

LORD ROSEBERY'S NAPOLEON.*



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Victoria—Napoleon. What greater contrast could there be than the memories which these names suggest—the one sinking like the sun to rest after a long and splendid day; the other expiring like a bale fire in a dark and stormy night. The one name is for evermore a memory of goodness and of grace; the other a name

“At which the world grew pale,
To point a moral or adorn a tale.”

The one lived to do her people good and devoted a long life to their service; the other was an incarnation of selfishness and rapine and wrong. The one, the daughter of a hundred kings, counted it her chief joy to lay her regal splendours by and live in rural simplicity in her Highland home; the other, sprung from obscure Corsican birth, became the arch-despot of Europe, “waded through slaughter to a throne, and shut the gates of mercy on mankind.”

*“Napoleon: The Last Phase.” By Lord Rosebery. New York and London: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 283. Price, \$3.00.

Napoleon's mother was at one time in a desperate plight and had not a farthing to live upon. He himself was on the verge of suicide, but a friend lent him money and saved him for his remarkable destiny. His family, whom he raised to thrones, though born and reared in poverty, assumed a divine right with easy grace. “No Bourbons or Hapsburgs were so embued with the royal prerogatives as these princes of an hour.”

The study of the last phase in the life of this strange portent to mankind, especially by one of the leading statesmen of Europe, a man who has been once Prime Minister of Britain, and may be Prime Minister again, is of singular importance. Lord Rosebery has made a thorough study of the copious literature on the subject. Curiously enough, he notes that one of the most important documents, O'Meara's manuscript Journal, still remains in California unpublished.

We think Lord Rosebery is needlessly apologetic for the part played by Britain in the exile of Napoleon. “If St. Helena recalls painful memories to the French,”