

lavished two hundred thousand dollars in drafts on the bank of Vienna. The sums thus infamously squandered were wrested from the laboring poor. His son, Francis II., who succeeded him upon the throne, was twenty-two years of age. In most affecting terms the widowed queen entreated her son to avoid those vices of his father which had disgraced the monarchy and embittered her whole life.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

## AUSTRIA AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONS.

FROM 1792 TO 1860.

ACCESSION OF FRANCIS II.—CAMPAIGNS AGAINST NAPOLEON.—THE ITALIAN REPUBLICS.—THE KINGDOM OF ITALY.—HOSTILITY OF ENGLAND TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.—THE DOWNFALL OF NAPOLEON, AND CONSEQUENT DOWNFALL OF FREE INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.—THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA.—EXPULSION OF THE BOURBONS FROM FRANCE.—RESTORATION OF THE EMPIRE UNDER LOUIS NAPOLEON.—REVOLUTIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE.—HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION.—RUSSIAN INTERVENTION.—FALL OF HUNGARY.—LIBERATION OF ITALY.—PRESENT PROSPECTS.

ONE of the first measures of the young monarch, Francis II., was to make the insolent demand of regenerated France, that the old Bourbon monarchy should be restored with all its execrable domination of despotism. This insult to thirty millions of freemen, ordering them to bow the neck again to the yoke of slavery, and to hold out their free hands and free feet that the manacles and the gyves might again be riveted, roused intense indignation. France repelled the insolence with scorn. To enforce this mandate, the Austrian monarch accumulated vast armies, and entered into negotiations with Louis XVI., with the French emigrants, and with the surrounding despotisms. The spirit of the French nation was so roused by these atrocities, that Louis XVI. himself, pallid and woe-stricken, was compelled to declare war against those his friends, with whom he was secretly conferring, that he might by their aid remount his ancient throne of absolutism.

An allied army of Austrians, a hundred and fifty thousand strong, together with twenty thousand French emigrants,

was soon on the march to overthrow the constitutional monarchy of France, and to restore again to the king the sceptre of despotism. The British Government, restrained by popular opinion in England, did not venture openly to join the allies, but supplied them abundantly with money. The Duke of Brunswick, who was appointed commander-in-chief of the allied army, issued a manifesto, dated Coblenz, July 15, 1792, in which the French nation were commanded to restore the Bourbons immediately to their former absolute power, and to punish all who had taken any part in the movement for constitutional liberty. At the same time the duke threatened to hang every Frenchman who should resist the invaders, and to burn every city or village which should present any opposition to his march.

Austria, Russia, Prussia, and England were in heart united to enforce this proclamation. France, in unspeakable peril, was stung to desperation. The king, who was known to be in co-operation with the invaders, was dethroned and imprisoned, and finally executed. The aristocrats, who were waiting to join the enemy, were massacred. England now openly joined the allies, placed herself at their head, and declared war against France. The exultant battalions of the foe crossed the French frontiers, and, sweeping resistlessly on with sword and flame, arrived within a few days' march of Paris. The consternation in the capital was terrible. The whole French people rose *en masse*, and rushed, like wolves at bay, upon the enemy; and they were driven, broken, bleeding, and breathless, from the kingdom.

At the same time in which these scenes were transpiring, Austria, dominant in Italy, had gathered large armies in Venetia, Lombardy, and Piedmont, and, in alliance with Naples and Switzerland, was preparing to invade France on her Alpine frontier.

All the States of Northern Italy were completely overawed by the imperial court at Vienna, and were compelled to put their troops on the march at the summons of the Austrian bugles. All despotic Europe was now combined

against republican France. Month after month the terrible conflict raged, crimsoning the waves of the Rhine with blood, and waking the clangor of war amidst the solitudes of the Alps. The strife was prosecuted with unparalleled ferocity; for the most deadly passions of the human heart were called into action.

At length the young general, Napoleon Bonaparte, was intrusted with the defence of France on the Alpine frontier. His movement was like the sweep of the mountain whirlwind. The storm of war gathered blackness for a moment among the cliffs of the Alps, and then burst with flash and peal upon the plains of Piedmont. The Austrians were scattered like autumnal leaves; and the victor, master of Piedmont, unfurled his banners over the battlements of Turin. Not a moment was allowed for repose. The broken bands of the Austrians rallied with recruited strength on the plains of Lombardy. Terrific and awfully sanguinary was the strife. But again the imperial legions of despotism were trampled down by the heroic patriots struggling for liberty. The Austrians, in dismay, fled into Venetia. Napoleon pursued them. In terror they crossed the Tagliamento, and retreated from Italy. Still Napoleon, with fearlessness which amazed Europe, followed on, chasing the multitudinous foe through defiles and forests, over rivers and plains and mountain-ranges, pelting them with artillery, charging them with cavalry, and scattering bullets like hailstones through their panting ranks. The Archduke Charles, brother of the Emperor of Austria, was in command of the retreating army. Napoleon, who was fighting only for peace, anxious to arrest the flow of blood in this hour of triumph, ventured to take the initiative in imploring a cessation of hostilities. He addressed the following letter to the archduke:—

“GENERAL-IN-CHIEF,—Have we not slain enough of our fellow-men? Have we not inflicted a sufficiency of woes upon humanity? Europe, which took up arms against the French Republic, has laid them aside. Your nation alone remains hostile; and blood is about to flow more copiously than

ever. Whatever may be the result of this campaign, many thousand men must perish; and, after all, we must come to an accommodation. If the overture which I have the honor to make shall be the means of saving a single life, I shall be more proud of the civic crown, which I shall be conscious of having deserved, than of all the melancholy glory which military success can confer."

The Austrian archduke replied, "In the duty assigned to me, there is no power either to scrutinize the causes, or to terminate the duration, of the war. I am not invested with any authority in that respect, and therefore cannot enter into any negotiation for peace."

"The war, that for a space did fail,  
Now trebly thundering swelled the gale."

The pursuers and the pursued rushed on with hot haste amidst all the uproar, confusion, and carnage of war, until Napoleon, from the heights around Leoben, with his glass, could discern the towers of Vienna. All was consternation in the Austrian capital. The emperor and his court fled, like deer, to the wilds of Hungary, at the same time despatching ambassadors to Napoleon imploring peace. It was all France wanted. The preliminaries were soon settled. By the treaty of Campo Formio, which ensued, France extended her frontier to the Rhine as a safeguard against future attacks; and Austria recognized the Cisalpine republic which Napoleon had established in Italy, consisting of Lombardy, Modena, and several smaller States. Napoleon was anxious to liberate Venice from Austria; but he could not accomplish this without perpetuating a cruel war for an object in which France had no especial interest, and during which he might lose all that he had thus far gained.

England, the undisputed mistress of the sea, still continued the conflict against republican France. The expedition to Egypt was organized; and Napoleon was placed at the head of it to attack England in India, the only vulnerable point then presented. Napoleon had hardly left France ere England

succeeded in forming a new coalition against the infant republic. Austria joined it eagerly, sent vast armies into Italy, and soon recovered the provinces which Napoleon had liberated. Again the combined armies of Austria and of the re-enslaved States of Italy were climbing the Alps to pour down upon the plains of France, while the veteran battalions of all Northern Europe were crowding to the Rhine. England was energetic with both fleet and army in co-operating in this most iniquitous crusade which was ever waged.

"The English fleet," says the British "Westminster Review," "was ordered to Genoa to support the enemies of France; but it was in defiance of English public opinion. There is no fact in our history more easy of proof than that the voice of universal England was raised in protest against being dragged into war with France. The lord mayor and corporation of London petitioned against the war. At Islington fifty thousand persons met to demand neutrality. Thus, while the British fleet was covering Austrian movements against Bonaparte on the shores of Genoa, the English people at home were praying and petitioning in vain against the war with the French Republic."

Napoleon, having suddenly returned from Egypt and assumed the consular command, sent the flower of the French army, under General Moreau, to beat off the foes of France upon the Rhine. With amazing celerity and secrecy he assembled another army of sixty thousand raw recruits at Dijon, near the foot of the Alps. Before putting his armies in motion he wrote to both the King of England and the Emperor of Austria, imploring peace. A contemptuous and insulting refusal was the only reply.

Napoleon crossed the Alps, fell upon the Austrians at Marengo; and they bit the dust. On the gory field, surrounded by the dead and the dying and all the melancholy wrecks of war, the victor thus again addressed the Emperor of Austria, —

"SIRE, — It is on the field of battle, amid the sufferings of a multitude of wounded, and surrounded by fifteen thousand corpses, that I beseech your Majesty to listen to the voice of

humanity, and not to suffer two brave nations to cut each other's throats for interests not their own. It is my part to press this upon your Majesty, being upon the very theatre of war. Your Majesty's heart cannot feel it so keenly as does mine."

The Austrian army, utterly routed, was at the mercy of the conqueror. Generously Napoleon permitted them to return unmolested to their homes, upon the sole condition that they would quietly withdraw from Italy. Austria now desired peace; but she was so entangled with her alliance with England, that she could not enter into a treaty with France without the consent of the court of St. James. That consent could not be obtained; and the Austrian troops, in obedience to the coalition which England had organized, accumulated her troops in powerful array upon the Rhine. On the 3d of December, 1800, in a dark and stormy night, General Moreau, with sixty thousand Frenchmen, encountered the Archduke John, at the head of seventy thousand Austrians, in the forest of Hohenlinden. A terrible battle ensued.

When the morning dawned, twenty thousand mutilated bodies were left upon the field, with gory locks frozen to the snow. The Austrians, utterly routed, fled down the valley of the Danube towards Vienna. Moreau followed them like an avenging spirit, sweeping them down with war's fierce blasts. He had arrived within thirty miles of the panic-stricken capital, when the emperor, trembling for his crown, sent commissioners imploring peace. "It is for that alone," Moreau replied, "that we are fighting."

Austria was thus compelled to sheathe the sword without consulting England. Joseph Bonaparte as the ambassador of Napoleon, and Count Cobentzel as the plenipotentiary of Austria, met at Lunéville. It was in February, 1801. Again Austria acknowledged the Rhine as the boundary of France, and recognized the independence of the Batavian, Helvetic, Cisalpine, and Ligurian Republics, consenting that they should be permitted to choose whatever form of government they might prefer. These free governments had been gradually established during the progress of the war.

But England, sweeping all seas with her invincible fleet, still continued the strife. Not a fishing-boat could in safety leave a French cove. Every port in France was liable to bombardment. At length the clamor of the English *people* compelled the government to the peace of Amiens. But the ministry were eager to renew the war, and in eighteen months did so without any proclamation of hostilities, seizing two hundred French ships, containing fifteen millions of dollars, which were floating, unsuspecting of danger, in English ports. War was resumed with redoubled ferocity. Napoleon now resolved to transport his army to London, that in the British capital he might compel his inflexible foes to grant peace to Europe.

The British Government, alarmed in view of the preparations Napoleon was making at Boulogne, through the influence of enormous bribes organized a new coalition. Austria, Russia, and Sweden were thus induced to raise an army of five hundred thousand men to embarrass Napoleon by suddenly attacking him in the rear. England agreed to pay annually six million of dollars for every hundred thousand men the allies raised. Austria, without any declaration of war, leading an immense army, followed by the solid battalions of Russia and Sweden, for the third time commenced her march upon Paris, hoping stealthily to plunge the dagger into Napoleon's back. But Napoleon was not caught sleeping. Twenty thousand carriages were instantly in motion, transporting his army from the shores of the channel to the banks of the Rhine. In a brief address to the senate, as Napoleon left Paris, he said, —

"Senators, I am about to leave Paris to place myself at the head of the army. The wishes of the eternal enemies of the continent are accomplished. Hostilities have commenced in the midst of Germany. Austria and Russia have united with England, and our generation is involved anew in the calamities of war. A few days ago I cherished the hope that peace would not be disturbed. But the Austrian army has passed the Inn. All my hopes of peace are vanished."

The world-renowned campaign of Ulm and Austerlitz

ensued. In twenty days the Austrian army was annihilated. As thirty-six thousand Austrian troops at Ulm laid down their arms before the conqueror, Napoleon said to the dejected officers, —

“Gentlemen, your master wages against me an unjust war. I say it candidly, I know not for what I am fighting: I know not what he requires of me.”

Without allowing his foes one hour to recover from their panic, Napoleon pressed on to Vienna. Like a torrent he swept the valley of the Danube; and in forty days from the time he left Boulogne, his army was encamped in the squares of the Austrian capital, and Napoleon was occupying the palaces of the emperor. Francis, with the fragments of his army, had fled to join the Russians, who were hurrying to his relief. The situation of Napoleon was now perilous in the extreme. He was nearly a thousand miles from Paris. Four hundred and fifty thousand men, from the various points of the compass, were on the march to crush him. The Emperor of Russia was at the distance of but a few days' march in the north, at the head of one hundred thousand men, hurrying to join other vast bodies of men in their advance upon Vienna. The blasts of winter were already sweeping the whitened hills.

Napoleon, urging his troops to forced marches, to prevent the junction of the foe, met the Russians and the broken bands of the Austrians, with the two emperors, Alexander and Francis, at their head, upon the field of Austerlitz. It was the 1st of December, 1805. In one short terrific tempest of war, the allied army was destroyed. Alexander, with the bleeding, shattered remnants of his bands, commenced a precipitate retreat toward Russia. The Emperor Francis was hopelessly ruined, and had nowhere to retreat to, unless he abandoned his realms. Thus humiliated, he sought an interview with Napoleon, and met him, at the fire of his bivouac, on the side of a bleak hill. Conscious of guilt, and deeply dejected, he attempted an ignoble apology for his crime by saying, —

“The English are a nation of merchants. In order to

secure for themselves the commerce of the world, they are willing to set the continent in flames.”

Napoleon, anxious for peace, was exceedingly moderate in his terms. He allowed the Emperor of Russia to retire unmolested, simply exacting from him the promise no longer to prosecute hostile movements against France. From Austria, also, he took for himself not one foot of territory. Francis paid the expenses of the war, and consented that the electors of Bavaria and Wurtemberg, who were friends and allies of Napoleon, should be elevated to the rank of kings. The republican kingdom of Italy was also enlarged, and rendered more powerful by the annexation of Venice, Austria receiving in exchange the electorate of Salzburg.

Napoleon thus rewarded his friends, and strengthened the barriers which were to protect France from those great northern despotisms, Russia, Prussia, and Austria, which were instinctively hostile to the establishment of any free institutions on the soil of Europe.

The Emperor of France had hardly returned to Paris from this campaign, when England formed another coalition against him, uniting Russia and Prussia in the alliance. This coalition led to the campaigns of Jena and Eylau. Notwithstanding the solemn treaties into which Austria had entered, Francis was eager to join the foes of France, when he thought Napoleon was crippled beyond redemption on the distant banks of the Vistula. Elated with the hope that Napoleon was so crowded by his foes, that he could not resent the outrage, Austria began to arm, preparing to cut off the retreat of the French. To meet this peril, Napoleon immediately ordered another army of a hundred thousand men to be raised in France, and thoroughly equipped for war. He then sent, through his minister, the following wonderfully frank communication to the Emperor Francis, —

“France understands perfectly the intentions of Austria. To save Austria from calamity, I explain myself with frankness. France is abundantly prepared to meet any force Austria can raise against her. If the emperor wishes to send

officers to ascertain our strength, we engage to show them the depots, the camps of reserve, and the divisions on the march. They shall see, that, independently of the hundred thousand French already in Germany, a second army of one hundred thousand is preparing to cross the Rhine to check any hostile movement on the part of Vienna."

This unexpected revelation of the ability of France to punish the contemplated perfidy caused Austria to drop her arms. The peace of Tilsit detached Russia and Prussia from the coalition with England, and the British cabinet was again left to struggle alone in the attempt to restore the Bourbons to their despotic throne. Still Austria, chagrined by reiterated defeats, and humiliated by the loss of Italy, was eager for some favorable opportunity to renew the strife with France, hoping to regain lost honor and lost territory. The wished-for opportunity soon occurred. Napoleon was embroiled in the Spanish war, when Austria again listened to England, and again entered into a coalition against France. Napoleon was driving the army of Sir John Moore out of the Spanish peninsula, when he received the tidings that Austria was preparing for another assault.

"It seems," said he, "that the waters of oblivion flow past Vienna. They have forgotten the lessons of experience. They want new ones: they shall have them; and this time they shall be terrible. I do not desire war. I have no interest in it."

"Napoleon," says Thiers, "was sincere, and spoke the truth, in asserting that he did not desire war, but that he would wage it tremendously if forced into it."

With an army of two hundred thousand men, Austria commenced the conflict by crossing the Inn, and invading the territory of Napoleon's ally, the King of Bavaria. As usual, the Austrian emperor conducted with the utmost perfidy, commencing hostilities without any declaration of war. Napoleon was not taken by surprise. At midnight, in Paris, he received intelligence of the movements of the foe. He immediately took carriage to place himself at the head of his army, saying to his friends as he bade them adieu, —

"Very well. Behold us once more at Vienna. Since they force me to it, they shall have war to their hearts' content."

The Austrians had five hundred thousand troops in the field, two hundred thousand of whom had crossed the Inn. Napoleon met the foe at Ecmul, and scattered them in dismay before his impetuous charges. As they fled, Napoleon pursued them, and, overtaking them at Ratisbon, chastised them again with a dripping sword. He then chased them down the Danube to Vienna. For ten hours he bombarded the doomed city, throwing into it three thousand shells, until it capitulated. The Austrian emperor and his army fled across the Danube. Napoleon pursued them closely, and, after the sanguinary conflicts of Essling and Aspern, again brought Austria upon her knees on the field of Wagram. At the close of this decisive battle, when the Austrian empire was again at the mercy of Napoleon, all the French marshals were assembled in his tent to consider the proposal Austria had presented for an armistice. The question was earnestly discussed.

"Austria," said one party, "is the irreconcilable enemy of the popular government in France. Unless deprived of the power of again injuring us, she will never cease to violate the most solemn treaties, whenever there is a prospect of advantage. It is indispensable to put an end to these coalitions perpetually springing up against us, by dividing Austria, which is the centre of them all."

"Should the Austrian emperor," replied the other party, "retreat to the Bohemian mountains, Russia and Prussia will probably join the coalition. A great and final conflict is evidently approaching between the North and the South. It is of the utmost importance to conciliate Austria, that she may be detached from the coalition."

Napoleon listened thoughtfully, and then said, "Gentlemen, enough blood has been shed. I accept the armistice."

Francis resorted to every species of trickery to prolong the negotiations, hoping for aid from the English, who had landed in great strength at the mouth of the Scheldt; but at length the treaty was signed on the 14th of October, 1809. It was