



LONGWOOD, ST. HELENA—THE HOUSE WHICH NAPOLEON OCCUPIED AS A PRISONER.

he says, "much more poignant are those that it excites among ourselves." He states that it cost Britain more than eight hundred million pounds to effect Napoleon's removal to Elba; his return cost them many millions more; and this cost besides not less than two million lives. The first thing to be considered was the safety of Europe. This soldier of fortune was too great a menace to its peace and to civilization to be let loose once more upon mankind. In the bland climate, salubrious air, noble scenery of his island prison his physical surroundings were vastly better than they would have been in a German or Russian prison, or exposed to the peril of assassination or execution, and infinitely better than he himself imposed on Pope Pius VII., the head of Catholic Christendom, whom he "put into captivity almost as malefactors are imprisoned."

The British Government was certainly not illiberal. It cost about a hundred thousand dollars a year to maintain Napoleon and his household of fifty-one persons and his custodians. It was the duty of Captain Nicholls to see his person every day. The prisoner, with a petty ingenuity, tried to prevent this. Captain Nicholls complains: "I was nearly twelve hours on my legs to-day endeavouring to see Napoleon Bonaparte before I succeeded, and I have experienced many such days since I have been stationed at

Longwood." The ex-Emperor maintained a petty state, drove out with six horses to his carriage and an equerry in full uniform riding at each door. His officers were kept standing for hours till they nearly dropped from fatigue, even his physician had to stand in his presence till he nearly fainted. At dinner he was served in great state, on gold and silver plate, and waited upon by his French servants in a rich livery of green and gold.

The chapter on Napoleon's table talk is very interesting. One of the chief topics was religion, and one of the books that Napoleon loved most to read was the Bible, but his reading was not always for the highest motives. He sometimes professed to be a Christian, but he said: "My opinion is formed that (the Divine ?) Christ never existed, that he was put to death like any other fanatic." He finds but one able man—Moses. He professed great admiration for the religion of Islam. "Had I taken Acre I should have assumed the turban." "I am not a man like other men," he would say, "the laws of morality and decorum could not be intended to apply to me."

He pays a high compliment to the British. "Had I had an English army I could have cleared the universe." He said to Captain Maitland in the *Bellerophon*, "Had it not been for you English I should have been Emperor of the East,