

## A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE.

(FROM LUCIAN.)

*Dramatis Personæ*—Jupiter, Esculapius, Hercules.

JUPITER.

Come, Hercules and Esculapius,  
Cense thy contention as to who is who.  
'Tis bad enough for men, but such disputes  
Are alien to the banquet of the gods.

HERCULES.

Is it thy will then, Jove, that this vile quack  
Should take precedence of a god like me?

ESCULAPIUS.

Yes, for, by Jove, I am the better god.

HERCULES.

In what, you hare-brained fool? Is it because  
For your presumption Jove let fly at you  
His thunderbolt? And then, for pity's sake,  
You got your patent of divinity?

ESCULAPIUS.

That's good, indeed—for you to talk of fire!  
Your memory is short that you forget  
That scene at Ceta!

HERCULES.

Such cool impudence!  
To dare compare your wretched life with mine!  
Who am the son of Jove, for great deeds famed,  
Who cleansed the world and savage beasts subdued,  
And tamed the insolence of such as you—  
You, a mere root-eater, a mountebank,  
Fit to give pills to puny invalids,  
But utterly devoid of manly traits!

ESCULAPIUS.

Ha! you remind me how I cured your burns  
When first you entered heaven, half-consumed.  
What with the Centaur's tunic and the pyre,  
Your godship's body was a mass of sores.  
Besides (since you're so good at calling names),  
I never was a slave as you have been,  
I never carded wool in woman's dress,  
Nor let my mistress beat me with her sandals—  
Not to recall that graver incident  
Of slaying wife and children in a rage.

HERCULES.

If you don't cease reviling, you'll find out  
Your immortality won't help you much.  
When I have hurled you headlong out of heaven,  
Then even Ceta will not find it easy  
To mend your broken skull.

JUPITER.

Come, now, desist.  
We cannot have our banquet thus disturbed.  
Or, if you still keep on, I'll send you both  
To some more fitting place. But, Hercules,  
In my opinion, the precedence goes  
Of right to Esculapius who died first.

Montreal.

JOHN READE.

## NAPOLEON AND HIS COURT.

HABITS OF THE EMPRESS.

The Empress Josephine had six hundred thousand francs for her personal expenses. This sum in no degree sufficed her, and she incurred many debts annually. A hundred and twenty thousand francs were allowed her for her charities. The archduchess had but three hundred thousand francs, and sixty thousand for her private purse. The reason of this difference was that Madame Bonaparte was compelled to assist many poor relations, whose claims on her were great and frequent. She having certain connections in France and the archduchess none, Madame Bonaparte was naturally obliged to spend more money. She gave much away, but, as she never made her presents from her own resources, but bought incessantly, her generosity only augmented her debts to an appalling degree.

Notwithstanding the wishes of her husband she could never submit to either order or etiquette in her private life. He was unwilling that any salesman of any kind should be received by her, but was obliged to relinquish this point. Her small private apartments were crowded by these people, as well as by artists of all kinds. She had a perfect mania for being painted, and gave her pictures to whomsoever wanted them—relations, friends, *fréquentes de chambre*, and even to her tradespeople, who brought her constantly diamonds and jewels, stuffs and gewgaws of all kinds. She bought everything, rarely asking the price, and the greater part of the time forgot what she had bought. From the beginning she had signified to her lady of honour and her lady in waiting that they were not to interfere with her wardrobe. All matters of that kind were arranged between herself and her *fréquentes de chambre*, of whom she had six or eight, I think.

She rose at nine o'clock. Her toilet consumed much time; a part of it was entirely private, when she lavished unwearying efforts on the preservation of her person and on its embellishment, with the aid of paint and powder. When all this was accomplished she wrapped herself in a long and very elegant peignoir, trimmed with lace, and placed herself under the hands of her hair-dresser. Her chemises and skirts were embroidered and trimmed. She changed all her linen three times each day and never wore any stockings that were not new. While her hair was being dressed if we presented ourselves at her door we were admitted. When this process was finished, huge baskets were brought in containing many different dresses, shawls and hats. There were in summer muslin or percale robes, much embroidered and trimmed; in winter there were

redingotes of stuff or of velvet. From these baskets she selected her costume for the day, and always wore in the morning a hat covered with feathers or flowers, and wraps that made considerable drapery about her. The number of her shawls was between three and four hundred. She had dresses made of them, coverings for her bed, cushions for her dog. She always wore one in the morning, which she draped about her shoulders with a grace that I never saw equalled. Bonaparte who thought these shawls covered her too much tore them off, and more than once threw them in the fire; after which she would then send for another. She purchased all that were brought to her, no matter at what price. I have seen her buy shawls for which their owner asked eight, ten, and twelve thousand francs. They were the great extravagance of this court, where those which cost only fifty louis were looked at disdainfully, and where the women boasted of the price they had paid for those they wore.

I have already described the life which Madame Bonaparte led. This life never varied in any respect. She never opened a book, she never took up a pen, and never touched a needle; and yet she never seemed to be in the least bored. She was not fond of the theatre; the Emperor did not wish her to go there without him and receive applause which he did not share. She walked only when she was at Malmaison, a dwelling that she never ceased to improve, and on which she had spent enormous sums.

Bonaparte was extremely irritated by these expenditures. He would fly into a passion, and his wife would weep, promising to be wiser and more prudent; after which she would go on in the same way, and in the end he was obliged to pay the bills. The evening toilet was as careful as that of the morning. Everything was elegant in the extreme. We rarely saw the same dresses and the same flowers appear the second time. In the evening the empress appeared without a hat, with flowers, pearls, or precious stones in her hair. Then her dresses showed her figure to perfection, and the most exquisite toilet was that which was most becoming to her. The smallest assembly, the most informal dance, was always an occasion for her to order a new costume, in spite of the hoards of dresses which accumulated in the various palaces; for she had a mania for keeping everything. It would be utterly impossible for me to give any idea of the sums she spent in this way. At every dressmaker's and milliner's in Paris, go in when we would, we were sure to find something being made for her or ordered by her. I have seen several lace robes, at forty, fifty, and even a hundred thousand francs each. It is almost incredible that this passion for dress which was so entirely satisfied should never have exhausted itself. After the divorce, at Malmaison, she had the same luxurious tastes, and dressed with as much care, even when she saw no one. The day of her death she insisted on being dressed in a very elegant *robe de chambre*, because she thought that the Emperor of Russia would, perhaps, come to see her. She died covered with ribbons and pale rose-coloured satin. These tastes and these habits on her part naturally increased the expenses of those about her, and we found it difficult at times to appear in suitable toilets.

COURT FESTIVITIES.

With all this extreme luxury, the exquisite taste of the Empress, and the rich costumes of the men, the court was, as may readily be imagined, most brilliant. It may even be said that on certain days the *coup d'œil* was absolutely dazzling. Foreigners were much struck by it. It was during this year (1806) that the Emperor decided to give occasional concerts in the Hall of the Marshals, as a certain large hall, hung with portraits of the marshals, was called. These portraits are very likely there now. This hall was lighted by an infinite number of candles, and to it were invited all those persons who had any connection with the Government and those who had been presented. Thus there were assembled usually between four and five hundred persons.

After having walked through the saloons where all these people were assembled, Bonaparte entered the hall and took his place at the end; the Empress on his left as well as the princesses of the family, in the most dazzling costumes; his mother on his right—still a very handsome woman, with an air of great distinction. His brothers were richly dressed, and they, with foreign princes and other dignitaries, were seated. Behind were the grand officers, the chamberlains, and all the staff in their embroidered uniforms. Upon the right and the left, in curved lines, sat two rows of ladies—the lady of honour, the lady in waiting, and the ladies of the palace, almost all of them young, the greater number of them pretty and beautifully dressed. Then came a large number of ladies—foreigners and Frenchwomen—whose toilets were exquisite beyond words. Behind these two rows of seated ladies were men standing—ambassadors, ministers, marshals, senators, generals, and so on—all in the most gorgeous costumes. Opposite the imperial chairs were the musicians, and as soon as the Emperor was

Of course my readers know that these were Cashmere shawls, which the Egyptian campaign, and the Oriental mania that followed, had made fashionable.

A court dress cost at least fifty louis, and we changed them very often. As a general thing this costume was embroidered in gold and silver, and trimmed with mother-of-pearl. Many diamonds were worn, in sprays and scattered among garlands for the hair, or set in bands for the neck and arms.

seated they executed the best music, which, however, in spite of the strict silence that was enjoined and preserved, fell on inattentive ears. When the concert was over, in the centre of the room, which had been kept vacant, appeared the best dancers, male and female, from the opera, and executed a charming ballet. This part of the entertainment of the evening amused every one, even the Emperor.

The concert and the ballet did not last more than an hour and a half. Then the assembly went to supper, which was laid in the Gallery of Diana, and there the beauty of the gallery, the brilliancy of the lights, the luxury of the tables, the display of silver and glass, and the magnificence and elegance of the guests, imparted to the whole scene something of the air of a fairy tale. There was, however, something lacking. I will not say that it was the case which can never be found in a court, but it was that feeling of security which each person might have brought there if the powers that presided had added a little more kindness to the majesty by which they surrounded themselves.

NAPOLEON'S ADOPTED DAUGHTER.

The Beauharnais profited by the elevation of Madame Bonaparte, and continued to crowd about her. I have told how she married the daughter of the Marquis de Beauharnais to M. de la Valette. The Marquis was for a long time Ambassador to Spain; he is in France to-day. The Comte de Beauharnais, the son of the lady who wrote poetry and novels, had married early in life Mlle. de Lesay-Marnesia. From this marriage sprang a daughter, who resided after her mother's death, with an old aunt, who was very religious. The Comte de Beauharnais, marrying again, never seemed to think of this young girl. Bonaparte made him senator. M. de Lesay-Marnesia, uncle to the young Stéphanie, suddenly recalled her from Langue-doc; she was fourteen or fifteen. He presented her to Madame Bonaparte, who found her very pretty and refined in all her little ways. She placed her in Madame Campan's boarding-school, from which she emerged in 1806 to find herself suddenly adopted by the Emperor, called Princess Imperial, and married shortly after to the hereditary Prince of Baden. She was then seventeen, with a most agreeable face, great natural cleverness and vivacity, a certain childishness in her manner which suited her well, a charming voice, lovely complexion, and clear blue eyes. Her hair was exquisitely blonde.

The Prince of Baden was not long in falling in love with her, but at first his affection was not returned. He was young, but very stout; his face was commonplace and inexpressive; he talked little, seemed always out of place and bored, and generally fell asleep wherever he might be. The youthful Stéphanie, gay, piquant, dazzled by her lot, and proud of being adopted by the Emperor, whom she then regarded with some reason as the first sovereign in the world, gave the Prince of Baden to understand that he was greatly honoured by her bestowing her hand upon him. In vain did they seek to correct her ideas in this respect. She made no objection to the marriage, and was quite ready to consent to its taking place whenever the Emperor wished it; but she persisted in saving that Napoleon's daughter should marry a king or the son of a king. This little vanity, accompanied by many piquant jests to which her seventeen years gave a charm, did not displease the Emperor, and in fact rather amused him. He became more interested than before in his adopted daughter, and precisely at the time he married her to the prince he became, with considerable publicity, her lover. This conquest finished turning the head of the new princess and confirmed her in her haughtiness toward her future husband, who sought in vain to please her.

As soon as the Emperor had announced to the senate the news of this marriage, the youthful Stéphanie was installed in the Tuileries in an apartment specially arranged for her, and there she received the deputations from the governmental bodies. Of that from the senate her father was one. Her situation was certainly a little odd, but she received all the addresses and felicitations without any embarrassment, and replied extremely well. Having become the daughter of the sovereign, and being a favourite in addition, the Emperor ordered that she should everywhere follow next to the Empress, thus taking precedence of the whole Bonaparte family. Madame Murat was extremely displeased, who hated her with a cordial hatred, and could not conceal her pride and jealousy. Mademoiselle thought this very amusing, and laughed at it as she did at everything else, and succeeded in making the Emperor laugh also, as he was inclined to be amused at all she said. The Empress was much displeased at this new fancy of her husband's. She spoke seriously to her niece, and showed her how wrong it would be for her not to resist the efforts which Bonaparte was making to complete her seduction. Mlle. de Beauharnais listened to her aunt's counsels with some docility. She confided to her certain attempts, sometimes extremely bold, made by her adopted father, and promised to conduct herself with caution and reserve. These confidences renewed all the former discord of the imperial household. Bonaparte, unchanged, did not take the trouble to conceal his inclination from his wife and, too sure of his power, thought it extremely unhandsome in the Prince

It was upon her that the poet Lebrun made this malicious epigram.

"Egls, fair and a poet, has two eccentricities:  
She makes her face, but does not make her verses."

of Baden that he should be wounded by what was going on under his very eyes. Nevertheless, the fear of an outburst and the number of eyes fixed upon all the persons concerned rendered him prudent. On the other side, the young girl, who only wished to amuse herself, showed more resistance than he had at first anticipated. But she hated her husband. A little later the court went to Saint Cloud, and with it the young pair. Nothing, however, could induce the princess to permit her husband to approach her. He complained to the Empress, who scolded her niece. The Emperor, however, upheld her, and his own hopes revived. All this had a very bad effect, which at last the Emperor realized; and at the end of some little time—occupied with grave affairs, fatigued by the importunity of his wife, struck by the discontent of the young prince, and persuaded that he had to do with a young person who only wished to amuse herself by coquetting with him—he consented to the departure of the Prince of Baden, who took his wife away with him. She shed many tears at leaving France, regarding the principality of Baden as a land of exile. When she arrived there she was received somewhat coldly by the reigning prince. She lived for a long time on bad terms with her husband. Secret negotiators were sent from France to make her understand how important it was to her that she should become the mother of a prince—an hereditary prince in his turn. She submitted; but the prince, rendered frigid by so much resistance, now showed very little tenderness toward her, and this marriage seemed destined to make them both very unhappy. It was not eventually so, however; and we shall see later that the Princess of Baden, having acquired a little more sense with years, began at last to recognize her duty, and by her good conduct succeeded finally in regaining the affection of the prince and enjoyed the advantages of a union which she at first had so entirely under-estimated.

## HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, March 29.—A proposal to reduce the Sultan's civil list is under discussion by his Ministers.—Lord Derby has issued a manifesto, wherein he expresses his sympathy with the Liberal cause.—Baroness Buribet-Courts' sympathies are not with the Liberals at the coming elections.—The German Emperor has told his Generals that the fears of war have been dissolved for the present.—The news from Afghanistan is gloomy, and it is evident that England's troubles are not at an end in that country.—The decree dissolving the Jesuit Society in France is to be published officially to-day. The establishments are to be closed and vacated within three months.

TUESDAY, March 30.—The inundations in Spain are subsiding.—The British advance on Ghuznee has commenced.—France's Irish relief fund amounts to \$125,000 francs.—Her Majesty the Queen has arrived at Darmstadt.—Count F. de Lesseps sails this week for Europe in the *Adriatic*.—Election riots have taken place at Cardiff and in the County of Tyrone.—The *Journal Officiel* has published decrees against the Jesuits and other unauthorized religious communities.—A new Ministry has been called to office in Brazil, and if they carry out the programme they have sketched out, they will have deserved well of their country.

WEDNESDAY, March 31.—The death of the Empress of Russia is momentarily expected.—The Spanish Ministry has decided upon a vigorous Colonial policy.—The confirmation of the three daughters of H.R.H. the late Princess Alice took place yesterday in the Royal chapel at Hesse-Darmstadt.—Mr. Gladstone has declared that, in the event of a Liberal success, he will be content to follow the leadership of Lord Granville or Lord Harrington.—Parsell has been nominated at the eleven o'clock for Cork City as the Nationalists do not consider the present Home Rule candidate advanced enough.

THURSDAY, April 1.—The obelisk has been embarked at Alexandria.—Bismarck celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday yesterday.—Election riots have occurred at Portadown, New Ross and Tredgar.—One hundred and fifty persons were killed by a colliery explosion at Anderlecht, Belgium, yesterday.—The Conservatives have carried the city of London by a large majority.—The cattle disease is spreading in England, and there is consequently a demand for American meats.—In England, the Liberals expect a majority of 10, and the Conservatives of 29. Over 400 constituencies have yet to be heard from.

FRIDAY, April 2.—There is a great strike in the building trade in Liverpool.—Emigrants for America are numerous, to depart during April and May.—The Catholic Bishop and clergy of Cork have denounced Parsell's interference in their constituency and his persistent attempts to spread disorder.—On Prince Bismarck's 66th birthday celebration, among those who paid their respects were the Emperor William.

SATURDAY, April 3.—The Bulgarian Assembly was opened at Sofia yesterday.—Winnipeg streets were lit up on Saturday night for the first time.—The six days' walk for the O'Leary belt was started in New York at midnight last night.—The arrangement between the Porte and Montenegro has been sanctioned by the Sultan.—Peru has scored another naval victory against Chili at Africa, after a seven hours' engagement.—Latest despatches concerning the Imperial elections give the Liberals 256 seats, the Conservatives 110 and Home Rulers 19, a net Liberal gain of 55.—Calcutta despatches report prospects of an early settlement in Afghanistan. The result of the elections to the Imperial Parliament is, however, looked on with dismay throughout India, as likely to bring about disastrous consequences in the probable reversal of Lord Beaconsfield's Afghan policy.

## Fees of Doctors.

The fee of doctors is an item that very many persons are interested in just at present. We believe the schedule for visits is \$3.00, which would tax a man confined to his bed for a year, and in need of a daily visit, over \$1,000 a year for medical attendance alone! And one single bottle of Hop Bitters taken in time would save the \$1,000 and all the year's sickness.—Ed.

The Prince of Baden is brother to the Empress of Russia.