

But he could not administer the island and keep up his little army and navy without resources from outside. There was no prospect that these would come and he was face to face with the danger of an empty treasury.

Probably the exact nature of the attempt he should make at restoration was dim in Napoleon's mind until almost the moment of departure. Italy was a promising field for effort, for he had been King of Italy; and the Italians, in their renewed disunion under the aegis of hated Austria, turned in thought to the man who, with all his faults, had given them their first breath of national life. But it was in France that grievances against the restored rule were most acute and to France he returned. He did not set out from Elba until Sunday, February 26; but on Friday the 24th, the Elbans knew that he was going away. On that day couriers were sent all over the island to prevent any one from leaving. Even fishing boats might not go out. There were many spies in Elba. One of these, a professed oil merchant, tells us that he tried to get away on the 25th but was sternly called back when he had induced a fisherman to make a start. All Elba knew that Napoleon was going before his mother and his sister were told. But his bearing was so read by his mother's instinct on Saturday night, February 25, that she questioned him and he told her. She only said, after a pause, that she thought his repose in Elba unworthy of him, and expressed the hope that if he must perish he would die not by poison, but with his sword in his hand. On Sunday morning Napoleon went to mass. He had already received farewell official visits, and had provided for the government of the island during his absence. He was taking with him not only his old soldiers from France but also some Elban recruits. On that Sunday afternoon, mothers, sisters and sweethearts stood on the quays to bid farewell to those who put off in small boats to the ships that lay at anchor in the harbour. Pons says that there was no weeping; there was only a silent tension, a *silence* of saddening fears and high hopes. Men of Elba were now going off to follow Napoleon, as, according to Virgil, three hundred of them had gone more than two thousand years earlier to follow Æneas. An adverse wind delayed the ships in getting out of the harbour. It was after midnight of the 26th when they had gone; by noon on Monday there was no sight of them on the horizon.

Elba mourned to see Napoleon go. Elban traders had serious reasons to regret many of the departed warriors, for they went off heavily in debt; but the island had had ten months which were to remain forever vital in its history. Napoleon had gone, but his work