

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

Most Striking Example of Personal Power Since Caesar.

MADE FIRST CONSUL OF FRANCE.

Causes Which Led to His Rapid Ascendancy—Coup of Brumaire—Passage of the Alps and Battle of Marengo—Moreau Victorious on the Field of Hohenlinden.

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XIII.—BRUMAIRE AND THE RECOVERY OF ITALY.

For four years and four days the administration of the government of France was in the hands of the Directory. That body was a plural executive. The sanguinary Republic of 1793 had sought to transform itself, under the guillotine, into a Republic of moderation; and the administrative power was assigned to a Council of Five.

Many members of this quinquuple presidency had been of the Jacobin order. Of this kind was Barras. Others were patriots and men of character. Such were Bawell, La Revellere-Lepaux, Le Tourneur, Carnot, Bartholemy, Roger-Ducos, and in particular the Abbe Sieyes—greatest of them all. In such a body contrarious counsels were always uppermost; and there was a consequent want of decision and firmness in the government.

This condition led to the deplorable reverses which overtook the French armies during the absence of Bonaparte in



NAPOLEON CROSSING THE ALPS.

Egypt. Thiers says that the Directorial Republic exhibited at this time a scene of distressing confusion.

The ambition of Napoleon found in this situation a fitting opportunity. The Directors were Sieyes, Barras, Ducos, Monlins and Gohier. The legislative branch of the government consisted of a Senate, or Council of Ancients, and a Council of Five Hundred. The latter constituted the popular branch. Of this body Lucien Bonaparte, brother of the General, was president. Hardly had Napoleon arrived in the capital when a conspiracy was formed by him with Sieyes, Lucien, and others of revolutionary disposition, to do away by a coup with the too democratic system, and to replace it with a stronger and more centralized order. The Council of Ancients was to be brought around by the influence of Sieyes. To Lucien Bonaparte the more difficult task was assigned of controlling and revolutionizing the Assembly. As for Napoleon, Sieyes procured for him the command of the military forces of Paris; and by another decree the sittings of the two legislative councils were transferred to St. Cloud.

The 18th Brumaire of the Year VIII., corresponding to the 9th of November, 1799, was fixed as the day for the revolution. To Napoleon the crisis was an epoch of fate. The conspiracy embraced the resignation of Sieyes, Barras and Ducos, which—coming suddenly on the appointed morning—broke up the Directory. Bonaparte then put out his hand as commander of the troops. Too late the Republicans of the Council of Five Hundred felt the earthquake swelling under their feet. Napoleon appeared at the bar of the Assembly, and attempted a rambling and incoherent justification for what was going on. A motion was made to outlaw him; but the soldiers rushed in; and the refractory members were seized or expelled. A few who were in with the revolution remained, and to the number of fifty voted a decree making Sieyes, Bonaparte and Ducos provisional Consuls, thus conferring on them the supreme executive power of the State. By nightfall the business was accomplished, and the man of Ajaccio slept in the Tuileries.

The new order was immediately made organic. There could be no question when Three Consuls were appointed and Bonaparte one of the number, which of the three would be First Consul. He would be that himself; the other two might be the ciphers which should make his unit 100. The new system was defined as the Provisionary Consulate; but this form was only transitional. The managers of the coup went rapidly forward to make it permanent. The Constitution of the Year III. gave place quickly to the Constitution of the Year VIII., which provided for an executive government, under the name of the CONSULATE. Nominally the Consulate was to be an executive committee of three, but really an executive of one—with two associates. The three men chosen were Napoleon Bonaparte, Jean Jacques Cambaceres and Charles Francois Lebrun. On Christmas day, 1799, Napoleon was made First Consul; and that signified the beginning of a new order, destined to endure for sixteen and a-half years, and to end at Waterloo.

This era in Bonaparte's life marks the beginning of the union in him of great military and great political power. Henceforth he was destined, to the end of his career, to be the State of France. To his will all things now became rapidly subservient. His ascendancy was henceforth the most striking example of merely personal power that the world has witnessed since the days of Julius Caesar. Of a certainty, History, begotten by Reason in the womb of Eternity,

is not made—never was made—by any man. But the lines of historical causation were more deflected and determined in their course and connections by the will of Napoleon than by any other man for the last eighteen centuries.

While Napoleon was in Syria, the Austrians and Russians in coalition had returned to the battle in Italy, and had driven the French out of the country. On the 18th and 20th of June, General Macdonald had been defeated at Cassano and on the Trebbia by Field-Marshal Alexander Suwaroff. On the 15th of August, Joubert lost the battle of Novi and was killed on the very spot where Napoleon had assumed command in 1796. Suwaroff next encountered Massena at Zurich, where, on the 25th and 26th of September, he was worsted by the French. Nevertheless, the Russian forced his way over the Alps, and France was immediately threatened with a counter invasion. At this juncture, however, there was a quarrel in the allied armies, and Suwaroff, withdrawn from the country, bearing his well earned title of *Italuski*.

Napoleon spent the first months of the year 1800 at Paris. The revolution was received with general approbation by the French. The leading features of the new government were a Senate, a Tribunal and a Council of State. These forms were not wholly acceptable to the First Consul; but in the organization of the system, his will and purpose were everywhere predominant. Meanwhile, he appointed General Moreau to the command of the Army of the Rhine, and on the 25th of April that general began his advance into Germany. The first result of the movement was the forcing back of the Austrians on Ulm.

As for Italy, the First Consul reserved for himself the reconquest of that country. With the opening of spring, he projected the Second Italian campaign. On the 14th of May, 1800, he began his famous passage of the Great St. Bernard. We might mark this event as the first of the spectacular aspects of the Napoleonic career. There, in his gray overcoat, under his three-cornered hat, mounted on a rearing steed, goes the conqueror up inaccessible heights against a background of ice-peaks and glittering Alpine sky! The gaze of mankind follows him, and shoutings are heard in half the valleys of the world! The French army surmounted the seemingly impassable Alp in six days, and suddenly debouched into Italy. On the 2nd of June, Bonaparte entered Milan. It was high time that some one should come to the rescue; for two days afterwards Massena surrendered Genoa.

That, however, was the end of the successes of the allies south of the Alps. On the 9th of June occurred the battle of Montebello, in which the Austrians, under Ott, were overwhelmingly defeated by a division of the French army under Lannes. Five days later was fought the great battle of Marengo, which gave its name to the campaign—and ended it. The French were 28,000 strong, and the Austrians numbered about 23,000. Napoleon commanded in person; but under him were Desaix, Lannes and Kellermann. In the beginning of the engagement, General Melas, commander of the Austrians, gained a threatening advantage over the French. For several hours Napoleon was in peril of defeat; but the arrival of reinforcements, under the great Desaix turned the tide; Lannes fought like a lion, and Kellermann with the cavalry completed the overthrow. The Austrians were swept from the field with a loss of more than ten thousand men, while the French loss of fully seven thousand attested the violence and desperation of the conflict. Marengo may be reckoned the first great battle of the Napoleonic wars. It had all the features of those extraordinary conflicts which were subsequently directed by the genius and audacity of Bonaparte. The battle ended the war in Italy. On the next day Genoa and the other fortresses of Upper Italy were surrendered to the French.

Meanwhile, Moreau had been successful in Germany. He pressed forward to the heart of Bavaria, and on the 15th of July concluded an armistice with the enemy. This agreement was maintained for four months, only to be broken by the Austrians. Hostilities were at once resumed; Moreau advanced, and on the 3d of December, on the field of Hohenlinden, gained a complete victory over the German army.

Victorious in Italy and returning to Paris with unexampled fame, Napoleon might now follow his inclinations for peace. His ascendancy over the French began to be recognized abroad, and conditions appeared favorable for a general pacification. The popularity of the First Consul was extreme, and this was intensified by the ill-disguised efforts of his enemies to cast him down. Conspiracies were made against his life. On Christmas eve of the year 1800 the most serious of these attempts was made—and failed. Napoleon was going to the opera. Three conspirators—Carbon, St. Rejant and Limolan—drove a powder cart, with a fuse, into the Rue St. Nicolas, a narrow street by which the First Consul must pass.

When the cavalcade came by, the fuse was lighted, and a shocking explosion followed. Houses round about were knocked down, and the place was strewn with the dead and dying. The First Consul was unhurt, though his carriage was shattered in the havoc. He went on to the opera, and sat unmoved through the play.

The allies now chose to accept a peace. Ambassadors gathered at Luneville, near Nancy, and on the 9th of February, 1801, Napoleon concluded with his enemies his first great definitive treaty. The convention made with Austria at Campo-Formio more than three years previously was confirmed. The secret article of that compact by which France was to have the left bank of the Rhine was openly agreed to. Tuscany was given to Parma. The Cisalpine, Ligurian, Helvetic and Batavian republics which Napoleon had created were recognized. The general effect of the treaty was to undermine the Holy Roman Empire.

JOHN CLARK RIDPATH.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VII, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, MAY 19.

Text of the Lesson, Mark xv, 1-15—Memory Verses, 14, 15—Golden Text, Mark xv, 5—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

1. "And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation." The devil's servants are very quick and very persevering—they put the Lord's servants to shame. The disciples could not watch one hour, but these servants of Satan watched all night in their hatred of Him who loved them. Then in the morning they consummated their wickedness. There is a morning coming, however, when the tables will be turned. See Ps. xlix, 14; Isa. viii, 20, R. V., and compare Dan. vi, 19-24.

2. "And Pilate asked Him, Art thou the king of the Jews? And He, answering, said unto him, Thou sayest it." The wise men from the east bare witness that He was king of the Jews even when He was a babe (Math. ii, 2). Nathaniel testified to the same very early in His ministry (John i, 49), and Gabriel stated it very plainly before His birth (Luke, 32, 33). Notwithstanding all the scoffing of Jews and gentiles of those days or these days, the time draweth nigh when all nations shall see it.

3. "And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing." There was no truth in their accusations any more than in those of the false witnesses whom they had previously summoned, so there was nothing for Him to answer. When we are falsely accused, let us learn from Him to commit our way unto the Lord and trust Him to manage it for us. He had confessed that He was the Christ, and knowing what awaited Him He calmly awaited their disposal of Him.

4. "And Pilate asked Him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? Behold how many things they witness against thee." Pilate did not know that there was no truth in any of the charges which they brought against Him, and therefore could not but have been surprised that He had nothing to say. Pilate was not accustomed to cases of this kind, he had never seen a prisoner like this and was greatly perplexed by His manner.

5. "But Jesus yet answered nothing, so that Pilate marvelled." He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth (Isa. lii, 7). He was probably commending His Father. Nothing will help us to be quiet under false accusations and in the presence of enemies like the real presence of the Lord and that we are ever before Him.

6. "Now, at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired." Jesus knew all this, but there was nothing in it for Him, for He knew well that His only release would be death. He was not seeking release, but to fulfill all righteousness, and as He had often foretold (chapters viii, 31; ix, 31; x, 33, 34) He knew that He was about to be slain.

7. "And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection." Here is a real child of the devil brought into the story with the Holy One of God. Already He begins to be numbered with the transgressors as if He, too, was a transgressor. When cut to the heart by being thus numbered with sinners (if it should ever be your experience), think of Him.

8. "And the multitude, crying aloud, began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them." Probably anxious to get the man they wanted released, and afraid lest Pilate might attempt to release Jesus.

9. "But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" By comparing the parallel accounts this seemed to be Pilate's sixth attempt to release Jesus. For the first time see John xviii, 28, to xix, 14, and Luke xxiii, 4-16. See his thirteenth testimony to His innocence in John xviii, 28; xix, 4, 6. See in Math. xxvii, 19, his wife's plea that he should let Him go. This King of the Jews was the heaviest and most perplexing case that Pilate ever had on his hands. So it still.

10. "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him for envy." See how Joseph's brethren hated and envied him (Gen. xxxvii, 8, 11). Israel envied Moses and Aaron (Ps. cv, 16). "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous, but who is able to stand before envy?" (Prov. xxvii, 4). In Gal. v, 21, envy is followed by murders—one of the works of the flesh. Let us have every appearance of it in our hearts as we should hate the devil himself.

11. "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them." Who can estimate the guilt of those in high places who move the people against Christ? The worst we have to contend with today is from the professed friends of Christ who, while saying beautiful things about Him, yet move the people against Him. His atonement and His precious blood, which alone can save us from hell (Eph. xvii, 11).

12. "And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto Him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" Or as in Math. xxvii, 22, "What shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" It is not a question for us to ask another's opinion about. We are responsible to Him for our treatment of Him. Pilate knew He was innocent and should have released Him from His tormentors, but the weakness of Pilate is overruled to accomplish the Lord's purpose. Bad for Pilate all the same.

13. "And they cried out again, Crucify Him." They preferred Barabbas to Jesus, a murderer to a Saviour, darkness to light. It is plainly written that "all that is in the world is not of the Father, but is of the world," and that "the friendship of the world is enmity with God" (1 John ii, 15; James iv, 4), yet how many are deliberately choosing the world instead of Christ! They would not say as these did, "Crucify Him," but they do say that they prefer the world and its pleasures.

14. "Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath He done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify Him." In connection with this verse we find in Luke xxiii, 22, that Pilate said, "I have found no cause of death in Him." But the people will not listen, they thirst for His blood, Satan has control of them, and he will kill Jesus if he can. What he failed to do in the garden of Gethsemane he will do now, and God will let him, for this is his hour and the power of darkness.

15. "And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged Him, to be crucified." See the contrasts, Pilate contenting the people, Jesus pleasing the Father; Barabbas the guilty, Jesus the guiltless; the people crying out, Jesus silent. How cruel, unjust and perfectly selfish it all was! How can we have fellowship with such a world? Let us honestly face the question, Am I seeking to please the people or to please God? (Gal. i, 10.)

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We have been accustomed for many years to hear of "Canon" Farrar, and for the last few years have grown familiar with "Archdeacon" Farrar, both of Westminster, but now we shall have to adjust ourselves to the thought of "Dean" Farrar, of Canterbury.

Lord Roseberry has been making several very wise selections in his promotions in the English Church. Of course they have not pleased the High Church party, nor those who are very pronounced in favor of the Establishment, but the promotion of Canon Farrar to be Dean of Ripon, and of Archdeacon Farrar, of Westminster, to be Dean of Canterbury, have been as good as could be made. Dean Farrar was born in Bombay in 1831; in 1876 he became a Canon of Westminster and rector of St. Margaret's Church; later he was appointed chaplain to the House of Commons, and still later, Archdeacon of Westminster. He has been one of the most popular of London preachers, and when he has preached the Abbey and St. Margaret's have been thronged by multitudes desiring to hear him. His "Life of Christ" has been one of the most popular religious books ever published. He is a voluminous author, and almost every year some new evidence of his industry issues from the press. It is no credit to those who have had the appointing authority that he has not been promoted more rapidly. Had he been less outspoken, had he been a time-server instead of a preacher with the spirit of the old prophets, he would have been a bishop or an archbishop long ago.

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