

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

Study of His Childhood and Strong Characteristics.

BOYHOOD OF THE FUTURE EMPEROR.

Abrupt and Quarrelsome in Disposition. With No Regard For Neatness of Attire. Lacked the Scholastic Trait—His First Entry Into France.

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II.—BOYHOOD.

Napoleon may be said to have had a threefold life. He was an Italian by descent, a Corsican by variation, and a Frenchman by nationality. He was the last by a close contingency; for Corsica had only become French a few months before his birth. We may here glance briefly at the aspect of the world at the date of his apparition.

The Bourbon monarchy of France was in its hectic heyday—knowing little, and fearing nothing. Its wisest organ was the minister of Foreign Affairs, the great Choiseul. Louis XV. was in the forty-sixth year of his reign. Italy consisted of distracted principalities, over which the papal power still extended its scepter in spectral majesty. Clement XIV. had reached the third month of his pontificate. The Hapsburg Joseph II. was in the fourth year of that imperial rule which had now become a shadow and illusion on the disk of time. Great Britain, gaining rapidly by conquest on foreign shores, had for ruler George III., then in the thirty-first year of his age.

In America the rebels of New England had been outlawed by Parliament for their "rash and hasty proceeding" against the tea on tea. Only a few miles from the birthplace in the house of Carlo Buonaparte was stationed a Provençal lieutenant with his regiment of Lorraine, and his name was Mirabeau! Letitia di Buonaparte was not quite nineteen years of age when her war-god was born. Incidents in her first years of the Napoleonic childhood there are none recorded. We are left to himself and to his schoolmate Bourienne for our knowledge of the earliest characteristics and events of his life.

The Corsican had a prodigious memory, and it reached back well toward his infancy. When in after years he spoke of himself—as he was much given to doing—he generally used exaggeration; but we may not doubt that there was always a vein of sterling truth under-



CARLO BONAPARTE, FATHER OF NAPOLEON, running his dramatic recitals. We know indeed, out of the nature of the case, that his representations of his own childhood were in the main correct.

The young Buonaparte was from a babe abrupt and quarrelsome. His willfulness was extreme. The likelihood is that he never once in his life willingly obeyed anybody! Near his death, at Longwood, he declared that he was never afraid. His child-passion was frequently excited against Joseph, over whom he exercised a consorsious sway from the time when they toddled together in the birth-room or fought in the yard. He appears to have loved his mother, and to have obeyed her in a morose and mathematical way; but in his last talk he indicates that his conduct as a child toward the mother was rather prudential than affectionate. He bears witness that the Ramolino lioness was tender in the treatment of him, as well as severe and just.

To their fourth child, Carlo Buonaparte and his wife gave the name of Napoleon. At the first it was Napoleone. In this form the possessor retained it until, flaring up in Paris in the character of a young Jacobin, he threw away the Italian and aristocratic fictions in his name, to become plain, republican NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

The first teaching of the child Bonaparte was given by his mother. Then he was sent, in his sixth year, to a child's school kept by a woman. He went from the parental threshold in that same arbitrary and belligerent mood which characterized him ever. He fought with his schoolmates, among whom he appeared with no sign of neatness in his clothing, and nothing debonair in his manner.

At this time, beside his parents, he had two important relatives. One of these was Lucien Buonaparte, brother of his grandfather Joseph; and the other was Joseph Fesch, afterwards the Cardinal Fesch, half-brother of his mother. The latter was a studious lad of twelve, who took an interest in his sister's son; and the former had wealth and influence in the island, both of which he was willing to bestow on the Bonaparte schoolboy. Young Fesch aided him with his lessons, and exercised a conservative influence on his temper. How little might it be foreseen that the younger of these twain, with his surly look and long hair and stockings down over his shoes in the dust of the playground, should one day, from an imperial palace in the most splendid city in the world, dispatch his elder playmate as ambassador to the Pope of Rome!

What were the civil and social influences around the schoolhouse of Bonaparte?

The sentiments of that place are among the most potent and enduring forces of life. The child nature imbibes unconsciously the prevailing principles of the hour; and the character is forming while the first hesitant words are conned from the primer. The boy Napoleon had around his schoolroom—as around his cradle—an agitated atmosphere. It was banked with the receding clouds of revolution. There was lightning on the rim, and blood on the fringes.

The majority of the Corsicans had accepted the French dominations. Some still remembered Genoa with affection; and many sighed for independence. Among the latter were the Buonapartes. The feeling of regret for the lost cause began to wane about the time that Napoleon was sent to school; but there was still in his heart a drop of inherited bitterness on account of the French conquest. He looked back angrily at the terrible conditions surrounding him in his childhood. As late as his twentieth year he broke out in passion. "I was born," said he, "while my country was dying. Thirty thousand French, vomited on our shores, drowning the throne of liberty in waves of blood—such was the horrid sight which first met my view. The cries of the dying, the groans of the oppressed, tears of despair, surrounded my cradle at my birth." The utterance shows how hardly the future emperor of the French himself in youth became a Frenchman.

When, from the sixth to the ninth year of his age, the boy Bonaparte attended school in his native town, three lines radiated before his feet. One of these was dim and clouded, but glorified with patches of extreme light. It was the way into the kingdom of that New Philosophy which was just then revealing itself with such brilliancy in France. A second and well trod way led straightly to the Church. Rome was great and honorable. Her rewards of diligent ambition were rich and certain. The young aspirant who entered the colleges might well expect emolument and reputation. The third path led dangerously to the military life. None might at that time discern the coming upheaval of society, with its concomitant reign of the sword. But the agitations of the epoch were sufficient to encourage war, and to offer a measure of inducement to follow in the path of military glory.

The taciturn schoolboy of Ajaccio had these three open ways before him. From the first, he was precluded by the dispositions of his family, intensified in himself. He never had the scholastic trait. His abilities as a pupil, and afterwards as a military cadet, showed nothing of the philosophe. Indeed he conceived—how early in boyhood we know not—a prejudice against philosophy and the philosophers as well. As for the Church, he had an inbred admiration for Rome; but the kind of life offered in the priesthood was without attractions for him personally. He was willing that Joseph and other of his friends should become priests and bishops; but not himself. Neither the scholar's gown nor the priest's surplice offered the slightest attraction to his imagination.

The condition of the Buonaparte family about the years 1776-78 was critical. Carlo, the father, had given an interested adherence to the French. He had his hopes from the annexation. He would keep his titles and recover the properties formerly belonging to the family. The Buonaparte estates in Corsica had been mostly lost. Some had been confiscated by the Genoese party and converted into Jesuit schools. The recent revolution had reduced Carlo's means almost to naught. He was himself of no reputation as an economist. His family had rapidly multiplied. Two children died in infancy between the birth of Napoleon and that of Lucien, in 1775. The family was brought almost to penury.

Carlo de Buonaparte could not get back his properties. The privilege of writing his name with a d did not compensate for his losses. He struggled with adversity, and sought the aid of influential friends. Among these the most available was General Marboef. The latter in 1776 appealed on behalf of his Corsican friends to the authorities in Paris for the privilege of educating the Buonaparte boys in France at the expense of the royal treasury. This thing might be done—provided the applicants should be under ten years of age, and be able to show four strains of noble blood in their veins! In the case of the boys Buonaparte, this could not be proved; and affairs in the homestead went from bad to worse.

At this juncture history, rather than man, came to the rescue. France was on the verge of bankruptcy. One finance minister after another was appointed, and one financial scheme after another exploded in the hands of the inventors. It became necessary to call together, at Versailles, a council of the nobles. Carlo de Buonaparte was chosen a representative from Corsica. In going to perform his duty at the French capital, he took with him, to be distributed en route, his two sons, Joseph and Napoleon; also, the boys' half uncle, Joseph Fesch; also, a cousin of Letitia, the mother. As for Fesch, he was to be left as a student at Aix. The cousin had been appointed to an office in the church at Autun; and at that place the distracted father determined to drop his two sons at school.

This was in the year 1778. The company set out by way of Florence, Genoa, Marseilles, Lyons. The youngest of the company was a sad-faced, big-eyed boy, in such apparel as could be furnished in the house of an impecunious nobleman. The boy's head was bent forward as he walked. His foot now for the first time touched the continent. He was in his tenth year. He muttered broken ejaculations to his companions. It was Napoleon Bonaparte on his way to Autun—and the world.

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—Indianapolis Journal.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLSOME STYLISH NOTIONS

LESSON IX, FIRST QUARTER, INTEAN IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR BOTH NATIONAL SERIES, MARCH 3.

Text of the Lesson, John xi, 30-45—Men's Simple Party Gown—Some Ornaments for the Hair—A Stylish Jacket Frock—Sleeves and Materials—Some Hints Regarding Nightwear.

30. It is probable that all the events recorded in Luke x, 17, to xviii, 48, and also John x, come between the last lesson at this, and that Jesus is now on His way to Jerusalem, shortly before the last passover. While He was beyond Jordan Lazarus took sick, and the sisters sent Him word but instead of hastening to him He tarried two days in the same place, and when Lazarus was dead and buried did He set forth to a wake him out of sleep (verse 11). When Martha heard that He was coming, she went forth out of the town to meet Him, and afterward calling Mary secretly she, too, went forth out of the town Jesus tarrying where Martha had met Him.

31. When the people in the house who had come together to comfort Martha and Mary saw Mary go forth hastily, not knowing that her sister had called her, they supposed she had gone to the grave to weep there. They must have been poor comforters, for they knew not the comfort of I Thess. iv, 16-18. How few seem to know it even now, for even at the funeral of a believer we have often heard a portion of the context, but seldom the words therein the comfort lies, which assure us that two upstanding bows at the top, some distance apart, after the style of the latest hat trimmings.

32. Mary, coming where Jesus was, fell down at His feet, uttering the very same words which her sister had used (verse 21) against one another; either of the same if, as some teach us, the coming material as the Lord means death, Martha and Mary would have said, Lord, we are so glad you came; when our brother died, but they say that if He had come Lazarus would not have died.

33. He would not be troubled with aught of a bad just cause, and when we hear Him twice groan. They come in spirit in this lesson (see verse 8) very imaginable we may be sure the cause was very great. Some are what could it be? His dear friends whom He loved were in deep sorrow, and He followed them in their sorrow.

34. His inquiry, "Where have ye laid others are curved," confirms us in the thought that and others made was the work of death upon this deary full and trim friend whom Jesus loved (verse 3), which was in part at least the cause of the Saviour's groaning, and while He knew that He would surely raise up and restore Lazarus to his sisters, yet He felt deeply the work of the enemy and saw it in all its terrors and horrors from Abel to the very end.

35. "Jesus wept." Shortest verse in thinnings. Long sleeves are now very worn and who can tell its breadth and length and depth and height? On three different occasions Jesus is said to have wept. See Luke xix, 41; Heb. v, 7. In the former text we see His sorrow for those who, by their unbelief, were bringing untold sufferings upon themselves, but into the meaning of the latter we cannot pretend to enter.

36. "Behold how He loved him." God is love, and all the love of Jesus was the manifestation of the love of God. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that he sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him" (I John iv, 9). They have not forgotten the man of wonder of the opened eyes of the man who was born blind. Possibly they had heard of the two resurrections in the north country, of the little girl and the widow's son. Like Martha and Mary, they feel that, if Jesus had only been present, He might have prevented Lazarus from dying, but it is too late now, for he is dead and buried, and neither of the others had been buried.

37. They are now at the grave, or cave, with a stone upon it, and again He groans within Himself. We are reminded of the words of Rom. viii, 23, "Our selves, also, which have the first fruits of the spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption—to wit, the redemption of our body."

38. The stone is between Him and the dead body of His dear friend, and that they can take away. It is ours to take away everything that may be between Jesus and the soul that is dead in sin. No matter who may object, because of the seeming impossibilities of the case, let us get away all the obstacles and bring the sinner face to face with Jesus.

39. The greatest of all hindrances is unbelief. In one place He could because of this do no mighty works, and it is unbelief that both keeps sinners under condemnation and keeps saints from entering into rest (John iii, 18; Heb. iii, 19). In spite of feelings or circumstances or all that our eyes can see we must believe God. To the man whose little girl had just died, Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe" (Mark v, 36). In the storm at sea, when it seemed as if the vessel must go down with all on board, and there was nothing to rest upon but the word of the messenger, Paul said, "I believe God."

40. The stone being taken away, Jesus glorifies His Father by acknowledging Him as the one who was about to work, and He thanks Him beforehand for the answer. Hear Him also thanking the Father in Math. xli, 28; I. Luke x, 21. He ever made it manifest that the works and words were not His, but those of the Father who sent Him. He would have us to believe and make it manifest to all that "It is God who worketh in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Phil. ii, 13).

41. He always pleased the Father; the Father always heard Him, because He sought only the Father's will, and glory (John vi, 38; vii, 29, 50). It is our privilege to be well pleasing in His sight, and so to abide in Him that we may ask what we will and receive it (Heb. xiii, 21).

42. The same voice that said in the beginning, "Let there be light;" that spoke to Israel from out of the mist of the fire on the mount; that spoke and it was done, commanded and it stood fast; that same voice now cries, "Lazarus, come forth!"

43. The mighty word gave life, and suddenly he that had been dead stood at the mouth of the cave alive and well. What a word it was, what a word it is! There is nothing like it on earth. God is in it. The Bible, the word of God, not only was inspired, but it is inspired. This miracle settled in heaven, it is true from the beginning, and it shall stand forever (Ps. cxix, 89, 160; Isa. xl, 8).

44. Many still believe on Jesus when they see real life and liberty in those who bear the name of Jesus, but a mere name to live where there is no real life will never honor Christ nor win people to Him. But as in the context, this miracle stirred up the hatred of those who were merely religious without any reality we may be sure that real life will work just that way still.

The subject of evening gowns is important just at this season when there are so many pretty styles both for young and old. As a rule the skirts are plainly made, but when the material is thin, garniture of lace frills or bands of ribbons are used. Most of the bodices are cut full and arranged with ribbon straps and bows or with falling frills of lace and chiffon. Very few evening dresses are made without sleeves this season.

Dainty little ornaments for the hair to be worn on dress occasions are made of colored ribbon, twisted around a foundation of wadding to form a circlet, with two upstanding bows at the top, some distance apart, after the style of the latest hat trimmings.

One of the newest trimmings for women's hats consists of three folds laid close together, either of the same material as the gown or of silk or velvet. Shoulder pieces are some very imaginative. Some are made to rest flat over the shoulders, others are curved like the hump of a camel, and some are made to be worn over the shoulders, and some are made to be worn over the shoulders, and some are made to be worn over the shoulders.

The newest velvet ribbons have a jetted edge, which makes them very effective for hat as well as dress trimmings.

Long sleeves are now very much in vogue and with these are worn short wristed, one-buttoned gloves. Five yards is the width of the most popular skirt; the extreme styles from six to eight yards will not become general. The godet skirts require a stiff netting for the back and softer lining for the front and sides.

The materials used for evening wraps include cloth in light colors and in a full scarlet shade and are trimmed with fur. Scarlet cloth is trimmed with either white or black fur; a plain silver ray cloth is lined with pale blue satin. A pretty trimming for nightdresses consists of cross bands of insertion sewed on the sleeves. These begin at the forward seam and end in points on the top of the sleeve. A pretty neck trimming is of soft folds of lawn, arranged hawl fashion and edged with lace.

The shapes in millinery predicted for the coming spring are many of them in quaint styles that are growing so popular, especially the poke and the little butch bonnet. Chip hats will be in vogue, also leghorns.

The favorite winter bodice is round, with drooping blouse front, having a single box plait. Some waists have three box plaits, and others have box plaits in the back, but usually the back plain, with a little fullness drawn in finely at the waist line.

MME. PATTI'S GOWNS.
Some Costumes That Have Just Been Made for the Famous Songstress.

Some gowns recently made in Paris or Mme. Adeline Patti attest the continued popularity of cloth for day dresses, as three out of the number were made of this smooth-faced material. One of rose color has two narrow bias bands of black and white striped silk stitched on to the skirt four inches from the bottom, and the bodice of cloth has finely-plaited white satin chemise stitching to the bust, where it meets a waistcoat made of bias folds of the striped silk, which also forms the belt and a chick bow at the back. The cloth part of the bodice is cut in the shape of a treader jacket and edged with silk assemblerie. The collar of white satin turns over and a black satin cravat tied in the conventional evening style completes this unique costume.

The second gown is in a peculiar shade of light ecru, more gray than yellow, and the skirt is made with flat box plaits at the waist spreading out wide at the bottom instead of the fanlike godets so commonly worn at present. Fern-green velvet, put on in braces back and front and made into a collar and belt, trims the bodice, with the addition of velvet tabs decorated with single "motifs" of lace falling over the sleeves.

And still another dress of gray cloth made with a plain skirt stitched around the hem is trimmed on the waist with a "harness-like" decoration of gray silk fimp spangled with steel and embroidered with gray pear-shaped pearls.

A dainty tea-gown, which is a member of this extensive outfit of theatrical and private costumes, is made of pearl-gray satin, opened over a front of finely-plaited mauve silk muslin, drawn down with a deep belt of mauve satin. Large bows of mauve fasten the gown on either side of the waist, and from these fall cascades of lace. A frill of muslin edged with lace trims the neck, which is slightly open, and a ruffle of lace finishes the long sleeves.

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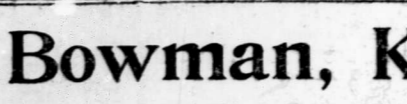
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