

assassinated, another deposed; the King of Great Britain insane; popes put in confinement; American monarchs, Christophe imprisoned, and Iturbide shot—such are some of the memorable casualties which adorn and pervert revolutionary history. But if the misfortunes of comparatively few, however eminent, open an era beneficial to all mankind, was too much suffered for the acquisition?

During twenty years of this vast strife, the genius or demon was Bonaparte. Letters, when a boy at school in France, to his parents in Corsica say, one of them, "I dress but once a week;" another, "I eat but one meal a day;" a third, "Can't you spare me 300 francs (\$80), to go to Paris and seek my fortune?" When, by wisdom, labor, and promotion, superhuman, his fortune was made, vanity, weakness, and error, blasted the plans of the prodigious hero, with whom no other can be compared for intelligence and capacity.

Washington, by virtuous moderation, surrounded by it in his countrymen, founded a republic, rather doubting its stability. Another American contemporary, Bolivar, founded another republic, without Washington's advantages; for Bolivar had to overcome the traditions and propensities of his countrymen. Bonaparte, vainest man of the vainest nation, failed in all but what it preferred. The glacial, plain good sense of the justly-called Iron Duke, who alone in battle vanquished him, stands erect on his Doric pedestal, while the magnificent Corinthian column of Bonaparte lies in still brilliant fragments at the other's feet. Capable of intense abstraction, with never surpassed reasoning faculty, imbued with mathematical investigation, Bonaparte either never had, or lost the power of patience; had no fortitude, but was a creature of passion; worked, raged, ruled, narrated, and expired prematurely, the most perplexing illustration of the vanity of human wishes.

Posterity will account weakness what contemporaries impute as wickedness. Less sanguinary, not more rapacious than most of them, of his immensity scarce a wreck remains. By unequalled victories enormously aggrandized, his empire subjugated, was reduced below royal or republican France. Gigantic despotism provoked universal hostility; and of all