

NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE.

The Young Soldier Ambitious to Shine as an Author.

WRITES A HISTORY OF CORSICA.

Seeks a Publisher in Vain—Revisits His Native Land—Despotic Treatment of His Kinfolk—At This Period Displays Willfulness and Gloom.

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V.—FLASHES OF OBSCURITY.

The insurrection in Lyons quelled itself before the arrival of Lieutenant Bonaparte's contingent. The municipality proved itself sufficiently strong to put down the insurgents without the assistance of the military arm. Fighting there was none. Napoleon's company, arriving in due time, was stationed in the city for a month. It was a small beginning of war for him who was destined, with less than a decade, to lead a victorious army over the Alps into Italy.

The disturbance at Lyons put a date to Bonaparte's career at Valence. He had remained in that place from the fall of 1785 to August of 1787. This period of twenty-three months, though obscure in its manifestations, was one of the most important in his life. It was the transition from youth to early manhood. At this stage in the lives of men, the mind passes rapidly from one condition to another. Particularly is this true if study have been the mood and genius the attribute of the person concerned.

Napoleon here went forward from the early part of his seventeenth to the completion of his eighteenth year. If he had continued in the reckless course which he took at the beginning, his life at Valence would little concern the reader a century afterwards. But with the coming of the spring of 1786 an iron resolution entered into him, and he became a truer student than ever before. Probably no greater degree of mental concentration and compression was ever exhibited by a young man in the world than by Napoleon Bonaparte brooding over his books in his humble apartment at Valence.

The ambition of the young officer now shot out in several directions. Deeply impressed with the fame and power of the great authors whose writings just then were setting the world aflame, he too would be an author! Such was the quality of this singular personage that he never distrusted himself in anything. Before the end of his eighteenth year he conceived himself able and qualified to write a history! Corsica should be his theme. He would try the annals of his native land in so philosophical a manner as to place him alongside of the Abbe Raynal! He went so far as to address a letter to that august personage, telling him that he himself, though a youth, was already a writer. He begged the historian to excuse his audacity. He flattered him by saying that in-



NAPOLÉON BY AUDOIN.

dulgence, extended to a neophyte, was a sure mark of genius! He enclosed to the Abbe the first two chapters of his alleged "History of Corsica," the eulogium only being surpassed by the heresy of the rhetoric and the message of grammar!

We half suspect that the bottom motive in this business was not the hope of being a historian, but rather the distinction of having correspondence with a great man. However this may be, the Abbe indulged Napoleon, wrote to him, advised him to study further, and then to rewrite his work. Not only did the historical ambition have the Lieutenant, but the romantic also. He took somewhat to novels, and for the first time falling in love, determined to write a novel. At the house of Madame du Colombier, he made the acquaintance of her beautiful daughter, and fell in love with her—after the manner of all young lieutenants. The flame of this passion presently went out, but traces of it are seen in his correspondence until what time—ceasing to love Mademoiselle Colombier—he turned pessimist, denounced love as a mockery, and in particular as the drawback to human ambition!

In the midst of the fitful gleams of this erratic life may be seen burning the coals of that furnace-heat which the years have not yet extinguished. The student Bonaparte became a pale, living reality. He supplied himself with the works of the leading authors of the age, and devoured them with the rapacity of one starving. He made himself familiar with the writings of Voltaire and Necker. The one he followed through the mazes of the new French learning, and the other through the intricacies of practical finance. For months together, in his lodgings and about the margins, he might be seen, with book in hand, muttering as he read, penning the doctrine, approving and condemning the doctrine, according to his judgment of whim. There never was a time in his life when he swept within his grasp a greater amount of intellectual products than during the after part of 1786 and the first half of the following year.

Coinciding with the date of the Lyons episode, came a military order sending the Regiment La Fere from Valence to Douai, in French Flanders, three hundred and ninety miles distant. Here Napoleon found himself exposed to northern blasts and unfamiliar hardships. In his correspondence he complains bitterly of his situation. He got a fever of both mind and body, and the effects of it lasted for several years. His unhappiness became extreme, and he sought by every means in his power to escape from the situation. He would get away or kill himself! Nor were very powerful reasons wanting why he should go elsewhere. The Bonaparte family in Corsica had fallen by this time into desperate straits. Joseph had undertaken to build up a wine-trade with Italy, but had failed—as he did with most things else. Lucien, a student at Brienne, was doing his best to get a transfer to Aix, where he might substitute a priestly for a military education. Madame de Bonaparte, now thirty-seven years of age, was

hoping against hope that the government would pay her the potty stipend due for the care of her mulberry orchards, but no payment was made.

There came now into the household, Lieutenant Bonaparte, making the condition of his family a plausible excuse, sought, and in February of 1786, obtained leave of absence to visit Corsica. Thither he went, in poor health and general moribundity of mind. By this time his arbitrary character had begun to show itself in full force. Once at home, he played the despot. He hectored all his kinsfolk, with the exception of the mother, and she could hardly withstand his impetuosity, willfulness and gloom. His old and gouty great-uncle Lucien, from being the main stay of the family, was now about to die. Napoleon sought to alleviate the distresses of the household, but his resources were limited, and his ambitions were constantly contending with the purposes born of natural affection.

Home again after an absence of nearly nine years, the young officer busied himself more with things great than things little. He was more concerned with the political condition of the world than with the daily needs of his mother's household. He dwelt more on the state of Corsica than on the emptiness of Madame Bonaparte's cuisine—more on the woes of Ajaccio than on those of his brothers' and sisters' stomachs. He conceived himself to be the patriot par excellence of his age, and spent more time in delivering socialistic monologues than in contriving the means to rescue the family from impending ruin.

It was at this juncture that Napoleon began to concern himself especially about the institutions and history of England. Along with his Necker he studied Smith's "Wealth of Nations," then only twelve years from the press. The Elizabethan age—not indeed for the intellectual glory that was in it, but for its political intrigues—impressed him greatly; and he undertook to do into fiction the features of that era in a novel entitled the "Count of Essex." Then he flew back to his "History of Corsica," revised the parts which he had written to the Abbe Raynal, and pressed on with the rest. Alongside of Voltaire, he would set up a rival production of his own, called the "Masked Prophet"—a marvelous and impossible invention out of Peral! Literature was thus mixed with affairs; fiction flourished at the meager meals which Madame Bonaparte was able to set for her family; anathemas of Joseph's unprofitable wine-shop were illuminated with paragraphs about the glories of rebellion; and the mulberry orchard back of Ajaccio flourished in the middle of an apostrophic peroration about the regeneration of mankind!

Bonaparte's leave of absence—so eagerly sought—soon became as intolerable to him as to the rest. His paper gave him privilege to be away from his command for six months; but before the end of the fourth month—inventing casuistical reasons—he impatiently left Corsica to rejoin his company. During his stay in the island, he had accomplished something—something that would have been much in any other. He had induced the French Intendant to agree to allow his mother's claim. He had pushed forward the inert Joseph to try the law as a profession, and had seen him installed at Bastia. He had urged upon his gouty uncle the necessity of patriotism! He had drawn up and submitted a system of coast defenses for the principal ports of the island. He had prepared a scheme for the creation of an insular army. He had studied and written incessantly at a furious speed, completing his Oriental novel and his "History of Corsica." The latter was cast in the epistolary form, and was dedicated to M. de Sena. Meanwhile the Regiment La Fere had been ordered from Douai, to Auxonne, in Cote d'Or, 182 miles from Paris. Thither Napoleon repaired, to rejoin his command, in the last week of May, 1788. He took with him the manuscript of his "History of Corsica," seeking a publisher, but finding none, either at Valence or Lyons or Auxonne or Paris or anywhere else in this mundane sphere forever. In that same week, Alexander Hamilton wrote his last paper for The Federalist. One month previously, from the presses of Strahan and Cadell, in the Strand, was issued, by the author, on his fifty-first birthday, the greatest history ever composed by man.

It would be impossible to define the mental condition of Napoleon at this stage of his development. Politically—for though a soldier he was always a politician—he went halting between two forces. The one tendency drew him powerfully towards the local independence of his native island. This involved hatred of the conquest and annexation of Corsica to France. It also involved hatred of France itself; of the French race; and of the French monarchy in particular. But the other tendency drew Franceward with equal stress. It was from the powerful fact of France that all benefits had thus far flowed to the family of Bonaparte. By France he had himself been educated. Besides, Corsica, even as an independent state, was a limited field of action. France is great. France offers world-wide distinction. Our commission as Lieutenant of artillery is a French commission, and our very sword is a French blade.

But our "History of Corsica" is a patriotic and insurrectionary document. It is inconsistent with our allegiance, and hurtful to what France may promise hereafter. Therefore we would better shuffle, and rewrite our book. We will put it into the mouth of a Corsican patriot of the old Genoese faction, to which the family of our mother Hamolino once belonged. In its present form we make a copy of it, and send it to the great Paoli in London, but he returns it to us, putting us off with the counsel that we are as yet immature, "too young for writing history," and adding words to the effect that our book is not sufficiently original. In truth, our mind is a vortex, a maelstrom of conflicting tides. Here at Auxonne, during our stay of eighteen months, we will sit down again, insatiable, in solitary gloom, and devour the greatest things thought and written by men whom we shall one day surpass and eclipse!

JOHN CLARK RIDPATH.

A Phase of Fatalism.

"Not many people will agree with me perhaps," said a man the other day, "but in addition to persons inheriting diseases I think they often inherit the same fate. For instance, I have seen large families of sisters, nearly all of whom became widows, and looking back a generation or so it will be found that widowhood early in life became the fate of their aunts, mothers and grandmothers. I heard a friend remark, too, that deaths did not happen very often in her family, as all lived to be quite old, and although the family was numerous they rarely needed the services of an undertaker. Another thing in this same line of thought is the fact that one individual will have the fatality of having the same kind of an accident befall him right along."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

LOOKING FOR A MARK

RUSSIA'S COMMERCE DESTROYERS SPOILING FOR SOMETHING TO DO.

But They Had Better Not Stop on the British Lion's Tail—Possibility of a Russo-Anglo Alliance—A Naval Officer's Views of Foreign Politics.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—[Special.]—A suggestion which has met with much the excited character of the government of the United States erect in Washington a statue to General Simon Bolivar, the liberator of Venezuela. It is by this time generally known that in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, there is a handsome statue of General Washington erected by the admirers in that country of the Father of Our Country. It is a bronze statue, and every anniversary of the birth of Washington it is decorated with flowers amid appropriate ceremonies. If any foreign hero here deserved to have his fame commemorated in the American capital it is certainly Bolivar, who was among the greatest men this hemisphere has produced. Henry Clay, with his usual felicity, called Bolivar "the George Washington of South America." Bolivar was not only a great warrior, but a great civilian leader. He made Venezuela what it is, and history records of him the pleasant fact that when a grateful people made him a gift of \$1,000,000, he at once used the money in purchasing the freedom of 1,000 slaves. A coincidence which impressed the Venezuelans greatly was that the message of President Cleveland, announcing to the world our intervention with the Monroe doctrine in behalf of that country against England, was sent to congress on the anniversary of Bolivar's birth.

It is held that it would be a graceful act for the American congress to recognize the great and distinguished services of Bolivar, and also reciprocate the honor paid our own Washington by the Venezuelans, by appropriating money for the erection of a statue to Bolivar in the capital of this republic. There is a statue of Bolivar in Central park, New York, but not even a bust of him exists in Washington. So far no foreigner has had a statue erected in his honor in this city, but in the national vault, as the gallery of statuary in the capitol is sometimes called, is a bust of Kosciuszko. If there is no precedent in favor of the erection of an outdoor statue to a foreign hero, there is certainly no good reason why such a precedent should not now be established, and the suggestion has met with a favorable response here.

The Dogs of War.

For some weeks statesmen and diplomats here have been eagerly watching the field of foreign politics. The chance of war between Germany and England, the intentions of Russia and of France, and the dreadful situation in the Levant have all formed topics of frequent discussion. A naval officer told me that he believed Russia and England would soon come to blows, and he told me of a remarkable map which the Russian authorities had some time ago made with infinite patience and care. They prepared a chart of the world's commerce, showing the lanes through which it passed and indicating by spheres the points at which the commerce appeared greatest. One of the largest of these spheres was near the entrance to the Irish sea. Another large one was in the English channel. Still another was in the Mediterranean, near the entrance to the Suez canal. But the largest sphere of all, indicating that at that point the movement of commercial tonnage was greatest and that there could be found the richest mark for Russia's cruisers and commerce destroyers, was off the southern shore of Long Island. In other words, the keen Russians had made a chart of the spots at which the commerce of the world was most vulnerable, and at which they could do the most damage in case they should decide to let slip the dogs of war.

Another peculiar fact was given me by this naval officer. He said the Russian naval authorities had some time ago made soundings of the deep bays along the coast of Maine. Along that coast, as is well known, there is a great number of small, new bays, in which ships of war could lie safely at anchor. The Russian naval representatives made soundings and surveys in these bays in order to be able to report to their superiors. At this very moment the Russians are in possession of all the data necessary to their operations along that coast. No one believes this information was gathered with any idea of using it against the United States, but wholly for use against England in case of war. It is remembered that at Halifax the English have an artificial navigation light, from that point they would send out their fleets in the western waters. It is surmised by the experts that the Russians prepared themselves for a rendezvous along the Maine coast in order to be the better able to prey upon English transatlantic commerce (for most of the tonnage passing Long Island is in English bottoms), and also from those safe havens to make an attack upon Halifax.

War or Peace?

Still another view which I have heard exploited much of late by well informed diplomats is that Russia and England will soon make an alliance, offensive and defensive. It is pointed out that these two great nations are not really rivals in any general sense. They are rivals only where their frontiers chance to come together in Asia. The absence of rivalry between them is on account of the difference between their national policies. Russia has no colonies, and little foreign commerce. She seeks no overseas power. She is not a rival of England in colonization and trade, as Germany is. On the other hand, Russia's policy has always been a land policy. If Russia and England go to war, they will eat one another up. If, on the other hand, they make peace, together they can rule the world, the one being invincible on the sea and the other well nigh invincible on land. Together they could solve the Turkish problem. They could dismember the sultan's empire, restore order to Armenia, and bring about a better state of things through all Asia Minor.

Great indignation was caused here by the pronouncement of the Turkish government to the effect that the Red Cross society would not be permitted to distribute money and supplies to the suffering people of Armenia. That edict was felt to be an insult to the civilized world. It is well known that the four of the sublimely impudent ports was that under the guise of distribution the Red Cross society would make an investigation of the condition of affairs prevailing in Asia Minor and report to the world. It is the talk in inside circles of this government that but for our policy of nonintervention in foreign affairs we would surely go over to Turkey and make an effort to compel the porte to give Armenia protection, and it is not impossible we may do so anyway. We may ask the European powers to assist themselves. WALTER WELLMAN.

HISTORY OF A WEEK

Thursday, Jan. 16.

Don M. Dickinson says comfort is the desideratum in the matter of the location of the national Democratic convention, and figures it out that Chicago is the only town possessing that one thing useful.

It is announced that the British expeditionary force operating against Commaise, capital of Ashanti, will reach that town on Saturday.

While the crowds going home from work in the evening were passing the big show windows of H. S. Burger's jewelry store at Chicago, burglars emptied the place of jewelry.

Arrangements have been made for an eight-days race between Harvard, Cornell, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. The place has not yet been decided upon, but it will probably be Poughkeepsie.

In a collision between the steamships Cesar and Nerous in a fog off Ramsgate, England, the former was sunk and nineteen of her crew drowned.

The boundary dispute between Chili and Argentina is so acute that Chili has ordered an army to the passes of the Cordilleras.

Friday, Jan. 17.

The St. James Gazette, London, says: "We have no quarrel with the old Monroism, but if the senate insists upon setting up a new Monroism which will render the United States absolute arbitrator of the affairs of the continent, of which our country belongs to Great Britain, we certainly cannot avert the consequences by yielding."

In a law class which passed an examination before the supreme court at Pierre, S. D., Madison Jackson, a negro porter on the Northwestern road, was admitted to practice before all state courts.

D. T. and J. H. D. Stanley, president and cashier of the Bank of Commerce, which recently failed at Des Moines, have been arrested, charged with fraudulent banking.

The Argentine republic chamber of deputies has passed a bill granting bounties for exports of sugar.

The Rev. Father O'Gorman has been appointed by the pope bishop of Sioux Falls, N. D.

William Orman and his divorced wife, Elizabeth Orman, were remarried at Decatur, Ills. They had been divorced nine years and both are now 47 years old.

Saturday, Jan. 18.

David Lentz, of Holmes county, O., has been placed in the asylum for the insane at Columbus after having been kept chained by his family for forty-four years.

William Hartel, a Payne (O.) manufacturer, refused to obey a whiteoak notice to discharge a colored employe and that night his property was burned.

The population of Oregon, according to the census just completed by the county assessors, is 364,762, an increase of about 13 per cent. over the government census of 1880.

Anna Royster, whose father, a wealthy farmer of Boone Ia., shot and killed her lover, Banker McFarland, on the streets of Boone Monday, committed suicide in Omaha.

Lizzie Becker and Della Mahan were killed and Martha Druff, Maggie Tracey, and Louis Yender fatally hurt by being run down by an engine while walking on the New Haven and Hartford tracks at New York.

Two children of George Spraggins, a coal miner living near Petersburg, Ind., were burned to death in their dwelling.

Monday, Jan. 20.

Preachers of El Paso, Tex., have started a prayer crusade among the churches, Endeavor societies and similar organizations against the proposed fighting carnival in that vicinity.

Saturday evening an earthquake was experienced at Craig, Colo., and vicinity. Articles were thrown from shelves and clocks stopped, though no damage is reported.

The immigration investigating commission appointed by Secretary Carlisle complains that 100,000 Canadians come to the United States every year, underwork the Americans and go back to Canada with their earnings.

Henry B. Chandler, an early resident of Chicago and one of the former owners of the Chicago Times, died at Yonkers, N. Y.

Bill Varel, aged 19, confessed that he murdered Samuel Demars near Biwabik, Minn., and the sheriff had all he could do to keep the Biwabik people from lynching Varel.

George Siler, of Chicago, has been chosen referee of the Fitzsimmons-Maher fight.

Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Altoon, Wis., despite its name, enjoys the distinction of being the only town in the state without a woman resident.

Manufacturers of meters have formed a trust.

An agent of the war department is reported to be investigating sites for a fortification near Cleveland.

Martial law has been proclaimed in the province of Barranquilla, state of Bolivar, republic of Colombia. Six hundred troops are proceeding from the coast up the Magdalena river to the city of Barranquilla.

Frank Lawler, the well-known Chicago politician, was buried yesterday, a vast throng attending his funeral.

It is reported that the Mosquito Indians, including Chief Andrew Hendy, will invite Chief Clarence to return to the Mosquito territory. Chief Clarence was deposed by the Nicaraguans in 1894, and subsequently went to Jamaica.

H. P. Wilkinson, a prominent business man of Wheeling, W. Va., has mysteriously disappeared.

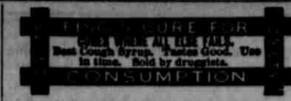
Wednesday, Jan. 22.

General Thomas Ewing, of New York city, ex-representative in congress from Ohio, is dead. He was knocked down by a street car Monday and landed on his head. He was born in Ohio in 1829 and during the '50's went to Kansas where he was chief justice of the state supreme court when the civil war broke out. He at once resigned and went into the army where he made a gallant record.

Joseph C. Hauser, machinist; Harbuna Stevens, bookkeeper; and Thos. Toof, workman, are dead, and James T. McNeil, F. T. Pflegen, Alexis Krah and Frank C. Richter severely wounded as the result of two explosions which ended an experiment with a new kind of gas which was in progress in the four-story factory of English & Merick, at New Haven, Conn. The building was totally destroyed; loss, \$100,000.

John W. Griggs was inaugurated governor of New Jersey yesterday.

General Weyler, the new governor-general of Cuba, has sailed from Spain for his post.



A. P. T. L.

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ALL KINDS OF JOB WORK DONE AT THIS OFFICE



W. J. BRODIE.

1697 W. Folk St., Chicago, Oct. 27, 1892.

The OWEN ELECTRIC BELT AND APPLIANCE CO. Gentlemen—Solely in the interest of others who are, or may become similarly affected with myself, I venture to offer my experience with the use of the OWEN ELECTRIC BELT, and that I am actuated entirely by that motive, must be apparent from the fact that until you see my name and address recorded on this letter you had no knowledge of either. I had long been a sufferer from chronic dyspepsia and nervous prostration, contracted or aggravated by many years residence in the East Indies. About three years ago I purchased one of your Belts in the hope that its use might afford me some relief, and were it continuously as directed for about four hours every afternoon for a month or so, and the result was perfectly marvelous. My indigestion with all its attendant miseries, nervousness, depression, irritability and insomnia, from which latter I was a great sufferer, have disappeared. I then discontinued the use of the Belt (the existence of which I had indeed forgotten), until about six weeks ago, when a recurrence of my old trouble very forcibly reminded me of it. I again put it into wear (after ceasing its use for over one and one-half years), and with the same extraordinary results, being again restored to health, strength and vigor, after wearing it for only ten days. Under these circumstances I can most emphatically recommend to others suffering from the ailments which I have endeavored to describe, the adoption of the use of the OWEN ELECTRIC BELT. I had long been aware of the curative powers of electricity from what I had read on the subject, and on my return to England I purchased from Pulvermacher of Regent Street, London, the combined chain bands, of which he is the patentee, for which I paid three guineas, and although I must admit that I derived some benefit from their use, I am bound to say the general result did not approach the benefit derived from the use of the OWEN BELT, besides which its utility is so great an improvement in comfort and convenience; Pulvermacher's being cumbersome and complicated in adjusting to the body, besides causing from being uncovered, blisters and sores, and above all not being able to regulate the current as is the case in the OWEN ELECTRIC BELT. You are at perfect liberty to make what use you think fit of this letter, and I shall be glad to answer either verbally or by letter any inquiry made from me on this subject. I am, gentlemen, Yours respectfully,

W. J. BRODIE.

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