



Napoleon and Josephine.

A new edition of the "Life of Napoleon Bonaparte," by Ida M. Tarbell, has been issued, and to it has been appended a "Life of Josephine," by the same author.

The latter is a most interesting and impartial graphic picture of the Empress which has been written. It certainly presents her in a much more realistic light than most of those heretofore published.

The present sketch in an attempt to tell a true story of her life. It is revealed by the recent diligent researches of Frederic Masson, and by the numerous letters and documents which have appeared, many of them since the passing of the Second Empire.

Unsympathetic it surely is not, though it is likely to prove something of a shock to the ideals of a good many people. It is, however, a picture wholly and attractively human; and though most of those who read it will probably have some considerable sympathy with Napoleon, that some complex personage has hitherto inspired, there will still be no lack of sympathy for the wife who might be called the "Empress of the World."

As for the life of Napoleon, first retraced some seven years ago, and now republished, it is quite as truthful and vivid as a picture of the Emperor as his successor is of the Empress. We see here, not the smiling and the smiling, but the stern and the stern, the selfish oppressor and tyrant, but a very human, though almost superhuman, man.

The complexities and contradictions which characterize Napoleon, and which are two or three overmastering traits as to be not so very difficult to understand. The picture which Mrs. Tarbell gives of him is so clear and so convincing, that it is life, but is essentially dramatic. The various episodes of Napoleon's career are described in a way which makes the book anything but a mere dry-dust biography.

It is an excellent history, and in fact, it possesses more than the attraction of a novel, because of its lack of that artificiality which most are slightly evident in the most masterly work of fiction. The difference between the two is that in the former the author's work is to construct his plot in accordance with the motive of the story; in the latter, it is to reconstruct a life as it really was, and to construct a plot out of the facts of the life.

penditures and compact, married a woman of easy morals and no pretensions, whose charm for him consisted solely in her great tact and genuine warmth and kindness of heart, and all of whose traditions were those of the French West Indies.

His motive for marrying her was intended to be a political one, in marrying him a lukewarm regard, a half-hearted belief in his ability, and a wish not to offend her former protector. It looks as if whatever inequality there was in the match was Napoleon's fault.

The influence which had made the father of Alexander de Beauharnais to ask for the hand of a daughter of the Emperor, for his son who might be called the "Empress of the World," had never known each other until 1772, when they met at the court of the King of France.

From all this it will be seen that Mme. Renaudin was a clever woman, who had been married to a man who was one really strong relation she had been able to form in her life. She was clever enough to see that the marriage was a good one, and she was willing to do anything to make it so.

The life of Josephine after the death of her first husband does not indicate any particular interest in her life, but it is a picture which her biographer gives of the first winter she spent in France.

"She seems to have made but a poor living," says the author, "but she was not content with her husband's income, she had, after all, a taste for the life of a noblewoman."

"I am urged," she says in a letter to a friend, "to marry again, by the advice of my friends, and I may almost say, by the commands of my mother and the prayers of my children."

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