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## THE END

soon regarded himself as something apart from ordinary men. He did not scruple to avow his conviction. "I am not a man like other men," he would say; "the laws of morality and decorum could not be intended to apply to me." He was, it may be fairly alleged, indulgent and affectionate to his family, particularly in his first, better years; dutiful to his mother; kind to his early friends. He wished to be a good husband according to his lights. He would have cherished his son had he been allowed. He was a tender brother in his early years, especially to Louis, who rewarded him by the grossest suspicions of a hypochondriac. He was free from the sordid cares of personal wealth or personal avarice. He was quick to wrath, but, according to the best and keenest judges, easily appeased. "Always kind, patient, and indulgent," says Méneval. Madame de Rémusat, a hostile and observant chronicler, narrates several instances of his consideration and tenderness, as well as of his susceptibility to the pleading fondness of Josephine. M. de Rémusat witnessed in 1806 a scene of almost hysterical and insurmountable emotion when Napoleon embraced Talleyrand and Josephine, declaring that it was hard to part from the two people that one loved the most; and, utterly unable to control himself, fell into strong convulsions. This was no comedy. There was nothing to gain. It was the sudden and passionate assertion of his heart.

But, it must be admitted, this was an exceptional case. In the final deteriorated phase of his character there is no trace of friendship. In one or two instances he may have felt it. But he had no friends. Duroc most nearly approached to that intimate character. Napoleon on assuming the crown had bade Duroc continue to call him "thou": a rare if not a singular privilege. Duroc he called his conscience. From Duroc he was said to