

This peace did not last long. In the month of March, 1815, Napoleon escaped from his island prison and landed at Cannes in the south of France. In a short time a great French army gathered round him, ready to confront the whole world under the great Emperor who had led them so often to victory.

THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.

On the 18th of June, 1815, at Waterloo, near Brussels, the great battle took place in which the Emperor Napoleon made one last great and desperate effort to regain his power, and in which a British army under the Duke of Wellington, aided later in the day by a Prussian army under Marshal Blücher, fought for the liberty and peace of Europe.

Wellington was in command of 67,600 men, of whom more than half were Belgians, Dutch, and other foreigners. The French army amounted to 71,900 men.

On the morning of Sunday, the 18th of June, the battle began. Wellington issued his commands as if he were on a drill ground, and this calm courage of the "Iron Duke," as he was called, inspired perfect confidence in his officers and men. Many books have been written describing "king-making Waterloo," but here there is only space for a few words.

Many Belgian troops fled from the field at the beginning of the battle, but the British regiments, in spite of containing a large number of young soldiers who had never smelt powder before, behaved with the most splendid bravery. Every officer acted as if the whole battle depended upon him alone, every soldier