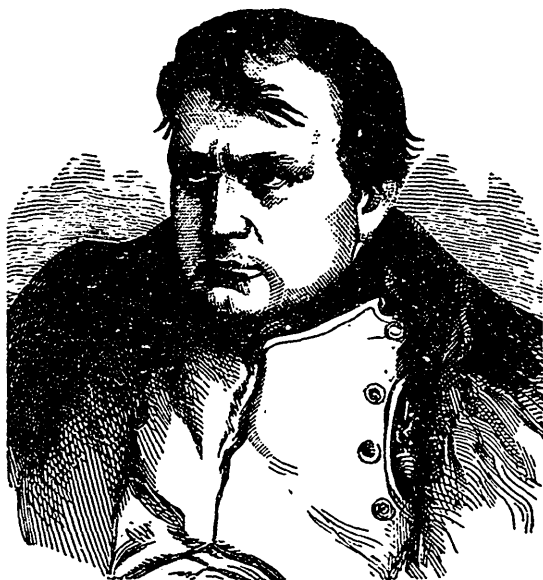


NAPOLEON AT ST. HELENA.

BY PERCY H. PUNSHON.



NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

THE history of Napoleon Bonaparte has been written, alike by friend and foe. The world has been bewildered by the many conflicting and misleading accounts of his life and character. The same pen that stigmatized him as a usurper has admitted that the suffrages of a loving people raised him to the throne. He has been called

a human monster, thirsting for and delighting in scenes of carnage, by those who acknowledge that on more than one battlefield he wept unavailing tears of regret. While the few who have been most clamorous in declaring him an abhorred tyrant, have well nigh in the same breath been forced to confess that no one man ever so commanded the loyal love of his soldiers as their "Little Corporal."

The chief incidents of his life, more especially those which followed the ever-memorable battle of Waterloo, are familiar to readers of history; the hurried flight, the second abdication, the voluntary journey to England and the sad sequel, all are "as a story that is told." Without pausing to question the justice of the sentence which condemned a guest, claiming British hospitality and seeking an asylum under British law, to hopeless exile, we purpose, in this short paper, to accompany the illustrious captive to that lonely isle, which was at once his home, his prison and his tomb.

On the 9th of August, 1815, the *Northumberland*, manned by more than a thousand sailors, and escorted by two frigates and seven war-sloops, all guarding one man, set sail for St. Helena.