

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL.

Owing to the unexpected scarcity of printing paper in the dry season, we are obliged to issue a semi-monthly; we must therefore apologize to our advertising friends. We give, however, our usual quantity of reading matter, and chiefly all original.

NAPOLEON THE THIRD;

The Public Career and Influence upon the affairs of Europe.

In the year 1805, Hortense, Queen of Holland, gave birth to her second son, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. Nothing extraordinary marked the birth excepting the child's descent from two illustrious families, and no one could have predicted for the boy so brilliant a career or exalted station. His father, Louis Napoleon, was a quiet, humane person, unfeeling for "the pomp and parade of war," and averse to scenes of bloodshed and oppression. His marriage with Hortense Beauharnais, Josephine's daughter, by her first marriage, was an unhappy one. He was in love with another lady, and said, it is said, was engaged to a young officer in Napoleon's service; but the Great Emperor cared nothing about breaking hearts, and broke domestic ties with the same *savoir faire* he broke heads and crushed kingdoms, if it furthered his ambitious ends. Thus he compelled his brother to marry his step-daughter, and hold over the glittering diamond of Holland as the golden prize, with a solemn pledge that he would abdicate this last on his heir. This pledge he at first fulfilled, and afterwards broke. He procured Prince Napoleon of Holland (the present Emperor's elder brother) his heir, but subsequently he was so infatuated as to seek a matrimonial alliance with the Royal Family of Austria, and married Maria Louisa.

All that need be said further about the father of the present Emperor, who he received as a boy in his brother's hands to squeeze the last guinea from poor Mynher, and was consequently deposed.

Holland was incorporated with France, and Louis Napoleon (parted from his wife) retired into private life.

It is not our purpose to write the biography of the present Emperor, but merely to notice a few of the most prominent events of his life. He was but seven years old when his uncle fought and lost his last battle. The Bourbons were restored on the Throne of France, apparently as firmly as ever, and the Bourbons' were in exile. After a few years, however, a cloud arose on the horizon, and murmur loud and deep were heard, as arbitrary conduct of Charles the tenth. In 1830 the storm broke, "the last of the Capetians" was driven from France, and the Crown placed on the head of his cousin of Orleans, who was styled "the Citizen King," and who pledged himself to preserve the liberty of the people. The revolution in France convulsed half of Europe, and the Italian States were among those who took up arms to get their independence. The Princes Napoleon and Louis Bonaparte joined the insurrectionary party, and in one of the skirmishes with the Austrian troops the former lost his life. By this event Prince Louis became his uncle's heir.

In the following year—trying too confidently upon the popularity of the name of Bonaparte—he crossed the Rhine with a few followers, entered Strasburg, and boldly hoisted the tricolored flag.

The people did not flock to his standard—the troops did not "fraternise"—and the adventurer soon found himself a prisoner.

King Louis Philippe, probably, quite irritated him; he therefore released the prisoner on condition that he should cross the Atlantic and take up his residence in America. The Prince then came to New York, and resided in the United States several years where he was chiefly distinguished for billiard playing, &c., and was in fact the very essence of a "fat young man."

After the lapse of several years he returned to Europe, and after having visited Italy he took up his residence in England. It appears that his ambition to restore the Empire was still cherished, nor had his adventurous spirit left him, for in 1848 he chartered a steamer, bound from the Thames, with some hundred devoted friends accompanying him, crossed the channel, and effected a landing near Boulogne, secretly and mysteriously as the expedition was conducted.

King Louis Philippe had received intelligence of his movements, and had just thrown into Boulogne a regiment of soldiers destined for their devotion to the Orleans dynasty, instead, therefore of finding friends ready to receive him with open arms, he found a strong force prepared to oppose him. The failure was most disastrous. Several of the small party were killed, but few made their escape, and the remainder, including the Prince, were taken prisoners. This time he did not meet with the same clemency he did upon the former occasion. He was kept a close prisoner in the Castle of Ham, where he remained six years, when he effected his escape, and returned to England.

The expeditions to Strasburg and Boulogne, and their ridiculous failures, drew forth expressions of contempt from wise heads, and called into requisition a powerful quizzing propensities of Pease. The first was certainly a rash effort, but whether the second was as silly as was generally supposed, we may well doubt. Louis Philippe was growing unpopular, and the name of Napoleon was always popular in France. But the Prince had blundered in this measure. He was kept by force, surrounded the troops, and maintained their devotion to the reigning Bourbon, and that not only the religious Bourbon of Boulogne, but all the religious and Governmental stations along the route from Boulogne to Paris, who prepared to rally round the Prince. Louis Philippe, however, had no friends of the name, and removed the religious and Governmental stations to their seats, but a day or two before his Prince came, changes took him by surprise, and caused his capture.

On the 1st of October, 1851, he was sent to the

Prison of Sainte-Pélagie, Paris, where he was

immediately subjected to a rigorous confinement.

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