

WON BY A DRUM. The Battle of Arcola a Romantic Epi-

sode of French History.

sode of French History. There stands in the French town of Cadenet, his native place, a monu-ment to the memory of "The Little-Drummer of Arcola," Andre Estienne, the hero of one of the most romantic episodes in French history. It was an episode that illustrated the extra-ordinary military value, so often at-tested by the world's greatest generals, of what Othello called the "spirit stir-ring drum." It may be said, curiously great career was built upon a drum, for the battle of Arcola was won by the beating of Estienne's drum, and the Corsican himself always dated his sonfidence in his own fortune from this battle, won in 1786. The circum-stances were these: stances were these:

stances were these: Bonaparte, hemmed in with a small army at Verona, between two greatly superior forces, sallied out at night, made a forced march, and with 14,000 men fell upon the rear of 50,000 Aus-trians. The battle lasted seventy-two hours. On the second day of the fighting the Austrians obtained such a position that they completely and murposition that they completely and mur-derously swept the bridge of Arcola, which the French had gained and which they must hold if they expected to win the battle. It was an unlooked for movement. No officer was near but Andre Es-

It was an unlooked for movement. No officer was near, but Andre Es-tienne, the little drummer, was there. He went to his sergeant and told him that he should cross the bridge with his drum and beat it on the other

his drum and bear and series and side. "But," protested the sergeant, "be-fore you place one foot upon the bridge you will be killed. No man on earth could live on that bridge. How-ever, can you swim?" "I can," said the drummer. "Then swim across with your drum."

"Impossible!" returned Estienne. "Should the drum become water soak-ed I could not beat it on the other

ed I could not beat it on the other side." But the sergeant was equal to this difficulty. Being himself a fine swim-mer, he plunged into the water, bade Andre mount upon his shoulders and hold his drum clear of the water. In this way the two ~ossed the river, Andre beating his drum lustily all the way. Once on the other side, he pounded it in a way to well nigh wake the dead. The Austrians who were massed near were nearly all raw recruits. Hearing what they took to be the drums of an advancing force of French and remembering the terrible French onslaught of the day before, they fied. This left the bridge clear, and the French began to pour across. Andre was joined by other drummers. The Austrian flight became a rout. The French swept on, with Andre Estienne, still drumming, at their kead. Soon the whole Austrian force was retreating, utterly beaten.

was retreating, utterly beaten. Years later Estienne's heroic act was celebrated by being represented in stone on the front of the Pantheon at Paris. The funeral of the little drummer of Arcela was attended by a great encourse of French officers and great concourse of French officers and soldiers.

