

Woe to them that take up arms for the Mamelukes !  
They shall perish !”

Napoleon left Alexandria on the 7th of July, and marched his men over burning sands, at a distance from the river Nile where his flotilla served as a guard to the right flank of the army. Nothing could exceed the agony of this terrible march under a burning sun ; the air swarming with pestiferous insects ; the glare blinding men's eyes ; water scarce and very bad ; and neither beast nor vegetable to be found in the country. Angry murmurs arose among the soldiers, and even brave officers trod their cockades in the dust. Napoleon alone seemed unmoved by the trials and sufferings which befell them ; and it required all that his example could do to keep the men from open mutiny. For some days no enemy appeared ; but at Chebreis the Mamelukes first attacked them in a large body. They were terrible foes to encounter ; swift riders and un-failing marksmen. The character of the soil, so light that the least motion or breath of wind sent up a blinding cloud of dust, added to the miseries of the French. Still Napoleon continued his forced marches, harassed at times by attacks of straggling parties of Mamelukes, until his army came in sight of the Pyramids. “Soldiers,” said Bonaparte, “from the summit of yonder Pyramids, forty ages behold you.” A terrible battle was fought, in which the carnage was frightful. Nothing could shake the courage of the French troops ; the Mamelukes were so stricken with terror, they abandoned their earthworks and threw themselves into the river by hundreds. Many were drowned. The French soldiers repaid themselves for their sufferings and hardships by the rich plunder of the battle-field.

Cairo surrendered and Lower Egypt was conquered. In the meantime, the English admiral was preparing for the encounter which took place at Aboukir, where Nelson gained, as he said, “not a victory, but a conquest.” Napoleon is said to have exclaimed with a sigh, “To France the fates have decreed the Empire of the land—to England, that of the sea.”

In Egypt Napoleon undertook to organize a system of government, and labored to make the laws respected. His management of the affairs of the conquered country reflected great honor upon him. The battles of El-Arish and Jaffa were followed by the plague, which broke out in the French army ; and which was more dreaded by the soldiers than the fierce Mamelukes. The victims of this terrible scourge lost all hope, for the well shrank in nervous horror from attendance upon the sick. Napoleon, undaunted, went through the hospitals, and with his own hands squeezed the loathsome ulcers that no one else would touch. In strange contradiction to such heroism was his foul murder of the Egyptian prisoners, whom he caused to be massacred because he could not spare men to guard them.

After his unsuccessful siege of Acre, and retreat upon Jaffa, the onward march through Egypt was even more fearful than that already recounted. Arriving at Cairo, Napoleon suddenly determined to return to Paris and leave the affairs of Egypt to other hands. News had reached him of the internal dissensions that threatened to overturn the government of France, and Napoleon was too wide awake to his own advancement not to hear the murmurs of the people, and the ominous words of one of the Directory, “We must have a

*To other hands*



Hercules to the furthest limits of Eastern Germany," and he was master of the fairest portion of the continent. Austria was humbled, and Prussia overwhelmed by his power. To his brothers he distributed crowns, Louis was made King of Holland, Joseph King of Naples, and Jerome King of Westphalia. Having enticed the imbecile King of Spain to Bayonne under the pretext of acting as arbiter in the dissensions of the Bourbons, he caused the old king to abdicate his throne, and then conferred it upon his brother Joseph.

The Spaniards rose vigorously against this usurpation, England came to the rescue, and the French were driven out of Spain before the autumn. Europe was astonished, and Napoleon indignant. Rumors that the Austrians were arming reached Napoleon, and drawing together his scattered forces he defeated the Archduke Charles in Bavaria. The battle of Wagram was the decisive blow to Austria, and peace was made by the treaty of Vienna, October 14, 1809.

Napoleon had already strengthened his power by the marriage of several members of his family into the royal families of Europe, and he now proposed to further cement the compact with Austria by allying himself to the daughter of the emperor. Josephine, the wife of his youth, was divorced, and on the 11th of March, 1810, his marriage with Maria Louisa was celebrated with unusual splendor. Spain and England were not the only declared foes of the emperor, but the German States were chafing under the French yoke. Italy was discontented, and Napoleon had quarrelled with the Pope. Even in France murmurs of discontent were heard. In March, 1811, a son was born to Napoleon. This event, so earnestly desired as the sure prop of the

empire a few years ago, scarcely created the enthusiasm that might have been expected.

Napoleon, still intoxicated with success, did not see the clouds that were gathering.

A rupture having occurred with the czar, Napoleon prepared to invade Russia. These preparations were on a greater scale than any he had before made. Immense stores of ammunition, and subsistence for more than half a million of men were sent to the fortresses in Northern Germany. Austria and Prussia were coerced into his support, and the gigantic enterprise was set on foot slowly and with the greatest care. In the spring of 1812 the plains of Northern Germany were swarming with the conqueror's hosts; 450,000 men, with 60,000 cavalry and 1,200 guns, crossed the Niemen and entered Russia. The army of the czar slowly retreated before the French, laying waste the country, and rendering Napoleon's advance the more difficult.

Over bad roads, with insufficient supplies, his army depleted one-third by desertions, Napoleon moved on in pursuit of victory, which ever eluded him. At Borodino the first encounter took place, and it was "terrible beyond all past experience." The Russians were driven from their position, and on September 15, 1812, the "Grand Army" entered Moscow. To his utter surprise, Napoleon found the city in flames, the governor having set fire to it that it might not afford shelter to the conqueror. This was a terrible blow. Napoleon made a short delay, hoping the czar would treat for peace. The soldiers loaded themselves with the rich spoils of the old city, and then began the terrible retreat. The severities of the Russian winter had



set in, and all the horrors of frost and famine were encountered; and to these were added constant attacks from the bristling swarms of Cossacks that hovered round them.

Two armies were gathering to cut off their retreat. Slowly the French toiled along the Lithuanian wastes, perishing by thousands from cold and hunger, and arriving at Beresina a mere wreck of the army found itself surrounded by relentless foes. The only wonder was that it was not annihilated. But Napoleon with marvellous skill saved what remained of his once "Grand Army," and conducted it as far as Smorgoni. Here, giving the command to Murat, he left them and hurried off to France to raise new levies. Of the 550,000 men who had entered Russia with the emperor, scarcely 50,000 remained.

Napoleon fled in disguise through Germany into France, and there met with a very different reception from that on his return from Egypt. During his absence a malicious person had spread the report of his death, and he found to his chagrin that no thought of his infant son as his successor had been so much as mentioned. He declared his empress Regent in case of his death, and turned his attention to matters of more imminent importance.

Following the disastrous retreat from Moscow there was a general uprising in Germany. Insurrections broke out in the Hanse towns, and even in Austria and Saxony loud threats were heard against the aggressions.

Napoleon with incredible skill and craft raised another army, which seemed to spring from the earth by magic at his imperious summons. In a few weeks

half a million of men were under his command. But they were not the men of Austerlitz, though they bore the name of the Grand Army.

Napoleon took the field in April, and encountered the Russians and Prussians on the plains of Lutzen, where the allied armies retreated before him. Pursuing them to the borders of Silesia, he again defeated them in a great battle at Bautzen. Austria proposed terms of peace, which Napoleon rejected, and she joined the formidable coalition against him. And now, hemmed in by foes on every side, he still met them on many a bloody field till they forced their way to the very gates of Paris, and compelled the surrender of the capital.

The condition of France, exhausted by the long struggle, and weakened by internal dissensions, seemed to invite invasion, and the fall of Paris was immediately followed by the dethronement of the emperor and the re-establishment of the Bourbons in the person of the Count of Provence.

Napoleon, now deserted by those whom he had raised to greatness, was given the little island of Elba for his empire in exchange for the vast dominion he had called his own.

Notwithstanding the defection of his ministers and dignitaries of state in his hour of humiliation, the army were ever loyal to their great chieftain, and he was followed into exile by a little band of picked men, who took on themselves the military duties of the miniature court he held at Elba. Even here in his retirement the "eagle eye" never lost sight of the movement of events in Europe. The restoration of the Bourbon dynasty was quickly followed by its overthrow. France disliked her position as a conquered



*My RR Brev. Dir.*

power, and when, in the spring of 1815, Napoleon again landed in Provence, near the very spot where he had landed years before on his return from Egypt, he was again welcomed with acclamations of joy, and in a few hours regiment after regiment sent to check his progress laid down their arms. By the 15th of June his army numbered 130,000 men, and with these he set out to meet Wellington and Blücher, whose armies represented the combined strength of all Europe. The decisive contest was made at Waterloo. Volumes have been written upon this great struggle, upon the fate of which hung the destiny not only of Napoleon, but of Europe. Though the emperor still showed himself to be a master in the art of war, and wielded his forces with consummate skill, the tide of battle turned against him, and the French army was utterly routed.

After Waterloo Napoleon formally abdicated his throne, and put himself under the protection of England. He was banished to the distant island of St. Helena, where he died May 5, 1821.

*Edman*



NAPOLÉON AT WATERLOO.



chief." Among the people, in the legislature and in the armies, there had sprung up a desire for a strong government.

Napoleon landed on the shores of Provence in October, 1799, and at every stage of his journey to Paris he was greeted by the people as their last hope. At Paris, the garrison as well as the populace openly hailed him as the Chief of the State. By the *coup d'état* of the 18th Brumaire, after a provisional government had been formed, Napoleon was made First Consul. The French Republic had been the mere "offspring of passions," and the reaction had set in. As a military leader, the hearts of the nation had centered on Napoleon; and he was not slow to see his opportunity.

As First Consul he brought all the power of his determined will and great intellect to bear upon the reforms he instantly set in motion. His policy was a wise and healing one. He endeavored to bind together the factions that had distracted France. Some iniquitous laws of the Revolution were repealed; especially those against the clergy and the emigrés; and the country rapidly gained new strength and life from his judicious management of affairs.

But the government of France was only one of the cares of the First Consul. Germany and England were still hostile, and Austria, with a powerful army, was seeking to make sure the conquest she had made in Italy. Napoleon gathered an army of 50,000 men from every part of France, and crossing the Alps, was soon in possession of Milan. The victory of Marengo, June 4th, 1800, restored Italy as far as the Mincio to the French, and has been considered one of Napoleon's greatest successes. The battle of Hohenlinden was

fought December 3d of the same year, and resulted in another victory for the French. A treaty was made at Luneville in February, 1801. Napoleon had twice defeated the great Continental powers. England alone remained to contend with, and she was growing tired of the war. Her navy had indeed maintained its supremacy on the sea, and had recovered Egypt after Napoleon's return to France; but on the continent, his arms had remained invincible, and long negotiations followed before the peace of Amiens was concluded. Malta was the bone of contention between England and France. England threatened a renewal of the war, and when the English ambassador appeared at the First Consul's levee, Napoleon addressed him in angry words upon the subject. "If you arm," he said, "I will arm too; if you fight, I can fight also. You may destroy France, but cannot intimidate her." The treatment of the English ambassador was sufficient excuse for the declaration of war, for which England was ready, and it was made on the 18th of May, 1803.

During the interval of peace, after the treaty of Amiens, Napoleon still pursued his plan of reforms. He gave to the nation, at this time, the system of laws known as the Code Napoleon; which, though they were in the main the work of professional lawyers, bear marks of his own genius. The Concordat was his next great work, whereby the civil and ecclesiastical powers were reconciled, and religious freedom guaranteed to all sects. The church was re-established in France, and the aisles of the grand old Cathedral of Notre Dame, where the Goddess of Reason had a few years before been set up, again resounded with songs

*The victory*



of Christian worshipers. He reorganized the army and created the Legion of Honor. The consulate, at first created for ten years, became one for life; and the government of France was entirely under the control of Napoleon.

Before long, rumors of a conspiracy against the life of the First Consul began to be heard. There was disaffection in the Republican party, and many of the emigrés, to say nothing of the English, were suspected of being in the plots. The unfortunate Duke d'Eng-hien was executed with a mere shadow of trial, and other executions, less shocking, because with more show of reason, followed. These events hastened a movement which had, no doubt, been contemplated by Napoleon from the beginning of his career as a ruler. The sentiment of the nation was to surround their leader with all the glory of regal power; and now with as much enthusiasm as they had hailed the republic, they greeted the proclamation that made the First Consul "Emperor of the French." The proclamation was made May 18th, 1804.

In December, all Paris flocked to the Cathedral of Notre Dame, to witness the coronation. The Pope, departing from the established usage, had come to Paris to hallow the ceremony with the benediction of the church. At the altar, with Josephine by his side, Napoleon received the emblems of sovereignty, the sceptre and the consecrated sword, from the hands of Pius the 7th; but with a significant gesture, he seized the crown and placed it upon his head with his own hands.

The Italian Republic, following the lead of France, sent a deputation to Napoleon asking that their

President might also be crowned king in Milan. For answer Napoleon crossed the Alps and placed the iron crown of the old Lombard kings upon his own head. Henceforth he styled himself "Emperor of the French and King of Italy."

In 1805 a coalition was formed against the power of Napoleon, consisting of England, Austria, Russia, Sweden, and Naples. Prussia, it was hoped, would also join. With his transcendent genius for war, the emperor of the French baffled this entire host by the concentration of his strength upon the Austrians at Ulm. Here the whole vanguard of the allied army was annihilated by a "simple manoeuvre."

This magnificent success was followed by the destruction of the French fleet in the battle of Trafalgar. But Trafalgar was soon forgotten in the joy of the great victory at Austerlitz, when the allied army was shattered to fragments. Prussia now declared war against France, and the battles of Jura and Armstadt, fought on the same day, October 14, 1806, reduced the Prussian army to a mere wreck.

The suddenness of these victories surpassed all that Napoleon had before achieved, and astonished the world, while it impelled the conqueror to further triumphs. He now turned his attention to Russia, who before the rout of Jura had declared war. At Eylau an indecisive battle was fought, but at Friedland the "Grand Army" was again victorious. A treaty of peace was made at Tilsit, July, 1807, and an alliance formed with the Czar Alexander, so lately Napoleon's deadly foe.

Bonaparte may now be considered at the height of his power. His rule extended "from the pillars of