

sealed by Joseph in Europe, and after his death sent by stealth to this country, by his grandson. Apprehending that they might be safer from fire, theft, or other accident, in a public than a private place of deposit, at the instance of the executor and grandson to whom they were bequeathed, I procured permission from Mr. Robert J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury, to put the seven trunks in the Mint; where they were accordingly placed, in a dry vault, by Mr. Robert M. Patterson, the president of that institution; remaining there till, conformably to Joseph's will, they became his grandson's property, on his attaining twenty-five years of age, the 18th of February, 1849. By virtue of his powers of attorney, they were taken from the Mint, the 23d of October, 1849, and delivered to M. Adolphe Malliard, son of the testamentary executor, by whom they have been sent to Europe. These precious documents are calculated to shed much light on the true character of the great man of whom more has been written, and with more misconception, than of any other personage. It is to be anxiously hoped that the young member of his family, to whom the trust of their publication is assigned, may prove equal to the task, above seduction and temptation.

During the sixty years from just before Napoleon Bonaparte's first appearance to his death, dreadful revolutions convulsed Europe. On his return to Paris, from his last Italian campaign, he told the Directory that the era of representative government had arrived. On his way a prisoner banished to Elba, he said, it was not the coalition, but liberal ideas, which dethroned him. The solace of his incarceration at St. Helena was to compose a democratic constitution for the French Empire. Prophet and victim of that advent, was he not likewise its principal architect? Would France now endure another fifty years of such a reign by divine right as that of Louis XV.? Stupid simplicity of Louis XVI., crafty concessions of Louis XVIII., silly reaction of Charles X., wise and vigorous, but unrepresentative government by Louis Philippe, nothing withstood popular sovereignty, which all Napoleon's genius and glory did not enable him to contradict. His catastrophe put an end to divine vice-regency for monarchs. In 1800,