

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.



NAPOLEON Bonaparte was born at Ajaccio, in the island of Corsica. As a soldier he has no equal. He was a military genius. He first made his appearance as an officer in a corps of artillery, at a time when France was torn asunder by the internal struggles between the revolutionary party, or those favoring a new form of republican government, and the royal party, or those defending the old monarchical regime. The awful reign of terror was at its height, when bloodthirsty murders, the guillotine, and massacres were the order of the day. Irreligion, free-masonry, atheism, encouraged by such men as Rosseau and Tallyrande, reigned supreme; confusion and chaos was everywhere, when out of the hopeless anarchy emerged Napoleon, to restore order and good government. He warmly espoused the revolutionary cause, but did not follow in the footsteps of his predecessors in bringing about the results contemplated by them.

Owing to his brilliant feats as a military officer, the directory conferred upon him the honor of having chief command of the army. From this time he was filled with an insatiable desire to become master of all Europe. Filled with love for his country, he longed for the time when he would see her the foremost nation of the world. One has only to associate his name with the names of Marengo, Austerlitz, Wagram and Zena to find out how far his hopes were successful. His whole career was filled with a series of brilliant successes upon the battle-field, victories won owing to his genius as a general. He conquered country after country, placing upon the thrones different members of his family. In 1799 he was appointed first consul; in 1805 he was crowned Emperor of France by the Pope himself. He placed his brothers Louis, Jerome and Joseph, and his brother-in-law Murat, upon the thrones of the conquered territories.

But it is not alone as a military genius that we must view the character of Napoleon. He showed himself, by his actions, in an altogether different light, and it is in this light which we will now view him. He was a legislator, an organizer, and a statesman. The code Napoleon and the Concordat are sufficient proofs for this statement. The code Napoleon, drawn up under the supervision of the first consul, was adopted in France, and it still constitutes the law of a great portion of the civilized world. Napoleon's victories