were changed into the Helvetic Republic (Geneva being incorporated with France). The same year Rome was transformed into the Tiberine Republic (a name derived from the Tiber). Shortly after, Naples was proclaimed as the Parthenopean Republic (from Parthenope, an ancient name of that city, as Batavia and Helvetia were of the Netherlands and Switzerland). These commonwealths, with the exception of Switzerland, were short-lived; for when Napoleon became supreme ruler of France, he speedily changed them into monarchies, in order that his imperial throne might not lack encircling dependent kingdoms to prop it.



to Paris to enrich the palace of the Louvre with stolen splendor.¹ Thus Italy was for the first time robbed of her great works of art by one who was himself an Italian.

197. Napoleon in Paris ; Josephine Beauharnais ; the Egyptian Expedition. — Shortly before setting out on his Italian campaign, Napoleon married Madame Josephine Beauharnais,² widow of Count Beauharnais, who was guillotined during the Revolution. Josephine was a person of little intellect and of less character. She was six years older than Napoleon ; she was not beautiful, but she had great sweetness of disposition and remarkable charm of manner.

She brought her new husband no dowry in money ; but through her close intimacy with a prominent member of the Directory³ she appears to have secured for him the appointment to the chief command of the army of Italy.⁴

For the next thirteen years, Josephine was destined to play a most important part in Napoleon's career. He seems to have really loved her — that is, so far as he was capable of loving any one. She influenced him accordingly, and she thus became, to a certain extent, a living factor in the history of the man who molded France to his will. Napoleon now spent several months in Paris, living very quietly with his bride, and rarely going into society or exhibiting himself in public.

But to one of Napoleon's nature war was a necessity, and he soon began planning an expedition to Egypt. In this he

¹ Among the works of art carried to Paris by Napoleon were Raphael's "Transfiguration," Domenichino's "Communion of St. Jerome," and the Bronze Horses of St. Mark's. After his fall most of the stolen property was returned.

² Beauharnais (bō-är-nā') : she was the daughter of a West Indian planter. She had two children by her first husband, Eugene and Hortense. Eugene became viceroy of Italy. Hortense married Napoleon's brother Louis, King of Holland, and became the mother of Napoleon III, late emperor of France. Josephine seems to have cared only for a life of pleasure. Masson, in his recent biography of her, is very severe in his judgment. ³ See Paragraph 192.

⁴ See Lanfrey's Napoleon, III, 536 ; but compare Sloane's Napoleon, I, 194. The former says Barras was the member of the Directory who got the appointment for Napoleon, the latter says it was Carnot.

is believed to have had a double object: first, to get the control of the Mediterranean, and next to establish an eastern empire, by which he might hope either to secure possession of India, or at least to overthrow England's supremacy in that country. The Directory, already jealous of Napoleon's popularity, was not sorry to send him on so distant and doubtful an undertaking.

He set out in the spring of 1798, with a squadron carrying thirty-six thousand veteran soldiers, most of whom had fought under him in Italy. In order to make the expedition a success, it was necessary to get possession of the strongly fortified island of Malta, then nominally in the hands of the Knights of St. John,¹ but practically an outpost of England. It was taken without a blow, through the treachery of its guards. This opened the way clear for the attack on Egypt.

Landing at Alexandria in July, Napoleon carried the place by storm. Three weeks later he encamped in the sands of the desert, near Cairo, under the shadow of the gigantic monuments of the Pharaohs. The men, exhausted by the march and by the terrible heat, were glad of a brief rest before beginning a battle with the Mamelukes,² those brave and highly disciplined troops who then held control of Egypt. All felt the strange spell of their surroundings in that ancient land. "Soldiers," said Napoleon, as he pointed upward, "from the summits of these pyramids forty centuries look down upon you."

That was enough to remind them that here, as in Italy, their duty was victory. Napoleon formed his men into squares, so arranged that they protected each other by their fire. Again and again the Mameluke cavalry dashed against these squares and tried to break their lines. They might as

¹ Knights of St. John: another name for the Knights Hospitalers. See Paragraph 55.

² The Mamelukes were originally slaves, of Circassian origin, who formed the sultan's bodyguard. After a time they became virtual masters of Egypt.

well have dashed against the bases of the pyramids. At the end of the day Cairo, with all Lower Egypt, was in Napoleon's possession.

But while the army was celebrating its triumph in that ancient city, news of disaster came. Nelson, with his fast-sailing English frigates, had pursued Napoleon's fleet, had attacked it in Aboukir Bay, off Alexandria, and had utterly destroyed every vessel but two, which escaped, only to be chased and captured.¹ This was, indeed, a tremendous blow; for it not only cut off Napoleon from France, but it encouraged England with her allies in the belief that he was less invincible than he seemed.

Not to be intimidated, Napoleon said to his generals, "This reverse will compel us to do even greater things than we had planned." Leaving a force sufficient to hold Egypt, Napoleon advanced into Syria, where, by establishing his power, he could threaten Constantinople on the one hand, and India on the other.

But the fortresses of Jaffa and of Acre stood in his way. He took the first by assault, capturing a large number of prisoners, whom he deliberately massacred, on the ground that he dared not release, and could not feed them. Acre was obstinately defended by the Turks, with their English allies under Sir Sidney Smith. Napoleon had no heavy artillery; his attack failed, and he was obliged to fall back on Egypt. Years afterward, Napoleon used to say of Sir Sidney, "That man made me miss my destiny."

198. Napoleon returns to France, and sets up a New Government; is chosen First Consul.—In October, 1799, Napoleon suddenly and secretly left Egypt, and returned, without his army, to France. He found that, during his absence, the Directory had begun a new war; that they had forced Switzerland to adopt a government modeled on that of the French

¹ For an incident of the battle, see Mrs. Hemans's poem, "Casabianca."

Republic; had plundered the Vatican at Rome of more of its treasures; and had ended by carrying off the pope to France, where he shortly after died. As for the Directory itself, it had neither influence, money, nor credit. The nation no longer believed in it, or supported it.

Napoleon put himself at the head of affairs. Knowing that he had the confidence of the people, he deliberately overthrew the government (November 9, 1799). A new constitution—the fourth since 1789—was adopted, and under it Napoleon was chosen First Consul for ten years (December 15, 1799).

Though only First Consul, out of a body of three, Napoleon really ruled France. The country still retained the name of republic, but it was a republic where one man was supreme.

199. Napoleon's Administration; Creation of a New Nobility; the Code Napoleon.—The First Consul took decided measures to put an end to the anarchy into which public affairs had drifted. He first stopped political discussion. "In future," said he, "we will have no parties, no Jacobins,¹ no Royalists; but only Frenchmen."

He suppressed most of the newspapers, and warned the rest to be cautious. He established the Bank of France, removed restrictions from trade, and repealed the barbarous laws against the return of French noblemen.

Then, with Josephine's aid, he organized a brilliant court, which drew to it many of the best men and best minds of France. They helped to enhance the power of him who said, "I win the battles, but Josephine wins the hearts."

Important as these changes were, they were only the introduction to later ones, extending over a long series of years. Napoleon's two favorite maxims were: "The tools belong to him who can use them," and "Every career ought to be open to talent." In accordance with these ideas, he created a new

¹ See Paragraph 184.

nobility, based on merit, instead of birth or wealth. He instituted the order of the Cross of the Legion of Honor, as a reward for distinguished services; reorganized educational systems on a broader and sounder basis; established the modern University of France; and encouraged industry and mechanical invention.

Napoleon also began the construction of a great system of roads, canals, arsenals, harbors, and other public works. He adorned Paris with the magnificent Arc de Triomphe,¹ the grandest structure of the kind in the world; began the beautiful Church of the Madeleine;² completed that of the Panthéon,³ and the palace of the Louvre.

In 1801 he concluded a concordat or solemn treaty with the pope, by which Catholicism was reinstated, in a somewhat modified form, as the established religion of France. The ceremony took place the next spring, with great pomp, in the ancient cathedral of Notre Dame.

Last and most remarkable work of all, Napoleon caused the compilation of the code called by his name,—the Code Napoleon. The work was begun by the revolutionary government, but left incomplete. By it the great mass of the ancient edicts of France were revised, condensed, simplified, and rendered uniform throughout the country.

"Every really good law," said the First Consul, "must have good sense for its foundation." Guided by that principle, obsolete and barbarous statutes and customs were dropped, confused and conflicting usages were harmonized, that thereby the transaction of public and private business might be facilitated, and the ends of justice more effectually served.

¹ Called, also, the Arc de l'Étoile, to distinguish it from the smaller Arc de Triomphe (Triumphal Arch) erected by Napoleon between the Louvre and the Tuileries.

² Napoleon intended the Madeleine (măd-lăn') not for a church, but for a memorial temple to the Grand Army. The building was completed after his fall.

³ Panthéon (păn-tă-ôn').

Napoleon thought so highly of this work that he said, "I shall go down to posterity with the Code in my hand." He was right; for, after the lapse of nearly a century, it constitutes the framework of law in France, Holland, Belgium, western Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, besides serving as the foundation of the code of the state of Louisiana.

Unfortunately, these beneficent acts of the ruler of France were offset by others as despotic and as irritating as those of the Bourbon kings whom he had supplanted. Napoleon was one more illustration of the fact that "most great men cast great shadows." He often showed an utter disregard of justice; and in the latter part of his career he certainly never hesitated at sacrificing truth: so that "false as a bulletin" became a familiar saying to characterize his official reports sent from the field of battle.

Nothing, in fact, was sacred that stood in the way of his inflexible and unscrupulous will. His administration centralized all power in the hands of a few officials in Paris, where it has since remained. Hence, whatever the country at large may have gained in order and prosperity, it never was allowed to learn that most valuable of all lessons, the lesson of local self-government.

200. The New Campaign in Italy; the Passage of the Alps.—Immediately after his inauguration, the First Consul wrote to George III of England and to the emperor of Germany, urging that peace should now be recognized as "the first necessity and the first glory" for all the powers of Europe.

But while thus writing, Napoleon knew that neither sovereign would make the concessions he was about to demand, and permit him to continue to hold Egypt and Malta on the one hand, and control Italy on the other. The new year (1800) opened with preparations for war. Hostilities began in Italy, where the Austrian forces now outnumbered the French nearly four to one.

In the outset, before Napoleon resumed the command, the French were badly beaten. But the First Consul was prepared for that. With a great map of Italy spread out before him he planned the whole campaign before he left Paris. He designated the different armies by different colors. "Here," said he to his astonished secretary, "the Austrian general will pass by Turin; here, he will fall back toward Alessandria.¹ At this point I shall cross the Po. I shall meet the enemy on the plains of Scrivia, and there," said he, sticking a pin in the map near Marengo, "there I shall fight and beat him."

To make the movement a complete surprise to the enemy, Napoleon conceived the idea of crossing the Alps. The general who was sent to examine routes proposed that of the Great St. Bernard,² but added that the undertaking would be "very difficult." "Difficult, of course," replied Napoleon; "the only question is, is it possible?" "Yes," was the response; "providing we make extraordinary efforts." "Enough," said Napoleon; "let us start at once."

The march began at midnight (May 14, 1800). It was soon found that the cannon could not be dragged on wheels up the heights and through the snow. The guns were accordingly taken from their carriages, and each was placed in a log hollowed out to receive it; then a hundred men were harnessed to the gun and began to draw it forward.

When the obstacles grew serious and the team slackened its pace, the bands played lively music to encourage them. When the snow grew so deep and the road so steep that advance seemed impossible, the drummers beat the charge. Then the men, with loud cheers, dashed forward as if storming the enemy's works, and up went the guns.

Thus they advanced until they reached a narrow defile which the Austrians had impregably fortified. There the

¹ Alessandria is about ten miles northwest of Marengo.

² Pass of St. Bernard, northwest of Turin. The other principal passes are that of Mont Cenis (west of Turin) and that of St. Gothard (northeast of Turin).

army separated; part went round the fort in single file, following a goat track over the rocks; the others dragged the artillery by in the night, under a furious fire from the enemy. Thus within six days Napoleon with thirty-five thousand men passed over a rocky, snow-covered barrier more than eight thousand feet high, and came down like an avalanche on the plains of Italy.

201. Battles of Marengo and of Hohenlinden.—To the enemy it was a complete surprise. For some time the Austrian general refused to believe what seemed to him impossible. He denied that even Napoleon's military genius and marvelous energy could in so short a time have transported a fully equipped army with heavy artillery over such obstacles. But skeptic as he was, Marengo convinced him that Napoleon was there. On the plains which the First Consul had marked on the map in the palace of the Tuileries, the great battle was fought (June 14, 1800).

The contest was an obstinate one. By three o'clock in the afternoon the French had been twice driven back. Then came the final struggle. "My friends," said Napoleon to his soldiers, "we have had enough of this. You know that it is my custom to sleep on the field of battle." Then the fight began in earnest. When it ended, Napoleon and his men could sleep undisturbed on the triumphant field; for the Austrian general had surrendered, and the northwest of Italy was once more in the hands of the French.

In Germany Moreau had an army of one hundred thousand at Munich.¹ Near by was the little village of Hohenlinden,² situated in a pine forest on the river Isar. Here, in December (1800), a desperate battle was fought in the midst of a

¹ Munich (mū'nīk).

² Few, few shall part, where many meet!
The snow shall be their winding-sheet,
And every turf beneath their feet
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre. — CAMPBELL'S "Hohenlinden."

snowstorm so blinding that the contending forces could see each other only by the flash of their guns. Moreau gained a decisive victory, and the emperor of Germany was compelled to beg peace in order to save his capital of Vienna.

The Treaty of Lunéville,¹ in 1801, confirmed to France all that the Treaty of Campo Formio had granted.² Napoleon was to hold the left bank of the Rhine, with the entire Austrian Netherlands. In Italy, the republics of the northwest were recognized as dependencies of France, while Austria was confined to a part of the country east of the Adige.

202. Successes of the English; the Rosetta Stone; Treaty of Amiens.—But if Napoleon was everywhere victorious on land, the English under Nelson still ruled the sea. They had already captured Malta, and they now undertook to put a stop to all trade with France on the part of the neutral nations of Europe. The kingdoms of Russia, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden had formed an armed league against this action of England. But Nelson's fleet forced Denmark to withdraw from the league, and the death of the czar, then Napoleon's friend, broke it up.

The English shortly after drove the French out of Egypt. Perhaps the most important result of Napoleon's three years' occupation of that country was the antiquarian and scientific researches made under his management in that ancient land. Among these the discovery of the Rosetta Stone ranks first in importance, since by means of it the fast-sealed treasures of Egyptian history were made known.³

¹ Lunéville (lū-nā-vēl').

² See Paragraph 196.

³ Rosetta Stone: this is a slab of black basalt found not far from Rosetta, about forty miles northeast of Alexandria, near the westerly branch of the Nile. It bears an inscription in honor of one of the Ptolemaic kings of Egypt. This inscription is in Greek, and is followed by two copies, in the ancient Egyptian (hieroglyphic and demotic) characters. The study of these characters, through the Greek, first gave the clew to the deciphering of the inscriptions on the tombs and monuments of Egypt. The stone is now preserved in the Egyptian Room of the British Museum.

In revenge for the loss of Malta and Egypt, with the breaking up of the neutral league, which, of course, favored France, Napoleon began making preparations to invade England. England with truth declared herself the champion of constitutional liberty. In her eyes Bonaparte was simply a new kind of despot — or military demagogue — who posed as a popular deliverer. But both nations found it for their interest to make at least a temporary peace, if only to get ready more effectually for the final struggle. A treaty was therefore signed between England and France at Amiens¹ in the spring of 1802. By this treaty France secured the whole territory between the Pyrenees and the Rhine; in other words, the old boundaries possessed by primitive Gaul.

203. Napoleon chosen First Consul for Life; Sale of Louisiana; Toussaint Louverture. — The summer following, France voted to make Napoleon First Consul for life, with the privilege of choosing his successor; and the constitution was reconstructed in accordance with this change. Napoleon now virtually assumed the absolute control of the Italian and Swiss republics, and also undertook to regulate the affairs of Germany. It was evident that the First Consul meant to magnify his new office, and make it cover not only the government of France, Belgium, North Italy, and Switzerland, but as much more of Europe as would submit to his dictation.

Meanwhile, that he might better prepare for his great combat with England, Napoleon sold the territory of Louisiana² to the United States for sixty millions of francs;³ thus gaining a considerable sum, and at the same time strengthening the United States, then England's rival and bitter enemy. "It is for the interest of France," said he, in reference to this sale, "that America should be great and strong."

¹ Amiens (ā'mī-ān).

² See Paragraph 152.

³ The original price asked was eighty millions; but Napoleon allowed twenty millions to the United States for damages claimed by them, on account of the French wars. See The Leading Facts of American History in this series.

Napoleon next sent an expedition to restore the revolted French colony of San Domingo to its allegiance. The slaves, stirred by the news of the Revolution, had risen and declared themselves independent. Toussaint Louverture,¹ a negro of remarkable ability, had become ruler of the island and proudly called himself "the Bonaparte of the blacks." He submitted his constitution of government to Napoleon for his approval, and was willing to be guided by him.

But the First Consul would tolerate no second "Bonaparte," not even if he was a negro three thousand miles from Paris. He ordered Toussaint to be brought a captive to France. Then, instead of showing himself a magnanimous conqueror, he treated his humble foe with such rigorous cruelty that he soon died.² Whatever other blots on Napoleon's character time may mercifully efface, this deliberate murder of a helpless prisoner will forever remain inexcusable and infamous.

204. Rupture of the Peace of Amiens; Plots against the First Consul; Napoleon becomes Emperor. — In the spring of 1803 the Peace of Amiens was broken. England seized a large number of French vessels, and Napoleon arrested and imprisoned several thousand Englishmen who were traveling or residing within his dominions. The real cause of the war, however, was England's refusal to give up Malta. The contest which thus began lasted ten years. Before this, England and the kings of Europe had been the aggressors, their object being to restore the Bourbons to the throne of France; but in the struggle which now commenced Napoleon struck the first blow.

Plots, or pretended plots, were now discovered for the assassination of the First Consul, and the conspirators were summarily dealt with. In one of them it was said that the Duke of Enghien,³

¹ Toussaint Louverture (too-sān' loo-vēr-tür').

² Some authorities state that he was starved to death in his dungeon.

³ Enghien (ōn-gān').

a member of the French royal family, was involved. He was executed on insufficient proof, and most authorities regard his death as another case of judicial murder.

These conspiracies roused all France to the enthusiastic support of Napoleon, and in order to show their loyalty, the people, by a practically unanimous vote, now elected him Emperor (May 18, 1804). The December following, the pope made a special journey to Paris to give the sanction of the Church to the popular will. He anointed the new sovereign "Emperor of the French" with imposing religious ceremonies in the ancient cathedral of Notre Dame.

Napoleon then crowned himself and the weeping Josephine, with his own hands, with a golden laurel wreath. It was a significant act. It marked the beginning of a new order of royalty in France. Louis XIV and his successors declared that they ruled by divine and hereditary right; Napoleon acknowledged that he derived his power from the choice of the nation. The next spring he crossed the Alps, and, placing the ancient iron crown of Lombardy on his head, received the title of King of Italy.

205. Preparation for the Invasion of England; Trafalgar.—England, Russia, and Austria joined forces against the new emperor and king. Napoleon retorted by resuming preparations for the invasion of England. He organized a camp at Boulogne,¹ within sight of the English chalk cliffs of Dover. There he constructed powerful batteries to protect the gathering of his forces for embarkation. All France resounded with preparation for the expedition against "perfidious Albion." The shipyards on every river were busy day and night building gunboats, barges, and transports.

Napoleon's plan was to have Admiral Villeneuve,² with a combined French and Spanish fleet, guard the Channel, while

¹ Boulogne (bōō-lōn').

² Villeneuve (vēl-nuv').

he crossed with an army of one hundred and fifty thousand veteran soldiers.

So confident did Napoleon feel of entire success that he anticipated the conquest of the British capital by ordering a gold medal to be prepared, representing France as master of England, and bearing the inscription, "Struck at London in 1804." But Nelson was on the watch; and although baffled for a time by Villeneuve's cunning, he finally got an opportunity to attack him.

The battle was fought off Cape Trafalgar (October 21, 1805).¹ At the cost of his own life, Nelson destroyed the French and Spanish fleets so completely that Admiral Villeneuve committed suicide rather than report the defeat to Napoleon. This victory gave the English the absolute mastery of the ocean, and all fears of a French invasion were now at an end.

206. Napoleon at Ulm; his "Continental System"; he takes Vienna; Battle of Austerlitz.—A short time before this disaster occurred, Napoleon had given up, or at least indefinitely postponed, his projected attack on England. Finding that Villeneuve, who was then cooped up in the harbor of Cadiz, could not coöperate with him at the time appointed, he suddenly broke camp at Boulogne, and turned all his forces against Austria. That power had planned with Russia to surprise Napoleon; but the surprise was on the other side, for to their amazement he suddenly appeared before the city of Ulm.² There he forced Mack, the Austrian general, to surrender; and then set off on his victorious march for Vienna.

Henceforth the French emperor adopted a different policy toward his British enemies. We hear no more boastful talk about leaping "that ditch," as he contemptuously called the English Channel. Instead of that, Napoleon will mature a scheme for starving England into submission, by endeavoring

¹ Trafalgar (tra-fal'gär, English pronunciation): on the southern coast of Spain.

² Ulm: in Germany.