

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.**  
Great Genius Displayed In Reforming France

**AT THE SUMMIT OF GREATNESS.**

Created Consul For Life by Overwhelming Popular Decree—Treaty of Amiens—Roman Catholic Religion Restored—Prosperity Smiles on the French.

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**XIV.—THE CONSULATE.**  
No question with which the First Consul had now to deal was more important than that of religion. France in process of restoration must have a faith. In the whirlwind of revolution, the old religious institutions of the people had been abolished. "As to me, M. le President," said Napoleon in the Convention one day, "I am free to avow myself an atheist." Procureur Chauvet had had his placard put over the gates of all graveyards thus, "Here is an eternal sleep." Atheism had been formally proclaimed. In the general anarchy, the Mother Church had been destroyed. Among the masses, however, religious beliefs and hopes were not extinguished; even Robespierre had had his ridiculous Feast of the Supreme Napoleon well calculated that reviving France must have a new religion; and what should the new be but the old?

No sooner was the new government established than the First Consul put out his hand with overtures to Rome. He proposed to Pius VII. a settlement of the religious status of the French. The celebrated Concordat, of the 15th of July, 1801, by which the Roman Catholic religion was restored in France was the result. The secular pacification by the treaty of Lunéville was followed hard after by the conciliation of Rome. The essence of the agreement was that the new bishops—to be nominated by the First Consul and confirmed by the Pope—should swear allegiance to the Republic.

Nothing could surpass the activity of Napoleon in the first year of the Consulate. The energy displayed by the government was astounding. Everything was in process of reorganization. True, the ancient regime was extinct. True,



NAPOLEON AS FIRST CONSUL. BY GROZ.

France that now arose was a new France, unlike the old. But it was the policy of the Consulate to revive as much as was valuable out of the former estate. The people were reanimated and inspired. A new life flourished on every hand. The vigor of the First Consul diffused itself through all the elements of society.

The First Consul was most anxious to effect a settlement with Great Britain. That done, peace might be universal. The summer of 1801 was consumed with overtures freely made by Napoleon and sullenly considered by Pitt. On the 1st of October the preliminaries of a peace were signed at London. Everything seemed to be about to subside into calm. Such, however, was the political condition of Europe that the hoped-for pacification lagged; and it was not until the 27th of March, 1802, that the TREATY OF AMIENS was concluded.

The parties to this famous compact, so spectacular and so specious, were Great Britain on the one side, and France, Spain and the Batavian Republic on the other. Of the last-named power Napoleon had been made vice-president two months previously—a fact indicative of his growing power south of the Alps. By the terms of the treaty, England agreed to restore all the conquests recently made by her, except Ceylon and Trinidad. These she was to retain. Malta she was to restore to the Knights of St. John. The French for their part were to relinquish Egypt, and to evacuate Naples and Rome. The Ionian Republic was to be acknowledged, and a general peace declared. For the moment it appeared that all Europe was about to emerge from the shadows of horrid war into sunshine and a new era of progress and happiness. Never was a historical situation more hopeful and hollow, more flattering and fallacious.

Napoleon showed the greatest genius in reforming the civil and military institutions. On the 19th of May, 1802, the Legion of Honor was authorized, and on the succeeding anniversary of the demolition of the Bastille, that famous order of soldiers was instituted. Such was the precision, the virtue, the energy, the skill and force of the administration that none might doubt or oppose it. The popularity of the First Consul became as immeasurable as the confidence in him was boundless. The industries of France flourished like a new spring spreading over May, and the funds of the Republic suddenly rose a hundred per cent!

The ambitions of any other than Bonaparte might here have had a chance. The lust for more might here have been appeased. He was really at the summit of human usefulness—and therefore at

the summit of greatness. His birthday in the coming August would bring him to the end of his thirty-third year. He was young and handsome in person. He was warmed with enthusiasm. The bravest men and the most beautiful women were gathered around him—the one to flatter, and the other to adore. If the Jacobin was still fluid in his blood, it no longer expressed itself in democratic mutterings and proclamations. The long black hair of the whilom revolutionist was closely cropped. The baggy Italian face of the pauper student had given place to rosy cheek and smiling lip. Except in the incongruous black cravat of the otherwise well-dressed First Consul, the sansculotte was no longer discoverable at his evening receptions!

But the project was already on for an extension and augmentation of power. Glory must be added to honor. The "mountain devil" was busy in the breast of Bonaparte. In the alluring summer of 1802 the dream had already possessed him of a life tenure of the Consulate. The victorious general and popular chief executive would be consul ad finem. The Senate concurred in the proposal; and a consultum was prepared. There was a dispute whether it should be for ten years or for life; and in this form the question was to be submitted to the people. A plebiscite was sent forth, and the French nation was asked to pass judgment on its favorite. "Napoleon, sera-t-il Consul a Vie?" Such was the inscription prepared and put up over all the voting places in France. "Napoleon, shall he be Consul for Life?"

An extraordinary spectacle was witnessed. On the 4th of August, 1802, the election was held. The voters in France numbered 3,577,259; and of these 3,368,185 voted in the affirmative, leaving only 209,074 in the negative! It was perhaps the most overwhelming popular decree ever registered by a people. True, the soldiers voted—voted for their idol. True, the clientele of the Consulate voted—voted for the master. True, the Revolution voted—voted for its offspring. True, the New Order voted—voted for its hope. But nevertheless, the people voted—voted for their Man! Napoleon might well mutter, "Whose are the votes opposed to me? Those of ideologists, Jacobins and speculators under the Directory!" What he said was true!

But not all, in the meantime, had been well with the Republic—and with him. Fortune in some things had gone against the French. The coveted occupation of Egypt had tottered and fallen. General Menou, who succeeded to the command of the army in that country after the assassination of Kleber, had behaved with singular fatuity. Failing to perceive that eccentricity is not genius, he had turned Mohammedan, and taken the name of Abdallah Bey. He sank into inaction at Alexandria; and when, in March of 1801, Admiral Keith and Sir Ralph Abercromby landed at Aboukir and came against him, he was defeated in battle, and the prospects of the French in Egypt were ruined.

Napoleon heard of the Egyptian disaster with anger and mortification. His chagrin was little relieved by the death of Abercromby, who was fatally wounded in the battle of Alexandria, or by the foolish assurances of Menou that all was going well. It became necessary for the French colony to evacuate Egypt, and this was done on the 30th of August, 1801.

The year 1803 has been cited as the most glorious in French history. It was certainly the most fertile in promise. Why should not the treaty of Amiens be the happy date of a new era for mankind? France was regenerated. England had gold and maritime glory. Italy had emancipation. Germany had expansion—if nothing better. Russia had her pacific Alexander I., her Suwaroff, and her new provinces of Georgia.

The fatal thing in the treaty of Amiens was that it promised—promised, and did not perform. There were things to be done; and these were not done. Pretentive suspicion seized on the cabinets of all Europe. Note the circumstances: England in the preceding year had emancipated the negroes of Hayti. Toussaint l'Ouverture, leader of the natives, had been made commander-in-chief by the French, in 1797. Dependence was reached under the patronage of France; but when Bonaparte became First Consul, an act was passed in the French Council for the restoration of slavery in the island; and an army under General Leclerc, brother-in-law of Bonaparte, was sent to Samana to enforce the decree. Toussaint was put down, treacherously seized and taken to France, where he presently died in prison. The civil conflict continued in Hayti; the yellow fever broke out, and an English fleet appeared off the coast. Notwithstanding the peace of Amiens, here was war.

In the meantime, Sebastiani, Napoleon's agent in the East, came back to Paris, and published in the *Moniteur* a report in which there was a hint of the purpose of France to reconquer Egypt! Moreover, the First Consul proceeded to divide Piedmont into Departments, after the French manner—as though the country were altogether French. To the complaints of Lord Whitworth, the English ambassador, he simply answered, "These things are only bagatelles." England hereupon—the treaty of Amiens to the contrary notwithstanding—refused to give back Malta to the Knights of St. John. This was flagrant. She had agreed to do so; and Napoleon insisted that she must. Moreover, the Cape of Good Hope, the "aravansary of the Indies," was not surrendered. It became apparent that England would not keep her compact; and this signified the imminent renewal of war. Bonaparte himself foresaw the coming storm.

In his eagerness to prepare for it—seeing the exposures of the French empire in North America—he made haste to sell to the United States for 60,000,000 francs the vast domain from the Mississippi to the Pacific.—Pitt got Malta, Napoleon an excuse, and Jefferson Louisiana! **JOHN CLARK RIDPATH.**

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

LESSON VIII, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, MAY 26.

Text of the Lesson, Mark xv, 22-37—Memory Verses, 25-27—Golden Text, Rom. v, 8—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

22. "And they bring Him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull." After Pilate scourged Him and delivered Him to their cruel pleasure the soldiers crowned Him with thorns, smote Him and did spit on Him, mockingly bowed their knees to Him and finally led Him out to crucify Him. Think on these things until you see Him bearing all that for you and your whole heart cries out, "I am Thine, O Lord!" Then cheerfully, not by compulsion, like Simon the Cyprian, bear the cross with Him (verses 16-21). Happy Simon! Blessed burden! But where was Simon Peter?

23. "And they gave to drink wine mingled with myrrh, but He received it not." On the way to Calvary He spoke to the weeping ones of the coming days of sorrow because of this national rejection of Him. To reject Christ brings untold misery. Matthew, Mark and John call the place of crucifixion Golgotha. Luke alone calls it Calvary. In Rev. xi, 8, it is spoken of as a part of the great city where our Lord was crucified. See in the wine and myrrh (compare Math. xxvii, 34) a fulfillment of Ps. lxxix, 21. But He would not accept it.

24. See in this verse a literal fulfillment of Ps. xxii, 18, for even detail of His humiliation and sufferings was accurately foretold and fulfilled to the letter. So shall it be also with every detail of the predictions concerning His coming again. As He would not be stupified by the drink offered to Him, may we not shrink from suffering with Him this little while.

25. "And it was the third hour, and they crucified Him." He endured the agony of having both hands and feet pierced with the cruel nails (Ps. xlii, 16). He was the fulfillment of all the sacrifices that had ever been offered at that morning hour. Naked that he might be clothed; a king, yet not a thread of the trappings of earth's glory; all for us.

26. Over the cross by Pilate's orders there came forth in Hebrew and Greek and Latin the three languages which represented all the world, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," and Pilate would not alter it, though the chief priests asked him to (John xix, 19-22). It was a title which was, and will yet be manifest to be, of interest to all the world. Are you interested now on the line of Isa. lxii, 6, 7? See R. V.

27. Two evildoers were crucified with Him and He in the midst (John xix, 18). He could not choose His company any more than Joseph could in the prison, but He could glorify God even under such circumstances, and He did. Even these were such as He would choose to save, and for just such He was then dying. It is a faithful saying that He came into the world to save sinners (1 Tim. i, 15).

28. Long years before it was written concerning Him, "And He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isa. liii, 12), and here was part of the fulfillment. In His lifetime, while going about doing good, He was told that he had a devil and that He was a glutton and winebibber (John viii, 32; Luke xii, 34).

29. The passers-by could not let Him alone, but railed on Him and perverted His words and repeated some of the very words which Satan used in the temptation, "If Thou be the Son of God" (Math. iv, 8; xxvii, 40). It looks as if all the dogs of hell were let loose upon Him (Ps. xxii, 16), yet He meekly bore it all and answered not.

30. "Save yourself and come down from the cross." On one occasion Simon Peter told Him to pity Himself, but He told Simon that that was Satan talking through him and added that there was no way for Him or for His followers but by the cross (Math. xvi, 22-24, margin).

31. "He saith to others, 'Himself he cannot save.'" Thus said the chief priests, and they said better than they intended, for He could not save Himself and us, but He chose not to save Himself that He might save us. As to His being unable to save Himself if He wished to, that of course was a lie, for His own testimony was as to His life, "No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself" (John x, 18). See our privilege in 1 John iii, 16.

32. They mockingly called Him "King of Israel," and said that if He would descend from the cross they would believe on Him. Contrast the testimony of Nathanael to His being "King of Israel" and his reception of Him (John i, 49). Even the thieves reviled Him, although one of them afterward believed and was saved. Between people and priests and soldiers and thieves it was surely mountains of mockery, and no foothold of His seemed bold enough to comfort Him with a word of loyalty to Him.

33. Even the sun refused to shine on such a scene, and for three hours there was great darkness. We think of the darkness of Gen. i, 5, and Ex. x, 21, 22, and the outer darkness of Math. xxv, 30; Judg. xiii, 31, but the darkness of our lesson was unique. Never in all earth's history was there or will there be again just such a day. It was the Creator of all things suffering for His creatures that He might redeem them from destruction.

34. After six hours on the cross He cried out the words of Ps. xxii, 1, forsaken of His Father for our sins, for He was made sin for us (1 Cor. v, 21). See His seven sayings from the cross in Luke xxiii, 34, 43; John xix, 27; Math. xxvii, 46; John xix, 28, 30; Luke xxiii, 46. Mark gives but this one, for in this gospel Jesus is peculiarly the suffering servant. He was forsaken for us that we might never be forsaken, even as it is written, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Heb. xiii, 5).

35. "Behold He calleth Elias." So thought some of the standers by. They understood neither Him nor His words, and it is even so still. He had at one time to say to His disciples, "How is it that ye do not understand?" (Mark viii, 21). And it was but a few hours before that he said to Philip, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?" (John xiv, 9).

36. As one ran to give Him drink, probably because of His cry, "I thirst" (John xiv, 28), another hard heart said, "Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take Him down!" They could not understand one willing to die if He had power to save Himself. They were believers of Satan's doctrine, "All that a man hath will he give for his life" (Job ii, 4).

**TO PREVENT SUFFOCATION.**

A New Respirator that Will Purify the Air for Fireman.

A breathing apparatus has been invented which is especially applicable to firemen who go into burning buildings where the smoke is dense and poisonous fumes are thick.

This apparatus was recently exhibited before the Chief of the New York Fire Department, when the experiment consisted of filling the room with smoke produced from a fire fed with shavings, tar, sulphur and cayenne pepper. When these things had been burned, the room was filled with black smoke, which rendered it absolutely untenable.

The inventor attached the respirator to his back and, taking the end of the breathing tube in his mouth, entered the room with an assistant who was likewise equipped. They remained in the room a quarter of an hour and said when they came out that they could have stayed in longer if desired.

At the conclusion of this experiment the filtering material inserted in the respirator for the purpose of clearing the air before it is breathed into the lungs was taken out. This material included some cotton, and it was found to be blackened by the impurities extracted from the air.

The respirator consists of three small cylinders, the central one containing glycerine. The air is first drawn through layers of cotton wadding, some dry and some moist with glycerine, and between these are layers of bone black or animal charcoal.

The two outside cylinders are filled with these substances, and after the air has been drawn up through them by the breathing force of the lungs it passes through the glycerine for a final washing. By this time it has not only been cleared of smoke and other impurities, but it has also been cooled and is in a fit condition to be breathed into the lungs.

The new invention may be put besides that of entering burning buildings, although this is its most obvious application. In many chemical factories there are fumes which mean almost certain death to the man who breathes them. The makers of snuff also live in an atmosphere that is charged with fine tobacco powder dangerous to the lungs.

Besides this there are coal mines with deadly gases and sewers charged with vapors that are stupefying or killing. In all these places one of the new respirators, with its filtering apparatus, may be used, it is claimed, with perfect safety, while its use in burning buildings will render fire-departments more efficient and doubtless save many lives.

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**BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS**

**BIRDS DURING A WINTER STORM.**

A delightful feature of a clear day in winter is that of the sudden appearance of birds. Where they were during the storms is a matter of doubt. Some will say, roosting in the cedars, or in hollow trees, or in any sheltered spot. This is plausible, but you seldom find the birds when you go to these places. One day, while all unmindful of the cold, I stood listening to the wren and tit, the white-throated sparrow came by, and a huge flock of tree sparrows, and the chickadees and nuthatches. Now a dozen or more birds were in sight, and almost in reach. They had had no food for a day, at least, yet were not down-hearted, judging by their merry twitterings. That great snow storm was destructive to such larger birds as the crows, and even to robins and blackbirds, is known, and how it happens that they do not at such times fly beyond the storm's area is not readily explained, but the small seed-eating birds fare pretty well, judging from appearances. There was a lively little kinglet, the only one I saw, that peeped into every uncovered crack of the bark of an old oak, and once, I know, pulled something out that it swallowed. The tall weeds that now were bent with snow would soon stand upright again, and then the seeds that still were held intact would be found by the busy sparrows. As to the white-throats, or Peewee birds, they always seemed too lazy to eat.

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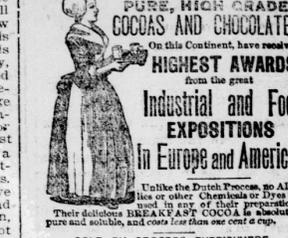
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