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brave, he was a moral coward, unable corative brother-in-law, and in 1806 At times he was al- Murat found himself Grand Duke of most a figure of fun, but he never Cleves and Berg. failed to redeem his absurdities by He soon tired of the duties of ruler sudden unexpected acts of supreme of a small dukedom, and, leaving the courage, which entirely disarmed his conduct of bis affairs in the hands of critics. a faithful friend, whom he created

Joining the army of Louis XVI. as Count of Mosbourg, he returned to a private in 1787, his devotion to duty Paris, to seek new glory and another boon won him promotion, and the ad- throne

went of the Revolution found him with The Emperor was fighting in Easthe rank of quartermaster-sergeant. tern Europe, and Murat decided that He helped to organize the National the ancient kingdom of Poland should Guards of 1792, and for his service be restored, with himself as its sovwas given commissioned rank as a creign. He adopted a uniform of his sub-lleutenant of the 12th Chasseurs own invention, consisting of a Polish at Cheval in October of that year. mantle, stiff with gold embroidery,

The Innkeeper's Son As Prince. yellow trousers with golden seams, Murat, with his Gascon audacity and boots of bright yellow leather, and a his infectious swagger, soon found hat trimmed with white feathers and his way on to the staff of Bonaparte, surmounted by a large plume of four and in a very short time was made a ostrich feathers, in the middle of general. He was a magnificent horse- which rose a heron's aigrette. This man, and as a cavalry leader has nev- costume made him the laughing stock er been equalled. After serving in of the army, but the Emperor, him-Egypt, where he was badly wounded, self the simplest of men in dress, did General Murat decided to cement his not reprimand his lieutenant, though alliance with the First Consul by mar- in private he joked about him. rying his younger sister, Caroline, [Murat had a great success in Warwho was already been courted by saw, but his projects soon had to be Lannes, another of Bonaparte's fav- abandoned, owing to trouble in anorite generals. The dashing cavalry other part of Europe, and he found leader soon ousted his rival, gained himself faced with the difficult task the lady, and was made Marshal of of suppressing a revolution in Spain. France.

A King At Last. After commanding the troops in Murat fully expected to receive the Italy, he returned to Paris as military governor, with the further honor of Spanish throne, rendered vacant by Grand Admiral of France, a post that the forced abdication of Charles IV., employed nothing nautical, but car- but his unpopularity with the inhabried with it an enormous income. Mr. itants of the country was too great, Hilliard Atteridge, in his biography and he was sent to Naples to replace of Murat, states that his revenue at the Emperor's brother, Joseph, who this time amounted to the sum of 670,- was transferred to Spain, to a throne which he never really occupied. 000 francs a year Murat and Caroline were well re-

Caroline did not hesitate to make

orns

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consolidate his position by intriguing with the enemies of France. During the disastrous retreat from Moscow Napoleon was forced to leave the army, owing to dissention at nome and handed the command over to Murat. The moral courage of the king of Naples failed him, and, amid the sneers of Ney and other gallant soldiers, still devoted to the Emperor, he resigned his position, leaving the remnants of the Grand Army to Eugene Beauharnais, and, on the plea

of ill-health, fled to Naples. The Tragic End.

He saw the coming disaster and

ceived by their new subjects, and there is no doubt that if they had been left to themselves they would have

made a success of this adventure.

Murat resented the Emeperor's interference, and, realizing that the empire was already tottering, sought to

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