

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

Unconquerable Will and Purpose Revealed.

COMMAND OF THE ARMY OF ITALY.

Begins His Career of Military Glory—Genius of the Great Soldier Displayed—Four Austrian Armies Beaten in Succession. A New Boundary For France.

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X.—FIRST CAMPAIGN OF ITALY.

Seven days before the marriage of Napoleon he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Italy. His star shone suddenly above the clouds. He tarried with Josephine until the 21st of March, when the honeymoon of the warrior—after twelve brief days of dallying young-husbandhood—broke suddenly; and he set out for the field of glory. His love-letters to Josephine indicate that his nature was deeply stirred by her influence, and that his affection for her was as strong as any other feeling that ever competed with his ambition for the mastery of his life.

To have an independent command of an army, or armies, had long been the prevailing motive with Napoleon. True, many of his current sayings and actions



NAPOLEON AT THE BATTLE OF ARCOLE.

seem inconsistent with the predominant passion. Only a short time before departing on the first Italian campaign he wrote a letter to Bourrienne, then an emigrant at Sens, saying, "Seek out for me a small piece of land in your beautiful valley of the Yonne. I will purchase it as soon as I can get together the money. I wish to retire there; but recollect that I will have nothing to do with national property." Quite insincere and fiftful! Indeed, General, "a small piece of land" is the last thing in this world that you wish for; and as to your "retiring" there, your retirement is fixed for another place—that far-off island to which you referred in the last clause of your school exercise at Autun. Your essay was headed "Possessions des Anglais;" you finished thus: "Sainte Helene, petite île." You will find it so!

The military glory of Napoleon properly begins with his first campaign into Italy. The States of that peninsula were about to be made the playthings of great ambitions. Whether the influence of Austria and the coalition should continue predominant from Piedmont to Venice was the question. The existing order in the Italian States and cities favored the Austrian power; but the popular party was in sympathy with Republican France. Bonaparte's mission into Italy was ostensibly for preoccupation and defense; but it meant, out of the nature of things, sharp war and speedy conquest.

Hardly had the campaign in Piedmont begun before the Directory in Paris would send out the veteran Kellerman to be second in command. This might be a compliment to a general-in-chief not yet twenty-seven; but not so to Bonaparte. He at once replied saying that it was indifferent to him (a thing most untrue) whether he should serve in Italy or somewhere else. All he wished—so ran his plaint—was a brief page in history awarded for service to his country. General Kellerman had more experience than he, and knew better how to make war; "but both together we shall make it badly. I will not willingly serve with a man who considers himself the first general in Europe." How strongly is here revealed the unconquerable will and self-sufficiency and purpose of Bonaparte to be all or nothing!

Let us scan the field. The coalition against France now embraced Austria, Bavaria, Piedmont, Naples, and England. The smaller States of Germany and Italy were also in the league. For the "protection" of Piedmont and indeed of all Italy, an army of about sixty thousand men, thoroughly equipped and supplied, and commanded by General Beaulieu, one of the ablest and most experienced in Europe, had been sent into Lombardy. Against this power Napoleon's Army of Italy was set, consisting of only thirty-five thousand new men, miserably destitute, and having enthusiasm for its principal resource. With this he must compete for the mastery of states and kingdoms. But the Army of Italy had for a commander a military genius of so audacious a character as to rank its possessor with the two other prime warriors of human history. He had daring, military invention, the power of combination, the discovery of new expedients, sudden adaptation to unforeseen contingencies, courage, ambition, foresight, subtlety, and indeed every quality fit to make him what he was now about to become—the greatest commander of modern times.

At Montenotte, twenty-six miles west of Genoa, Napoleon fought his first field-battle. He attacked the Austrian division of D'Argenteau, and won a victory. Mark you, he fought with a "division of the enemy!" This was on the 12th of April, only twenty-two days after his departure from Paris. On the 14th he struck the Austrians and Sardinians at Millesimo, ten miles further on, and won another victory. On the next day he came on the enemy at Dego, and added a third. On the 21st, he reached Mondovi, forty-eight miles from Turin, and on the following day attacked and defeated the division of General Colli. In every engagement his blow was like that of a thunderbolt. The disciplined armies of his opponents broke before him.

The king of Sardinia was already beaten. After Mondovi he made overtures of peace. Without pausing, Napoleon advanced on the main Austrian division under Beaulieu. Him he found strongly posted on the Adda, holding the bridge that led into the town of Lodi. Frederic the Redbeard had founded Lodi on the site of the ancient Roman Laus Pompeia. On the 10th of May the Austrians, sixteen thousand strong, were attacked at the bridge of the Adda by six thousand French grenadiers, led by Napoleon and Lannes in person. The action was bloody and decisive. The name of Lodi was added to the lengthening column of victories. Two thousand of the French were killed and wounded, and a much larger number of the Austrians. Here Bonaparte, fighting in the ranks, gained his famous title of LITTLE CORPORAL, which to the end of human annals will be repeated as his sobriquet.

Five days afterwards the conqueror entered Milan; Lombardy was at his feet. He made levies and requisitions with a freedom only equalled by the audacity of the things accomplished. Naples, Modena and Parma went down before him; and the Pope, becoming petitioner, signed an armistice.

Such was the first passage of the war; and the second was like the first. The coalition was not to yield without further battle. Napoleon made Mantua his next objective. Field-marshal Wurmser, of great fame, a veteran of seventy-two, came swiftly out of the Tyrol with a new Austrian army. Before he could reach the scene of action, Mantua was already besieged by Napoleon. The defense held out until Wurmser's army came on in two divisions, and the French were forced to fall back.

The division of his forces proved fatal to the Austrian commander. Woe to the army that was ever divided in front of Bonaparte! At Lonato, on the 3rd of August, he attacked a division of Wurmser and gained a complete victory; General Augereau was the hero of the day. On the 5th and 6th of August a second battle, on nearly the same field, was fought with still more decisive results; Wurmser was hurled back, and Mantua again besieged.

The enemy soon returned to the onset. At Rivaredo, on the 4th of September, the division of Massena defeated the Austrians with great losses. On the 8th, at Bassano, Napoleon routed the main force under Wurmser in person. On the 15th of November was fought the great battle of Arcole where eighteen thousand French, led by Napoleon, Massena and Augereau, triumphed over the Austrians nearly forty thousand strong. The battle was fought in a swampy region traversed with causeways and difficult bridges. After three days of desperate fighting Wurmser was so disastrously defeated as to end the contest.

After Arcole, Wurmser threw himself into Mantua, and was cooped up. In January, 1797, Austria sent her third army into the field under General Alvinczy. This great force proceeded towards Mantua as far as Rivoli, where it was struck by Bonaparte and routed with a loss of about twenty thousand men! At Favorita, on the 16th, the French were again victorious. The ruin of Alvinczy's army was complete, and on February 2nd Mantua was surrendered with eighteen thousand prisoners. Swiftly Napoleon followed up these tremendous successes. A fourth Austrian army, under Archduke Charles, came down from the Tyrol as far as Tagliamento, where on the 16th of March, it was routed by the French. On the 7th of April, an armistice was granted by Napoleon, and on the 18th he made with Austria his provisional treaty of Leoben.

Meanwhile, another coup d'etat had occurred in Paris. By violence the two great Councils of State purged themselves of fifty alleged Royalists and Anarchists. Carnot and Barthelmy, members of the Directory, were sent flying into exile. Such was the savage indignation of the Republic that the coalition became willing for peace. At Campo Formio, on October 17th, 1797, Napoleon met the representatives of the German Empire, and with astounding presumption dictated to that ancient power the terms of pacification. Openly, Austria should cede the Belgian provinces, recognize the Cisalpine Republic, and accept fragments of Venetia. France should have the results of the war, including the Ionian Islands. Secretly, the Rhine should henceforth be the boundary between Germany and France.

Before leaving the scenes of his glory Napoleon sent Joubert as his herald to Paris. He shall announce for us the following results: The campaign of the Army of Italy has extended from April 12th, 1796, to October 17th, 1797. We have taken 150,000 prisoners; 170 standards; 550 siege pieces; 600 field guns; five pontoon equipages; nine ships of 64 guns; twelve frigates of 32 guns; twelve corvettes; eighteen galleys. We have given "liberty" (whatever that may mean, General!) to Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Carrara, Romagna, Lombardy, Brescia, Bergamo, Mantua, Cremona, part of Verona, Chiavenna, Bormio, the Valtellina, Genoa, the Imperial Fiefs, Corcyra, the Ionian Isles, Ithica. We send to Paris all the Masterpieces of Michael Angelo, Guercino, Titian, Paul Veronese, Correggio, Albani, Carracci, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci. Not all the masterpieces of these immortals, General; but the rest is true to the letter. And by order of the Directory your glories shall be written in golden catalogue on a Memorial Flag to be hung in the great Hall of Sitings, and be seen by shouting Paris and the world. You were never yourself a poor man afterwards!

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON IV, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, APRIL 28.

Text of the Lesson, Mark xiv, 12-26—Memory Verses, 22-24—Golden Text, Luke xlii, 19—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

12. As I have recently read and profited by a sermon by Rev. A. G. Brown of London upon a portion of this lesson entitled "Finding It as He Said," it is probable that some of the Spirit's suggestions to him may here be found. It is the last night before the crucifixion. The city Jerusalem, the holy city, is full of people, for only in the chosen city can the passover lambs be slain and the feast kept. Notice the disciples' question, "Where wilt thou have me to do?" and let our hearts be ever saying, "Where, Lord?" "What, Lord?" and never leave to our own understanding.

13. He immediately sends two with definite instructions, and yet such as required great faith on their part. He loves to be trusted and will surely guide all who are willing to be guided (Ps. xxxii, 8; Isa. xxi, 1; xlviii, 17). But see how it is only a step at a time, and consider the foretold events of one day in I Sam. x, 1-7. They knew the way to the city. All was plain thus far. Then of a sudden they should pass them or meet them they were to look for a man coming toward them bearing a pitcher of water, and without hesitation they were to follow him.

14. They were not told to speak to the man with the pitcher, but simply follow him into the house and speak to the good man of the house concerning the room in which to eat the passover. The fact that they were to say to him, "The Master saith," shows that the owner of the house was a disciple. Jesus would not use the property of one who was not.

15. We would like to know more of this man and this room, between whom and the Master there seemed to be such a perfect understanding and harmony of spirit.

16. With unquestioning obedience they went forth from Him to do His bidding, and they found everything just as He had said they would. It always has been and always will be so, for whatever else may fail or change or pass away the word of the Lord is sure, and it standeth forever.

17. "And in the evening He cometh with the twelve." Never was such a passover kept before, for this immediately preceded the fulfillment of all passovers, as on the morrow "Christ, our passover, would be sacrificed for us." Have we, like the good man of this house, room for Jesus? And are all our possessions at His disposal? Are we like the two disciples looking for His guidance? And do we recognize His hand in all the events of life? If so, it is well.

18. Before Jesus announced that one of them should betray Him, it would seem from John xiii that He had washed their feet and had taught them, thus to do for each other. Think of His washing the feet of Judas! How near one may be to Jesus, how much He may do for one, how many privileges one may enjoy and yet be lost! It will surely be a fearful thing to have been numbered with the followers of Christ and yet not be truly His.

19. It was enough to make them sorrowful that one who had accompanied them and had been apparently truly one of them should turn out to be only a traitor and hypocrite. So clever had the traitor been that it would seem that none of the others had suspected him, for no one said, "It must be Judas, just as we thought," but each said, "Is it I?" So kind had Jesus been that never by word or look or act had He even hinted that Judas was not sincere.

20. "One of the twelve that dipeth with me in the dish." Sitting near to Jesus, eating with Him, called one of His, acting as treasurer for His people, preaching in His name, perhaps permitted to work miracles in His name, and yet all the while a liar, a hypocrite, one possessed by the devil! Is it any wonder that the Spirit by Peter exhorts us to make our calling and election sure (I Peter i, 10). Let us be sure that we have forever ceased to look to or in any way trust in the flesh, but only and wholly in the merits of the Jesus Christ.

21. Scripture was to be fulfilled. The conduct of Judas was clearly written out beforehand, as in Ps. xli, 9, but that did not compel Judas to act as he did. While God knows beforehand all that will come to pass and whether men will hear or forbear (Ezek. ii, 7), and while the Spirit of God drives with all, at least all who know of God and His love, yet all are left free to accept or refuse that love.

22. The passover feast being concluded, Jesus now institutes the Lord's supper by first taking bread, and having given thanks or blessed it He gives them to eat, saying: "This is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." 23. As He had done with the bread, so He does also with the wine, representing His blood shed for us, and when we partake of the wine we are to remember the precious blood of Christ, the price of our redemption (I Peter i, 18, 19). We are to remember that we are not our own, but that spirit, soul and body are all His, to be given wholly up to Him that He may at His pleasure use us to minister the great salvation to others, even to the shedding of our blood in His service if He requires it (I Cor. vi, 19, 20; I Thess. v, 23; II Cor. v, 15; Rev. xii, 11).

24. Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, and it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul (Heb. ix, 22; Lev. xvii, 11). All the blood of sacrifices from the day when the Lord God made unto Adam and Eve coats of skins and clothed them was typical of the precious blood of Christ, which was sufficient for the sins of the whole world (I John ii, 2), but becomes efficient only for such as accept Him.

25. From beginning to end of the public ministry of the Lord Jesus He was ever speaking of a kingdom, the kingdom of God or of heaven, which will yet be set up on the earth and include the whole earth under the whole heaven (Dan. vii, 27). Then shall the meek inherit the earth, and war and strife shall be no more (Ps. xxxvii, 11; Math. v, 5; Isa. ii, 4; Mic. iv, 3). Then shall both the passover and the Lord's supper have a full and final consummation (Luke xxi, 16, 18), for every communion we show the Lord's death till He come (I Cor. xi, 26).

26. "And when they had sung an hymn they went out into the mount of Olives." The hymn was perhaps Ps. cxli, the Great Hallel or a part of it. In connection with the hymn think of John xiv to xvii and see the heart of Christ in these last words to His apostles and to His Father on their and our behalf, words to which He gives His blood. Therefore how sure they are! Let your soul at the end of the day truly say Jer. xv, 16, and Job xlii, 13.

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A MISCHIEVOUS CROW.

Strangely enough, there was nothing of which he stood so much in fear as crows themselves. Often they would come perilously near and "caw" at him. Heiter-skelter he would fly to the house, and his relief was plainly manifested when he was safe inside the kitchen. Their wild life evidently had no charm for him. He was in terror of large snakes, too, but small ones he gobbled up as fast as he could. It was a most effectual way of preventing them from frightening him when they grew big.

No attention was given to his education, but at last we discovered that he could repeat a word or phrase of a conversation he had just heard. He could laugh like a human being, and imitate the cawing of a hen. "Stop!" "Hello!" "Hold on!" were favorite expressions of his, and generally his use of them was intelligent. He liked to perch on top of the barn and shout out, "Stop!" at the farmers who went by in their wagons. If they reined in their horses, thinking it was some person who had called them, the success of his little joke would cause him to burst into immoderate laughter.

He actually enjoyed being snow-balled. He would stand upon an old tree-stump and look saucily at the boys, as much as to say, "Come, now, here's a good shot! Why don't you hit me?" But Jim was always too quick for them. No boy could ever hit him. He would dodge like lightning, laughing hoarsely as the ball flew harmlessly past or broke in pieces on the other side of the stump. Then he would hop again, with another challenge, ready for the next snowball.

He was not afraid of a gun. He would stand close by while one was being loaded, and it could be fired off a number of times without having any perceptible effect on him. But he was keenly alive to its danger, and the very moment the muzzle was pointed at him he lost no time in getting out of the way.

Jim was a very mischievous crow indeed. When Grace, the baby, was learning to walk he would seize her slyly by the dress and cause her to fall. He would peck at the toes of the barefooted children who came for water, and laugh heartily as he drove them dismayed from the yard. Sometimes he would steal unnoticed down to the cellar, and the boys that he could give with his beak had the force of a small hammer, so that it was a very easy matter for him to turn the spigot of a barrel. One was pretty apt to discover after such a visit that all the vinegar had run out on the floor.—St. Nicholas.

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Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

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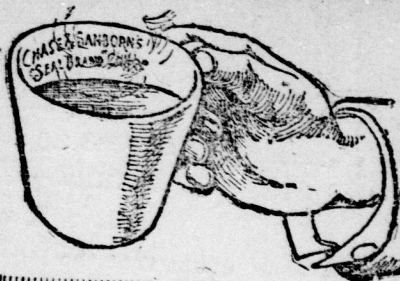
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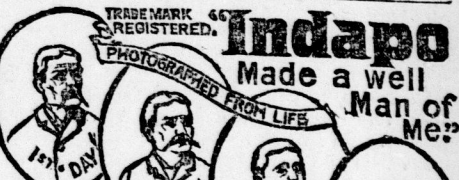


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