

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.

Most Brilliant Military Episode
Known in History.

THE CAMPAIGN OF AUSTERLITZ.

Utter Rout of Austrians and Russians on
His Coronation Anniversary—Crowned
King of Italy—Death of Pitt—Personal
Appearance at Thirty-five.

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XVI.—FROM NOTRE DAME TO AUSTERLITZ.

To the New French Empire the Consular Republic contributed one fact of transcendent importance. That was the Code Napoleon—a work which the Emperor regarded to the end of his days as his greatest gift to posterity. Before the Revolution, France had had as many laws as provinces. The cynical Voltaire declared that in his country the traveler must change his code as often as he changed horses.

The question of unifying and nationalizing the statutes of France had been before the States-General at Versailles. By that body the measure was remanded to the National and Constituent Assemblies; by these, to the Convention; by that, to the Directory; and by that, to the Consulate. Here, then, had arisen a power at last that was able to revise and reform. A commission was appointed by the First Consul, headed by the great lawyer Tronchet, to reconstruct the jurisprudence of France.

In four months this commission made its report to the Council of State. Napoleon personally presided. The project of the commission was read, discussed, and passed on, clause by clause. On the



NAPOLEON, 1805, BY BOUILLON.

5th of March, 1803, the Code Civil des Français was completed and published. It consisted of twenty-two hundred and eighty-one articles. These were arranged under three heads: The Rights of Persons; the Laws of Property; and the Methods of acquiring Property. In the code the elements of Roman Law and the law-customs of the French people were blended with singular skill.

The Code Napoleon became the basis of jurisprudence, not only in France, but in Sicily, Holland, Belgium, the Rhine provinces, Switzerland, Poland, and in all the countries dominated by the Latin races in Europe and America.

At the date of his coronation, Napoleon was thirty-five years, three months and seventeen days of age. He was in his very prime. Physically, he had triumphed over that attenuation and utter swartheness which had marked his younger years. On his first issuance to public notice, and down to the time of the Consulate, he had worn a haggard look, which, added to his thinness and his low stature, made him almost a specter. In the year of his marriage, he was described by an observant lady—as reported in Stendhal—as "the thinnest and queerest being I ever met."

In another place the same authority says of him: "He was so scrawny that he inspired pity." But with the gratification of his ambitions and desires, he became plump and beautiful.

Of all the descriptions of the person of Bonaparte, that of Meneval, his secretary, is doubtless the most correct and satisfying. He says of the Emperor, that, though small of stature, his person was well knit and symmetrical. The bust was longer relatively than the legs. The head was large, and the skull finely developed. The neck was short, and the shoulders proportionally broad. The chest was round and full, indicating a robust constitution. The limbs, both arms and legs, were perfect. The Emperor was as proud as Lord Byron of his small plump hands and tapering fingers. His forehead was broad and high; his eyes easily kindled with passion and flashed lightnings. His complexion was pallid; bronzed at first; all ways of the Italian hue. His dark hair became thin on the top of his head, and the height of the forehead was seemingly increased. Meneval, for thirteen years intimate with his master—observing closely his every mood and feature—says: "His head and bust were in no way inferior in nobility and dignity to the most beautiful statue of antiquity."

The new Imperial system quickly diffused itself abroad. Wherever the influence of France extended, the political transformation was easily effected. The Cisalpine Republic was converted into the kingdom of Italy. This Napoleon would make an appanage of his own. For four months, sixteen hours daily, he wrought at the establishment of the new regime in France. He then sped to Milan, and on the 26th of May, 1805, was crowned King of Italy. The ceremonial was in the great cathedral there, second only in magnificence to St. Peter's. The old iron crown of the Lombard kings was brought forth from its dusty keep, and was given by the archbishop of Milan to the Emperor, who, putting it on his head, uttered the famous mot, Dieu me l'a donné—Gare à qui la touche. "God has given it to me—Beware who touches it!"—an aphorism which became the motto of the Order of the Iron Crown.

The Empire brought four years of con-

tinuous war. Napoleon became the trampler of vineyards. His armies made Europe into mire. England—agreeing at Amiens not to fight—fought. Pitt, now in the last year of his life, used all of his resources to bring about a league against France. He persuaded Alexander of Russia, Francis of Austria, and Gustavus of Sweden—all easy dupes of a greater than themselves—to make a new coalition. He tried to induce Frederick William of Prussia to join his fortunes with the rest; but the last-named monarch was for the time restrained by the weakness of prudence. The agents of Napoleon held out to him suggestions of the restoration of Hanover to Prussia. But Austria and Russia and Sweden pressed forward confidently to overthrow the new French Empire. That Empire should not see the end of the first year of its creation!

The Austrians were first in the field. The Russians, under Kutusoff, came on into Pomerania from the East. Out of Sweden, with a large army, came down Gustavus, the Don Quixote of the North, to crush Bernadotte who held Hanover. Napoleon for his part sprang forth for the campaign of Austerlitz, perhaps the most brilliant military episode in the history of mankind. With incredible facility he threw forward to the Rhine an army of a hundred and eighty thousand men. His policy was—as always—to overcome the allies in detail.

On the 24th of September, the Emperor left Paris. The Empress and Talleyrand went with him as far as Strasbourg. On the 2nd of October, hostilities began at Guntzburg. Four days afterwards the French army crossed the Danube. On the 8th of the month, Murat won the battle of Wertingen, capturing Count Aulenberg, with two thousand prisoners. On the 10th the French had Augsburg, and on the 12th, Munich. On the 14th Soult triumphed at Memmingen, capturing a corps of six thousand Austrians; and on the same day Ney literally overran the territory which was soon to become his Duchy of Elchingen. Napoleon outgeneraled the main division of the enemy at Ulm. The Austrians, under General Mack, thirty-three thousand strong, were cooped up in the town and, on the 17th of October, forced to capitulate. Eight field-marshal and generals, including the Prince Liechtenstein and Generals Klenau and Fresnel, were made prisoners. "Soldiers of the Grand Army," said Napoleon, "we have finished the campaign in a fortnight!"

On the day of the capitulation of Ulm, Massena in Italy drove back the army of the Archduke Charles. The Austrians to this date, in a period of twenty days, had lost by battle and capture fully fifty thousand men! On the 27th of October, the French army crossed the Inn. Salzburg and Braunau were taken. In Italy, Massena, on the 30th, won the battle of Caldiero, and took five thousand prisoners. The French closed towards the Austrian capital. On the 13th of November, Napoleon, having obtained possession of the bridges of the Danube, entered Vienna. He established himself in the imperial palace of Schonbrunn. The Austrian Empire and the Holy Roman Empire—which was its shadowy penumbra—seemed to vanish like ghosts before him.

Out of Pomerania into Moravia, to the plain of Olmutz, the great Russian army, under the Czar and Kutusoff, came roaring. There they were united with a heavy division of the Austrians, under Emperor Francis. The latter had fled from his capital, and staked his last fortunes on battle in the field. The allied army was eighty thousand strong. Napoleon, with sixty thousand men, commanded by Soult, Launes, Murat and Bernadotte, advanced rapidly from the direction of Vienna, as rapidly as Brunn, and there awaited the onset.

Just beyond this town, at Austerlitz, the French were arranged in a semicircle, with the convex front towards the allies, who occupied the outer arc on a range of heights. Such was the situation on the night of December 1st, 1805. The morrow will be the first anniversary of our coronation in Notre Dame—a glorious day for battle!

With the morning of the 2nd, Napoleon could scarcely restrain his ardor. The enthusiasm of the army knew no bounds. On the night before, the Emperor, in his gray coat, had gone the circle of the camps, and the soldiers, extemporizing straw torches to light the way, ran before him. Looking eagerly through the gray dawn, he saw the enemy badly arranged, or moving dangerously in broken masses under the cover of a Moravian fog. Presently the fog lifted, and the sun burst out in splendor. The onset of the French was irresistible. The allied center was pierced. The Austrian and Russian emperors with their armies were sent flying in utter rout and panic from the field. Thirty thousand Russians and Austrians were killed, wounded or taken. Alexander barely escaped capture. Before sunset the Third Coalition was broken into fragments and blown away.

Meanwhile, from the borders of Hanover, the Quixotical Gustavus had taken to flight, and was eager to secure himself beyond the Baltic. On the 24th of December, everything was completed by the Peace of Pressburg. Austria gave up the whole of her Venetian possessions into the kingdom of Italy. The Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Passau went to Bavaria. The latter country and Wurtemberg were made into kingdoms. For all this the ancient Empire of the Hapsburgs was compensated with Salzburg and some other trifling places.

After Austerlitz the broken Russians fell back towards their own territory. Central Europe seemed to be suddenly dominated by the sword of the Corsican. Pitt, no longer able to bear the strain of the tremendous antagonism, sank rapidly, and died. The glorious victory which Nelson had won in the bloody foam of Trafalgar, on the day after the capitulation of Mack, could not compensate for the Continental ruin. Pitt passed away on the 23rd of January, 1806. Austerlitz and Pressburg are said to have killed him!

JOHN CLARK RIDPATH.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON X, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, JUNE 9.

Text of the Lesson, Luke xxiv, 13-32—Memory Verses, 25-27—Golden Text, Luke xxiv, 32—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

13. This lesson, like the last, refers to the day on which He rose from the dead. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene; then to the other women; next, probably, to these two; afterward to Peter; and in the evening to ten in the upper room in Jerusalem with others who were with them.

14. As they walked they talked, and Jesus was the topic of their conversation, but it was not a risen Christ they talked of. The one whom they had loved and followed as the Messiah of Israel was dead, and they knew not what to think.

15. As they communed and reasoned He of whom they spoke joined them and walked with them. It is still true that He takes a special interest in all who speak of Him (Mal. iii, 16, 17). If we knew Him better, we would be always talking of Him. How careful we would be of our words if we believed that we should have to give account of every idle word (Math. xii, 36).

16. He is often with us, and we do not know it. He has said, "Lo, I am with you all the days" (Math. xxviii, 20, R. V. margin). He often seeks to get our attention that He may speak to us or show us something, but, unlike Moses and John, we are too busy to turn aside to see the burning bush or hear the voice that speaks.

17. He is grieved when we are sad and would have us tell Him all our own troubles. He desires to fill us with joy and peace. See the way in Rom. xv, 13. He overhears every conversation and reads all our thoughts (Ps. cxxxix, 1-4; Ezek. xi, 5).

18. They do not recognize Him and think He must surely be a stranger in the city if He does not know what had taken place during the last two days. Mary took Him for the gardener. They think Him a stranger. His enemies counted him a glutton and a winebibber. How unknown and misunderstood He consented to be!

19. He knew, but He would have them tell Him. He likes to have us tell Him all, as His disciples did when they had been out teaching (Mark vi, 30). They had evidently been talking of the mighty deeds and words of Jesus of Nazareth, and now God had approved Him, and the people had received Him and looked upon Him as the long-promised Deliverer.

20, 21. But the strangest thing was that the chief priests and rulers had crucified Him, and now He was dead and had been for three days, and the redemption of Israel which they had expected He would accomplish was now as unlikely as far off as it ever had been. They evidently had their heart upon the redemption rather than the Redeemer and upon their thoughts rather than His words.

22, 23. They had heard the report of the women who had been at the tomb, and that angels had said that He was alive, but they did not quite receive it—at least they could not understand it—and it was all a great mystery to them? They were in great perplexity.

24. Some had even gone to the tomb to see if the story of the women was correct and had found it as the women said, but then they had not seen Him, and if He was alive where was He, and why had He not come to them? So they did not know what to think.

25. Now He speaks to them and shows them their error. If they had only believed the prophets—that is, all that they had said, they could have understood everything and would have saved themselves from all this unnecessary darkness. But, not believing, they had acted as foolish persons. Consider some other fools in Ps. xiv, 1; Prov. xiv, 9; 1 Sam. xxvi, 21; Luke xii, 30; 1 Cor. xv, 35, 36.

26. The prophets had in their own personal history as well as in their writings plainly foretold that the Messiah of Israel would suffer and die and rise again. All is clearly written in Isa. liii, and his death is stated also in Dan. ix, 26. "Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself," or, as in the margin, "Shall have nothing."

27. He went back to Moses, without saying one word about the supposed mistakes of Moses or that Moses did not write this or that. He took up portions in all the Scriptures and made no reference to two Isaiah or any such wonderful knowledge as many wise (?) men seem to have today. And doubtless from the coats of skins of Gen. iii, 21, down to the fountain and shepherd of Zech. xiii, 1, 7, He taught how His sufferings had been foretold. All our Sunday school scholars should be made to understand that when a teacher or a preacher makes light of any portion of Scripture, such as the story of Jonah, or seems to be wiser than our Lord, that such people are no followers of Christ and must not be listened to.

28. Having arrived at their destination, He made as though He would have gone further, for He will not intrude Himself upon any. If we prefer not to have His company, we need not fear that He will come where He is not wanted. His word is "Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall seek for me with all your heart" (Jer. xxix, 13).

29. It is not difficult to constrain the Lord or his angels to abide if we really mean it. See Gen. xviii, 5; xix, 3; Judg. vi, 18. Contrast the Lord's "abide" in John xv, 4, 7; John ii, 28, and see 1 Sam. xxii, 23. Think how Peter took Him home from the synagogue (Mark i, 29) and say whether you want Him always with you, or do you get enough of Him at church and prayer meeting?

30. What He did in that house He has been ever doing: giving us His broken body, saying, "I am the bread of life." "He that eateth Me, even he shall live by Me." Therefore make Me your daily food and life and all, and so live till I come again. While He breaks to us the bread we shall surely have enough and of the best, and be "satisfied with favor and full with the blessing of the Lord" (Deut. xxii, 29).

31. For the first time since He is, "He was known of them in the breaking of bread" (verses 35). Let us open our Bibles and have Him break to us the bread of life, and quickly He will open our eyes that we may see (Rev. iii, 18). As He walked and talked and vanished, so shall we do in our resurrection bodies, for we shall be like Him even as to our bodies. (1 John iii, 2; Phil. iii, 21).

32. If we will let Him open to us the Scriptures, we, like them, will have such a burning at our hearts that we shall be constrained to tell it out, even though we walk many a mile to do it (Ps. xxxix, 8; Jer. xx, 9; Job xxxii, 18-20). Let us avoid their folly and give good heed to all that the prophets have spoken, lest we walk in the dark, ignorant of coming events and unacquainted with the great restoration soon to come upon our earth (II Pet. i, 19; Acts ii, 19-21).

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Mr. James McCord, of Prescott, Ont., whose portrait appears above, recently sent the following testimony:

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